

# Indigenous people's struggle against imperialism in Peru

by Bill F.

A sharp struggle has been going in for several months in the Peruvian Amazon, where 30,000 indigenous people have been resisting the government of Alan Garcia, following a Free Trade Agreement with the United States.

The Free Trade deal, which was fast-tracked through the Peruvian Congress, allows oil drilling, mining, and logging companies to enter indigenous territories, including sacred and precious rainforests, and rip them apart without consultation or consent.

The people responded by

blockading major highways and roads, rivers and railways, forcing government and company officials and police out of the region. However, it all came to a head on June 5 near the remote town of Bagua, when Peruvian military police attacked a peaceful blockade with tear gas and live bullets.

Initial reports indicated that more than 35 protesters were killed, with dozens more missing and up to 150 in detention. Despite having only sticks and stones and a few wooden spears and machetes, the people fought back and accounted for more than 20 police. Human rights

groups are being prevented from gaining access to the area to uncover the full story, but sooner or later, it will all come out.

Courageous indigenous leader Alberto Pizango has been granted asylum in Nicaragua, when he sought refuge in the embassy after the Garcia government charged him with sedition, conspiracy and rebellion.

## Garcia's day are numbered

Meanwhile, the Peruvian government is falling apart. Prime Minister Yehude Simon has resigned, along with Carmen Vildoso, the Women's



Affairs minister. The Peruvian Congress has now repealed the land laws and ended the state of emergency imposed.

President Alan Garcia is totally isolated, discredited and

hated by the people of Peru. This is where collaboration with US imperialism always ends. No longer useful, he'd better watch his back from now on.

# Filipino people protest Arroyo's latest 'con'

by Bill F.

Demonstrations have taken place in the Philippines against President Gloria Arroyo's move to have the Congress convened as a Constituent Assembly. "Con-ass", as it is called by many, will allow Arroyo to extend her term of office and remain in power indefinitely.

In a press release on June 11, the Communist Party of the Philippines stated, "The demonstration last night of around 15,000 in Makati and a greater mass altogether in other cities across the country

manifest the widespread and intense opposition of the Filipino people against the US-Arroyo regime's rush to amend the constitution by convening Congress as a Constituent Assembly even without the Senate.

"It is a portent of bigger and more widespread and militant protest actions in the coming days and weeks as the people manifest their seething disgust at Gloria Arroyo and her cohorts' shameless political manoeuvrings to keep themselves in power and continue their corrupt and

rotten ways.

"The demonstration yesterday soon after the rushed midnight passing of House Resolution 1109 is a significant opening salvo in the Filipino people's epic 'battle to the end' against Arroyo's plan to extend her reign of terror and corruption.

"Bigger mass actions are anticipated in the coming weeks, especially when classes resume and students converge back in school campuses and right before and after Arroyo's State of the Nation Address in July when she is expected

to signal the convening of her "con-ass." The hated regime will not be able to stop the spread of protest actions nationwide, and an attempt to do so will only trigger even bigger and more widespread and intensive protest actions.

"To complement the people's protest actions against Gloria Arroyo's "con-ass", the Communist Party of the Philippines is directing the New People's Army (NPA) to further intensify tactical offensives in the coming weeks. The CPP urges all units of the NPA to plan out tactical

offensives and target the most hated military units that are being used by Gloria Arroyo in suppressing the people."

The wounding of a US soldier with Filipino troops during an attack on NPA forces in Masbate in April, shows that the US Visiting Forces Agreement is not just aimed at "Muslim terrorists" but also at progressive and revolutionary movements of the people.

How long will it be before Australia is dragged into this conflict to suppress the Filipino people and prop up yet another corrupt US puppet?

# Hands off the Democratic People's Republic of Korea!

by Jim H.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) communication satellite missile launch, resumption of nuclear testing and walk-out from the six party talks on the demilitarisation of the Korea Peninsula has drawn clear cut responses from around the world.

There has been the expected quick condemnation from the US, Japan, some European powers and of course, Australia.

With breathless hypocrisy, none of these countries has ever shown the slightest concern about Israel's secret nuclear arsenal.

The United Nations Security Council has passed a resolution against the DPRK's actions,

authorising the boarding and searching of that country's ships on the high seas.

Russia and China are urging restraint and a resumption of the six party talks.

The world has good reason to want a nuclear free Korean Peninsula. It would reduce a principal source of global tension and threat of war.

When examining the present situation, it is important to consider the whole problem. There is a long-term history of US and Japanese imperialist aggression that has left the region on the boil.

A major bone of contention is the immense US military presence south of the border, including nuclear weapons. This, coupled with ongoing economic sanctions and broken promises to assist in putting

into place alternative energy solutions, is hardly calculated to engender trust in the DPRK.

A solution to the problem requires an end to this sorry history.

But what have we had? In south Korea a strident anti-north government has come into office.

There have been war games involving US, Japanese and south Korean forces.

On the other hand, talks had been continuing and even though progress had been painfully slow, some progress had been inching along.

The DPRK was removed from the rogue states list, there were discussions on lifting sanctions and honouring previously reached agreements.

For its part, the DPRK

dismantled nuclear facilities and expressed its preparedness to move further along the diplomatic road.

Clearly, the resumption of talks is the preferable option. But for this to happen, it is important for the world to recognise that the concerns of the DPRK must be met and that all other parties are compelled to negotiate in good faith.

Imperialist interference in Korean Peninsula must be forced back. The Korean people must be allowed their right to determine their own future.

If the nuclear presence is to be removed from the DPRK, there must be progress towards the removal of the US military presence in south Korea, and this includes the US nuclear presence.

It is only then that the denuclearisation of the area and a much more stable political situation can be achieved.

For these reasons there must be dialogue and a turning way from brinkmanship. Sabre rattling against the DPRK will not achieve this. Putting pressure on the US, Japan and south Korea to act in a much more measured way and in the interests of the Korean people is much more likely to have positive results. In this way, solid ground to encourage more trust from the DPRK can be secured.

Such an all round response should be the aim of the six party talks.

The world has the responsibility of ensuring that this comes about.