

H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang Palace
JP Laurel St
San Miguel
Manila, Philippines

15 November 2006

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Dear President,

I write on behalf of the National Union of Journalists, representing over 40,000 journalists in the United Kingdom and Ireland, to express our grave concern over the continued inaction of the Philippines Government in protecting journalists.

According to our sister union, the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines, ten journalists have now been killed just this year, bringing the toll to 45 media workers killed under your presidency.

This is more than the total number killed in rest of the Asia-Pacific region, making the Philippines the second most dangerous place for journalists after Iraq.

My union fears that the recent violence is part of a trend aimed at silencing the Philippines press as each of the journalists that have been targeted were all working towards greater government accountability.

The targeting of journalists is but a small part of the killings, abductions and harassment of political, social and trade union activists. My members will be participating tomorrow in the day of action in London called by the trade union centre Kilusang Mayo Uno Labor Center (KMU) to coincide with the second anniversary of the killing of seven workers on the picket line at Hacienda Luisita.

Amnesty International noted that your government attempts to investigate these killings were inadequate and lacked credibility, giving rise to "a climate of impunity". In not a single case has any perpetrator been brought to justice

We urge you to deliver on your promise to protect journalists in the Philippines. And to ensure that the impunity for those that attack, maim and murder journalists and other trade unionists must come to an end.

Yours sincerely



Jeremy Dear
General Secretary