

**Campaign for Human Rights in the Philippines (CHRP) calls for day of action in London (1-3pm on 16 November outside Embassy of RP) in response to killings, abductions and harassment of political, social and trade union activists**

The Campaign for Human Rights in the Philippines (CHRP) together with other civil society organisations, including Filipino migrant organisations in the UK and trade unions, will hold a peaceful protest in front of the gates of the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines at Palace Green Road, at Kensington High Street between 1-3pm on Thursday 16 November to condemn the escalating violence in the Philippines against political and social activists, including trade unionists. The CHRP urges UK trade unions to actively support this picket given the number of trade unionists amongst the victims. A request to the Ambassador to meet with a small delegation during the time of the protest has been made to the Embassy in London.

The CHRP was set up by human rights activists in London in February 2006 in response to the serious and growing levels of political killings and disappearances since President Arroyo came to power in January 2001. The number of political killings is now more than 770. These include political activists, farmers' leaders, students, priests, lawyers, journalists and trade union organisers.

Earlier this year CHRP gained the support of MPs to sponsor an Early Day Motion (EDM) in the House of Commons condemning the killings and the arrest of opposition political party leaders in the Philippines. CHRP has been working closely with Amnesty International to publicise a human rights crisis which has gained little publicity or recognition around the world. In August 2006 Amnesty International produced a report "Political Killings, Human Rights and the Peace Process" <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engasa350062006> which noted "a politically motivated pattern of killings". Amnesty International also noted that government attempts to investigate the killings were inadequate and lacked credibility, giving rise to "a climate of impunity". In not a single case has any perpetrator been brought to justice. The Chair of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in the Philippines, Purificacion Quisumbing, warned that the Philippines was in danger of being blacklisted by the United Nations for failing to submit reports on alleged human rights violations in the country. Quisumbing said the failure of the authorities to stop the killings and alleged abductions of left-wing activists might be considered by the UN as a reason for the blacklist in addition to the Government's failure to submit 14 "overdue reports" (on human rights violations) some dating as far back as 1992.

[http://newsinfo.inq7.net/topstories/topstories/view\\_article.php?article\\_id=12043](http://newsinfo.inq7.net/topstories/topstories/view_article.php?article_id=12043)

Officers of the Kilusang Mayo Uno Labor Center (KMU) have been prime targets of what Amnesty International calls, EJE's – extra judicial executions. KMU have called for an international day of action on 16 November, to coincide with the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the killings of 7 workers on the picket line at Hacienda Luisita.

<http://www.kilusangmayouno.org/international-campaign-stop-trade-union-repression>. The KMU have this week filed a complaint with the ILO regarding violations of labor rights of Filipino workers. <http://www.kilusangmayouno.org/kmu-complains-arroyo-government-international-labour-organisation-ilo>

In July 2006 the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, ICFTU (now ITUC) gathered information on 16 murders and 9 abductions of trade union organisers and leaders from September 2005.

<http://www.icftu.org/displaydocument.asp?Index=991223935&Language=EN> Guy Ryder the General Secretary of the ICFTU warned "The number of labour-related killings in the Philippines now places it in a similar category to Colombia."

The Centre for Human and Trade Union Rights (CHTUR) in the Philippines [www.ctuhr.org](http://www.ctuhr.org) has reported more than 64 killings of trade union organisers during Mrs Arroyo's presidency. In addition to these killings CHTUR has recorded 982 cases of trade union and human rights violations, including assault on the picket line, illegal arrest and detention, harassment and abduction.

The current level of political killings in the Philippines, including the systematic murder of trade union leaders must be of serious concern to all those who wish defend basic human and trade union rights. It is greater now, in terms of percentages that at any time under the Marcos dictatorship. The CHRP is supporting the call by the KMU for an International Day of Protest against Trade Union Repression and Political Killings in the Philippines on 16 November 2006. We are requesting UK trade unions to support the day of action by writing protest letters to: H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President, Malacañang Palace, Manila, Philippines and to the Ambassador to the UK, Mr Edgardo Espiritu, 9a Palace Green, London W8, and by showing up at the Embassy on Thursday with your branch, regional and national banners.

In solidarity with workers in the Philippines – End the killings!

[www.chrp.org.uk](http://www.chrp.org.uk)

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

## Campaign for Human Rights in the Philippines

1PM, THURSDAY 16th  
NOVEMBER 2006

We are calling on all those who oppose the political killings in the Philippines to join us in a protest outside the Philippines Embassy. It is aimed at condemning the intensified attacks and human rights violations being carried out by the government of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

There are now over 800 political killings, murders which are not being investigated.

The 16th of November has great significance. It was two years ago when the Hacienda Luisita Massacre occurred. Seven workers and supporters were murdered following a violent dispersal of the Hacienda Luisita strike by police, military and paid thugs under the direct orders of the Arroyo government.

Thus, the International Day of Protest against Trade

Union Repression and Political Killings in the Philippines this coming November 16th 2006 would serve as a recognition and commemoration of not only of Hacienda Luisita but of those who have fallen victim to the Arroyo government.

Join us in our protest outside the Philippine Embassy

### DIRECTIONS:

Exit High Street Kensington Tube Station (which is on the Circle and District Lines) and take a right.

Walk down High Street Kensington Road. Just before Kensington Gardens you should see black gates on the other side of the road (next to a hotel).

This is the entrance to Kensington Palace Gardens where the Philippines Embassy is.

Please note that for security reasons the protest shall be held just outside the gates and not directly in front of the Philippines Embassy.



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