



AFL-CIO

AMERICA'S UNIONS

**American Federation
of Labor and
Congress of Industrial
Organizations**

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April 29, 2019

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

On behalf of the AFL-CIO and the Communication Workers of America (CWA), we are writing to urge your Administration to request that the government of President Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines halt the ongoing and growing repression of trade union members and activists in the country. We believe that these actions in a country, with which we have a long history and partnership, are contrary to fundamental workers rights. It should be communicated to the Duterte Administration that the U.S. government believes the climate of fear, repression of those seeking to exercise their rights and the concerted targeting of trade union leaders must end.

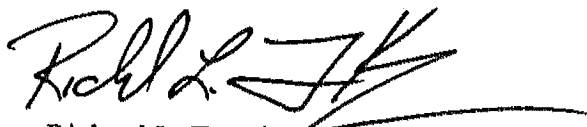
We have heard from workers and their advocates in the Philippines that the political situation is deteriorating as the Duterte government uses the declaration of martial law in the province of Mindanao as a pretext to attack those who are simply struggling to improve the conditions for working women and men. Union leaders have been imprisoned on false and frivolous charges in an effort to halt their actions in support of workers and expression of their rights. Union leaders and worker activists are growing increasingly fearful for their personal safety just for speaking up.

Instead of this repressive climate, the Duterte Administration should instead help create a climate where the rights of workers to organize and bargain free from fear and intimidation are respected and protected. That is why we urge you to direct your Administration to call on the Duterte Government to end the current President persecution of trade union leaders and activists. Further, as your Administration has previously indicated a desire to begin negotiations on a

Donald Trump
April 29, 2019
Page Two

bilateral trade agreement with the Philippines, we urge the Trump Administration to withhold trade negotiations with the Philippines until the government halts these practices.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Trumka
President, AFL-CIO



Chris Shelton
President, CWA

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opeiu#2, aflcio