



Luis “Ka Louie” Jalandoni

February 26, 1935 - June 07, 2025

Foreword

By Coni Ledesma

NDFP Negotiating Panel Member and MAKIBAKA International Representative

This special issue of *Liberation International* is dedicated to the life and legacy of my beloved husband and comrade, Louie Jalandoni: a revolutionary whose heart beat with the struggles of the Filipino people until his final breath.

To write these words is both an honor and a deeply personal act of remembering him. Louie was more than a life partner to me; he was my comrade-in-arms, my co-dreamer, and a pillar of strength in the long and difficult struggle for national liberation and genuine democracy in the Philippines. For decades, we shared the battlefield of the revolution, sometimes with words, sometimes in silence and in exile, but always with love for the people and for each other. We shared a life of more than 52 years in life and in struggle.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated staff of the NDFP International Office and the staff of *Liberation International* for making this special tribute issue possible. It is especially meaningful, as it was Louie himself who began the important work of writing articles to update solidarity allies, parties, and governments on the advances and challenges of the Philippine revolutionary movement. He was the first editor of *Philippine Updates* and later helped initiate *Liberation International* together with the late NDFP chairperson Antonio “Manong” Zumel as a platform to deepen international solidarity and raise the banner of the Filipino people’s struggle abroad.

This issue brings together powerful tribute statements that capture facets of Louie’s life and legacy as a revolutionary, a diplomat, a negotiator and servant of the people. We hope that reading through these tributes will help readers paint a vivid and enduring portrait of a life lived in the service of the Filipino masses and the struggle for national and social liberation.

In honoring Ka Louie, we are reminded that revolutionaries do not die. They live on in the victories of the people, in the songs of the youth, in the deepened commitment of those who remain. Louie’s legacy lives on in every barrio resisting militarization, in every worker demanding just wages, in every migrant organizing for their rights, and in every comrade who dares to dream and struggle for a better world. 🇵🇭



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The NDFP is the revolutionary united front organization of the Filipino people fighting for national freedom and for the democratic rights of the people. Established on April 24, 1973, the NDFP seeks to develop and coordinate all progressive classes, sectors and forces in the Filipino people’s struggle to end the rule of US imperialism and its local allies, and attain national and social liberation.

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Honoring Ka Louie, Former Editor of *Liberation International*

by the *Liberation International* Editorial Board

In this special issue of *Liberation International*, we pay tribute to a revolutionary who not only helped shape the Philippine national democratic movement, but also laid the foundations for this very publication: Ka Louie Jalandoni, former editor of *Liberation International*.

Ka Louie has long been synonymous with international solidarity work and the cause of national liberation in the Philippines. But beyond his role as a senior leader and representative of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), he was also a writer, propagandist, and tireless messenger of the people's struggle.

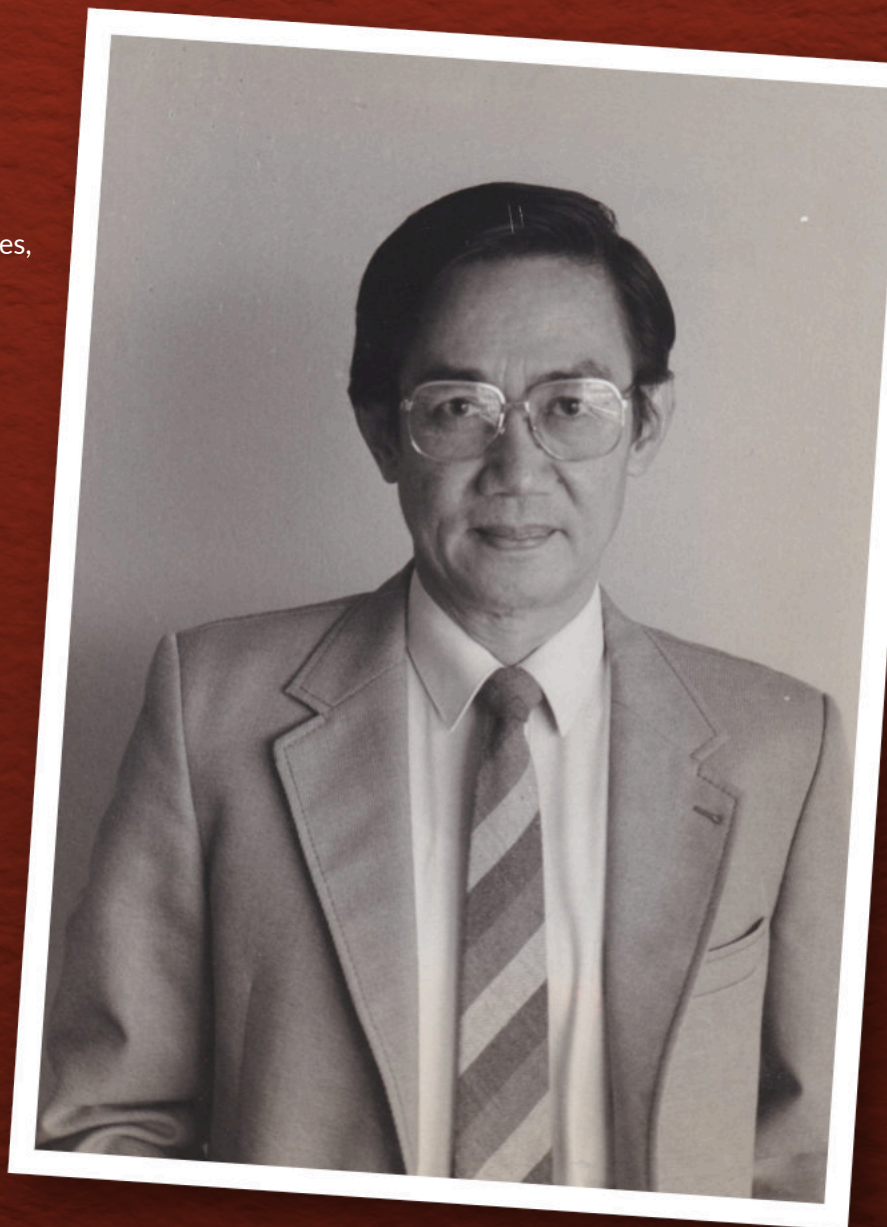
At a time when the Philippine revolutionary movement was not as visible as it is today to the international public, Ka Louie saw the need to consistently inform and engage solidarity allies, revolutionary parties, and anti-imperialist forces around the world. He began writing regular updates on the political situation in the Philippines, the status of the people's war, and the sharp contradictions that gave rise to the armed struggle. These articles, thoughtfully written and firmly rooted in the principles of the national democratic movement, laid the groundwork for what would become *Philippine Updates*.

Ka Louie took on editorship of *Liberation International* in 2001 after our first editor and NDFP Chairperson Antonio "Manong" Zumel passed away in August 2001. Ka Louie carried out the work as editor of *Liberation International* and used it as a platform to articulate the voice of the Filipino people in struggle and to link arms with other liberation movements and proletarian-socialist parties.

Ka Louie was never one for personal credit. But those of us who have worked on this publication know how much of its soul came from his quiet but determined guidance. He edited with precision and he reviewed with care, ensuring every article served the objectives of the national democratic revolution.

We dedicate this special issue of *Liberation International* to Ka Louie with love, respect, and vow to carry forward the revolutionary work he began.

Mabuhay ang alaala ni Ka Louie! 🍷





Ka Louie Jalandoni, 90

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Ka Louie Jalandoni, beloved by the masses, a true internationalist, revolutionary leader and stalwart of peace. Ka Louie passed away peacefully at around 9:05 in the morning in Utrecht, the Netherlands (03:05pm Philippine time) on June 7, 2025. He was 90 years old.

