



377, rue Bank Street,
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1Y3
tel./tél. 613 236 7238 fax/télé. 613 563 7861

BY FAX AND EMAIL: Fax: (+632) 742-1641 / 929-3968;
E-mail: corres@op.gov.ph / opnet@ops.gov.ph

October 25, 2006

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

On behalf of the 54,000 members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), I am writing this letter to express our grave concern on the rampant trade union and political repression in the Philippines.

In particular, we are outraged that 64 of our colleagues in the trade union movement and informal workers associations have been killed since 2001. They are part of the more than 750 victims of political killings in the Philippines recorded as of Sept 2006. We strongly condemn and denounce political killings as the worst form of political repression. It is an outright violation of an individual's right to life. Political killings violate all norms and international standards for the respect of human rights and have no place in a democratic society.

We are equally alarmed over other cases of trade union and human rights violations such as abductions, harassment, intimidation, grave threats, illegal arrests and militarization in the workplaces and communities. Workers who assert their democratic rights and fight for social justice and transformation are being branded as terrorists, communists and "enemies of the state" and are being attacked with impunity under the guise of counter-terrorism.

We are deeply concerned at the continued illegal detention of KMU Chairperson Emeritus and Anakpawis Rep. Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran who was arrested without warrant on Feb. 25, 2006, a day after a state of emergency declaration. Ka Bel was arrested without warrant on the basis of trumped-up charges dating back two decades and already quashed by the Philippine courts. We demand that Ka Bel be given justice and that he be freed from his illegal detention.

As a signatory to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, to the United Nations Covenant on civil and political rights and to the International Labor Organization Conventions 87 and 98, the Philippine government must ensure the Filipino workers right to organize, to bargain collectively, to exercise other democratic rights and to live a life with dignity is recognized and respected.

CUPW calls on you, as the President and the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, to take concrete steps to stop the political killings, harassment, intimidation and all forms of trade union and political repression committed against leaders, members, organizers and supporters of trade union organizations and informal workers associations as well as other legitimate organizations in the Philippines.

CUPW will continue to monitor the situation in the Philippines and will be urging our respective governments to withdraw support and stop giving financial aid to the Philippine government, until political killings and other forms of human rights violations in your country are stopped. We refuse to use our money to aid the Philippine government and become an instrument to attack and kill our Filipino brothers and sisters who are fighting for social justice.

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully yours,



Deborah Bourque, National President
Canadian Union of Postal Workers

Cc:

Hon. Chairperson Dr. Purificacion Quisumbing
The Commission on Human Rights
SAAC Building, Commonwealth Avenue
U.P. Complex, Diliman, Quezon City
Fax: +632 929-0102, Email: drpvq@chr.gov.ph

Hon. Sec. Avelino Cruz
Department of National Defense
Camp Aguinaldo, EDSA, 1110 Quezon City
Email: snd@dnd.gov.ph
Fax: (+632) 911 6213

Sen. Manny Villar
Senate President
Rm. 602 GSIS Bldg., Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Fax No.: (632) 552-6734
Email: mb_villar@yahoo.com

Hon. Arturo Brion
Secretary
Department of Labor and Employment
7th Floor, DOLE Building
Muralla Street, Intramuros, Manila, PHILIPPINES
Fax: (632) 527-2121; (632) 527-2131; (632) 527-5523
Email: osec@dole.gov.ph

Ken Georgetti,
President,
Canadian Labour Congress
2841 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1V 8X7
Email: president@clc-ctc.ca

CUPW National Executive Council
CUPW National Union Representatives
CUPW Specialists

dn cope 225
1303-F-600