

SAMIN CAMPAIGN IN EUROPE

June 10-12, 2014 MISSIO- AACHEN

June 10 – Arrival in Cologne then travel to Aachen. When I saw the Cathedral of Cologne, I was humbled. I felt so lucky to see this beautiful Church. Why me? A sinner! Standing alone in this huge and tall Cathedral, I could only praise the Lord. I remembered all of you and beloved Mindanawons whom I have to represent here in my trips in Europe. Whatever my mission here, I pray that it will do justice to God's anawim.



June 11 - I discussed the proposal of SAMIN with MISSIO-Aachen. Jorge Nowak, the journalist of MISSIO arranged my meetings with Margaret from their Foreign Department, who is in –charge of the Philippines.

June 12 - A meeting with the Theological department of MISSIO with Elizabeth, Michael and Klaus. They were interested about Basic Ecclesial Communities(BEC) and the Indigenous people. They invited me to write an article for their publication. They gave me 4 series of their books on BEC.

A meeting with Ankel representative of MISSIO in the Dioceses of Aachen.

PM- I travelled with Jorge to Dusseldorf to meet the hired photographer David, who flew from Berlin. I caught myself joking that in the Bible: *David needed only one stone to shoot Goliath*. I am not Goliath, David the photographer needed to shoot me a number of times to find my best angle.

Jorge Nowak is a journalist who has been working with Sr. Rafaela Handler. He arranged the TV shows of Sr. Rafaela and Sr. Cecille Ido. Missio sponsored books and publication campaigns for Sr. Rafaela. He also facilitated the meeting of the Pope and the President of Germany with Sr. Rafaela. There were books, posters, fliers of Sr. Rafaela in his office. There was the picture of Sr. Cecille Ido as well. He was thinking of using my pictures for a campaign esp. that MISSIO might make for the Philippines in 2016.

June 13-20, 2014 SWITZERLAND

June 13 - Angie Gonzales met me in Zurich, a medical doctor by profession who is now a political refugee in Netherlands. She arranged all my trips and meetings. She heads the International Coalition of Human Rights in the Philippines.

June 14 -Meeting with Swiss Solidarity Groups and Filipino students and migrants. Atty Kris Balebaa doctorate student in International law in the University of Zurich, hosted us. She has been a consultant of big mining companies.

June 15 -Visit to “Teresa Ladeli” in Bern, a charity shop run by 20 Swiss volunteers. I was so touched by their efforts to

run this charity shop to give their proceeds to the indigenous people in Mindanao. They are connected to the Assumption sisters. Monika Baumann is the main organizer of “Teresa Ladeli”. We also met Jake(a former priest in Bukidnon), who promised to help SAMIN if we give him a project proposal.



Left-Right: Dra. Angie Gonzales, Pastor Irma Balava, Tinay Palabay, Monika Baumann, Sr. Stella M, Judith.

June 15-20, 2014 GENEVA

In the United Nations, I had to read the oral intervention in behalf of Pastor Irma Balava, who went back to the Philippines earlier because it was postponed a number of times. The short intervention was about her being a survivor of typhoon Haiyan, She shared her worries about the “no build zone policy” which will dislocate thousands of fisherfolks without clear rehabilitation program from the government. She appealed to the UN to conduct an investigation and to pressure the Philippine Government to do its obligations to the victims of Haiyan.



Fr. Richard, 1st Secretary to the Nuncio of the Holy See to the United Nations



Meeting with UN-Missions: International Caritas, Angelo Roncalli International

I was accredited by the Franciscans International in the United Nations.

June 21-29, 2014 NETHERLANDS

June 22- An outdoor meeting was organized with Dutch and Filipino migrants in Utrecht where I shared updates about Mindanao and SAMIN activities for typhoon Haiyan victims in Samar and Ieyte.