In his final moments, Ka Louie was surrounded by comrades, his wife Ka Coni, and his family. We express our condolences to Ka Louie's family, whose love, strength, and support accompanied him through decades of service to the Filipino people's revolutionary cause.



Central Committee
Communist Party of the Philippines



National Council
National Democratic Front

Honor and uphold the legacy of Ka Louie Jalandoni: Stalwart of peace, revolutionary!



Central Committee
Communist Party of the Philippines
June 7, 2025

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) confers its highest honors and pays tribute to Ka Louie Jalandoni, in recognition of his steadfast dedication and contribution to building and strengthening the Party and the National Democratic Front, and to waging the people's democratic revolution, principally through armed struggle, as well as other forms of struggle, including peace negotiations.

Ka Louie passed away today. He was 90.

Ka Louie lived a life that was nothing short of extraordinary. Ka Louie was born on into a family of big landlords and sugar barons in Negros Island on February 26, 1935. Despite the comfort and privilege he was born into, Ka Louie developed a deep political consciousness through his immersion in the lives and struggles of sugar workers who toiled endlessly in the sugar fields of Negros.

He took seriously the maxim of “preferential option for the poor” as a guiding principle in life. As a former Catholic priest, he took part in the “Church to the Barrios” program, leading initiatives in neglected rural communities and learning firsthand the harsh realities of poverty, exploitation, and state repression. His work among the masses transformed him, and deepened his resolve to act not just a shepherd of faith, but as a servant of the revolution.

On February 17, 1972, Ka Louie played a key role in founding the Christians for National Liberation (CNL) as he organized progressive-minded religious workers like himself to resist the fascist state terror of the Marcos Sr. dictatorship. In its founding assembly, both Ka Louie and his wife Ka Coni were elected to the National Executive Board. The following month, in March 1972, Ka Louie joined the Communist Party of the Philippines. The CNL would later become one of the founding allied organizations of the NDFP in 1973.

When Marcos declared martial law, Ka Louie went underground in defiance of the fascist dictatorship. He and Ka Coni were arrested in 1973 and detained at Fort Bonifacio. There, Ka Louie was kept for almost a year in a dark, windowless cell with six or seven others. A wave of protests and campaign efforts by religious and international human rights groups forced the Marcos regime to release them in July 1974.

Ka Louie resumed revolutionary work upon his release. In 1975, he helped organize coordinate the historic La Tondeña workers’ strike in Manila – the first major labor strike under martial rule. The strike effectively shattered the climate of fear caused by martial law and marked the resurgence of a series of mass struggles and widespread demonstrations through the late 1970s and early 1980s.

In 1976, Ka Louie went abroad to lead international relations work for the Party and to expose the Marcos dictatorship’s brutal crimes. Due to threats on their lives and the certainty of persecution should they return to the Philippines, Ka Louie and Ka Coni sought and were granted political asylum in the Netherlands – becoming the first Filipinos to do so. From exile, Ka Louie worked tirelessly in building support for the Philippine revolution.

In July 1977, Ka Louie was formally designated as the International Representative of the NDFP. He played a vital role in building the NDFP’s International Office in Utrecht and organizing global support for the Filipino

people's resistance against the US-Marcos dictatorship. He was a key organizer of the People's Permanent Tribunal on the Philippines in 1980 which exposed the regime's gross violations of human rights and recognized the NDF as the genuine representative of the Filipino people.

As the NDFP's chief international representative, Ka Louie undertook proto-diplomatic work and established relations with foreign governments, international agencies, solidarity groups, and revolutionary movements and parties across the globe. He helped amplify the voice of the Filipino people by articulating the revolutionary movement's just cause.

In 1989, Ka Louie was assigned as chief negotiator of the NDFP in peace negotiations with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP). In this role, he exemplified the revolutionary movement's firm commitment to achieving a just and lasting peace – one that addresses the roots of armed conflict: landlessness, poverty, and foreign subjugation. Through countless rounds of negotiations, Ka Louie firmly stood as a pillar of integrity and revolutionary resolve, always placing the Filipino masses at the center of the process.

We express our deepest gratitude to Ka Louie Jalandoni for dedicating his life to the Filipino people, to the National Democratic Front, and to the Communist Party of the Philippines. We will forever cherish the immense contributions he made in advancing the people's struggle for national and social liberation. As we mourn his passing, we firmly vow to carry forward his legacy of selfless service, boundless humility, revolutionary integrity, and commitment to waging the people's democratic revolution until final victory is won.

Mabuhay ang alaala ni Ka Louie Jalandoni!

Ipagpatuloy ang kaniyang dakilang rebolusyonaryong pamana! 🚩



KA LUIS “LOUIE” GAMBOA JALANDONI: INTERNATIONALIST, PEACEMAKER, AND REVOLUTIONARY DIPLOMAT PAR EXCELLENCE

By the Liberation International Editorial Board

Beloved Comrade Luis “Ka Louie” Gamboa Jalandoni, passed away last June 7 in Utrecht, The Netherlands. He was 90.

We honor the revolutionary legacy of Ka Louie, who stood firmly upholding the fundamental principles of peace based on genuine social justice and the resolution of the roots of armed conflict, with the overthrow of the three basic problems of Philippine society – imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism. Within and outside the peace negotiations, Ka Louie was ever watchful of the bogus peace maneuvers and schemes of successive US-sponsored reactionary Philippine regimes.

As we give honor to the legacy of Ka Louie as a peace stalwart, it is of paramount importance for us to study and uphold the principles embodied in the Hague Joint Declaration (HJD), the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CAHRIHL), and the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (CASER).

Furthermore, the robust international relations and solidarity for the Philippine revolutionary movement abroad is testimony to the broad achievements of the NDFP that Ka Louie, and other comrades worked hard for. His metamorphosis from his landlord origins to becoming a proletarian revolutionary serve as a fountain of deep inspiration for the current and future generations of revolutionaries.

As an internationalist and solidarity activist

After arriving in the Netherlands in 1977 and getting his asylum request approved together with his wife Ka Coni Ledesma, Ka Louie was designated chief international representative of the NDFP. He initiated the breakthroughs in forging contacts and relations with national liberation movements such as in Palestine led by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), Western Sahara led by the

Polisario Front, South Africa led by Pan African Congress of Azania, Ireland led by the Sinn Fein, Chile led by the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, Eritrea led by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, liberation movements in Latin America, and parties in power such as in Cuba, Greece (the former Pasok Party), and Venezuela, to name a few.

Ka Louie tirelessly and perseveringly represented the NDFP in countless international events, including the UN World Social Summit in the early 1990s, political conferences, and meetings of various progressive groups in Europe and other global regions. He also brought the revolutionary message of the NDFP to local community meetings of Dutch, Belgian, and German groups, including many Filipino migrant organizations.

Having been a former Roman Catholic priest, Ka Louie tapped into his former missionary confreres in the Netherlands, Ireland, the UK and Italy to build a solidarity movement, which became a powerful pressure against the then US-Marcos fascist dictatorship, and solicited significant political and material support not only for the anti-dictatorship movement but more importantly for the Philippine revolutionary movement.

Ka Louie's and the other comrades' efforts at solidarity work and international recognition for the NDFP bore fruition with the historic convening of the Permanent People's Tribunal (PPT) Session on the Philippines in November 1980 in Antwerp, Belgium. The PPT tried the US-Marcos fascist dictatorship for its crimes against the Filipino people, and condemned the US-Marcos fascist regime for its abuse of state power. The milestone PPT declared the NDFP as the genuine representative of the Filipino people.

