



MANITOBA FEDERATION OF LABOUR / CLC-CTC
FÉDÉRATION DU TRAVAIL DU MANITOBA / CTC-CLC

303 - 275 Broadway
Winnipeg Manitoba
R3C 4M6

Phone (204) 947-1400
Fax (204) 943-4276
www.mfl.mb.ca

June 14, 2010

Mrs. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President
Republic of the Philippines
Malacanang Palace
JP Laurel Street, San Miguel
Manila 1005
Philippines

via email corres@op.gov.ph

Dear President Macapagal-Arroyo:

Re: Murder of Labour Leader Edward Panganiban

I am writing to bring attention to and condemn the brutal murder of labour leader Edward Panganiban who was killed June 2, 2010 in Santa Rosa City, Laguna, Philippines.

I have learned that at around 5:20 p.m. on that day, Edward Panganiban, a maintenance staff worker at Takata Corporation in the Philippines was on his way to work aboard his motorcycle when two unidentified motorcyclists in hoods and helmets followed him closely and shot him point-blank. Panganiban died instantly having sustained 12 gunshot wounds.

I was also informed that at the time of his death, there was an on-going labour dispute, with Takata management's continuous refusal to recognize the union despite its legitimacy and ignoring union's intent to sit to a collective bargaining negotiation. As secretary of the independent union Samahang Lakas ng Manggagawa sa Takata Philippines Corporation (SALAMAT-Independent), Panganiban has been very active and vocal in demanding for workers' rights.

It was also alarming to learn that aside from Panganiban, most union officers and active members have experienced surveillance, which is being operated by elements of the Intelligence Services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) since 2007 – threatening and intimidating them from conducting union activities.

I urge you to ensure that an impartial and effective investigation be conducted into Panganiban's case. Any information which will help to identify the perpetrators and bring his killers to justice must be taken seriously.

.../2



G. Macapagal-Arroyo/K. Rebeck

Re: Murder of Labour Leader Edward Panganiban

June 14, 2010

Page 2

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and other authorities must conduct an inquiry into the reported surveillance of labour leaders and their organizations, and the reported anti-union seminars conducted by Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy (ANAD), a group actively engaged in red-tagging militant unions and progressive organizations.

Additionally, I urge you to ensure that adequate protection and security is afforded to potential witnesses and the family of Panganiban as well as his co-workers.

Specific to the company, I urge Takata Corporation to respect ILO Convention No. 87 (*Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize*, 1948), and Convention No. 98 (*Right to Collectively Organize and Collective Bargaining*, 1949), thereby recognizing SALAMAT-Independent and commence negotiations immediately.

I trust that you will take action in this case.

Yours sincerely,



Kevin Rebeck, President
Manitoba Federation of Labour
Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada

KR/ph.cope342

copy: Benigno Aquino III, President, Republic of the Philippines corres@op.gov.ph
Leila De Lima, Commissioner, Commission on Human Rights chr.delima@yahoo.com
Jesus A. Verzosa, Chief, Philippine National Police (PNP) bluetree73@gmail.com
Alberto Agra, Acting Secretary, Department of Justice - fax 63 2 521 1614
Ronaldo V. Puno, Secretary, Dept. of Interior & Local Government rvpuno@dilg.gov.ph
Katsuhiko Teramura, President, Takata (Philippines) Corporation - fax: 63 49 541 2960
Shigehisa Takada President & CEO, Takata Corporation, Japan **via mail**
Manitoba Federation of Labour Executive Council **via email**
Bayan Canada - diwa.marcelino@gmail.com
NCPWR-ST - ncpwr.st@gmail.com
Workers Rights - granahe.st@gmail.com