



LOGOS

March 2007

a publication of CAPSR,
the Community Association of the Pacific School of Religion

This Issue's Theme:

Women - International!

In honor of International Women's Day on March 8th, we especially invite the reflections of women who have crossed borders – for study, for work, for family, for adventure – in order to join our PSR community.

NAM JAI: WATER/HEART FOR WOMEN THE WORLD OVER BY SISTER CECILIA CLAPAROS

"The stories of people.

What is happening to them, and what we do with the happenings are the places we mine spirituality."

-Samuel Rayan, Asian Christian Spirituality

Writing papers can be a process of "recovering memories." Images and experiences that have been part of my journey come back and I see them in a new light and meaning. One set of images involve women and water.

..... In 1998, in my visit to a small village in
(continues on page 4)

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International Women's Day: A Time to Consider Religion, Politics, and Gender Oppression

by Ira Setiawan

"Hi! My name is Ira Setiawan, first year PSR student working toward my M.TS program here and my major is undeclared." That is what is written in my PSR directory, and it is true. Never having any theological study before makes me see how every field is so interesting, and somehow I feel limited to pick a major.



Ira Setiawan, with her husband, Ican Yunarto

I come from Indonesia, particularly from a place named Yogyakarta in

Java Island. Yogyakarta is quite an unique city because it is still governed formally by a pre-colonial Sultanate and the Sultan is really an influential figure for the people. He remains influential not only for Muslims but for all people in Yogyakarta. The Sultan is a Muslim figure but his impact is not limited to the Islamic world.

On International Women's Day in 2003, Indonesia celebrated by addressing an issue relevant for Indonesia until today: "the challenges to women's participation in politics and public life." We talked about how to increase women's participation in politics in Indonesia, and provided suggestions on how to encourage women to maintain

(continues on page 5)

From the Editor, Audrey deCoursey

Any words I would write about the theme 'Women – International' would be incomplete without mentioning one of my favorite books, the book that explores the "worldwide gender revolution" in its economic incarnation: Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy, edited by Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschild (Metropolitan Owl Publishing: New York, 2002). The book explores globalized capitalism's effects on women: the women crossing borders for work, and the women who hire those women from abroad. The introduction chapter is so succinctly insightful, that in lieu of my own wisdom, I will extensively quote theirs.

"But even in more typical cases, where benign employers pay wages on time, Third World migrant woman achieve their success only by assuming the cast-off domestic roles of middle- and high-income women in the First World – roles that have been previously rejected, of course, by men. And their 'commute' entails a cost we have yet to fully comprehend.... So, strictly speaking, the presence of immigrant nannies does not enable affluent women to enter the workforce; it enables affluent men to continue avoiding the second shift."

"This trend toward global redivision of women's traditional work throws new light on the entire proves of globalization. Conventionally, it is the poorer countries that are thought to be dependent on the richer ones – a dependency symbolized by the huge debt they owe to global financial institutions. What we explore in this book, however, is a dependency that works in the other direction, and it is a dependency of a particularly intimate kind.... Today, while still relying on Third World countries for agricultural and industrial labor, the wealthy countries also seek to extract something harder to measure and quantify, something that can look very much like love."

Much of the 'caring' work immigrant women take on is the work that generally fell in the 'female' sphere of the Western gender binary that second-wave feminism has challenged. But shifting this work of care onto poorer or immigrant women does not solve the whole problem of such work being shouldered solely by women. The editors make clear that the ones shirking their duties to do the caring work that sustains the world are both men in affluent societies and their socio-economic systems, "the marked failure of First World governments to meet the needs created by its women's entry into the workforce."

In this way, capitalist globalization 'solves' sexism by shifting to racism and classism as the means for assigning burdens the elites never want to carry (and then back to sexism, as the situation changes). Global oppressions are wily beasts, evolving as fast as our societies change to fight them. The experiences of international women can help us stay wary of the ways these oppressions adapt, so that we can end them, for the good of our global community.

Logos Submission Guidelines

Who can submit

All members of the Pacific School of Religion community are invited to submit to Logos: students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, family members, and supporters of PSR.