As a peacemaker and revolutionary diplomat

In 1989, Ka Louie was designated as the chairperson of the NDFP Peace Panel in talks with the Government of the Philippines (GPH). He took



over from Ka Satur Ocampo, who was the first Panel chairperson. The NDFP Peace Panel worked tirelessly and diligently for the passage and implementation of the HJD, JASIG, and CAHRIHL amid deadlocks that led to several breakdowns of the negotiations. Ka Louie and the entire Peace Panel never wavered and always sought solutions acceptable to both sides diplomatically. Consequently, negotiators from the GPH informally praised Ka Louie for his ability to adapt without compromising revolutionary principles. He never lost his cool and always remained firm even during heated discussions. His gentle tone always served as a powerful medium, tempering conflicts during intense negotiations. Ultimately, Ka Louie helped position the NDFP on a significantly higher moral ground than the reactionary GPH, thereby reinforcing the NDFP's status of belligerency.

Amid time spent in peace talks, Ka Louie would steadfastly perform his tasks as chief international representative and revolutionary diplomat, exploring, developing and establishing formal relations with several Marxist-Leninist parties, revolutionary organizations and formations and groups. He would tirelessly engage them in

discussions, and bring them the message of the Filipino people's revolutionary armed struggle and socialist aspirations. At the same time, he also led comrades in reciprocating the support of these organizations and groups to the Philippine revolution by attending and participating in their events, joining their rallies on scores of issues, accepting their invitations for countless speaking engagements, and generously hosting them at the NDFP office and his residence in Utrecht. Ka Louie participated in almost every May Day celebration rally organized by fraternal parties and organizations inside and outside the Netherlands.

Speaking during the 45th anniversary celebration of the NDFP in Amsterdam, Ka Louie proudly stood before a jam-packed audience to proclaim the gains of the NDFP in its international work, without extolling himself for the contributions he quietly made for these gains to be possible. Ka Louie declared that the NDFP continues to achieve powerful international support, announcing the formation of an international solidarity organization aimed at gathering more systematic and organized support for the national democratic revolution in the Philippines.

As a propagandist and dedicated CPP member

As a more organized way to spread information on the revolutionary struggle in the Philippines became necessary, Ka Louie led in establishing the NDFP International Information Office (now the NDFP International Office) in Utrecht, The Netherlands. Upon its establishment, the NDFP office became a conduit and hub for information on the NDFP and the armed resistance of the Filipino people.

After its first international recognition at the session of the PPT in Belgium, the NDFP began publishing the Philippine Updates in the 1980s, to which Ka Louie served as its first editor.

Ka Louie would later on lead the publishing of *Liberation International* in 2001 to bring the message of the Philippine revolutionary movement to a wider audience globally. Its first editor was Antonio Zumel Jr. aka Manuel Romero, the first Chairperson of the NDFP. When Ka Tony passed away in 2001, Ka Louie took over as its editor. His noms de plume were Ed Ladera and Edong Legislador. While doing a multitude of tasks, Ka Louie still took it upon himself to patiently send copies of *Liberation International* to the NDFP's contacts, specifically embassies of friendly governments, even personally pasting the stamps on the envelopes and dropping them at the nearest mailbox.

When the second great rectification movement began in Europe in the 1990s, Ka Louie stood firm on the side of the Party and tirelessly explained to comrades the necessity of the rectification movement. Ka Louie, together with other comrades, held intensive discussions, traveling to meet kasamas in different countries and patiently explaining the errors, and lessons learned in order to advance the Philippine revolution. He helped secure the Party's resources and networks, which the renegades even threatened to seize.

Ka Louie exemplified revolutionary goodwill towards Filipino migrants. In one milestone speech, Ka Louie declared that Filipino migrants, when enjoined to join the revolution, become the "shield"

that "protects" the movement outside the Philippines. Indeed, one of the best reasons why the so-called "terrorist" tagging of Ka Joma Sison, and later of Ka Louie, did not affect the Filipino and Dutch communities in the Netherlands was because Ka Louie and Ka Joma sincerely served the Filipino migrants, who in turn wholeheartedly welcomed and embraced them into their communities.

Ka Louie and the NDFP leaders opened the doors of the NDFP office in Utrecht to Filipino compatriots, and even other nationalities, at times providing shelter to the undocumented migrants and au pairs, lending the office space for use for compatriot meetings, birthday parties, garage sales, fiestas, and other popular Filipino events. The NDFP office became a hub, a Filipino center, short of functioning as a real embassy, looking after the rights and general welfare of Filipino compatriots. Ka Louie and other NDFP leaders like Ka Joma would always be there and attend their activities and listen to their situation.

Finally, Ka Louie is a loving and dedicated family person. He would always find time for his family during breaks in his schedules, and play with his grandchildren and the children of other kasamas who would drop by his house to visit. He and Ka Coni were inseparable and would do things together. He would stay close to his siblings and other relatives, endlessly exchanging topics on family life, politics and the revolutionary movement. What he could not probably explain and convince his family to accept - about some fundamental tenets of the life of a revolutionary, he was able to demonstrate by example by his faithful adherence to his ideology and practicing the principle of simple living and hard struggle.

We cherish Ka Louie's legacy, together with the legacy of other revolutionary heroes and martyrs as further inspiration to advance the Philippine revolution until we seize political power, overthrow the exploitative and oppressive structures of Philippine society, and build a genuinely free, democratic, and socialist Philippines for the Filipino people. 🍷



HIGHEST REVOLUTIONARY SALUTE TO LUIS “KA LOUIE” JALANDONI! A LIFE OF FAITH IN ACTION, A LIFE OFFERED TO THE REVOLUTION!

Christians for National Liberation Tribute to Ka Louie

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

Galatians 5:1, NEV

The Christians for National Liberation (CNL) joins the Filipino people and the international revolutionary movement in mourning the passing of a great revolutionary leader and comrade, Ka Louie G. Jalandoni. With the deepest respect and highest revolutionary honors, we offer our heartfelt condolences to his family, especially to his wife, companion in faith and struggle, Coni Ledesma. We grieve with all comrades around the world who have lost a steadfast and principled leader in Ka Louie, even so, we draw strength and inspiration from the life he lived in service of the people’s revolution and liberation.

Having joined the Creator during the week of Pentecost, we believe Ka Louie now lives on in the hearts of the people. His unwavering passion for justice continues to ignite our spirits as we take up the monumental task of deepening our commitment to serve the masses and advance the people’s revolution. Across languages and cultures, we strive to unite with the exploited class and carry forward the people’s war in the countryside.

Ka Louie was a founding figure of the CNL. Born into a wealthy and landed family in Silay, Negros Occidental, he chose to walk a radically different path. As a Catholic priest, he saw the severe and grinding poverty and exploitation of sugar workers (sakadas) in Negros—victims of a system controlled by the few elite. His response was not only pastoral but prophetic. In a profound act of brilliant enlightenment, and perhaps even a betrayal of his

class birth, Ka Louie donated his inherited farmland to landless farmers as early as the 1960s.

Through his priestly vocation, he became deeply aware of the systemic violence that Church people and communities also endured—massacres, extra-judicial killings, illegal arrests, especially under the Marcos Sr dictatorship. These experiences fueled his commitment to a faith that sides with the oppressed.

Together with his wife and comrade Coni Ledesma, Ka Louie helped found the Christians for National Liberation (CNL) in 1972—mobilizing Christians and people of faith into the heart of the national democratic revolution. Even while facing persecution, Ka Louie exemplified a “faith in action”—a belief in the God of life who walks with the people, who liberates the oppressed, and who dismantles unjust systems. His call to organize the faithful helped awaken and mobilize countless Christians to stand with the marginalized, to struggle for genuine people’s sovereignty, and even to participate in armed resistance. The CNL, through his example, became instrumental in raising the political consciousness of Church people during the dark years of dictatorship.

Ka Louie later assumed a leading role in the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), serving in its peace negotiations with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP). Despite the historic importance of his work for peace, the Duterte administration unjustly listed Ka Louie and others involved in peace efforts as “terrorists”—a grave insult to a lifetime of dedication to justice, and in waging the people’s war.

