



Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Per Stig Møller
Foreign Ministry
Asiatisk Plads
Copenhagen, Denmark

Dansk Journalistforbund
medier & kommunikation

The Danish Union of Journalists

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RE: Massacre in the Philippines

Dear Honourable Minister,

I am writing as president of The Danish Union of Journalists on behalf of all journalists in our country, to urge you to do everything in your power to press the Government of the Philippines to institute a thorough and immediate inquiry into the massacre of a confirmed 59 people in Maguindanao province, Mindanao, on November 23.

Among this group are 30 journalists and media workers. Four journalists remain unaccounted for as of November 27.

This is the worst mass killing of journalist and media workers ever recorded.

Under the Arroyo administration, the Philippines has become the most dangerous place in the world for media personnel. Before November 23, at least 75 journalists have been killed during the administration's eight-year tenure.

The Government of the Philippines has been shamefully slow in acting to end violence against the media and a culture of impunity for the murders of journalists. At last count only four convictions had been secured in all these cases.

Our colleagues and partner organisations in the Philippines, affiliated under the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), are concerned that security forces are implicated in this latest atrocity. It is of paramount importance that the international community – and our own Government – take a strong stand to condemn systematic violence against the media in the Philippines.

We urge you to express our country's horror at this outrage in the strongest possible terms, noting that the international community of journalists will be uniting in a Global Day of Action and Mourning for our friends in the Philippines on December 9.

Yours Sincerely,

Mogens Blicher Bjerregård
President
The Danish Union of Journalists