



Aktionsbündnis Menschenrechte – Philippinen
c/o philippinenbüro e.V., Bullmannau 11, D-45327 Essen

Philippine Embassy
The Honorable Leah B. Ruiz
Charge D'Affaires
Uhlandstr. 97
10715 Berlin

Action Network Human Rights - Philippines
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Essen, 20.11. 2010

In remembrance of the victims of the Maguindanao massacre at its first anniversary on November 23, 2010

Dear Honorable Leah B. Ruiz,

It has been a year now since the atrocious massacre in Ampatuan, Maguindanao led to the brutal killing of 58 people. This incident made the Philippines one of the most dangerous country for journalists in the whole world.

All 58 People had to die because the clan of Ampatuan wanted to hold its political influence when competitor Esmael Mangudadatu announced to file a candidacy for the governors position in Maguindanao that was traditionally occupied by the powerful Ampatuan clan.

Mangudadatus relatives, all of them women, thought they were safe when they went in a convoy to file the candidacy in his behalf. They did not believe that the Ampatuans would dare to commit such a cruel crime against peaceful civilians, women, human rights lawyers and journalists, who wanted to cover the filing of candidacy.

This incident has been the most glaring expression of the climate of impunity that prevails in the Philippines. The Ampatuans, an allegory for the dominance of influential family politics, stopped at nothing to sustain their power. The climate of impunity led to the certainty for the clan that they had to fear no punishment. This certainty was augmented by the close alliance of the Ampatuans with former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The victims are not only victims of the Ampatuans, but victims of the weak legal structures in the whole Philippines that lead to a general situation of impunity.

After one year, the relatives of the victims are still waiting for a conviction and a just penalty for the alleged perpetrators from the ranks of the influential Ampatuan clan. While the evidences and witness statements made during the trial are clearly pointing at the liability of the alleged Ampatuans, the clan members are still in denial of having anything to do with the massacre.

The new Secretary of Justice, Leila de Lima, has shown her commitment to due process. The trial against the alleged perpetrators has resumed last September 8. Still, this is not enough to give justice to the victims and their families. It may take years until the conviction of the perpetrators.

Members: Amnesty International, Brot für die Welt, Diakonie, Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst, Misereor, Missio, philippinenbüro e.V., Vereinte Evangelische Mission



In remembrance of the victims of this atrocious massacre, we would like to express our grief for all the victims who lost their life in this brutal incident one year ago. Our thoughts are with the relatives of the victims and those who have witnessed the incident still seeking for the conviction of all alleged perpetrators involved in this massacre.

Therefore we deplore the lack of implementation of sustainable reforms that would contribute to justice for all people involved! We are calling for an end of the climate of impunity in the Philippines!



Elmar Noé
(Chair)



Maike Grabowski
(Coordinator)

In Remembrance of the Victims!

Benjie Adolfo	Gold Star Daily, Koronadal City
Henry Araneta	DZRH, General Santos City
Mc Delbert "Mac-Mac" Arriola	UNTV, General Santos City
Rubello Bataluna	Gold Star Daily, Koronadal City
Arturo Betia	Periodico Ini, General Santos City
Romeo Jimmy Cabillo	Midland Review, Tacurong City
Marites Cablitas	News Focus, General Santos City
Hannibal Cachuela	Punto News, Koronadal City
Jepon Cadagdagon	Saksi News, General Santos City
John Caniban	Periodico Ini, General Santos City
Lea Dalmacio	Socsargen News, General Santos
Noel Decina	Periodico Ini, General Santos City
Gina Dela Cruz	Saksi News, General Santos City
Jhoy Duhay	Gold Star Daily, Tacurong City
Jolito Evardo	UNTV General Santos City
Santos Gatchalian	DXGO, Davao City
Bienvenido, Jr Legarte	Prontiera News, Koronadal City
Lindo Lupogan	Mindanao Daily Gazette, Davao
Ernesto "Bart" Maravilla	Bombo Radyo, Koronadal City
Rey Merisco	Periodico Ini, Koronadal City
Marife "Neneng"	Montaño Saksi News, General Santos City
Rosell Morales	News Focus, General Santos City
Victor Nuñez	UNTV, General Santos City
Ronnie Perante	Gold Star Daily correspondent, Koronadal City
Joel Parcon	Prontiera News, Koronadal City
Fernando "Ranny" Razon	Periodico Ini, General Santos City
Alejandro "Bong" Reblando	Manila Bulletin, General Santos City
Napoleon Salaysay	Mindanao Gazette, Cotabato City
Francisco "Ian" Subang	Socsargen Today, General Santos City
, Andres "Andy" Teodoro	Central Mindanao Inquirer, Tacurong City
Daniel Tiamson	UNTV, General Santos City
Reynaldo "Bebot" Momay	Midland Review, Tacurong City
Eden Mangudadatu	Municipal Vice Mayor of Mangudadatu
Genalin Tiamson-Mangundadatu	Wife of Datu Esmael Mangudadatu
Memotabi Mangundadatu	Civilian
Rowena Ante Mangundadatu	Cousin of Esmael Magudadatu
Manguba Mangudadatu	Aunt of Esmael Mangudadatu
Farina Mangudadatu	Sister of Esmael Magudadatu
Farida Mangudadatu	Youngest sister of Esmael Mangudadatu
Farida Sabdullah	Civilian
Suraida Beman	Civilian
Raida Sapalon Abdul	Civilian
Pinky Balayman	Civilian
Ela Balayman	Civilian
Rahima Puelo Palawan	Civilian
Meriam Calimbol	Civilian

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Patricia Palapay	Civilian
Atty. Cynthia Onquendo Ogare	Lawyer
Atty. Concepcion Brizuela	Lawyer
Catalino Onquendo	Father of Cynthia Onquendo
Art Mascardo	
John Caniban	
A certain ,Unto'	Driver
Eugene Depillano	Driver
Sidick Edza	Driver
Patrick Pamansang	Driver
A certain 'Chito'	Driver
Abdulla Hadji Dodong	Driver