What to submit

Original work of interest to the PSR community:

- Opinion pieces, news, feature stories
- Reviews: books, movies, concerts, albums, lectures
- Poetry, Prayers
- Event and group announcements
- Drawings
- Photography: artistic, news-related, social events

How to submit

Email: adecoursey@psr.gtulink.edu

When to submit

Upcoming Priority Deadline: **April 2**

Themes

April Theme: Fun! Satire! Laughs!

May Theme: Reflection on the Year Gone By

*** We are also collecting writing and art that reflects on the housing situation at PSR, for a CAPSR-sponsored 'zine, supplemental to LOGOS. Please submit such reflections to Audrey by email, as listed above. ***

More guidelines

-Please limit submissions to 1,000 words.

-Publication is subject to the needs of the newsletter and the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and Logos Editorial Board. The Editor-in Chief and Editorial Board reserve the right to edit submissions for publication.

-If you have any questions about submissions, feel free to talk with the Editor-in-Chief or email her at adecoursey@psr.gtulink.edu.

Thanks. We look forward to hearing from you.

SPECIAL! FIRST TIME EVER! (Editor admits a) CORRECTION TO LAST MONTH'S ISSUE:
In the spread about the January trip to SE Asia, the Director of Field Education was incorrectly identified as Ginny Williams. Her name continues to be Ginny (Virginia) Chase. We apologize for the error.

CAPSR COUNCIL CORNER

The CAPSR Council meets twice a month to discuss community building events and concerns of the community. The meetings are open to all CAPSR members (students, faculty, staff). These are the currently scheduled meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
March 20	12 pm – 1 pm	Small Dining Room - D'Autremont
April 7	9 am – 12 pm	PANA
April 17	12 pm – 1 pm	Small Dining Room - D'Autremont
May 5	9 am – 3pm	PANA

You can send an email to the Council at caprs@psr.edu. More information about CAPSR and LOGOS can be found at the CAPSR website: www.caprs.org.

Who Killed Jesus? Murder Mystery Party

Friday, March 9, 7:30 p.m.

Mudd Building

See the poster in Holbrook lobby to sign up and for further details, or contact Allison Mark.

Scholarship Reports Day

Tuesday, March 13, 1-2 p.m.

Bade Museum

Students who received CAPSR scholarship support to attend conferences and learning events will present their experiences. This is a wonderful opportunity to share in the experiences of your fellow seminarians, experiences that were made possible by scholarship money from your own student council fees! Contact Cathy Lauber for more details

HEAR YE. HEAR YE. ANNOUNCING THE RETURN OF PSR'S "INNER BEAUTY PAGEANT"

FRIDAY APRIL 13TH IN THE PSR CHAPEL, 6 TO 8 PM.

COME ONE, COME ALL - OLD AND YOUNG!
A BOUNTY OF TALENTS TO SHARE AND TO RECEIVE!

TO SIGN UP TO DO ONE THING OR ANOTHER, CONTACT
JONATHAN HARVEY AT JONLYNNHARVEY@AIM.COM.

This St. Patrick's Day, don't just wear green.... be green!

Greening Congregations - from Talk and Study to Action and Service: Making the Transition to Active Environmental Ministries



Saturday, March 17
9:30am to Noon
Mudd Building – PSR

Who will benefit from this workshop? Pastors, Seminary Interns working at churches, Seminarians interested in turning faith into action, Congregational Leaders and anyone who wants the resources to empower and inspire active change in our communities!

This half-day event will provide a wide variety of practical tools and resources. Participants will be provided a "toolkit" for developing and empowering environmental ministries in their communities.

Donation \$10.

More info? trees@gtu.edu

Cosponsored by TREES, National Council of Churches of Christ Eco-Justice Programs, and Presbyterians for Restoring Creation

