

August 30, 2001

FOR LOLA MASING

At the Summer Solidarity Concert

By

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1.

Japanese troops invaded Antique, Panay of the Philippines  
The land of copper mines  
Officers and men had an eye on a thirteen-year-old girl  
One night they raided her house  
When she just returned from evacuation in the mountain  
Where she lived only with her father since mother's passing one month after her birth  
Her father fought  
They beheaded him  
Just before her eyes

Captain Hirooka abducted the girl  
Abused her for years  
Allowed his subordinates to do the same

The girl remembers  
The feeling as if being kept in a pig pen  
Sexual violence by Japanese soldiers  
The girl keeps asking  
Where's justice for my father?

The girl became a woman  
Avoided marriage, couldn't bear to be hurt by men again  
She survived  
Raised four war-wretched children  
With a sewing machine handed down by her mother

2.

Fifty years passed  
The girl is now Lola Masing  
Heard an appeal for survivors on the radio  
Rushed to Iloilo to come out  
Having sold a blanket for transportation

October 1993 the Tokyo District Court  
Small, thin Lola spoke up  
Voices resonated the courtroom  
With the magnitude of anger and demand for justice

The court struggle of five years and half  
She heard the judgment with mortified tears  
"I can't come home with this."  
Rage pierced her thin body

3.

December 2000, the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal  
Shed light on Japanese military sexual slavery and the responsibility of Tenno (emperor)  
Reactionary waves swirled, by the right wing, media, and authority  
Taboos of the Japanese state and society have been broken

To seal up the responsibility of Tenno is  
To seal up the responsibility of "sexual slavery"  
To seal up "comfort women" issues is  
To seal up women's taking back their dignity

Silence may entrench humiliation  
Then Lola Masing cries out, breaking the fences of a forced pig pen  
"Women's Tribunal took back the sense of justice"  
"The Asian Women's Fund is not suit this sense."

Lola Masing treasures most women's dignity and justice  
It is the very origin of our lives  
Our solidaridad!

4.

The Panay island is where Lola grew up  
Independence war against the Americans in late 19th century  
Guerrilla war against Japanese occupation forces in the 20th century  
Japanese soldiers recall it "the worst island of the Pacific war"  
Lola took over the glorious tradition of struggle and honor of the island  
Lola is an honor of Philippines  
Solidaridad!

The summer Solidarity Concert  
Summer comes round and round  
The struggle continues, until Lola meets the joyful world  
Solidaridad!