His revolutionary faith and commitment to the people remain an enduring contribution to the struggle for just and lasting peace. Ka Louie believed that abundant life meant the liberation of the poor, and he worked tirelessly toward it until his last breath. His life testifies to a truth we continue to proclaim: Genuine liberation comes through the collective struggle of the people—especially the anawim, the poor and oppressed, toward systemic change and revolutionary transformation.

His life was a testament to unwavering commitment to justice and lasting peace—a life fully dedicated to the mission of liberation. In Ka Louie, we witnessed what it means to live a Spirit-filled life: active in proclaiming good news to the poor, for the release of the captives, and freeing the oppressed. For the Church to truly fulfill its ministry, it must become the Church for the people—actively participating in the struggle to dismantle oppressive powers, where churches recognize and embrace the justness of the armed resistance as a necessary tool for the revolution towards a just and democratic society.

As CNL, we carry this mission forward with conviction, organizing our ranks to advance the people’s revolution. In doing so, we give what is rightfully for the people, embodying the life and ministry of Christ in our collective struggle towards liberation.

Pinakamataas na pagpupugay sa buhay at alaala ni Ka Louie Jalandoni!

Mabuhay ang rebolusyon at ang sambayanan! 





COMPATRIOTS OVERSEAS, DRAW STRENGTH AND INSPIRATION FROM THE TIRELESS REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT OF KA LOUIE!

COMPATRIOTS-NDFP Tribute to Ka Louie

Overseas compatriots around the world today raise our fists in tribute to Ka Louie Jalandoni, a pillar of the people's democratic revolution and stalwart of genuine peace. He passed peacefully on June 7th at the age of 90 years old.

Ka Louie dedicated the majority of his life to serving the toiling masses wherever he went. Born into a family of big landlords in Negros, Ka Louie decided to side not with his blood ties, but rather with those who poured their blood, sweat, and tears into the land: the toiling sugar workers.

His work as a Catholic priest bound him with the rural poor, and in the Philippine countryside, Ka Louie was awakened as a revolutionary. He would go on to play a leading role in founding the Christians for National Liberation in 1972, and soon after joined the Communist Party of the Philippines. For his service to the people, Ka Louie was imprisoned by the fascist Marcos Sr. dictatorship in 1973.

Immediately after he was freed by the mass movement in 1974, he linked arms with the La Tondeña workers to launch the first major labor strike under martial law. This ushered in more than a decade of militant mass struggles and ultimately contributed to the ouster of the Marcos dictatorship itself.

Being forced to seek political asylum in the Netherlands in 1976 did not stop Ka Louie from advancing revolutionary work. In 1977, he was formally designated as the International Representative of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. In the decades following, he made invaluable contributions to the NDFP's

international work, including as its chief negotiator in peace negotiations with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

Part of Ka Louie's international work also included directly serving the Filipino masses overseas. We will never forget Ka Louie's warmth, ideological clarity and practical wisdom, fortitude, humility, and humor—all of which he readily shared with our compatriots in the Netherlands and from around the world. Those who had the opportunity to be in the company of both Ka Louie and Ka Coni Ledesma—his lifelong comrade and partner in the revolution—enjoyed such joys two-fold.

COMPATRIOTS-NDFP will be forever thankful to have had such a model of revolutionary perseverance and strength helping to guide the work of our revolutionary mass movement—especially our work overseas—through his leadership in the NDFP. While we mourn his passing and extend our deepest sympathies to his comrades and loved ones, we also commit ourselves to honoring Ka Louie's legacy by living lives in service of the masses, in waging wholeheartedly the rectification movement called for by the Party to all revolutionary forces, in building COMPATRIOTS-NDFP across the world as part of strengthening the NDFP as a whole, and in dedicating ourselves fully to the advance of the people's democratic revolution until victory.

Long live the tireless fighting spirit of Ka Louie Jalandoni!

Continue the struggle for national and social liberation!

Long live the National Democratic Revolution! 



Several young revolutionaries from various parts of the world pay tribute to Ka Louie by answering the question,

WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU HEAR “LOUIE JALANDONI”?

“As part of the youth sector, I am truly amazed every time I hear Ka Louie’s name. He serves as an inspiration to all youth activists to continue serving the masses and advancing the struggle for genuine liberation. Our aspiration is for every Filipino to be genuinely free and to fully enjoy their democratic rights. Thus, now more than ever we need to strengthen our organizing work. The lives of revolutionaries like Ka Louie will forever live on!”

– A, Philippines. (Translated from original Filipino)

“Revolutionary humility. He taught us to humbly serve the people, not apart from them but alongside them, on the dinner table, in the picket lines. To shed that part of us, whether conscious or subconsciously seeking recognition, affirmation, to aspire towards the selfless offering of our time, energy, and whole lives to the cause.”

– R, Netherlands

“Diligent. He was clearly passionate about the revolution. More importantly, he was always on top of his political and personal obligations.”

