



*Filipinos Abroad Helping Filipinos At Home*

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## **Crizel Jane Valencia Continues to be the Symbol And Rallying Cry For Victims of Toxic Wastes Left Behind At Clark And Subic, Philippines**

Chicago, IL (November 30, 2011) — In 2000, Crizel Jane Valencia was only six years old when she died of leukemia tied to the toxic contaminants from the groundwater at the CABCOM military facility of the former US military base in Clark, Philippines. If Crizel was alive today, she would have just graduated from college and be the pride and joy of her family. Unfortunately, she died at a young age. Ten years later, Crizel continues to be the symbol and rallying cry of many victims of toxic wastes left behind at Clark and Subic, Philippines.

In 2011, the campaign continues to appeal for fairness and justice as 16 concerned organizations in seven states from around the US voice their support for the victims of toxic wastes left behind at the former US bases in Clark and Subic, Philippines. In 1992, the US military completely withdrew from its military installations in the Philippines but left behind tremendous evidence of environmental hazards and toxic wastes. The environmental damage is so extensive that if the US decides to clean up these former bases in accordance with US standards, the costs for the clean up and restoration could approach Superfund proportions, according to the US General Accounting Office.

Despite the Superfund proportions of the toxic wastes left behind, the US continues to deny responsibility based on the military bases agreement that it does not impose any well-defined environmental responsibility to clean up after its withdrawal. The Bayanihan Foundation, its 16 new partners including the Alliance for Bases Clean Up (ABC), the Philippine American Group for the Environment (PAGE), the Pilipino Workers Center (PWC) and many others are appealing to United States Congress for fairness and justice on this issue.

The 16 organizations plan to write letters of support to their US Representatives and Senators and appeal for justice and equity on behalf of the victims affected by toxic wastes left behind at Clark and Subic, Philippines. The 16 groups and individuals are as follows (in alphabetical order): 1. Bantay Pilipinas (Los Angeles, CA); 2. Carol Rose of Christian Peacemaker Teams (Chicago, IL); 3. CIRCA Pintig (Chicago, IL); 4. Committee on Pilipino Issues (CPI) (Chicago, IL); 5. Damayan Migrant Workers Association (New York, NY); 6. Echo Park Community Coalition (Los Angeles, CA); 7. Justice for Filipino American Veterans (Los Angeles, CA); 8. Latino Union (Chicago, IL); 9. Philippine American Group for the Environment (PAGE) (Los Angeles, CA); 10. Philippine Study Group of Minnesota (Minneapolis, MN); 11. Pilipino Workers Center (Los Angeles, CA); 12. Reba Place Fellowship (Evanston, IL); 13. Dr. Richard Williams, socio-economist (Boulder, CO); 14. Southwest Workers Union (San Antonio, TX); 15. Travelling Light Productions (Boston, MA); and



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16. Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ (Chicago, IL). These groups are located in seven states: 1) California; 2) Colorado; 3) Illinois; 4) Massachusetts; 5) Minnesota; 6) New York; and 7) Texas.

"When I was in kindergarten I learned that if I created a mess, I was obligated to clean it up! Whether or not there is a clear agreement in the unfair treaties with the Philippines that the US military was to clean up after itself, it seems self-evident that there is a moral—if not a legal—obligation to at least assist the Filipino people," Dr. Richard Williams, a leading US socio-economist said in a compelling essay about the need to clean up the toxic wastes left behind by the former US bases in Clark and Subic, Philippines. Dr. Williams is the founder and past president of Social and Economic Analysis Corporation, where he has conducted and supervised extensive research on the impacts of military spending on the local economic and social scene, including a study of alternate futures for the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant in Colorado.

The Bayanihan Foundation provides additional information on this issue with a 20-page literature review; 10-page Facts and Figures sheet; a two-page bibliography; and recent video of 21 victims of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Clark and Subic, Philippines. This should give a comprehensive view of this almost, forgotten issue, appealing for fairness and justice. These documents are available to download at [www.fdnbayanihan.org](http://www.fdnbayanihan.org).

About Bayanihan Foundation Worldwide:

The mission of Bayanihan Foundation Worldwide (Bayanihan) is to help Filipinos improve their lives in empowering and sustainable ways. Guided by Filipino values – including *bayanihan* (community spirit) and *pakikipagkapwa-tao* (helping our fellows) – Bayanihan has set the following goals for program year 2010-2011:

- Conduct a public awareness campaign to restore and clean up the former U.S. military bases in the Philippines
- Develop Filipino American youth leaders by providing them with the opportunities to volunteer and develop projects for disadvantaged communities in the Philippines
- Encourage diaspora partnerships to have Filipinos abroad help Filipinos at home
- Host conferences that will explore ways to encourage return migration and to invest in grassroots development projects in the Philippines

For more information on Bayanihan Foundation, visit [www.fdnbayanihan.org](http://www.fdnbayanihan.org) or call (773) 273-9793.

About Alliance for Bases Clean Up (ABC):

The Alliance for Bases Clean Up (ABC) was established to support a broad national and international network and alliance to bring fairness and justice and to bring this issue alive in front of policymakers both in the Philippines and in the US. For more information on Alliance for Bases Clean Up, visit [www.facebook.com/allianceforbasescleanup](http://www.facebook.com/allianceforbasescleanup)