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The Philippines

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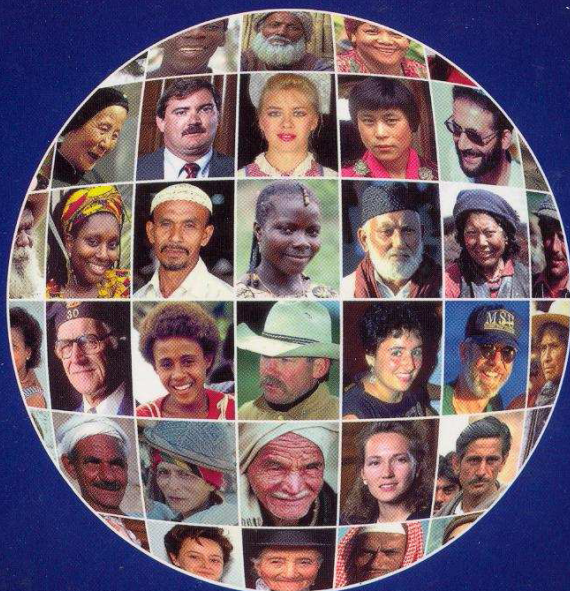
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STATE VIOLENCE AND THE RIGHT TO PEACE

An International Survey of the Views of Ordinary People



VOLUME 4: ASIA AND AUSTRALIA

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STATE VIOLENCE AND THE RIGHT TO PEACE

An International Survey of the Views of Ordinary People

Kathleen Malley-Morrison, Editor

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Kathleen Malley-Morrison is director of the Group on International Perspectives on Governmental Aggression and Peace (GIPGAP) and professor of psychology at Boston University, Boston, MA. She has published extensively on government aggression and peace as well as family violence and abuse.

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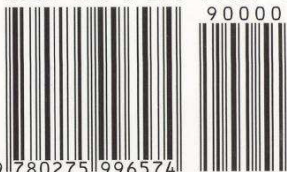
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The Philippines

Ma. Regina E. Estuar and David Young Oh¹

War is . . . *"destruction of people, relationships, trust, property and many others"* (male, 20); *"when there is a loud sound of bombs and guns from country 1 and country 2 and people are told to save their lives and resort to a safe place"* (female, 21).

Peace is . . . *"the basic recipe for growth and bountifulness"* (male, 31); *"no war, no political difference, a country with socio-economic stability, fully sustained agricultural and food security, well-developed educational system"* (female, 60).

The Philippines today is an archipelago consisting of 7,107 islands in southeastern Asia. The three major islands are Luzon, the largest, which includes Manila, the nation's capital; Visayas; and Mindanao, in the South, which includes the Autonomous Region of the Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).² The Philippines was first settled by the Austronesian (Malayo Polynesian) people about 30,000 years ago.³ Spanish colonization began in the mid-16th century, and the islands remained under Spanish control until the late 19th century. Spanish occupation was characterized by significant uprisings and counterinsurgencies, culminating in the Philippine Revolution of 1896 and the Spanish-American War of 1899-1902, which formally ended Spanish occupation. Following that war, however, the United States occupied the Philippines for nearly half of the 20th century, until Japan took control during World War II. With the end of World War II, the Philippines became an independent democracy, though ceding special privileges to the United States. In a context of ongoing government corruption and public dissension, the government declared martial law, turning the Philippines into a military dictatorship. This resulted in more political killings, torture, and dissatisfaction in civil society, fueling the development of many