

# OBSERVER

A JOURNAL ON THREATENED HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE PHILIPPINES

ISSN: 2192-3353



© IPON

## FORMS OF PEACEFUL PROTEST

# CONTENTS

<b>Editorial</b>	3
<b>The Long Tradition of Non-Violent Protest in the Philippines</b>	4
<b>Non-Violent Tools in the Struggle for Human Rights on Negros</b>	8
<b>“Why is it that it needs a person dying for our voice to be heard?”</b>	12
<b>No Violence!</b>	15
<b>As Old and Young as Mountains</b>	16
<b>The Power of the Public – A Phenomenological Approach on Recent Historical Events</b>	20
<b>The Emergence of Peaceful Protest in Egypt under Mubarak</b>	22
<b>Spring in Civil War</b>	26
<b>Industry Against Nature – Peaceful Protests in the North of Peru</b>	28
<b>Creative, Basic Democratic and Peaceful Protest in Germany</b>	30
<b>Occupy: From Wall Street Around the Globe and to Manila</b>	32
<b>Peace Zones: War-Torn Communities’ Attempt of Self-Protection</b>	34
<b>The Philippines – A Country Without Human Rights?</b>	36
<b>IPON and the Instrument of Human Rights Observation</b>	39
<b>Aims and Scope</b>	39

## OBSERVER:

A JOURNAL ON THREATENED HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS  
IN THE PHILIPPINES

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Jacqueline Andres, Lukas Bauer, Anna Hollendung, Steffen Rudolph,  
Layout: Asja Caspari  
Proofreading: Carmen Albers, Nele Asche, Stephanie Berry, Patrick Seeger,  
Martin Wende

## EDITOR

I.P.O.N. International Peace Observers Network  
Project Office  
Nernstweg 32, 22765 Hamburg, Germany  
www.ipon-philippines.info  
editor@ipon-philippines.info  
+49 [0] 402 5491947

## OFFICE ADDRESS IN THE PHILIPPINES

IPON, c/o Cyrus A. Ellorin,  
Ruiz Street, Sumpung  
8700 Malaybalay  
observer.mindanao@ipon-philippines.org  
phone: +63 [0] 9393205776

68 Florida Street, Brgy. Villamonte  
6100 Bacolod City  
observer.negros@ ipon-philippines.org  
phone: +63 [0] 34 7040185

**ISSN** 2192-3353

**PRICE** single issue 3.00 euro

## SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

OBSERVER: is published biannually.

## DONATIONS & MEMBERSHIP

International Peace Observers Network e.V.  
PURPOSE: „Observer“  
Registered non-profit institution; donation receipt and supporting  
membership possible.

**SWIFT/BIC-CODE:** GENODEM1GLS

**IBAN:** DE40430609671119085800

**BANK:** GLS Gemeinschaftsbank, Germany

## EDITORIAL DEADLINE

vol. 4, number 2: 15th October 2012

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Stiftung Umverteilen; not responsible for the content.



The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this paper are entirely those of the author(s), they do not necessarily represent the views of IPON.

 This work is licenced under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Germany Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/de/>. Reprints are welcome, please send us two copies.

## EDITORIAL

Every four and a half years, the human rights record of each member state of the United Nations is reviewed under the "Universal Periodic Review" in Geneva. On May 29, 2012, Secretary of Justice of the Philippines De Lima referred in her speech in front of the UN Human Rights Council, that "[t]he Administration is firmly committed to resolving verified cases [of extrajudicial killings] and bringing perpetrators to justice, whether they are State or non-State actors [... therefore] [t]he witness protection system is being strengthened." On May 30, Philippine media reported the third killing of a witness to the 2009 Maguindanao massacre, the largest-ever single attack on journalists and media workers in world history with 57 victims.

If the state fails to ensure safety, how can people take action against cases of grave human rights violations like the before mentioned? The most recent past has shown that people all over the world have protested peacefully for a fairer political and social order and they have achieved surprising results. At the same time it became obvious once more how dangerous the involvement in movements and struggling for social, political and economic rights can be, how easily peaceful protest can turn into a life-threatening and -destroying situation and how fragile the phenomena of power is.

On the occasion of the Arab Spring, the globally spreading Occupy Movements, and the continuing regional and global struggles, this issue is dedicated to the courage, strength and vigour of all people who stand up for human rights, in spite of peril and threats against them.

Peaceful protest has a long tradition in the Philippines. The diverse forms

of protest organized by national federations of farmers, and farm workers advocating for agrarian reform and rural development, can be regarded as a contemporary example for the persistence of the multi-faceted tradition. The horrible consequences that can come along with the struggle for human rights are illustrated by Knappmann in her article on cases of harassment, to which indigenous people in Mindanao are exposed to. In his guest article, the German parliamentary Beck emphasizes the importance of social movements in the struggle for justice and stresses that non-violent protest increases the probabilities of achieving a regime change. Weitzel subsequently conceptualizes the theoretical framework of peaceful protests and Hollendung analyses power as a phenomenon of human interaction. Felsberger contextualises the impressive demonstration of people's power in Cairo last year, when the protesting crowds forced the former President Hosni Mubarak to resign. Unlike in Egypt, demonstrations against the regime in Syria have turned into a civil war, as Schmidinger reveals. An instrument for enabling peaceful co-existence in conflict regions are so-called peace zones, Albers reports of.

This edition illustrates further examples of non-violent protest from around the globe, such as the anti-mining protests in Peru and Germany. We exemplarily depict the Occupy Movement by focussing on "Occupy Manila".

The speaking tour of human rights defenders from our Filipino partner organisations in Germany constituted a special highlight of IPON's work this year. The discussions and reactions

that the reports about their daily life as human rights defenders in the Philippines evoked in the audience are summarized by Hammann.

With those multifarious contributions this edition attempts not only to provide an insight into the diversity of peaceful protests but to contextualize and analyze them, in order to get a broader understanding of the topic. ■



### CALL FOR ARTICLES

Preview of the Next Issue: Actual Impunity – When Laws are Nothing but Paper Promises. Call for articles until October 15, 2012 (editorial deadline). We welcome contributions on a human rights perspective concerning the discrepancy between inputs (laws, policies, and budgets), processes (implementation of laws and policies), formal output, and outcomes (de facto realities) such as the prevalence of land conflicts. Articles including a systematic analysis on the consequences on local, national or international level are most welcome.