



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

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# AFL-CIO

AMERICA'S UNIONS

November 5, 2019

Mr. Jose Manuel G Romualdez, Ambassador  
Embassy of the Philippines  
Bataan Street corner 1600 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Email: [ambassador@phembassy-us.org](mailto:ambassador@phembassy-us.org)

Dear Ambassador:

## **The holding of Filipino members of labor and civil society organizations in Bacolod, Negros Occidental**

We are concerned to hear of police raids that were conducted at the homes and offices of civil society and labor organizations in Bacolod last week. Police stormed the homes and offices of individuals who are members of progressive organizations Bayan Muna, GABRIELA, and the National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW) on the evening of Thursday, October 28. When the office of GABRIELA was raided, witnesses report that ununiformed masked men entered the property and planted two pistols and eight bullets in two parts of the property, and then alleged that the planted evidence belonged to the individuals arrested. The office of GABRIELA is also the home of Anne Kruger and Mike dela Concepción where they live with their six small children.

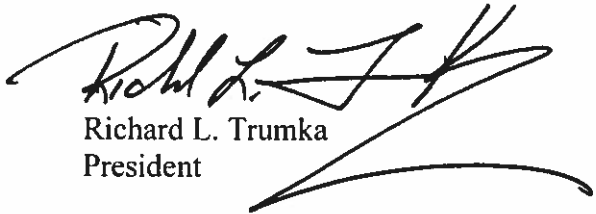
This raid and the arrests of almost 60 other primarily trade union leaders at the same time appears to be a continuation of a growing trend to threaten, coerce and violate the human rights of union leaders and worker activists who are trying to organize to improve working conditions. We urge the Government of the Philippines to stop this crackdown on workers and their advocates wishing to exercise their human rights.

We hold the Government of the Philippines responsible for the physical integrity of the arrested individuals while in custody.

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We call on the Filipino government to immediately release these members of civil society and labor organizations from jail and drop all charges. We also call on the government to stop the police harassment of members of these civil society and labor organizations, and their families.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Trumka  
President

RLT/CF/jp  
OPEIU#2