



Children of internally displaced families at an evacuation camp in the village of Libungan Torreta in Maguindanao province, southern island of Mindanao on May 14, 2009. Over half a million people were displaced while over 300 combatants and civilians were killed after two MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) commanders and hundreds of their men launched coordinated raids on several towns and provinces on Mindanao in August last year. The attacks were intended as a protest against a court order that blocked a deal to give the group control over large portions of Mindanao. Although relative peace has returned to some parts, over 100,000 people still remain in evacuation camps, disaster relief officials say. *Picture: AFP*

## Muted Plight of Our Neighbours



A Muslim woman holds a placard in protest outside the Saudi Arabian embassy in Manila on May 20, 2009. Protesters are calling on the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to urge the Philippine government to end nine months of offensives against MILF. *Picture: AFP*



Philippine troops arrive at a camp in Maguindanao on May 15, 2009. Near by, three home-made bombs exploded within seconds of each other on a highway in the southern Philippines, killing a pro-government militiaman, a military spokesman said. *Picture: AFP*