

The Filipinos fighting the monsters of Kaliwa Dam

STORIES
of the Impact
of China's
BRI

Art & Story by Aldy
Research by Local Community Partner



I know that it's still going to be a long walk.



We all get tired. But no matter how loud our cries are,
they still don't seem to hear us.



Maybe we just need to make it louder, maybe then our message will reach them. I hope that happens soon before we all lose our voices and get tired from all these long walks.



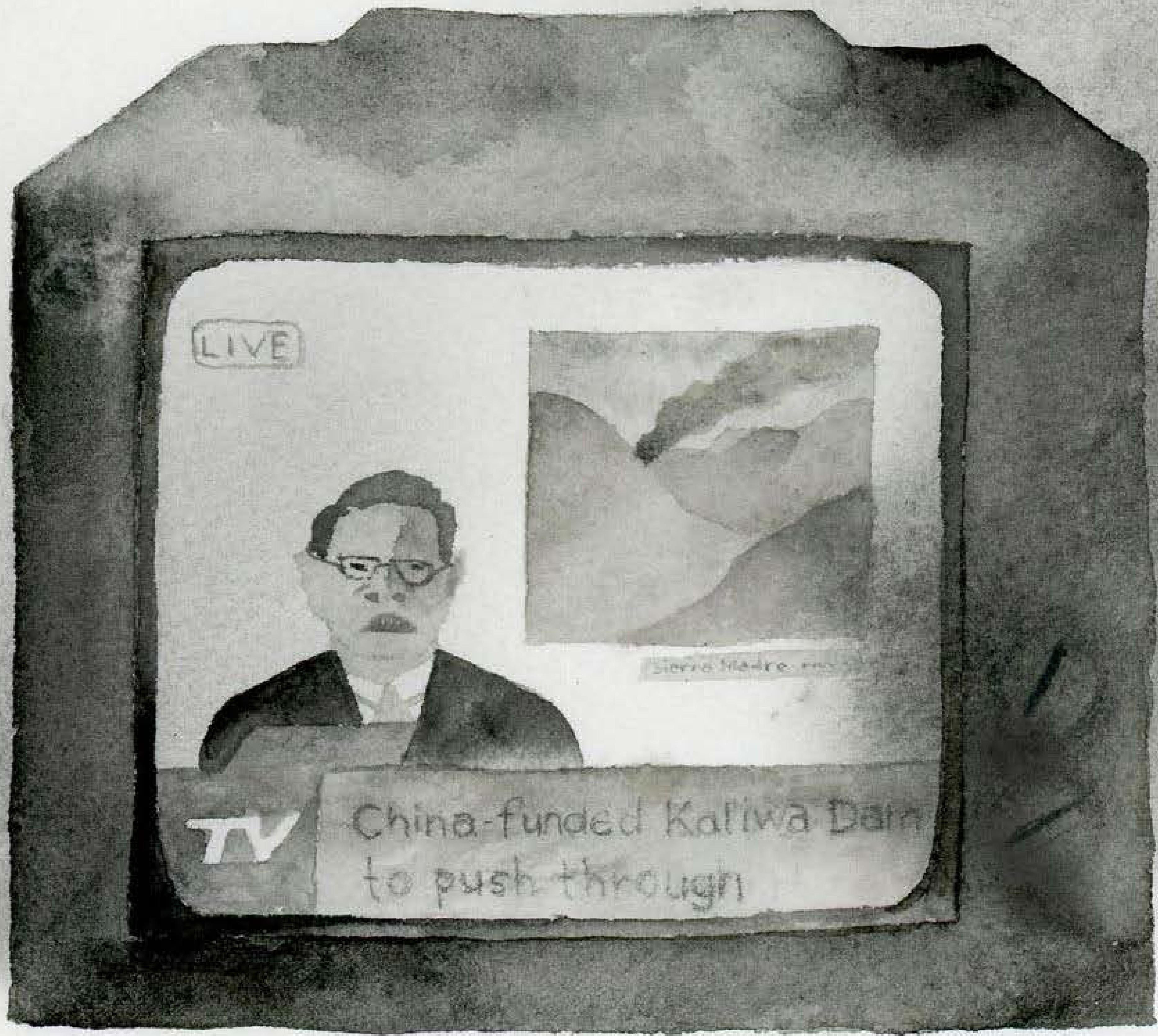
But we are used to this. It takes one to two hours for us to walk to our workplace where we plant different root crops and vegetables for our families.



It's fascinating to think that something this small will grow someday. I'm always looking forward to work because of this.



After work, we gather around and share stories and more.
We also discuss how we can help each other in the community.
We talk about the problems and things that affect us.



Like what we saw one day that got us all worried.



