

OILWATCH ALERTS

FILIPINAS 2004

1. FROM JUBILEE SOUTH DEBT AND DISASTER

Dear Friends,

Please see below a sign-on statement prepared by the Jubilee South secretariat. Please write to us if you want to sign on. Please circulate and ask others to sign. After five days -- we will circulate the statement again with all the signatories thus far so that we can all send it to Northern and Southern governments, and to the IMF, WB, ADB, UN and other international institutions via email.

Apologies for cross postings. Thanks! --- Lidy
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In the face of Debt and Disaster: Long-lasting Relief for the Peoples of the South!

We express our deepest sympathy and solidarity for the peoples of Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and many other South countries who are currently suffering from the devastation unleashed by the tsunami last December 26. We cannot overemphasize how profoundly saddened we are by the climbing death toll, numbering over 25,000 as of this writing, and the many thousand others missing or injured, the destruction of property, the loss of livelihoods and the widespread dislocation of communities.

The Philippines was also severely hit by super-typhoons in the last few weeks, leading to the death of more than 1,000 people, the destruction of over 10,000 hectares of farmlands, and rendering 53,000 families homeless and without access to clean water.

Now, more than ever, at their hour of greatest need, the peoples of the South must be heeded in their long-standing demand for debt cancellation. In the face of this massive destruction, northern and international creditors should not continue to hold South peoples in bondage for debts that have in large part, only contributed to their impoverishment and deprivation.

If there is any measure of sincerity in the outpouring of compassion from North governments for the peoples of the South, let this be through concrete action. In addition to emergency relief operations and rehabilitation, what we need immediately is:

UNCONDITIONAL DEBT CANCELLATION NOW!

Southern governments should not continue to prioritize debt service, and squander much needed public funds:

STOP PAYING ONEROUS and ILLEGITIMATE DEBTS! Prioritize relief and rehabilitation, basic social services, clean and safe water, and other human development programs!

December 28, 2004

Jubilee South
Jubilee South APMDD (Asia/Pacific Movement for Debt and Development)
Freedom from Debt Coalition of the Philippines

(Please sign on)

Fuente: *Oilwatch International.- Jueves, 06 de Enero de 2005*