

FALSE CHARGE

I am very happy that, because of insufficient legal and convincing evidence, the Public Prosecution Service of the Dutch government has decided to dismiss the case against me concerning the deaths of two security consultants and military assets of the Philippine reactionary government.

I have always been confident that the case would eventually be dismissed because in the first place I am innocent of the allegation. More-over, the Dutch courts have previously made a series of decisions to release me from detention because of insufficient evidence and the political context of the case against me. The decision of the Dutch Public Prosecution Service to drop the case is long overdue and much delayed.

I am glad that the false charge against me has not prospered in the Dutch judicial system despite the pressure of the Philippine and US political authorities and the accommodation of these by the Dutch political authorities.

The Dutch Public Prosecution Service is absurd for insinuating in its press release that a "wall of fear" has deterred witnesses from testifying against me.

On the contrary, the Philippine political and military authorities fabricated the false charge and provided a whole bunch of false witnesses against me. The Dutch Court of Appeals no less said that it is doubtful if I can avail of my right to get my own witnesses and cross-examine the witnesses of the other side because of the political context of the case.

I take this opportunity to thank once more all the people and organized forces worldwide who have supported me in my time of need against the false charge. I congratulate and thank my lawyer, Michiel Pestman, for successfully defending me against such false charge.

My lawyer and I are considering what further legal action to take in order to seek full justice and demand compensation for the legal costs and the moral and material damages inflicted on me. I presume that together with their lawyers, the chairperson and members of the Negotiating Panel of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), their consultants and staffers, are considering similar legal action in relation to the simultaneous raids and seizure of properties carried out against them by the Dutch police at the time of my arrest on 27 August 2007.

Consequent to the dismissal of the case I hope for the following to develop :

- The Dutch Public Prosecution Service should prosecute those involved in the assassination attempts against me in the years 1991-2001. In this regard, I have filed a court case against the prosecution for failing to prosecute those who tried to assassinate me in The Netherlands.
- The Dutch government should respect my rights and should have my name removed from the "terrorist list" of the Council of the European Union in order to make amends for the injustices it has done to me in my asylum case, in the "terrorist" listing and in the false charge of murder by repeatedly using false charges supplied by the Philippine reactionary government.

The dismissal of the case against me enables me to have more time to work for the peace negotiations between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the NDFP in my capacity as NDFP chief political consultant. I am determined to work for a just and lasting peace in the

Philippines on the basis of agreements on social, economic and political reforms that address the roots of the armed conflict.

Jose Maria Sison

MARCH TO CHIMALKHEDI

Narmada Bachao Andolan, the people's movement in the Narmada valley of thousands of farmers, fish workers, adivasis and other marginalized nature-based communities has, through its 23 years of struggle and reconstructive work questioned and challenged centralized, resource-intensive and destructive modes of development through its multifarious non-violent political actions and has, along with other people's movements been consistently propagating non-displacing, people and environment-friendly, localized options of livelihood-based development. Some of these include organic farming, micro-hydel projects, non-motorized public transport, community based life-schools (Jeevanshalas) etc.

The youth in the Narmada valley have always been a significant component and a vital contributor to the one and a half decade old struggle and reconstructive activity of the Andolan. Be they activists, Jeevanshala teachers, the displaced adivasi youth themselves, some of whom are well- educated now or other volunteers and students from the valley and outside, their active association with this larger process of working towards equitable and sustainable development options has always been a source of strength for the movement.

It is, therefore, felt that this human resource base needs to be further trained to understand and effectively use natural and sustainable alternatives, such as organic farming and towards this end it was collectively planned to organize a three day Workshop on the Techniques of Organic Farming in the hilly adivasi village of Chimalkhedi in the Nandurbar district of Maharashtra on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of June, 2009.

Chimalkhedi in the Akkalkuva tehsil of Nandurbar district has faced repeated submergence, but the resilient adivasis are still staying put in this village, in the higher altitudes, in the face of denial of land-based rehabilitation.

The Narmada valley, with its rich natural resource base, bio-diversity, forests and best of agriculture and horticulture is a good environ for revival and regeneration. Alternative technologies need to be applied and tried here with a youth force. Hence, a JAN VIKAS KENDRA is built by the adivasi youth in Chimalkhedi with the aim of starting activities and planning on the alternative development path and training the youth in the same.

Narmada Bachao Andolan