

# "The Killings Must Stop"

## Statement of European Church and Civil Society Organisations

We are concerned about the upsurge of politically motivated killings and the constant deterioration of the human rights situation in the Philippines in recent years. Amnesty International informs that at least 51 political killings took place in the first half of 2006, compared to the 66 killings recorded in the whole of 2005. Since March 2006 we received an increasing number of reports on political killings – at times on a daily basis. We are particularly worried about the killings representing a pattern to target a broad range of critical and non-violent people involved in local or national politics.

We recognise the government's initiative to increase efforts towards investigations into a number of assassinations. We stress the need to sustain these efforts, to investigate all political killings and to prosecute the perpetrators and their accomplices and to give justice to the victims and their families in order to prevent further escalation and grievance. We support civil society initiatives and efforts to press for investigations of political killings and human rights abuses.

We also condemn the violence and killings of the armed opposition groups. Their doings should however not be used as a justification for human rights violations and killings committed by paramilitary forces and the government. The use of paramilitary forces in the Philippine government's all-out war against the New People's Army (NPA) and other armed left groups as well as the spread of armed paramilitaries is particularly worrying. The decision of the Communist Party of the Philippines' (CPP) leadership to set up armed partisan forces counterattacking operatives and masterminds of the killings does also cause great concern. We believe that these developments will lead to further deterioration of the human rights situation, severely threatening those engaged in non-violent, critical and investigative forms of civil and political activism.

We call on all government departments concerned, especially the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), to investigate all killings with a political background, prosecute the perpetrators and their accomplices and to deliver justice to the victims and their families.

We call for the implementation of Republic Act 6981, providing witness protection, security and protection for activists facing death-threats.

We call for an independent investigation into the Department of Defence and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to investigate allegations concerning the use of political assassination as a counter-insurgency strategy.

We call on both the government and the CPP to continue serious peace negotiations and to respect human rights.

We call on the armed opposition groups to refrain from the use of political killings.

We call our own governments and the United Nations (UN) to pay attention to these alarming developments and to urge the Philippine government to end the killings and guarantee justice for all victims.

Amnesty International German Section, Germany  
Asia Foundation, Germany  
Asia House, Germany  
Babaylan, The Philippine Women's Network in Europe, Germany  
Babaylanes, Germany  
Bayanihan - Philippine Women's Center, Netherlands  
Bishop Muskens of the Diocese of Breda, Netherlands  
Mr. Harry van Bommel, Member of Parliament for the Socialist Party, Netherlands  
South-North Exchange of Peoples Organizations (BOND), Belgium  
Prof. Theo van Boven, Professor of International Law, University of Maastricht, Former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Former Director of the UN Human Rights Division, Netherlands  
Bread for the World, Germany  
Ms. Brid Brennan, Transnational Institute, Netherlands  
Broederlijk Delen, Belgium  
Bundeskoordination Internationalismus (BUKO), Germany  
Christian Aid, United Kingdom  
Church Development Service (EED), Germany  
CMC Mensen met een missie, Dutch Catholic Missionary Development Agency, Netherlands  
11.11.11 - Coalition of the Flemish North-South Movement, Belgium  
Conference of Religious in the Netherlands (KNR), Netherlands

CORDAID, Netherlands  
Critical Ecology - Institute of Applied Cultural Research, Germany  
Mr. Boris Dittrich, Member of Parliament for the Democrats '66, Netherlands  
Rev. Dr. Markus Dröge, Conference Minister of Koblenz District Conference, Germany  
Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe (EYCE), Belgium  
Ms. Angeliën Eijssink, Member of Parliament for the Social Democratic Party (PvdA), Netherlands  
Evangelical Church in the Rhineland, Germany  
Evangelical Church of Westphalia, Germany  
Philippine Solidarity Group (FGN), Netherlands  
Ms. Thea Fierens, Member of Parliament for the Social Democratic Party (PvdA), Netherlands  
Finnish Asiatic Society, Finland  
Finnish Philippine Society, Finland  
Prof. Kees Flinterman, Professor of Human Rights, University of Utrecht, Netherlands  
Ms. Cecilia Jimenez, Geneva Forum for Philippine Concerns (GFPC), Switzerland  
Femke Halsema, Farah Karimi, Wijnand Duyverdak, Ineke van Gent, Nevin Özütok, Paul Jongbloed, Members of Parliament, Green Left Party, Netherlands

Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO), Netherlands  
Dutch section of the International Commission of Jurists (NJCM), Netherlands  
International Peace Observers Network (IPON), Germany  
Justitia et Pax, Netherlands  
Prof. Menno T. Kamminga, Professor of International Law, Director - Maastricht Centre for Human Rights, University of Maastricht, Netherlands  
Karl Kübel Foundation, Germany  
Kindernothilfe (KNH), Germany  
Philippine-European Solidarity Center (KSP), Netherlands  
Foundation Lawyers for Lawyers, Netherlands  
Misereor, Germany  
Missio-Munich, Germany  
Missionszentrale der Franziskaner (MZF), Germany  
Netherlands Humanistic Committee on Human Rights (HOM), Netherlands  
Mr. Nonoi Hacbang, Commission for Filipino Migrant Workers (CFAW), Netherlands  
Office of Mission, Ecumenism and Global Responsibility of the Evangelical Church of Westphalia, Germany  
One World Action, United Kingdom  
One World Network Network Northrhine-Westphalia, Germany  
Oxfam Novib, Netherlands  
Partnership Third World, Germany  
Pax Christi German Section, Germany  
Pax Christi International, Belgium  
Philippinenbüro, Germany

Philippine Solidarity Group- Protestant Church of Jülich, Germany  
Philippine Indigenous People's Links, United Kingdom  
ProMISPA Friends of the Philippines, Germany  
Reporters Without Borders, International  
Dr. Frithjof Schmidt, Member of the European Parliament, Germany  
Ms. Dorothea Seeliger, Commissioner on Human Rights, Koblenz Church District Conference, Germany  
Southeast Asia Information Office, Germany  
Ms. Katharina Stahlenbrecher, Asia Working Group, Stiftung Umverteilen!, Germany  
Terre des Femmes, Germany  
Terre des Hommes, Germany  
Task Force Carabao, Germany  
Trade Union Solidarity Centre of Finland (SASK), Finland  
United Evangelical Mission (VEM/UEM), Germany  
United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG), United Kingdom  
Ms. Pietje Vervest, Transnational Institute, Netherlands  
Dr. Rainer Werning, Political Scientist and Author, Germany  
Workers' Educational Association of Finland, Finland  
XminusY Solidarity Fund, Netherlands