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Rt. Hon'ble President

We, as the trade union confederation express our grave concern on the rampant trade union and political repression in the Philippines.

It is terrible that 64 of activists in the trade union movement and informal workers association have been killed since 2001. They as we have been informed 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 right to life and must not have any place in a democratic society.

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

We are deeply concerned at the continued illegal detention of KMU Chairperson Crispin Beltran who was arrested without warrant on the basis of trumped-up charges dating back two decades and already quashed by the Philippine courts. He should 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.

We appeal you, as the President, 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. Hope you will take steps for immediate reform

Thanks for your attention.

With best regards

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Cc:

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