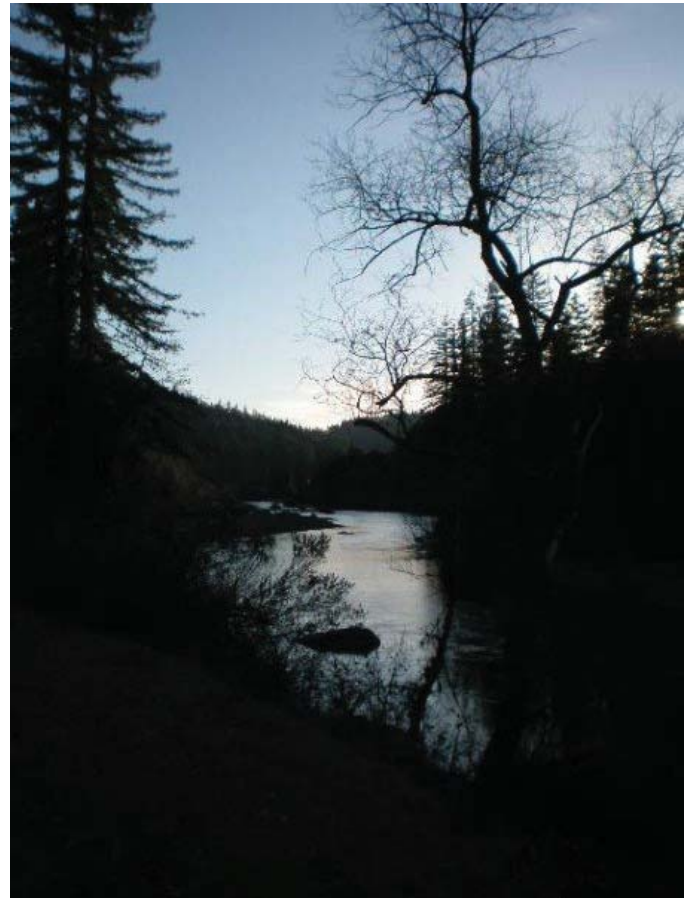
(Women and Water, continued from page 1)

Ajmer in India, I was struck by the distance the womenfolk had to walk to get a bucket of water. “Very soon, they said, the water will all be gone.” The land had become a desert and the women ask, “ Soon, we do not know where else we can get water.”

..... In the northeast of Thailand, drought has become almost inevitable, affecting the people of this region. The people recall how their ancestors spoke of their land as rich and fertile. This was before the treaty with Britain had given privileges to “outsiders” to cut their forests. Because of the drought, a great number of their population, particularly the women, leave home to work either in Bangkok or abroad and often in the sex industry. Today, the northeast population rank as having the highest rate of migration outside their region. An increasing number, too, are dying of AIDS.

..... While working in southern Thailand, I had gone to visit the house of one of our social workers in a resort area. Upon reaching the village, I was struck how the people were queuing to buy water. Surprised, I asked why they had to buy water. They responded: “all the water has been channeled to the hotels and golf courses for the tourists.” The poor have to buy water to survive!

..... Still another image came back to me from a village in Thailand. It was summer time and the supply of water in many water jars had gone dry. Rain was the only source of water in that area. The Church had built a big tank to gather rainwater for the people for drinking water. I visited one woman friend of ours who was pregnant. Noticing that their water jars were empty, I asked her whether they had gone to the Church to get their drinking water. She replied: “Seeing that the water supply was very low, I did not want you to run out of water.” She boiled water from a shallow-dug water pond for their use. This incident marked me. It was at once touching and confronting!



Photograph of Northern California ravine, by Kris Marshall

Extractive economy becomes real to me through these stories of water. At the same time I have experienced “**nam jai**” (literally water/heart), the Thai word for inner goodness and generosity from the most affected in this “drying up” (desertification).

May I wake up and live from this recovered memory! In recovering memory I will perhaps be restored to my “true self:” connected with every being and all reality.

(Religion, Politics, and Gender, continued from page 1)

their struggle towards a gender-equal political environment. This brought me to the issue of how religion has been used as a tool of oppression, not only for woman, but also in various dimensions of life. People often use religion as a source of justification for their actions.

Islam has been the religion of the majority in Indonesia and it is a religion that is popularly considered to have a strong relationship with politics. It is both a religious and political composite according to Fazlur Rahman's Islam (1959:2002). Politics becomes an artifice to build a just and equal nation state, since the goal of Islamic society is to make possible "Thy will be done on earth" (Seyyed Hossein Nasr's The Heart of Islam, 1959:2002). It is by nature that Islam is a political religion because it is expressed in the *Shari'ah* (the revealed Law):

"Shari'ah as contained in the Holy Koran gave a complete and final picture of social control, i.e. it laid down a moral legal and political chart for all time for humanity. It contains everlasting, unchangeable legal realities in which human beings might rest and enable it to establish perfect law by which human relations might be ordered forever, free from the need of change (Quoted Al Haj A.D. Ajilola).

