

## Poem from Sierra Madre

*"Nature is on the side of the fighting masses.  
Command every inch of it with genius."*

*- Jose Maria Sison*

The rains have come  
warriors beloved of the people,  
it is time to avenge Crispin Tagamolila.  
The forest, swathed now by the dark of the sky,  
has become even more impervious to the frantic roar of helicopters;  
If they come we shall in any case  
shoot panic into their dragonfly wings.  
Let the enemy commandos  
trudge up the Sierra Madre  
with their sixty-pound packs.  
The mud that will gather on their boots  
shall add to the weight on their backs.  
We for our part  
shall slide nimbly down  
the mountain trails,  
lightly up the giant boulders:  
we serve the people,  
the people are with us.  
Today, as our comrades below  
help plant the season's new seedlings,  
we shall run the enemy down:  
the flash floods will take them,  
the flash floods of our anger  
will bloodily take them.

MILA D. AGUILAR'S collection of poetry, *A Comrade Is as Precious as a Rice Seedling*, was published by Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press in 1987. On August 6, 1984, she was jailed by agents of the Marcos dictatorship on charges of "subversion and conspiracy to commit rebellion," subsequently spending a year and a half in jail until her release was ordered by President Corazon Aquino on February 27, 1986.