



Press Release

Monday 19th September

International support for Australian independence

People in the Philippines last week demonstrated their opposition to US military bases in their country and expressed support Australian efforts to close Pine Gap and remove US marines from Darwin.

Ordained Uniting Church minister from Ballarat Berlin Guerrero is encouraged by this solidarity in the name of human rights for people in the region most who are most at risk from the military brinkmanship being exercised by the superpowers China and the United States of America.

“The so called Asia-Pacific Pivot with US military bases encircling China, in South Korea, Japan, Guam, the Philippines, down to Darwin in Australia alerts us to the risk of an incident which could spark an all-out war “said Minister Guerrero.

In 2007, the then-United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) pastor was abducted by armed men at a memorial service for a friend who was assassinated in 2006. Heavily involved in social justice activities in the Philippines, Pastor Guerrero had caught the ire of corrupt officials looking to stamp out opposition, particularly from those critical of government and the ruling elite.

“I look forward to a future where all countries in our region of the world are exercising their peaceful independence”

“Building links of solidarity with the peace movement in Australia is a very healthy development which I hope will strengthen”

Minister Guerrero will speak from a faith perspective at the Independent and Peaceful Australia Conference in Alice Springs on Saturday 1st October. The Conference seeks to highlight the role Pine Gap plays in US military activity and calls for its closure. Other international speakers at the conference will include Professor Lisa Natividad from Guam and Professor Kosuzu Abe from Okinawa, Japan.

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