

1 dec 09 Notat



Her Excellency Mrs. Victoria S. Bataclan
Ambassador
Embassy of Philippines
Fourth Floor, Nedre Vollgate 4
NO-0158 Oslo
Norway

Dansk Journalistforbund
medier & kommunikation

The Danish Union of Journalists

Gammel Strand 46
1202 København K
Danmark

+45 3342 8000
dj@journalistforbundet.dk
journalistforbundet.dk

RE: Massacre in the Philippines

Your Excellency, Mrs. Victoria S. Bataclan

The Danish Union of Journalists respectfully requests your cooperation in ensuring the Government of the Philippines is aware of the global outrage about the massacre of a confirmed 59 people in Maguindanao Province, Mindanao, on November 23.

We urge you to use your authority and position to impress upon your Government that the global community is demanding immediate and credible action to ensure that all parties responsible for this atrocity are held accountable to the full limit of the law.

We are informed by the International Federation of Journalists and its affiliate the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines that at least 30 journalists and media workers were among those murdered. At the time of writing, another four media personnel are unaccounted for.

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

Journalists and the international media community are grieving and distraught at the failure of the Government of the Philippines to uphold its responsibility to protect our colleagues and to end the long-running culture of impunity for the murders of journalists in the Philippines.

During President Arroyo's tenure, at least 75 journalists have been killed in the Philippines. Almost all have been killed in relation to their professional work. At last count, only four convictions had been secured for these killings. Outside of Iraq, the Philippines has become the most dangerous country for journalists this century.

The Government of the Philippines is obliged under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1738 (2006) to actively protect journalists and media workers reporting in conflict zones within their national borders, in accordance with their status as civilians under international law.

We call on you to ensure your Government and police and security forces act on their responsibility to bring the perpetrators and masterminds of the November 23 atrocity to account, without delay, and to act now to end the culture of impunity that has plagued the Philippines for so long.

Respectfully Yours

Mogens Blicher Bjerregård
President