

Support the "Adopt a Peasant Organizer Program!"



Since January 2000, the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL) has raised funds for the "Adopt a Peasant Organizer Program." This program, initiated by the Philippines Peasant Support Network (PESANTE), supports peasant activists in the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), or Peasant Movement of the Philippines.

Three quarters of the Filipino population of 70 million are peasants. The majority of these still till small plots which they either own or rent using simple farm tools. Land concentration in the hands of a few families and with growing landlessness cause massive poverty in the countryside. According to Philippine government statistics, five per cent of landowners hold 43% of the agricultural land, while the 67% who hold less than eight acres own only 18 per cent of the total agricultural land. In some places about 90% of the peasants are sharecroppers. In some places more than half are landless. Land rent to the landlord is still as high as 80, 70, and 60 percent of the crop. Large landlords also engage in usury to augment their ability to skim off the surplus produced by the mass of agricultural producers.

The KMP is the leading federation of peasants in the Philippines and militantly pursues the implementation of genuine agrarian reform. Cited as one of the most significant and militant peasant movements in Asia, KMP is the largest democratic and independent organization of landless peasants, small farmers, farmworkers, subsistence fisherfolk, rural youth, and peasant wimmin. KMP also diligently fights for national industrialization, the true democratization of Philippine society, and national sovereignty.

Many of the KMP's farmer-leaders organize full time and are therefore not able to work on their farms. Some receive meager compensation while others are not paid at all for their political work. They need financial assistance in order to support their families and cover daily operating expenses. (Estimates for the monthly costs for one organizer range from \$70 to \$130.) RAIL is happy to help out, but we need your help to make a regular and dependable contributions!

Sure, I can chip in. Here is a donation for the "Adopt a Peasant Organizer Campaign." Please do (do not) contact me with information about future events in my area about the peasant movement in the Philippines.

This is really cool! I can donate \$_____ a month. Here is where you can reach me with information about future events, mailings with news, and reminders that my contribution is due.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel./e-mail _____

Please send contributions to:

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