Alex Baluyut Photographic Series

Kasama (1983-1987)

This black and white series was among the images comprising the photo book Kasama: A Collection of Photographs of the New People’s Army of the Philippines (1987), co-produced through a grant with photographer, artist and writer Lenny Limjoco (1954-2012). The book presented the first comprehensive photographic documentation of the insurgency being waged by the NPA since 1969, featuring photographs taken inside guerilla zones across the Northern, Central and Southern Luzon; Eastern Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao regions.

The word kasama is translated as friend, companion, or comrade-in-arms. Offered the opportunity to document life within the NPA in 1983, Baluyut resigned from the AP and travelled to the guerilla zones of Mindanao. He spent the next four months as a photographer living with the NPA in the wide wetland communities of Agusan del Sur. The 60 rolls of film shot by Baluyut during this time offer glimpses of the many complex facets and human faces behind an armed revolution ongoing since 1969.

Baluyut won his first National Book Award for his work in Kasama.