

# LaRouche economics, exoneration call brought to Malaysia and Philippines

*EIR*'s Richard Freeman and Gail Billington of the Schiller Institute traveled to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, and Manila in the Philippines, for two weeks in mid-December to present LaRouche's ninth economic forecast on the impending global financial blowout and his solution centered around Eurasian development programs, as well as the campaign for the full exoneration of LaRouche and several associates, including Michael Billington, Gail Billington's husband. The three themes were elaborated at a series of symposia organized by friends of the Schiller Institute and *EIR* at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, and at the University of the Philippines, the Asian Institute of Management, and De la Salle University in Manila.

Starting in Kuala Lumpur, Freeman and Billington attended a two-day conference titled "Rethinking Human Rights," sponsored by the Just World Trust of Penang, Malaysia. The conference was keynoted by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and addressed by Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, both of whom used the event to challenge western assumptions, especially as reflected in the activities of governments and human rights advocacy groups such as Amnesty International and Asia Watch. Prime Minister Mahathir offered a review of the evolution of the West's concept and practice regarding human rights in the post-World War II era, sharply criticizing the cynical abuse of the term in enforcing western geopolitical assumptions in the areas of economic policy and political institutions.

The Malaysian prime minister was particularly harsh on the rhetorical abuse of "human rights" in the era of the Bush-Thatcher "new world order" after the collapse of the Soviet Union. He pointed to the Iraq war and the genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina as sufficient evidence of the West's commitment to subject (see *Documentation*).

Bosnia was a major sub-theme of the conference, which included a scheduled address by Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Siladjic that was canceled due to an emergency meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). Nevertheless, conference organizers determined not to entertain any specific motions or initiatives regarding current human rights violations, such as Bosnia, lifting the sanctions on Iraq, or LaRouche's exoneration. The purpose of the conference, they insisted, was philosophical, to define

a new concept of human rights. Several speakers also attempted to take human rights out of a purely secular context, and approach it from the standpoint of religious teachings—in this instance, Islam. The conference participants numbered 350 people from 60 countries.

Following this conference, Billington was invited to address a forum organized at the University of Malaya on the subject of the LaRouche cases, attended by professors and students. The effect was to shatter a rather monochrome view of the United States, prompting a lively discussion, which ended with invitations for a return visit to examine in greater detail LaRouche's decades-long policy fight for global infrastructural development. Several private meetings also took place with some of the Malaysian parliamentarians who had signed the public call for LaRouche's exoneration.

In Manila, Freeman and Billington addressed three symposia outlining in detail LaRouche's ninth economic forecast, the global and China Silk Road development programs, and the exoneration campaign. Some 130-150 people attended these events, which took place at the largest university, the University of the Philippines; the premier graduate school in business management in the Philippines, the Asian Institute of Management (AIM); and the Catholic De la Salle University. Each event was scheduled for two hours with an hour for questions and discussion; but in all three cases, the event went well over the three-hour limit. Armed with graphs, charts, maps, and slides, Freeman gave comprehensive classes on why, from the standpoint of LaRouche's physical-economic method, the derivative-driven speculative bubble must burst, and on the necessity for replacing the bankrupt system with a global infrastructure program and national (as opposed to central) banking systems.

Freeman emphasized the epistemological basis for this physical economic approach in the concept of man as *imago viva Dei*, in living image of God. Each symposium became a class. The power of these ideas was driven home by Billington's briefing on the history of the association's fight for these ideas, the legal assault to silence the movement, and the successful mobilization of an international outcry demanding exoneration.

A symposium at the Asian Institute of Management brought together a wide spectrum of institutional layers in the

Philippines, including representatives of the RAM military group, a representative of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the political party of President Fidel Ramos, three congressional aides, one congressman, several businessmen and industrialists, and a half-dozen or more leading business columnists and journalists.

The event at the University of the Philippines included several representatives of the Freedom from Debt Coalition, which has played a leading role in opposing Filipino membership in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which was being debated on the floor of the Philippines Senate at that moment. At De la Salle University, an entire class had to be turned away from the symposium for lack of space; several students were overheard after the event whispering, "He just destroyed Adam Smith!"

Over the course of the week, in which the symposia took place, on Dec. 15 the Philippines Senate finally voted 18-5 to ratify the GATT agreement. Each day Manila television news was reporting the unraveling of the Orange County, California derivatives fiasco, and the speculation-fed financial crises in municipalities across the United States. In all of these public meetings, whatever materials *EIR*'s representatives had to give, were snatched up in a matter of minutes.

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## Documentation

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### Human rights: 'western hypocrisy at its worst'

*The following are excerpts from the keynote speech presented by Prime Minister Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad of Malaysia at the international conference on rethinking human rights, hosted by the Just World Trust (JUST) of Penang, Malaysia, on Dec. 6, 1994. The excerpts are from the printed text provided to conference participants, which was written with numbered paragraphs, as reproduced here.*

*The prime minister reviewed the evolution of the western conception of human rights. These excerpts pick up at paragraph 10, after he has quoted the reaffirmation of "faith in fundamental human rights" from the Preamble of the United Nations Charter following World War II.*

. . . To cut a long story short, the erstwhile colonies gained independence one by one. Mostly the imperial powers gave up with little grace, frequently fighting against the granting of independence with the kind of cruelty which makes nonsense of their subscription to human rights principles.

11. But old imperialistic ways do not die. They merely

metamorphose. Almost as soon as the colonies became independent colonialism by other means was initiated.

12. Economic forces, the western media and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) carried on where the colonial governments left off. . . .

14. Much later, the Cold War ended and the Soviet Union collapsed, leaving a unipolar world. All pretense at non-interference in the affairs of independent nations was dropped. A new international order was enunciated in which the powerful countries claim a right to impose their system of government, their free market, and their concept of human rights on every country. . . .

