

demonstrations and strikes despite the risk of jail, torture or murder at the hands of the army. In 1985, Marcos called a snap election and then moved to declare himself as president against the results of the vote. By this time there was a very active network of thousands of parish churches all over the country, sheltering and training a nonviolent movement opposing Marcos.

Corazon Aquino's opposition party used marches and petitions, trained poll watchers, held rallies, vigils and civil disobedience to undermine Marcos' attempt to steal the election. Crucial defections from the government by two key leaders provided the final crisis. Marcos ordered the army to capture the defectors. Cardinal Jaime Sin, the head of the Roman Catholic Church, rushed to the Church-owned radio station and called the people to gather on the streets to prevent the army from taking the rebel officers. Millions of people poured onto the streets. Determined to stay as long as it took to depose Marcos, the people prayed and sang, shared their food and drink, and somehow gave the occasion the atmosphere of a picnic. They stayed on the streets for four days until Marcos finally fled.

After Aquino took over, the Filipino peace movement reflected on what made their nonviolent revolution possible. They pointed to their common religious faith, and the support of church leaders who had encouraged grassroots groups based in churches all over the country. They described their strength as coming from their faith and their bubbling sense of humor. The people shared common goals of social justice and had leaders who could articulate the issues and inspire others.

Ed Garcia, a political scientist and former Jesuit priest, was one of the writers of the new Philippines constitution. In discussing the role of the outside world, he comments that letters of support from outside the Philippines sustained him while he was in prison and that international solidarity strengthened his commitment and showed him that he was not alone.

The images of the "velvet revolution" in Manila inspired people elsewhere to demonstrate against oppressive regimes. Only a few years later, in 1989, we saw some of the most memorable television footage of our time when soldiers watched people dancing on the Berlin Wall, and held their fire. In the months that followed, dramatic civil resistance toppled dictators in country after country in Eastern Europe with little bloodshed.

Meanwhile, in the Philippines under Corazon Aquino, areas of civil war continued to flare, leading the peace movement to form the Coalition for Peace and the multisectoral Peace Advocates. These groups met to help peasants and aboriginals who were caught between the army and the guerrilla forces. In the villages, first the army would come and execute those people they claimed were collaborating with the guerrillas. Then the guerrillas would return and execute those they accused of collaborating with the army. The strategy the farmers developed was to draw a map of their village with a circle around it. They took the map to both groups. "This is a Zone of Peace," they said. "Do not enter this area carrying weapons." Surprisingly, both the army and the guerrillas respected the Zones of Peace.