



**EGÉSZSÉGÜGYI ÉS SZOCIÁLIS
ÁGAZATBAN DOLGOZÓK
DEMOKRATIKUS SZAKSZERVEZETE**

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H.E. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
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Dear President Arroyo,

Stop Trade Union Repression and Political Killings in the Philippines

EDDSZ (Democratic Trade Union of Health and Social Workers) is writing to express its deepest concern at the continued and alarming trade union and political repression in the Philippines. Since your government came to power in 2001, there have been over 700 victims of political killings including more than 60 leaders, members, organisers and supporters of trade unions and informal workers.

EDDSZ is equally concerned about other cases of trade union and human rights violations such as abductions, harassment, intimidation, threats, illegal arrests and militarization in the workplaces and communities. On 25 February 2006, 73 year-old Crispin Beltran, Chair of Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), member of Congress, and union organiser, was arrested under sedition charges. Although at the beginning of March the courts had ordered his release, he remains in detention to this date. Annie Geron, PSLINK General Secretary and PSI Vice-President for the Asia-Pacific Region, was issued with a transfer order to a remote area of the country after filing a complaint of corruption against her employer.

EDDSZ strongly condemns and denounces political killings as the worst form of political repression. We call on you, Madame President, as the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to immediately take concrete steps to stop the 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.

We will continue to monitor the situation in the Philippines. and will be urging our respective government 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.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ágnes Cser
EDDSZ
President of EDDSZ]

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