

Written by Arturo P. Garcia

Tuesday, 20 May 2008 13:42 - Last Updated Tuesday, 20 May 2008 13:45

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The Alliance-Philippines (AJLPP) with profound sadness, announces the passing of Ka. Crispin Beltran, 75, last May 20, 2008, in the Philippines.

Ka. Bel, as we fondly called him, was a representative of ANAK-PAWIS Party list group, chair emeritus of the Kilusang Mayo Uno (May First Movement) labor center and was the first chairperson of the International League of Peoples Struggle (ILPS) from 2001-2004.

Statement of Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr., on the Death of Anak Pawis Rep. Crispin Beltran: "We may not agree with Ka Bel's ideology but he fought for common man without counting the cost. His loss is irreparable." As a president of the taxi driver's union, Ka Bel was instrumental in the formation of the KMU in 1980 at the height of the US-Marcos dictatorship. For his labor activism he was jailed in 1982 but escaped and joined the New People's Army from 1984-1986.

He went back to the legal arena when Marcos was overthrown in 1986 and became the chair of the KMU when Rolando Olalia, the KMU and BAYAN chair, was killed by the fascist militarist during the US-Aquino regime.

He was elected as BAYAN MUNA representative in 2001 and again as ANAKPAWIS congressperson in 2006. He was again tortured and jailed by the fascist US-Macapagal-Arroyo regime when GMA declared a "state of emergency" in February 2006. When he was freed he continued his tireless advocacy for the nation and its people.

Ka Bel was a consummate fighter for the Filipino people, a hero of the Filipino working class and the international proletariat. We in the AJLPP and the Filipino community in the United States and in behalf of all our allies, salute him and pay tribute to his greatness,

*Ka Bel, Mabubuhay ka lagi sa ala-ala ng masang Pilipinong anak-pawis!*

AJLPP Political Secretariat

May 20, 2008

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Kabataang maka-Bayan USA (KmB Pro-People Youth)

Kabataang maka-Bayan USA (KmB Pro-People Youth) mourns the loss of Congressman and mass leader Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran. Crispin Beltran's life concluded the same way he lived it, working. 75-year-old Mass Leader Ka Bel contributed his existence to the belief that the interest of the working class is in the benefit of the Filipino people as whole towards true liberation and democracy.

A man who lived like those he represented, with calloused hands and sun bronzed skin, this son of sweat and toiling masses cannot be replaced. Words will never express the true magnitude of the loss of Ka Bel to the people he loved and fought for. Even under the confines of a hospital bed with watchful guards, Ka Bel would not be silenced or ignored, as he challenged the ineptitude and ineffectiveness of the US-Gloria Macapagal-Aroyo administration.

But this is not a charged political statement. The way Ka Bel lived his life is one superb statement. As he has challenged traditional politics with an approach that has drawn the scorn of his oppressors and adversaries and the love of those he humbly served.

Ka Bel's passing is felt by all sectors of the people. A grandfather figure to the youth and students, who from example and experience, has shown us how to conduct ourselves in the face of brutal business. That the so-called "blue-collar", no-collar, sweat drenched shirt is something undeniably worth respecting. As it is the foundation of any society, the fight for the proletariat is absolutely imperative not only for the individual wage earner, but their family and the society as a whole. Our hearts ache at the loss. Our eyes swell with the memories of a humble smile and raised clenched fist.

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A true leader draws the best from those they lead, unselfishly advances their forces' interests, and helps build a structure that allows for genuine liberation.

A Rebel turned House Representative but forever a Revolutionary.

A leader now a Legend.

The loss of Ka Bel weighs more than a mountain.

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JFAV : A Tribute to Ka. Crispin Beltran, The Hero of the Filipino Working Class

The Justice for Filipino American veterans (JFAV), the alliance of veterans groups, student

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and youth and community organizations and advocates and as a founding member of the International League of Peoples Struggle (ILPS) pays tribute and homage to Crispin Beltran, 75, who passed away last May 20, 2008, in the Philippines

Ka. Bel, as we fondly call him, was a representative of BAYAN MUNA and later the ANAK-PAWIS Party list group, BAYAN Chair, Chair and Chair emeritus of Kilusang Mayo Uno (May First Movement) labor center and was the first chairperson of the International League of Peoples Struggle (ILPS) from 2001-2004.

As a chair person of the ILPS Ka Bel supported the Filipino World War II and gave due course to the resolution of the ILPS in 2001 and again in 2004 ILPS Assemblies recognizing the contribution of the veterans to the struggle against fascism in World War II and the justices of their current struggle for recognition, justice and equity.

When he was again tortured and jailed by the fascist US-Macapagal-Arroyo regime when GMA declared a "state of emergency" in February 2006. JFAV advocated for his immediate release.

Ka Bel may not be a war veteran but he is a consummate veteran working class fighter for the Filipino people. He is a champion of the international proletariat.

We in JFAV salute him for his greatness and fortitude!

JFAV Steering Committee  
Los Angeles, California  
May 20, 2008

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