The three main things that need to be considered important by Muslims are the famous D's: *din* (religion), *dunya* (life), and *dawla* (state) (Effendi's Islam and the State in Indonesia, 4:2003). It can be seen that there is a strong connection between Islam and politics. However, Islamic political ideas are also associated with patriarchal culture, which tends to put women in a secondary status to men. Politically-prominent positions are mostly held by men, while women have regularly been kept isolated from political fields.

The appointment of Megawati Sukarnoputri in 2001 as the Indonesian president stimulated discussion on gender issues more obvious in a public sphere. Questions arise due to her presidency: was the appointment of Megawati due to a gender realization; was it an indicator of a growth of equality between man and woman? Megawati's presidency invited pros and cons. Some Muslims' groups said that the country would not be prosperous led by a woman. Other groups said that to choose a woman president is considered as *haram* (forbidden) and formally denounced by the prominent Islamic community: *Nahdatul Ulama* in the *fatwa* (a legal pronouncement as the interpretation of Islamic law and how it should be applied).

Religion, which is expected to give liberation to all people, contributes a significant role toward female's subordination. It has been a tool to silence women's voices. By presenting the situation in Indonesia and the connections among Islam, politics, and women's role, we are invited to think about how religion, politics and gender oppression have been mingling together in this country or elsewhere. Does it operate in the same way as in Indonesia, although it might be manifested in different ways? Has religion been used to oppress or to exclude "the marginal?" It might not always be women in this case but also other groups that have been marginalized with religious justification, such as discrimination against LGBT persons and racism.

Those issues invite me (us) as a seminary student to reflect on how Christianity in particular has also contributed to the oppression of woman, not only on the political field but also in various dimensions of life. There are several interpretations of the Bible that lead to women's subordination. Many feminists think that the Bible is a product written in and emerging from patriarchal cultures and is also interpreted by patriarchal tradition. Broader than woman's subordination, the Bible has been used also to justify action against some things such as sexism, racism, and exclusion. (or some might use it to justify war). **How Christians can heal the wounds that have been caused by its text becomes the issue that any Christian should deal with.**

PSR's Renters Organizing Committee has been created by the CAPSR Council and has begun to work. Two meetings have been held but we need greater participation from the PSR Community. Our next meeting is at 11:30 on Wednesday March 7 in the small dining hall. We will meet, plan our next steps, and eat.

If you cannot make this meeting or have concerns you wish to express, please send them to ROC in **WRITING**. We are more than willing to talk but remembering details is difficult so writing helps documenta-



tion and makes sure we do not forget.

The concerns expressed at the Town Hall meeting were documented and will be sent to administration. On Wednesday we will review those comments and other we received in writing and begin to organize and prioritize the needs. Come help us make PSR the wonderful place we all know it can be.

-Suzanne Nichols
(Suzannewnicholsjd@cox.net)

Scenes from the CAPSR Council meeting with John Davis, Terry Dyonzak, and Stephen Peele, and from the CAPSR Town Hall Meeting on February 26. Around 50 students, staff, and administrators were in attendance at the Town Hall. Attendees were encouraged to fill out the CAPSR housing survey, and to submit incident reports and maintenance requests to document any housing complaints. Stay tuned to www.capsr.org for updates, and watch for the new Renters' Organizing Committee and the Housing Advisory Committee.



All pictures by staff photographer Laumanu Ika.

Don't ROCK the Boat!

by Cathy Lauber

I thank God for small favours. I felt compelled to write this article shortly after the Town Hall meeting which took place the last week of February. It occurred to me after I wrote it that it may not fit the theme for March, so I looked it up: Women - International. Thank you, Lord. First of all, I may look like an American but all you have to do is talk to me for a minute and you'll see (or rather hear) that I am Canadian. Secondly, I am a woman. Therefore, as an international woman experiencing living in the United States for the first time here at PSR, this article fits the parameters for the theme for this month. So allow me to continue...

