



Aktionsbündnis Menschenrechte – Philippinen
c/o philippinenbüro e.V., Hohenzollernring 52, D-50672 Köln
H.E. Benigno S. Aquino III
President of the Republic of the Philippines
Malacanang Palace
JP Laurel St., San Miguel
Manila
Philippines

Action Network Human Rights - Philippines

Coordination Office
c/o philippinenbüro e.V. im Asienhaus
Hohenzollernring 52
D-50672 Köln/ Germany
Ph.: +49 [0] 221 716121 22
Fax: +(49) [0]221 716121 10
email: amp@asienhaus.de

Cologne, 8 January 2013

Dear Mr. President,

A year ago, on January 13, 2012, the well-known Philippine human rights activist Temogen "Cocoy" Tulawie was arrested by security forces in Davao/Mindanao.

He is accused of having prepared an attempt on the life of Sakur Tan, Governor of the Province of Sulu. Together with many national and international partners, the Action Network Human Rights-Philippines (Aktionsbündnis Menschenrechte-Philippinen – AMP) is convinced that the accusations against Mr. Tulawie have been made up in order to silence this activist, who has documented and made public violations against human rights in Sulu for many years.

All witness statements, on which the indictment is based, are forced and have in the meantime been withdrawn. Due to his work as human rights activist, Mr. Tulawie was massively threatened in Sulu, so that he had to hide away until his arrest.

In the wake of the attempted relocation of his process to Manila by Governor Tan, Mr. Tulawie was again threatened with death. According to reports, imprisoned violent criminals have already been ordered to murder Mr. Tulawie upon his arrival at the prison of Bicutan. Therefore, it must be feared that Mr. Tulawie's life is in danger, should he be transferred to the prison of Bicutan.

On the anniversary of Mr. Tulawie's arrest we call on the Government of the Philippines to spare no effort to protect the life and health of this human rights activist.

The relocation of the trial to Manila should be reversed, as it is a further delay of the process as a whole and a huge threat to Mr. Tulawie's life.

Furthermore, we expect a fair and speedier trial against Mr. Tulawie in order to refute the alleged accusations against him once and for all. We expect the Philippine Government to set up an independent investigative committee to clear up the many cases of criminalization of human rights defenders quickly and comprehensively.

Mr. President Aquino, we strongly request you to act in compliance with the UN Declaration of Human Rights Defenders! Procure that human rights defenders get the protection from the government they are entitled to, so that they are able to fulfil their important tasks.

Most respectfully,

Jochen Motte
(Chair)

Maike Grabowski
(Coordinator)

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



Copy to:

Secretary Leila de Lima
Department of Justice

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
Maria Lourdes P.A. Sereno

Ambassador Maria Cleofe R. Natividad
Philippine Embassy Berlin
Germany

Ambassador H.E. J. Heidorn
German Embassy Manila

Ambassador Guy Ledoux
Delegation of the European Union to the
Philippines

UN Special Rapporteur on the
situation of human rights defenders
Margaret Sekagya

EU Special Representative for
Human Rights
Stavros Lambrinidis

Markus Löning
German Federal Government
Commissioner for Human Rights
Policy and Humanitarian Aid
Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Birgitt Ory
Desk Officer for South East Asia,
Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Seamus Gillespie
Head, European External Action Service's
Unit for relations with South East Asia

Lubomir Frebort
Head of Political, Press and Information
Section
Delegation of the European Union to the
Philippines

Ingo Niemann
Deputy for Asia
Human Rights Department
Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Barbara Lochbihler
Chair of the Subcommittee on
Human Rights
European Parliament

Tom Koenigs
Chair of the Committee on Human
Rights and Humanitarian Aid
German Bundestag

Several German Parliamentarians

Partner Organizations in the
Philippines

About the Action Network Human Rights - Philippines

The Action Network Human Rights - Philippines (Aktionsbündnis Menschenrechte – Philippinen, AMP) was formed in August 2007 to promote lobby- and information work in Germany and the EU regarding the human rights situation in the Philippines. Through its office, the network coordinates publications, events and lobby activities. Target groups are political decision makers, human rights defenders and social activists as well as the media in Germany and Europe. Member organizations are Amnesty International Germany, Bread for the World – Church Development Service, Misereor, Missio, philippinenbüro and United Evangelical Mission (UEM). The main focus of the network lies on the core human rights issues of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

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