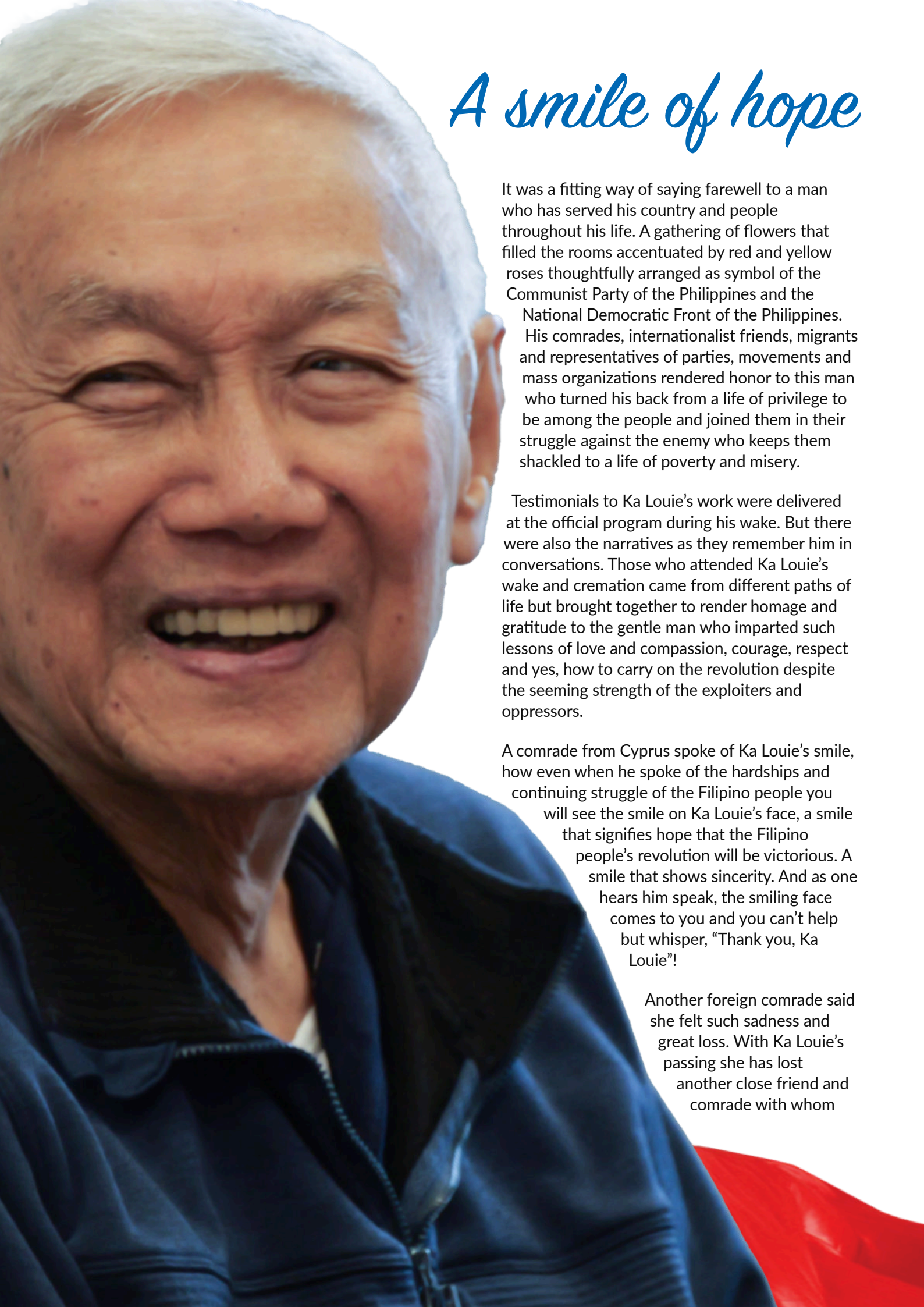
– X, Netherlands

“Louie Jalandoni was and will continue to be a powerful and everlasting symbol of the struggle for national democracy, freedom, and peace for the Filipino People. Ka Louie is a hero, a martyr, a revolutionary who let go of his bourgeois background to purely dedicate his life and passion to serve the masses and Filipino people. I give my highest red salute to Louie Jalandoni, a stalwart of peace and revolutionary. Long live the struggle and revolution, long live the NDFP!”

– M.S., Philippines

“Louie Jalandoni was a symbol of unwavering revolutionary commitment. A former priest from a wealthy background, he broke with his class to serve the Filipino masses. As the NDFP’s senior peace negotiator, he firmly upheld the line that genuine peace can only come through deep social transformation. Even in exile, he remained grounded in the people’s war, carrying himself with humility, discipline, and deep loyalty to the oppressed. His life was a testament to choosing revolution over comfort, principle over compromise, and standing firmly with the people until the very end.”

– A.C., Australia



A smile of hope

It was a fitting way of saying farewell to a man who has served his country and people throughout his life. A gathering of flowers that filled the rooms accentuated by red and yellow roses thoughtfully arranged as symbol of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

His comrades, internationalist friends, migrants and representatives of parties, movements and mass organizations rendered honor to this man who turned his back from a life of privilege to be among the people and joined them in their struggle against the enemy who keeps them shackled to a life of poverty and misery.

Testimonials to Ka Louie's work were delivered at the official program during his wake. But there were also the narratives as they remember him in conversations. Those who attended Ka Louie's wake and cremation came from different paths of life but brought together to render homage and gratitude to the gentle man who imparted such lessons of love and compassion, courage, respect and yes, how to carry on the revolution despite the seeming strength of the exploiters and oppressors.

A comrade from Cyprus spoke of Ka Louie's smile, how even when he spoke of the hardships and continuing struggle of the Filipino people you will see the smile on Ka Louie's face, a smile that signifies hope that the Filipino people's revolution will be victorious. A smile that shows sincerity. And as one hears him speak, the smiling face comes to you and you can't help but whisper, "Thank you, Ka Louie"!

Another foreign comrade said she felt such sadness and great loss. With Ka Louie's passing she has lost another close friend and comrade with whom

she could discuss and seek clarity on political and ideological issues. For Ka Louie is the patient comrade always ready to listen to what you have to say and answer your questions as best as he could.

A young Filipino activist did a special rap for her Tito Louie. It was a beautiful rap tribute for a man who welcomed her and her family to The Netherlands and guided her political awakening.

"I'm your child, your daughter

Who fights by your side, couldn't ask for more

It's crazy out here but my soul is secure

Because I carry your love, and that's how I endure

And I hope you believe me

I'm your legacy, your cover, your remix

If that's a hell of a challenge then so be it

Like you, I'll rise and fight and pass on the fire!"

Like any Filipino wake, simple food was served. Kababayans made sandwiches, pasta, native delicacies, fresh and fried springrolls. Upon being thanked, they replied, "No need to thank us. This is the least we could do for Tito/Ka Louie. He always made us feel welcome. We admired his humility."

A niece of Ka Louie spoke of her Tito Louie as family.

"Today, we remember and honor a man who was so much more than the titles he held or the roles he played in the public eye.

To the world, Tito Louie may have been a figure of political stature—a man who stood tall in service, guided by principles and duty. But to us, his family, he was simply our Tito Louie: a man of quiet strength, warm laughter, and a heart that never stopped giving.

Despite the demands of his position, he never let go of the most important thing to him—his family. His happiest moments were not in the spotlight, but around the dinner table, sharing stories, giving hugs, or just being present. He loved deeply, gave generously, and asked for little in return.

More than anything, he longed to return to his native soil—to walk the paths of his childhood, breathe in the familiar air, and feel truly at home. Though he may not have gotten the chance to go back in body, we believe his spirit is finally here now - at peace, and whole."

Indeed, when one hears the name Luis "Ka Louie" Jalandoni, what comes to mind is an excellent internationalist, peace negotiator, the international representative and ambassador extraordinaire of the Philippine revolutionary movement. Yes, Luis Jalandoni was all of these. But what he truly cherished most was his experience working with the toiling masses like the peasants and sacadas of Negros and the striking workers of La Tondena; standing side by side with them as they fight for the right to a decent life, to improve their situation and ensure a better future for their children. To them he was Ka Louie, a beloved comrade. 🇷🇵





PHILIPPINE DEMOCRATIC GROUPS HONOR KA LOUIE

By Hugo Francisco

Hundreds gathered on June 16 to pay tribute to Ka Louie Jalandoni, highlighting his life as a priest and religious figure, his journey along the path of revolution, and his commitment to just peace. The event, organized by Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR), Pilgrims for Peace, and Karapatan, brought together a diverse crowd from democratic groups and sectors in a fully packed UP Diliman Asian Center.

The tribute event, titled 'A life of faith, revolution, and the struggle for just peace,' commenced with a cultural production honoring Ka Louie's revolutionary journey and unwavering dedication to serving the people. "Today, we look back on the extraordinary journey of Ka Louie, from the landlord's family in Negros to a priest serving the poor and as a revolutionary fighter for genuine freedom, democracy, and lasting peace," BAYAN secretary-general Renato Reyes said as he opened the program.

Ina Silverio, author of the illustrated book 'Louie Jalandoni: Revolutionary', remembers Ka Louie's evident humility during interviews. "He would always want to talk about other people, describe people he met, people he looked up to, people he thought

greater than him," recalls Ina, who had to remind Ka Louie that the interview was about him.

Fr. Frank Fernandez, fellow former priest and Negros native, recalls his first impression of Ka Louie in a message sent from Negros District Jail: "When I first heard his speech during his visit to the seminary, I immediately noticed his deep conviction that a priest would only be effective if he fostered love and service to the poor."

Christians for National Liberation, the underground organization of church people, which Ka Louie co-founded, underscores that Ka Louie's priestly vocation made him deeply aware of the systemic violence that Church people and communities also endured, especially under the Marcos Sr dictatorship. "These experiences fueled his commitment to a faith that sides with the oppressed," stresses CNL in a tribute message.

Fr. Greg Patino, who was still a seminarian when he met Ka Louie, narrates in a video interview how Ka Louie became an inspiration to young seminarians in Negros. As director of Social Action Center of the Diocese of Bacolod under the then Bishop Antonio Fortich, Ka Louie consistently supported the toiling

masses of Negros; the striking workers of Victorias milling, the poor Aetas threatened with eviction due to landgrabbing in Cadiz. Fr. Greg added that when Ka Louie was still a seminarian, he provided financial support to the children of poor workers and peasants so they could attend school. Ka Louie's contribution was instrumental in pushing the church of Negros to address the plight of the poor.