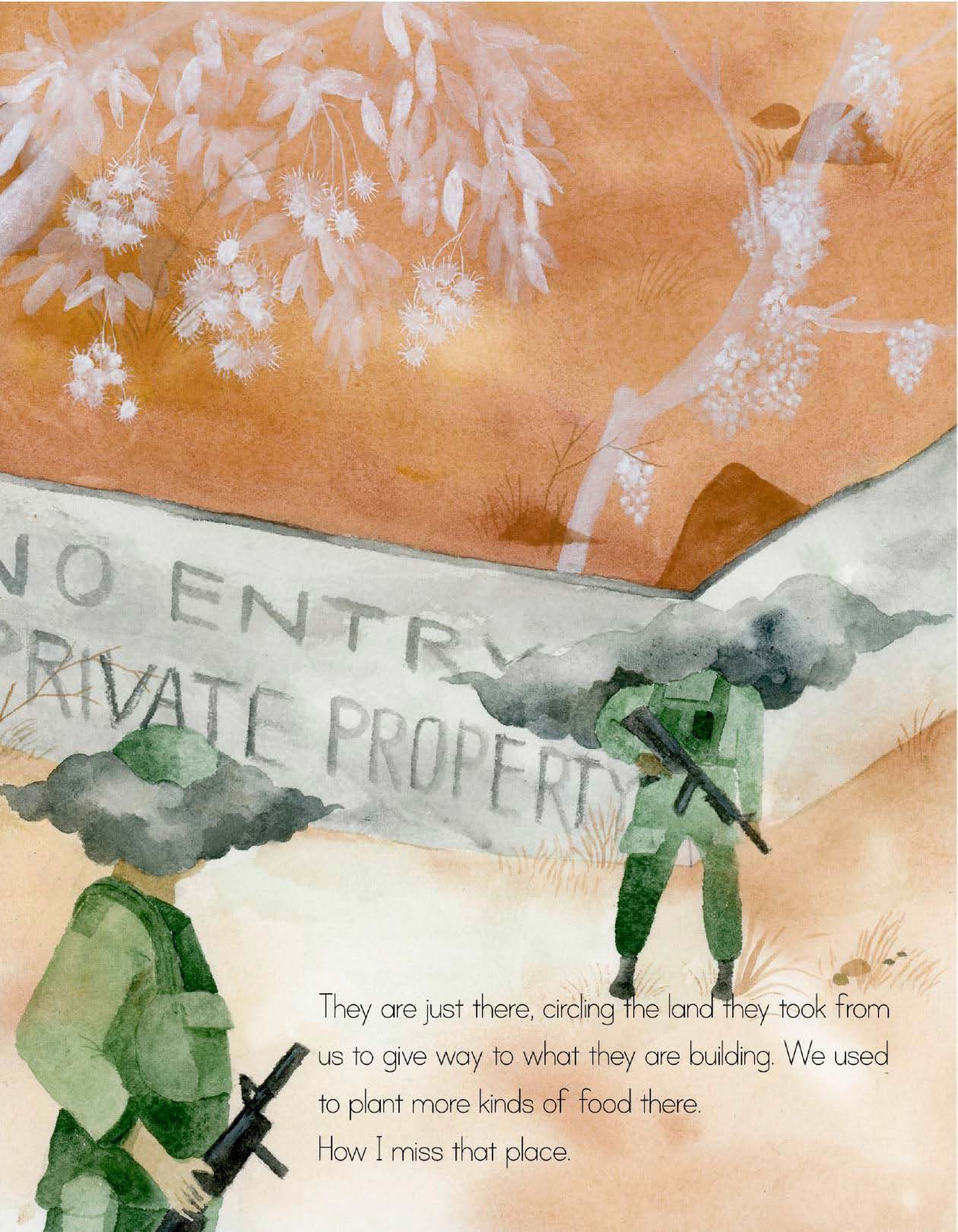
They say that what they are building is a solution. But what it reminds me of are the giants and monsters from the stories I used to read with my children, only scarier and more real.



Since then, it feels like there are always those dark and heavy clouds above us.



Same clouds when that typhoon came and flooded our home and everything we had. I knew the trees and mountains could have protected us, but not if they were weak and beaten down.



They are just there, circling the land they took from us to give way to what they are building. We used to plant more kinds of food there. How I miss that place.



Our home seemed to be getting smaller and smaller. We have some places here where we give thanks for the good harvests and blessings we receive, where we also sing, dance and celebrate. But we are afraid that they will also take these away from us.



When will they finally hear us? And when will they come up with a better solution that will not cause us more problems? It's not even for us anymore, but for those who will remain after us.



It's still going to be a very long walk, but I want to see them grow, dance, and sing freely...here in our home.