

# Will Blair Start a War In the Philippines?

by Mike Billington

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, having successfully unleashed genocidal wars in Iraq (getting the Americans to do the dirty work), and more recently in Gaza (inducing the Israelis to commit the genocide in this case), is now trying to bring his proven record in war-mongering to the Islamic insurgency in Mindanao, the southern province of the Philippines. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo foolishly invited the British imperial warhawk into the country as an “advisor to the peace process” in Mindanao, supposedly because of his experience as the Mideast Quartet’s representative to the Israel-Palestine peace process, and his role in the Good Friday peace accord in Northern Ireland in 1998.

However, Blair exposed his hand in a speech he gave at the Jesuit Ateneo University in Manila on March 23, when he was asked about his role in initiating the Iraq War. Blair told the students that they must consider the “larger point” about the Mideast crisis. “There is essentially one battle going on, and it is a battle about Islam,” he said. There are “two elements in Islam—one which wants to work with the West, and one that does not,” said Blair, and therefore, we must “partner with the modernizing and moderate element. We gotta make sure those guys win.”

Blair, and his controlled thug Dick Cheney, have for years, been trying to set Islam against itself in this imperial manner, by turning Egypt, Jordan, the Emirates, and the Saudis, the so-called “moderates,” against Iran, Hamas, and Hezbollah, the so-called “terrorists”—and in general, the Sunnis against the Shi’a.

Blair, while supposedly hired by the Quartet—the United States, the EU, Russia, and the UN—to facilitate peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, was directly instrumental in unleashing the Israeli Nazi assault on Gaza, just as sane elements within Israel were on the brink of signing an agreement with Syria, which could have moved the peace process forward significantly.

The Israeli invasion of Gaza finished off any hope for the peace process, and brought the British-agent



Ronald Navarro/PCPO

*Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has foolishly welcomed the treacherous Tony Blair into the country as an “advisor to the peace process” in Mindanao. But the opposition to Blair has said, “No, thanks.”*

Benjamin Netanyahu to power—precisely the intention of the politically motivated Gaza disaster, which is now causing a catharsis within Israel, as Israeli soldiers themselves expose the fascist methods they were ordered to implement by their superiors during the assault. Netanyahu, the leading spokesman for the revisionist Zionist tradition of Vladimir Jabotinsky, who proudly proclaimed his allegiance to the British Empire while launching terrorist assaults against the Palestinians after World War II (see [http://www.larouchepub.com/other/2009/3603brit-imps\\_created\\_jabotinsky.html](http://www.larouchepub.com/other/2009/3603brit-imps_created_jabotinsky.html)), is now preparing to launch war on Iran on behalf of the British Empire, under Blair’s watchful eye, to “make sure those guys win.”

### **Philippine Opposition**

Following the meeting between Blair and Arroyo, Presidential spokesperson Lorelei Fajardo told the press:

“The President is confident that Tony Blair, with all his experience, can contribute a lot to resolving our peace and order problems in Mindanao.” However, this appeal to the British Empire’s “experience” has not been well received in all quarters. Sen. Nene Pimentel, who comes from Mindanao, noted that Blair’s knowledge of the problems in Mindanao was “peripheral,” at best, and that, “As a people, we are capable of solving the issue ourselves. And if we are not, it is because we have a leadership that is totally unfocused on the problem.”

The Provincial Board of North Cotabato, a province in Mindanao, passed a resolution: “Thank You Mr. Blair, But No Thanks,” which read: “The statement that Blair’s charm and charisma could end the trouble in the South is a perfect example of the jaundiced perspective of our policy makers and peace negotiators on the true cause and root of the problem in Mindanao and the solutions that could bring an end to the conflict. Signing a peace agreement with the MILF will not end the problem, but addressing the roots of the problem that led to the birth of groups like the MNLF and the MILF will bring us true and lasting peace.”

Manny Piñol, vice governor of North Cotabato, said the conflict in the South is a result of deep-seated prejudices between Christians and Muslims, the failure of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) to function, massive corruption in the region, absence of justice, and the failure of government to address poverty, deprivation, the lack of opportunities, and hopelessness.

Piñol was also instrumental in stopping a potentially disastrous deal between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Arroyo government last year, which would have given the MILF virtual independence over large pieces of the southern provinces of the Philippines, with full control over oil and mineral deposits in the region, including the right to sell this control to foreign interests.

The deal was concocted by the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP), which intentionally formulated an agreement which openly breached the Philippine Constitution, and was negotiated secretly behind the back of the majority Christian population in the region. The USIP was forced to withdraw from the negotiations in 2007 by a new U.S. ambassador, Kristie Kenney, but it was only a Supreme Court ruling at the last minute which stopped the Arroyo government from signing the unconstitutional agreement. The petition to the Supreme Court was brought by Vice Governor Piñol.