



**It is 1000 days
since James
was abducted.**

The Military Intelligence Group and Intelligence Security Unit of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in collaboration with local military and police units abducted James Balao at La Trinidad, Benguet between 8:00-8:30 AM on September 17, 2008.

James is an active member of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance, a legal and legitimate organization persecuted by the Philippine government under its Oplan Bantay Laya (Operation Plan Freedomwatch).

SURFACE JAMES BALAO!

Balao Family *Cordillera Human Rights Alliance* DESAPARECIDOS*HUSTISYA*Cordillera Peoples Alliance

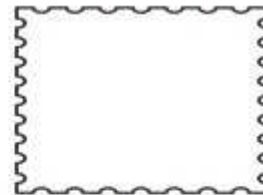
June 12, 2011

Dear Mr. President,

Greetings of peace and justice!

Today, June 12, 2011 marks the 1,000th day of the enforced disappearance of indigenous peoples' rights activist James Moy Balao of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance and President of the Oclupan Clan Association. He was abducted by State security forces on September 17, 2008. Words cannot describe the anguish and pain that we - his family, friends, colleagues and human rights advocates went through in our search for him and our search for justice. His parents, Arthur and Jane Balao passed away last year without seeing their son.

It is within your authority to end this agony. As Commander-in-Chief, you have the mandate to give orders for the immediate surfacing of James, to hold a thorough investigation and prosecute his abductors. As with the other desaparecidos, they too should be surfaced and reunited with their families and the people that they serve.



President Benigno Aquino III
Malacanang Palace
JP Laurel Street
San Miguel Manila
Philippines

**SURFACE JAMES BALAO! SURFACE ALL DESAPARECIDOS!
STOP ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES!**

May 23, 2011

Dear Friends,

Greetings of peace and justice!

June 12, 2011 marks the 1,000 days of James Moy Balao's enforced disappearance. James is a founding member of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance and a member of the Ibaloi and Kankanaey indigenous peoples. His works include researches on indigenous peoples' collective right to ancestral land and self-determination. He is also the President of the Oclupan Clan in Benguet province here in the Cordillera region. To date, James has not been surfaced, and both his parents passed away last year without seeing him returned safely to his family and colleagues.

In this regard, as we mark 1,000 days of untiring search for James, we enjoin all human rights advocates to print copies of the attached postcard and send to President Benigno Aquino III with the call to immediately surface James and all the disappeared. Thousands of postcards will be sent on June 12 to the President with simultaneous submissions from all-over the country and overseas. We encourage you and your organizations to conduct parallel actions as part of the postcards submission.

For information/inquiries contact the secretariat at chra.karapatan@gmail.com and 09189199007.

Thank you for your unending support and solidarity!

Sincerely,



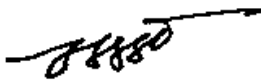
Joni Balao-Struggar



Winston Balao



Nonette Balao



Jude Baggo
Cordillera Human Rights Alliance



Windel Bolinget
Cordillera Peoples Alliance

THOUSANDS OF VOICES FOR JUSTICE
Campaign Plan on James Moy Balao's 1,000 Days of Enforced Disappearance

Rationale:

James Moy Balao, Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) founding member, remains missing to date. He was abducted on September 17, 2008 at La Trinidad, Benguet by State security forces under the Operation Plan Bantay Laya (Freedom Watch) of the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (GMA) regime.

James' family, colleagues, human rights groups and advocates have launched sustained campaign to search for him – in many military camps, police facilities and public institutions. The 'Surface James Balao Campaign received broad support in the Cordillera region and from the national and international communities as well. The Writ of Amparo was granted by the local court in early 2009.

However, inspite of all these efforts, James has not been brought back to his family and colleagues. His parents, Arthur and Jane Balao passed away last year without seeing their son.

June 12, 2011 marks James' 1,000th day of enforced disappearance, which also takes place under the new administration of President Benigno Aquino III. With the continuing political persecution of legal people's organizations, the change of administration has not translated to a change of policy in human rights, as Operation Plan (Oplan) Bayanihan commenced under this new regime.

We persist in the search for James. His family, colleagues, the indigenous peoples that he serves and many human rights advocates across the globe, will mark the 1,000 days of James disappearance with thousands of postcards addressed to President Aquino. The thousands of voices for justice will call on President Aquino to immediately order the military to surface James Balao and prosecute the perpetrators of his abduction. We will also demand for a concrete action to surface all *Desaparecidos*.

Our simultaneous and coordinated activities on June 12 includes the following objectives:

1. To stage simultaneous protest actions on June 12, 2011 with the participation of regional, national and international human rights and indigenous peoples groups and advocates. Individuals/organizations/institutions who contributed to the Surface James campaign would be reached;
2. To pressure the Aquino administration to immediately act on the case of James Balao and denounce enforced disappearance. As Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines he should give orders to the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police to surface James and prosecute the perpetrators of his enforced disappearance;
3. To update the public on the case of James and on the over-all human rights situation in the Philippines; and
4. To continue with the unrelenting search for James and the demand for justice to all victims of enforced disappearance and other human rights violations.

Campaign Design:

1. Coordination from CPA and CHRA shall be made with solidarity friends and advocates at the local, national and international for the joint activities on June 12. Each organization shall invite and mobilize the broadest possible audience to join the activity, including the media.
2. The CPA and CHRA will send out at least 1,000 electronic and hard copies of the post cards to all supporting individuals and organizations, for sending to President Aquino on June 12.

We request that organizations at the national level and overseas print and reproduce copies of the postcard for submission to the Philippine government and the Philippine Embassies in your respective countries.

If there are difficulties in sending the postcards(especially for the provinces within the Cordillera region), you may send the postcards to us for sending to Pres. Aquino. We request you as well to photocopy the back part of the postcards and send to the CHRA for monitoring and filing.

3. Copies of the postcards can also be given to the media or can be posted in the net through the CPA website and its network.
4. It is encouraged that the postcard submission be done with a public activity to register the continuing search for James and to give an update on the over-all human rights situation in the Philippines and also in the country where the action is being staged. The submission can coincide with a mass, exhibit, cultural program, media interviews and the like.

** In the Cordillera, the surfacing of James will be included in the Prayers of the Faithful or its counterpart in different church denominations. An exhibit of James works and the mounting of the postcards will be done in the Baguio Cathedral grounds on June 12 from 9:00 am. A short program will be held at 3:00pm.