

The President of the Philippines Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

Madam President Macapagal Arroyo,

We are shocked and upset about the fact that since 2001, the year when you became President of the Philippines, 64 workers from the trade union movement have been murdered. They are part of more than 750 victims who lost their lives as from 2001 until September 2006 through political assaults. Our society, the German-Philippine Friendship-Society Inc. have been familiar and had personal contact with some of these victims like the trade union leader of Nestle Strikes Diosdado Fortuna ("Ka Fort").

The massacre on the sugar laborers of the Hacienda Luisita has horrified us. We organized relief for the dependants and made known this case all over Germany. Our conference today was able to be witness of this barbaric action of the army against these workers through a video documentation.

We have also friendly contact to Crispin Beltran, the delegate of the Party Anakpawis to the congress and former chairman of the Union KMU. He is imprisoned in a prison hospital since February 2006 without any charge.

The right for free political and trade union activities is a democratic right to be defended worldwide.

We ask you to get investigated all these cases and get the persons responsible for them to be brought before justice. We also expect that there will be no more any further political killings and intimidations of activists of the opposition in your country.

We shall follow up the further developments carefully and continue to inform about them in Germany, especially amongst the Trade Unions. We are certain that you will hear more protest from our country. We send a copy of our protest the German government requesting it to stop its financial cooperation with your government due to the serious and repeated violations of the democratic rights until these political killings, arrests and police actions against political opponents are ended.

Workers who fight for their rights are not terrorists! Neither in Germany nor in the Philippines.

Unanimously agreed on by the twelve delegates present at the Conference of Protest of the Deutsch-Philippinische Freunde e.V. in Duesseldorf on November 30th 2006.

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