16. Most nations agree that the democratic form of government is better than the feudal or totalitarian systems. . . .

18. Developed countries can do with weak governments or no government. But developing countries cannot function without strong authority on the part of the government. Unstable and weak governments will result in chaos, and chaos cannot contribute to the development and well-being of developing countries. Divisive politics will occupy the time and minds of everyone, as we can witness in many a developing country today.

19. The developing countries, by and large, want to practice democracy. . . . But they are continuously being harassed through economic pressures, including withdrawal of aid and loans, by carping criticisms and deliberate misinformation by the western media, and by campaigns on the part of western NGOs, who sometimes finance pressure groups within the country to obstruct the government which they label as undemocratic. Even if the government is replaced, the new government would still be harassed.

20. But that is not all. While the western liberals would badger people to opt for democracy and where they thought fit to overthrow their "undemocratic" government, they can expect no help if they get into trouble while attempting to democratize their country. Thus the Kurds of Iraq were urged to shake off the rule of Saddam Hussein and establish their own country. When, after the western countries had forced the Iraqis out of Kuwait, the Kurds rebelled, they were given no help except for gleeful reports by the western media regarding the problems posed by the Kurds against Saddam Hussein's government. . . .

21. In Yugoslavia, the different states of the federation were encouraged to democratically strive for independence. All the states had to face military opposition from the dominant Serbs. In Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Serbs mounted a savage attack and openly declared their intention to carry out ethnic cleansing, a euphemism for genocide. . . .

26. But it is with regard to freedom from oppression and brutality that western hypocrisy is at its worst. Western governments, their media and their NGOs, are tireless in their condemnation of non-western countries for their human rights records. They threaten sanctions, withdrawal of aid, stoppage of loans, economic and trade union boycotts, and

## 'Incorporate values and philosophies of whole human race in definition' Dr M: Redefine human rights

**By S. Jayakrishnan**  
SINGAPORE: The United Nations Human Rights Commission today called for a new broad-based definition of human rights to incorporate the values and philosophies of the whole human race.

Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad said today that the existing definition, which was formulated by Western nations after World War II, was "out of the world" and "not reflective of the values and philosophies of the whole human race".

"We can no longer have a monopoly of wisdom in what constitutes human rights," he said at the opening ceremony of the 1994 International Conference on Human Rights in Kuala Lumpur.

The Prime Minister said that the human rights and development issues are interconnected and the performance of the Western blocs, they were still capable of doing that and producing human rights.

He said that the concept of human rights was not only a tool to be used to attack other nations but also a tool to be used to defend one's own nation.

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**WORKING TOWARDS A JUST WORLD** - Dr Mahathir shaking hands with Chandra Muzaffar, human rights activist and a director of World Council for Human Liberty and Justice.

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There were still significant differences, for when it comes to human rights, we are not yet ready to accept the existing concepts by and large. That is why we do not practice only the liberal human rights which we have adopted but we also practice the Islamic human rights which we have developed and continued to improve.

He said, however, that the concept of human rights was not only a tool to be used to attack other nations but also a tool to be used to defend one's own nation.

### Group awarded first airport job

**By A. Raschi**  
SINGAPORE: The A. Raschi Group has been awarded the first job to build a new airport terminal in Singapore.

### Tough-talking Serbs hold five observers as human shields

**SARAJEVO** - Serb forces today held five international observers as human shields in Sarajevo.



### Three more Perak soccer players arrested

**By Chong Set Son and Tengku Sarifuddin**  
SINGAPORE: Three more Perak soccer players were arrested today for their involvement in the Perak soccer scandal.

*The front page of the Malaysia's Dec. 7 New Straits Times featuring Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad's strong words against the hypocritical "human rights" mafia. He is pictured seated, shaking hands with Chandra Muzaffar, director of Just World Trust.*

actual military strikes against those they accuse of violating human rights. They even kidnap people in other countries in order to try them in their courts under their laws if they see fit to do so. They have no respect for independence or territorial integrity in their zeal to uphold their human rights principle.

27. After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the much-vaunted victory over Iraq, the western powers declared that the independence of nations notwithstanding, they have a right to interfere in the internal affairs of a country if there is evidence of human rights violation. This is very noble, but the method is questionable. . . . And so, among other things, people in distant lands who unknowingly breach the laws of powerful nations are tried *in absentia* and sentenced. The implication of this is frightening. When you can be tried under the laws of another country where you have no rights, you have lost your freedom and your independence. You have become colonized again.

29. And among the other things is western hypocrisy in Bosnia-Herzegovina. . . .

30. The Serbs have the weapons. The Bosnians have none. The champions of human rights believe this is an ideal situation. . . .

31. This, then, is the reality and irony of western human rights. . . .

34. No one, no country, no people, and no civilization has a right to claim that it has a monopoly of wisdom as to what constitutes human rights. . . .

35. But admittedly, Asians are not the best examples of the protagonists of human rights, either. They have been guilty in the past, and, perhaps, lately, too. But not as pictured by the western media.

36. I hope your conference will be able to examine human rights not as Asians or Europeans, but as members of the human race. It is timely, for faith in modern civilization is fast diminishing. We can put a man on the Moon. We can examine stars light-years away, we can achieve instant contact with every part of the world, we can build intelligent machines and many more wonders. But we are still quite uncivilized, for when it comes to killing each other we are worse than animals. The liberal views of the West on human rights and on other issues do not provide the answers to the woes of today's world. Everyone, including "the bunch of Asians," must be allowed to make suggestions and contribute towards devising new sets of values which may help resolve some of the problems we face today. . . .