June 23- Marken. Group discussions and sharing about ALCADDEV-lumad school in Surigao del Sur. Stichting Ronoylion is a foundation that supports indigenous programs. ALCADDEV was their partner in the recent past. Eef Visser the chairperson was with us with Tim, Walter and Peter. Pascal Vander was also present from SOLIDAGRO of Belgium.

June 24- Den Haag. A courtesy call to the Nunciature of the Netherlands. Fr. Jovko Pitishki the Secretary to the Nuncio entertained us. He was my former teacher of Bulgarian back in 1995 when he was still a seminarian in Rome. It was a big joy for me to find myself still



Mensen met een Missie in Den Haag with Ton Groeneweg and staff.

speaking in Bulgarian after many years. He recommends that I visit the Caritas of Netherlands for SAMIN projects

June 24, 2014 Conference with MM and SAMIN.

This meeting with Mensen met een Missie(MM)was the most crucial part of my mission for SAMIN.

Angie made a powerpoint presentation on human rights and I shared about SAMIN and its activities. During my sharing I pleaded MM not to stop their support to SAMIN while we are still looking for another one. It was a big surprise when Ton Groeneweg announced after the meeting that they will not leave SAMIN. He even recommended us to MIVA- Netherlands for a vehicle for SAMIN. The meeting was full of hope. A video interview followed the event.

June 25 -Meeting with Archbishop Joris Vercammen of the Old Catholic Church in Amersfoort, near Utrecht. Dinner with Manon Vanderkaa(Utrecht) the previous Director of Mensen met een Missie, who visited me in the Philippines back in 2009. Manon, as the Chairperson of the Association of the elderly, promised to help SAMIN.

June 26-Launching of a documentary film by Fair Food International(Amsterdam) with Verie Aurts. The film was taken from the RMP-NMR regions in Mindanao about the pineapple plantations in Bukidnon..

June 27 - A two hours travel from Netherlands to Bruxelles. In the evening I gave a power point presentation on the Mindanao mining situation. A group of 20 representatives were present from different groups. Ample time was spent in the open forum. An ICM sister graced the occasion also. This was organized by Third World Health Aid.

June 28 - We celebrated the Philippine Independence Day in Gent. After the talk of the Mayor of Gent, I also gave a short message to the assembly esp. to thank Samen voor de Filipijnen (connected with Balsa-Bayan) and to the Ugnayang Pilipino sa Belgium, Slag Arnis Gent, for their support to the Haiyan victims.

June 29 -An 8-hrs travel by train to Munich. I stayed overnight in my sister's house, where I deposited my luggage for Manila.

June 30 - I left Munich and flew back to the Philippines.

I would like to thank our Prioress, Mo.. Adelaida and her Council and the whole Manila Priory for giving me their permission to contact possible fund raising agencies for SAMIN. I believe that our generous God will bless all our efforts to help the poor. I also would like to thank Angie Gonzales in a very special way, for arranging my itineraries, and securing funds for my expenses and accompanying me to all my meetings and appointments for 2 weeks and acting as translator for me. Special thanks to Sr. Lumen Gloria, our Vicar-general, for her support, Sr. Mary James, Sr. Noemi Degala and all those who made this trip possible.

By: Sr. Stella Matutina, OSB



Sister Stella Matutina, OSB, is spokesperson of the alliance Panalipdan! Mindanao Defenders of the Environment, Patrimony and Creation in Mindanao – defending our rights against the destruction of large-scale mining, large dams, logging, and agribusiness plantations. She is the current Chairperson of the Sisters' Association of Mindanao (SAMIN) and Convenor of the Barug Katungod Mindanao. She has direct experience in still-ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts in areas affected by the Pablo and Haiyan typhoons. We are so fortunate to host her here in the Netherlands this month of June.

We invite you to join us in welcoming Sr. Stella as she shares the situation of our brothers and sisters in Mindanao, on 22 June 2014, from 15:00 (up to sawa), at Roosevelt Boulevard Park (picnic tables fronting Rooseveltlaan 784).