Many of you know the health troubles I have been facing since arriving at PSR and taking up residence in the Arch dormitory. Many of you also know that I am serving on CAPSR Council and have joined the recently-formed Renters Organizing Committee of PSR (ROC/PSR). I want to be perfectly clear that I have an issue with the way PSR housing has had a negative effect on the health and well-being of the students who live here. My issue today stems directly from this problem, and my roles on CAPSR Council and ROC/PSR have given me greater access to information from students about these housing concerns. There is one theme that keeps coming up that disturbs me greatly.

In speaking with students about their concerns for their health and the state of their housing, I always encourage them to speak up, get involved, make your voices heard! If all we are doing is talking amongst ourselves and not passing the information on to the institution, then logically nothing can change. At first, the solution seemed simple to me; just speak up and let them know what's going on. But here is where I got a huge reality check. The response that I received from a number of students after I asked them to get involved was, "No." The reason: fear of retaliation.

I am shocked to find out that many students are afraid to speak up because they do not trust that they will not be retaliated against. I can hardly wrap my head around that fact. There is a very real perception of unfair and unjust actions being taken against anyone who 'ROCKs the boat'. Some of the responses from students have been, "I can't sign my name, I work on staff part-time," and "I really need to move into a studio next year, so I don't want to say anything negative and then not get the studio when it was my turn," or "I didn't sign my name because if you're labeled a trouble-maker around here you're in for a really hard time." Others have said similar things.

This, my friends, is unacceptable. It is unacceptable that the fear of retaliation is a very real part of student life. It is unacceptable that students feel silenced, trapped and afraid. One of the reasons for forming ROC/PSR was so that we could all band together and gain strength from one another. I would encourage you, once more, to add your voice to the others and trust that there is strength in numbers. If we do not speak up, nothing will change.

PSR has a direction statement that commits the institution to "serving God" and "ministries of compassion and justice." I would love to see us all live out that mission in the everyday life of the institution. I invite those who have the power, to take a really good look at what has been created here at PSR, determine where the problems lie and start working towards fixing the system that is broken in so many ways.



PSR Students Hold Silent Vigil at 'Ex-gay' Conference *Crosswalk* by Kathy Seibert

The sun was shining on all of us who made our way to San Francisco on Saturday, February 17, to the Promised Land Fellowship (PLF). There was an air of both somberness and joy as we prepared to stand outside PLF to offer an alternative point of view to the participants of an ex-gay conference sponsored by Desert Streams Ministries. We wanted those folks to know that being openly Christian and openly queer is not an oxymoron.



I know that the leaders of the workshop also felt the sun shining on their skin as they entered the building that morning. They, too, likely were excited and filled with joy at the prospect of "healing" people from relationships they view as sinful. They believe they are ministering to the "sexually and relationally broken" (www.desertstream.org). But is forcing a person to deny an intrinsic part of their being truly 'healing?'

I was standing with my sign near a coffee shop just a few doors down from PLF. As pedestrians and bicyclists wandered by, they would ask me what was happening. I explained that most of us were seminarians who affirm the inherent dignity and worth of every person. To a person, every single one responded that they were glad we were out there. One young woman who walked out of PLF saw our signs, gave us the thumbs up, and said, "I just work there. I'm glad you're doing this!"

Our fellow seminarian Corey Hidlebaugh was the driving force behind organizing this event. Because of his own eight year experience in ex-gay ministry, Corey knew firsthand the damage that is done by groups like Desert Stream and Exodus.

Media coverage was provided by the San Francisco Chronicle, the Bay Area Reporter (front page!), the local CBS television affiliate, as well as our own LOGOS (thanks, Audrey!) Corey was also interviewed on KCBS radio.

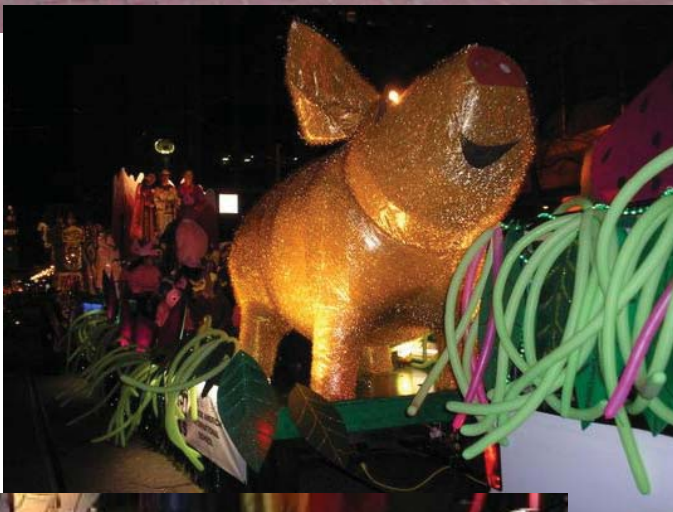
The organizers of the conference were generous to us when they saw us there, offering us bottled water and friendly smiles. We opened and closed our vigil with prayer, and Corey asked for blessings not only for