In a separate statement, the Pambansang Katipunan ng Magbubukid – Negros (PKM-Negros), shared how Ka Louie has been “the inspiration of all peasants and workers, leaving behind his landed class background, and abandoning all the comforts and privilege that came with it. He took a firm stand, overcame all sacrifices, hardships and defended and raised the integrity of the oppressed and exploited and the revolutionary struggle.”

Meanwhile, Revolutionary Council of Trade Unions (RCTU) spokesperson Patricia Librada stated, “We will never forget his contributions to the peasant movement in his hometown in Negros, to the instigation of the first workers' strike that broke the terror and fear of the Marcos dictatorship—the La Tondeña workers' strike in 1975 that inspired and gave courage to other workers in the country to fight. To this day, this historic strike serves as a lesson to revolutionary workers.”

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's representative stated that Ka Louie's role “will remain an example of the tireless spirit of the new revolutionary man.” Ka Louie attended several diplomatic and international events in Venezuela.

The representative of the Royal Norwegian Government praised Ka Louie's significant and crucial contribution in advancing the peace talks between the GRP and NDFP. Senator Loren Legarda, one of the advocates of the peace talks, also sent a message of solidarity and recognition.

Former GRP negotiating panel member Hernani Braganza expressed respect for Ka Louie as a negotiator. “I hope there will be more like Louie Jalandoni, Randall Echanis, Fidel Agcaoili, Joma Sison, Benny Tiamzon, Wilma. And on the government side, I hope you will also find people who can match them, who are open-minded and able to engage in proper dialogue,” he said.

“The entire Party and people's army join you in celebrating the revolutionary life of Ka Louie. Across the country, the Red flag is raised high in recognition and honor of Ka Louie as a true hero of the Filipino people,” CPP chief information officer Ka Marco Valbuena said in his message read during the program. 🇷🇵



Ice Seguerra sings Bridge Over Troubled Water, Ka Louie's favorite song during the tribute to his life and legacy in the Philippines on June 16. Photo: PinoyWeekly

TO TELL A REVOLUTIONARY STORY

By Ina Silverio

What was it like writing a book about Luis Jalandoni? I've never written about the experience, but I've thought about it a great deal over the years. Every time I browse through the shelves and rows against rows of biographies of famous people in Fully Booked, I remember how it was, and how different Ka Louie's life had been in comparison.

I had agreed to give it a try—to write Ka Louie's biography. Ka Crispin “Ka Bel” Beltran's biography had just been released, and I was not really keen to begin writing another biography because it was an exhausting ordeal. It's much more tiring than writing fiction. But Ka Coni floated the idea, and I felt so honored that she would even ask me, consider me for the task.

I stayed for a week in Utrecht, in the walk-up apartment where Ka Louie and Ka Coni Ledesma lived. It was a cheerful and airy space they kept, and for six hours every day, Ka Louie and I would talk about his life and all the memories that he valued and kept through all that he had gone through in his life.

We sat in the kitchen where they had a round table with wooden chairs. Ka Coni had given me a big notebook to use—more like a ledger really, the kind that companies gave away as gifts during holidays—and two pens. I did not have a tape recorder, and I did not want to use one because I'd realized before that recording interviews sometimes made me lazy and drift off, confident that whatever parts of conversations I'd lost track of would be stored in the now antediluvian gadget.

(Now I regret not having recorded our interviews, if only to have his gentle voice to listen to as he described the happy afternoons of his privileged youth and the dangerous evenings of the life he eventually chose and embraced.)



I was determined to keep a strict schedule of interviews because I liked working under pressure on projects I really care about. Ka Louie agreed, and we began the morning after I arrived from Groningen where I had been living at the time.

After the first day, I felt comfortable already about asking Ka Louie about anything—even how he fell in love with Ka Coni. (They were both shy and embarrassed about it— so much so that I had to speak to Ka Coni solo, out of her husband's earshot! It was both sweet and funny.)

So Ka Louie talked, and I listened and scribbled like crazy on the notebook. His voice was gentle, rising and falling in a rhythm that reminded me of Pachelbel's Cannon in D playing on a music box. Even when sharing a memory where he faced danger or felt his soul breaking, his voice retained its clarity like a small crystal bell. During breaks I saw that outside it was fall, and the leaves that littered the pavement were red and brown, and sometimes when I stood near the windows, I could feel how cold it was. I remember thinking to myself—my God, I am actually listening to the stories of one of the greatest revolutionaries my country has ever had the good fortune of having, and he just cooked me lunch. (FYI, at the time when I had this thought, lunch was a piece of steamed salmon, rice, and a side of alugbati from the alugbati vine that grew from a pot by their kitchen window.)

Back in university, I once heard a multi-awarded writer talk about his experience as a ghostwriter for politicians. He was candid, even blunt, about it. He

said that it wasn't necessary to like—or even respect—the people he was hired to write for. Sometimes, it was just about the paycheck. Writing, for him, was a job like any other: you do the work, take the money, and once the book is printed, you move on. If it wasn't something you were proud of, you simply forgot about it.

That conversation stayed with me over the years, and I found myself thinking about it often while writing *Revolutionary*. Except this time, the contrast couldn't have been sharper. I felt a deep sense of fulfillment knowing that I would never have to write about anyone mediocre and pretend—on paper—that they were extraordinary. I was writing about the Luis Jalandoni. And there was no need to exaggerate, embellish, or invent. His life is one that truly deserves to be documented and shared—especially with those who believe that a life well-lived is one devoted to humanity's highest ideals: kindness, compassion, justice, and the unrelenting pursuit of social liberation.





And maybe that's what makes writing about someone like Ka Louie such a privilege. It wasn't a job—it was an act of solidarity, of bearing witness to a life that continues to inspire action and hope. It was an experience that transcended the typical research and prose of a historical account; it was an immersion into a life lived with unwavering purpose. To be entrusted with his memories, to sit and listen as he revisited the pivotal moments that shaped him into the intellectual, humanitarian, and revolutionary he became, was a profound honor.

I was consistently awestruck by the clarity and intactness of his recollections. Not only were his own views and feelings remarkably vivid, but his impressions of the people he encountered, those whose lives intersected with his, were equally sharp. It was as if a meticulously kept mental archive was being opened, each file perfectly preserved and easily accessible. His life unfolded as a genuine story with a clear, compelling narrative, each chapter flowing seamlessly into the next.

Ka Louie was also so humble. Despite a lifetime dedicated to fighting for others, despite countless

good deeds and significant contributions, he was never full of himself, never boastful. In fact, it was often a challenge to keep the interviews focused solely on him. He would invariably, and with genuine reverence, steer the conversation towards the lives of other activists and revolutionaries. Their struggles, their sacrifices, their unwavering commitment—these were the narratives he wanted to highlight, the individuals who had earned his undying respect and loyalty. It was a testament to his character: a man who, despite his own greatness, consistently centered the collective struggle and the contributions of those around him. This deep-seated respect for his comrades, this unwavering solidarity, was a cornerstone of his being and a powerful lesson in true leadership.

Despite everything he had accomplished, he remained grounded. Revolutionaries like him rarely allow themselves to feel pride—not because their work isn't monumental, but because they always believe there's more to be done, more people to serve, more change to fight for. For them, the work is never really finished.

The Unseen Cost of Goodness

Beyond the privilege of his insights, the countless hours spent interviewing Luis Jalandoni revealed a profound truth: to be genuinely good, to dedicate one's life to the well-being and genuine freedom of others, is anything but easy. It demands immense personal sacrifices and navigating a path fraught with hardship. Yet, for Ka Louie, this commitment seemed to come with a striking simplicity in his manner as he shared his memories. He was always, inherently, compelled to do what was right, what was just.

What struck me most was how often "doing what was right and just" meant embarking on a long, complex, and sometimes perilous journey where one could get hurt, suffer, and even face profound loss. There were moments, while transcribing his words or crafting a paragraph, when I'd find myself catching my breath. The sheer weight and import of what I was describing—the deeds and thoughts of a man who devoted his life to serving the Filipino people completely and unselfishly—were palpable. His story wasn't just a record of actions; it was a testament to the unyielding spirit required to walk a path of true integrity, even when that path led through immense personal cost.