On Saturday, March 3, the Network on Religion and Justice for Asian American and Pacific Islander Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People (NRJ-API-LGBT), of which PANA is a coordinating member, sponsored a contingent of APIs to march in public religious support of the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance float in the San Francisco Chinese New Year parade.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



The Year of the Pig!



Photographs by Israel Alvaran.



Women, Christianity, and Compassionate Capitalism

By Robyn Morrison

I teeter on the tipping point of despair or optimism. In one sense, I am deeply disturbed by the state of our world, especially the plight of women and children throughout the world who do not have the basic necessities of life. On the other hand, as a Christian I cling to hope and see the in-breaking of the signs of the reign of God.

In brief, just from the news of the past two weeks, the signs of **despair** include:

- The increasing threat that the United States will enter into a military conflict with Iran.
- The US President's proposed 2008 federal budget and the dire impact our increased military spending has on the poor and working classes.
- The impact that our federal deficit and military spending is having on the global economy (especially this past week). A global economic crisis is looming if we do not wake up and address the connection between wars, destruction of our environment, and our dependency on scarce resources (oil and water).
- Recent statistics that reveal the percentage of poor Americans who are living in severe poverty has reached a 32-year high, millions of working Americans are falling closer to the poverty line, and the gulf between the nation's "haves" and "have-nots" continues to widen.
- The recent publicity about the current global slave trade. Global poverty fuels desperate acts and creates an increasing supply of human beings as commodities that fuel capitalism. The majority of the estimated 27 million victims of human trafficking are women; half are children under the age of eighteen.
- Almost no news coverage was given to the United Nations' 51st Commission on the Status of Women, which is happening in New York City. Where is the global outrage about the violence against women and children, including the injustice of the persistent poverty, hunger, and diseases that affect women and children more than men?

Yet, there are signs of **hope** as well:

- Throughout the world, women are forming economic movements that have the power to transform capitalism. The 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank, are just the tip of the iceberg that represents a growing compassionate capitalism movement.
- Wangari Maathai (winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize) and the Green Belt Movement have shown the world that women possess the power to transform their economic lives, their communities, and even their environment.
- John Mackay, CEO of Whole Foods Market, and thousands of other socially responsible entrepreneurs are starting to talk about conscious or compassionate capitalism.
- Thousands of Christians are gathering in Washington, DC, during the month of March. First, as part of Ecumenical Advocacy Days, they are speaking out about poverty and speaking up for the economic rights of children and women. Second, as part of the Christian Peace Witness for Iraq, Christians will be worshiping, praying, engaging in acts of civil disobedience, and lifting their voices as Christians to speak out against a war that violates the very tenets of our faith.

March 8th is International Women's Day. This month, what will you do to tip the scales towards hope? I am not willing to give in to despair. I believe that our hope lies in the power of the feminine – the power that recognizes we are all connected. In God there is no male or female, no American or Iranian, no Master or Slave.

(Read more wisdom from Robyn at her blog, 'Where He Leads,' at whereheleads.blogspot.com)



On Friday, March 2, an ecumenical vigil was held at the state capitol in Sacramento, for “Faith, Justice and Human Rights in the Philippines.” Those in prayerful attendance included Bishop Eli Pascua, General Secretary of the United Church of Christ Philippines; Bishop Beverly Shamana, United Methodist Church, California-Nevada Conference; and members of the United Methodist Fact-Finding Team, recently returned from the Philippines.

The procession was held to remember the numerous civilians impacted by the violence: 800 killed and 200 disappeared since 2001; pastors, farmers, students, human rights lawyers, journalists, labor leaders, and others working for economic and social justice in the Philippines.



Photographs by Israel Alvaran