In Gratitude

I will always consider writing *Revolutionary* one of the most meaningful achievements of my life. The many

hours I spent in conversation with Ka Louie—listening as he shared memory after memory of the life he chose and embraced—will forever stay with me. I know, without a doubt, that I am a better person and a better writer because of that experience.

Why a better writer? Because I pushed myself to do justice to his story. I struggled—humbly and honestly—to find the right words to convey the depth and value of Ka Louie's experiences. His life wasn't just his own; it was a mirror of our nation's long and continuing struggle for justice. His memories carried the weight of history—personal, political, and collective. Writing about him meant writing about the countless sacrifices made by ordinary Filipinos living in a country where genuine social justice remains an aspiration, not yet a reality.

And why a better person? Because Ka Louie taught me, through his words and his example, that life is a series of choices. And those choices—made with clarity, courage, and commitment—are what ultimately give our lives weight and meaning. His life was a testament to the truth that a life given to serving a cause greater than one's self is the best, and even happiest, kind of life.

Thank you, Kasamang Luis Jalandoni, for all that you were and all that you continue to be in our hearts and minds—a true revolutionary, and an enduring inspiration. 🇵🇭



FAMILY TRIBUTE TO LUIS “KA LOUIE” JALANDONI

With full hearts, we, the family of Luis “Ka Louie” G. Jalandoni, extend our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who have come to honor the life of a man we knew not only as a revolutionary, but as a husband, father, grandfather, brother, and uncle — and for many, a guiding light.

To the world, Tito Louie is remembered as a stalwart of the people’s struggle — a revolutionary diplomat, a principled negotiator, a servant of the poor, a voice of clarity in the long and difficult pursuit of just peace. But to us, he was also the man who found much joy in just being with us during Christmas and other family gatherings, in simple Bisaya meals, who quietly tended alugbati in a pot on a cold Utrecht windowsill, who spoke softly and listened intently, who greeted visitors with the same smile whether they arrived with flowers, documents, or a bunch of kamote tops from the fields.

We admire the life he chose — not because it was easy, but precisely because it was difficult. Born into a comfortable life, he chose to walk away from comfort and towards conviction. He chose to stand with the farmers of Negros instead of the landowners, to listen to the cries of the oppressed instead of the applause of the powerful, and to live in exile so that he could serve a people he loved from afar — without ever losing sight of the dream that one day, all Filipinos will live in a nation that is just, free, and dignified.

There are few lives as consistent and selfless as his. In a world often hungry for recognition and reward, Tito Louie was a man who had no attachment at all with material things. He gave without asking, fought without bitterness, and loved his country — deeply, fiercely, and completely. He believed that the struggle for a better Philippines was not just political — it was moral, it was human, and it was necessary.

He did not see himself as a hero. Even when others praised him, he would always deflect and lift others up instead. “I am only part of a bigger whole,” he would say, “and I am grateful to walk alongside those who carry the same dream.”

But to us — to his family, and to the many whose lives he quietly touched — he was indeed a hero. Not because he sought the title, but because he had the courage to carry on.

We thank you — all of you — who journeyed with him, who shared your lives with him, who challenged and supported him, who stood by him in struggle and in

hope. You were his strength. You were his community. You were, in many ways, the family he chose and embraced with the same tenderness he gave us. That love gave him purpose and peace, even in the face of injustice, persecution, and exile.

And to Tita Coni, their son, their daughter-in-law, and their grandchildren — thank you for sharing him with the world. We know how much it cost, and we know how much love it took to let him be who he was fully. Your sacrifice, too, is part of his legacy.

Today, we grieve, yes. But we also rise — because Tito Louie’s life was not a story that ends in sorrow. It is a life that teaches us that another world is possible. That humility can be powerful. That quiet dignity can move nations. That one can live for others without losing oneself. And that the highest form of love is to dedicate your life to the people.

On behalf of the Jalandoni and de la Paz family, we thank you for loving him, remembering him, and for continuing what he has begun.

Paalam, Tito Louie.

Mabuhay ang iyong diwa.

Pagpupugay at pasasalamat, mula sa iyong nagmamahal na pamilya. 🇵🇭



EULOGY FOR DAD

By Ka Louie's Son

Thank you all for coming here as we say goodbye to my dad. Since he passed, there's been a flood of messages, flowers, tributes, and letters from around the world — from family, friends, comrades, diplomats, activists, and organizations. Some I knew, many I didn't. What they all had in common was deep respect and sorrow, and a recognition of the life he lived with unwavering integrity. He inspired many — not with charisma or grand gestures, but with patience, principle, and presence.

It has been more than a week now since dad passed away at the hospital. I am glad and thankful that I was able to see him there. When I arrived at the hospital the brain damage was already severe according to the doctor, but when I would speak to him his eyes would still open and his face would give me the impression that he heard me and recognized me. I am thankful that those moments I was able to thank him for being the dad he has been for me and tell him that I love him.

This last week so many memories of my dad crossed my mind. Of course I have the memories of him in his political role publicly speaking at gatherings, endless meetings or speaking to the press the first time we returned to the Philippines in 1986. But my fondest memories were my times with him, my mom, my wife and the boys, titas and titos, and friends in the Philippines or in Ireland. So I would like to share a few experiences of my father as a family man.

And let me say this clearly: he was not an absentee revolutionary father. Even with the demands of the struggle — the endless meetings, travel, negotiations — he was always present as a father and husband. He was there for my mom and me not just as political exiles, but as a family. He told stories. He made jokes. He showed up — emotionally, intellectually, and physically. It took a lot of logistic juggling, but he tried — and that mattered more than anything. And I appreciate this even more now as a father myself than when I was a child.

Dad was more than a father to me. He was my mentor, my drinking buddy and most of all my best friend. We had our own shorthand, our own rhythm. He gave me space to be myself, and he trusted me with who he truly was, too. I always felt that he would support me and be there for me no matter what. I still remember when I was fourteen years old and had an operation in

the hospital, he just stayed beside my bed for hours and hours. I could not speak because of the operation, but he would just sit beside me to be there for me. He did not seem bored and he did not seem to be bothered at all.

As a teenager my dad became more and more of a friend. We would play ping pong together for hours and he would teach me different techniques and styles of play. We would watch basketball games until very late at night. I still remember vividly watching with him the 1991 NBA finals between the Chicago Bulls and the LA Lakers, Magic Johnson vs Michael Jordan. Staying up together until 4 am, watching the game and discussing the plays.

Also we would play basketball almost every week. We would play the Young Ones vs the Once Young. The Young Ones would be the team with my friends, more or less the same age. The Once Young was the team with my dad, Joma, and others. Even though we, the Young Ones, were younger, faster and had much better stamina, it would take us a long time before we figured out how to beat the Once Young who would outsmart us all the time.

My dad would also enjoy having a drink with his family and closest friends. During those moments memories and stories would be shared and of course there would be a lot of laughter. He could laugh so hard, it would fill the room with joy and others would laugh with him.

The last few years my dad was physically getting weaker. He would not be able to walk long distances on his own, so he would have to be supported. He was also a proud man and he did not want to use the walker he had. Because he needed some help walking I also got precious moments walking together with him. We would walk around the park near our house or if he was feeling energetic, we would walk to Fort aan de Klop. During those walks we were able to talk a lot. He would share many memories. One of those was his experience to visit Palestine and meet the Palestinian people. He was so touched by their kindness, but also their fighting spirit. He had visited Sabra and Shatila shortly before the massacre there had taken place in 1982. The fact that many of the people he had met and seen were massacred shortly after his visit, was something he would never forget. He would since then always follow the events in Palestine closely. Until the

end he would follow the news on what was happening in Gaza and even keeping track of the number of people killed.

Aside from being a dad, he had an incredible relationship with my wife and our two sons. He was a proud grandfather. To his grandchildren, he is just papa Louie. He delighted in their company, answered their questions with depth like when my son had read his graphic novel and asked him questions about it. He loved them so much. Papa Louie was a big sports fan and nothing gave him more joy than to watch his grandsons play basketball. He would watch as many games as possible and sometimes even two or three games on a day. At a certain point the other parents in my son's team believed that his presence would bring good luck to the team. They may have been right. That team won all the games that season, except one where Papa Louie was not able to attend. After the games he would analyze and we could talk about it for hours. I surely will miss those talks and moments.

Last weekend my family and I went to Blanes, Spain for an international basketball tournament. Papa Louie and Mama Nena were supposed to be with us. I had already checked them in and my mom had already started packing their bag. Unfortunately Papa Louie

had his stroke and would not be able to see the boys represent a Filipino team in that tournament. When I was there in Spain on the balcony of our apartment looking at the sea and looking up to the beautiful sky, I suddenly felt he was there silently with us. I am now confident he did see the boys play beautiful basketball the Filipino way in Spain, puso basketball! As the coach would say: "You play with your heart and with your mind." I like to believe papa Louie also lived that way.

He lived his life on his own terms, in service of a people he loved, and a cause he believed in deeply. He gave up privilege, position, and personal comfort — not out of bitterness or ideology alone, but out of a deep moral conviction that freedom, justice, and dignity are not privileges for the few, but rights for all.

And he didn't just say it. He lived it. Every day. For decades.

And for that, I am proud. Very very proud.

And now at this very moment I am also sure dad is with me, just like in the hospital when I was a kid. He is just there beside me all the time being the dad and grandfather he loved to be. 🍷



Notes for Louie's Eulogy

Delivered during Ka Louie's cremation rites on June 17
By Coni Ledesma

My son and I, and the rest of our family thank you for joining us today in saying goodbye to Louie. We deeply appreciate your being here with us. You give us strength and comfort during these very painful days.

I would also like to take this occasion to thank everyone who wrote messages or statements, or called to extend their condolences. Their memories of Louie and his impact on their lives have touched us greatly. My son and I, and our family appreciate the expressions of love and admiration. We will compile these as a testament to Louie's life. Thank you very much.

Louie and I were married for 52 years. He was my best friend, my confidant, my soulmate and my lover. Both of us didn't realize that we were married that long until we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. And we both said, "Wow! Has it been that long?"

Together we helped fight a dictator, took risks, accepted the challenge of starting international work in Europe, weathered political storms and worked together as part of the Negotiating Panel of the NDF – he as Chairperson and I as a member. And we also built up our family of three – he, me and our son. And now with our daughter-in-law and our grandsons.

Most of you know Louie for his work as a Negotiator or for his work as the Chief International Representative of the NDF.

But actually, the work he loved best was working and organizing workers, peasants, and sugar workers. His political awakening began when he helped the Hiyang Hiyang peasants fight against the warlord Gustillo in the late 1960's. He was fearless in his stand for their rights, even when Gustillo's gunmen cracked their guns at him.

He supported the workers of the Victorias Milling Company, and took a stand for them even enduring the ire of his Bishop. But in fighting for the rights of the workers, he also politicalized many priests and Sisters in the Diocese of Bacolod.

In 1974, as an officer of the Church Labor Center, he helped the workers of the La Tondena Distillery when they went on strike. This was the first strike during

martial law. It was successful and led to many factories going on strike. It also meant that there was again a warrant for his arrest.

Even when we were already here in the Netherlands, his commitment to the struggles of workers continued.

In the 1980's, Filipino seamen on a ship called the Tropwind, went on strike. The Philippine solidarity group here in the Netherlands, Filippijnengroep Nederland, immediately went to visit them to extend whatever help they could. Louie and I, as members of FGN, also, of course, joined the group. Together with other FGN members, we visited and supported the striking seamen. Louie would discuss with the trade union leaders who were helping the striking workers. They would plan how to help the seamen win their strike. Once, Louie and other members of FGN went to visit the seamen and stayed with them until – I think it was 5 or 6 in the morning. They returned to our home around 7AM. I made them coffee and some breakfast. Louie took a shower and went off to his work – no sleep at all. At that time he was working in a funding agency. When it was Christmas, we invited the striking seamen to our place to celebrate Christmas. Years later, he would still recall the days he spent with the striking seamen, regretting that they had lost the strike.

When Louie was asked to head the NDFP Negotiating Panel, he accepted the task even if he felt that others could do the work better than he could. He gave his all as Chairperson of the Negotiating Panel of the NDF. He studied the cases of other peace processes in other countries to learn from them. He met and discussed with other parties who were also undergoing similar processes.

Together with Joma Sison, Fidel Agcaoili and Romy Capulong, and later with Edre Olalia, they would draft the documents which we would later negotiate with the GRP. Negotiating wasn't an easy job. He was firm and uncompromising in upholding the NDF positions. When there would be an impasse, he and Joma would meet with some members of the GRP Panel to try to come up with a solution. They always did.

However, when he turned 70, he felt that it was time for someone to replace him. That someone younger – and he felt, more capable than him. However, it was

only 11 years later when his resignation was accepted, and he assumed the task of Senior Adviser. He held this position until his death. Fidel Agcaoili replaced him as Chairperson.

But even if he was no longer the Chairman, he would still study the documents and actively participate in the discussions - but more within the NDF peace team.

As Chief International Representative of the NDF, he would travel to different countries to participate in conferences and meetings with parties and liberation movements. He would come back with many stories of people he met and things he learned. The struggle of the Palestinian people was very close to his heart. Many of his close friends were Palestinians. As a matter of fact, he had one Palestinian friend who also loved to cook – like Louie. And this friend told Louie, “Louie, when we win the revolution, lets open a restaurant and you and I will be the cooks”. Unfortunately, that will never happen, as both of them have passed away.

In spite of his heavy schedule, Louie always found time to be with our only son. He would never miss our son's school activities when parents were invited. He would

cook meals when our son's friends came. We would invite his friends to join us when we would go on holidays.

And as a grandfather, his greatest joy was watching his grandsons basketball games. We were the only grandparents who were regular basketball fans. He loved wearing the t-shirt of U-ball, which is the club of the grandsons.

Louie left us suddenly. Last June 6, he was watching Alcaraz playing tennis when he suddenly fell ill. He was rushed to the hospital by ambulance. It turned out that he was having a massive brain hemorage. The doctors informed my son and myself that there was nothing else they could do for him. That he could go anytime. He was given comfort care. He was not in pain. He passed away at 9:05 the following day.

Louie left us suddenly. But his commitment to the revolution and to the Filipino people and the oppressed peoples of the world will be an inspiration and example to all.

Louie, we will go on without you. But we will miss you terribly. 🇵🇭



The Metamorphosis of Luis Jalandoni

Here is a man
Born out of contradictions
Wealth and religion
Amidst the quagmire of poverty
Conflict of classes

Here is a man
Who savored the bitter juice
Of sugar cane
But was nourished
By the sweet nectar
Of the sacadas' sweat*

Here is a man
Who shed his pristine robe
Of hosannas and incantations
That hypnotized the brethren to servitude
And clothed himself
With the red flag of struggle

Here is a man
Who rejected the life of nothingness
And found comfort
of body and soul
In the justness of his conviction

Here is a man
Who traversed the plains and mountains
Of our people's suffering and adversity
And drew a perfect map
Of a human heart

Here is a man
Who clashed with the titans of his beginning
Undaunted by the might they unleashed
For he is with the masses
Metamorphosed in their midst
To a people's comrade
trusted and beloved

*Sacada: seasonal sugar farm worker



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