

His Excellency Mr Enrique Manolo
Ambassador
Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines
6-8 Suffolk Street
London SW1Y 4HG

date: 12 July 2013
contact: Rosa Crawford
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Dear Ambassador,

Murder of Antonio Petalcorin

On behalf of the British Trades Union Congress and almost 6 million members of our affiliated unions and British workers, I am writing to protest about the recent murder of Antonio “Dodong” Petalcorin, President of the Davao City-based Network of Transport Organizations (NETO), an affiliate of the National Confederation of Transportworkers’ Union (NCTU)-Alliance of Progressive Labour (APL).

At about 8 am on 2 July 2013, Dodong Petalcorin was shot three times in the chest by an assassin as he was leaving his home for the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB). The assassin sped off on a motorcycle that had been waiting nearby.

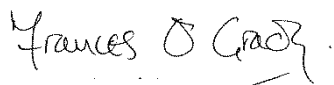
It is wholly unacceptable that Dodong Petalcorin’s death adds to the long list of trade unionists murdered in the Philippines. Just this year two other APL leaders have been assassinated with no arrests or prosecutions for those responsible. Following the May 2013 elections, Romy Almacin, a Municipal Councilor and transport leader was shot to death in broad daylight. His murder is believed to be related to his campaign against graft and corruption and illegal logging in that municipality. Emilio Rivera, former Chairman of an independent transport workers’ organization, Matina Aplaya Transport Cooperative (MATRANSCO), was murdered on 25 January 2013 near the offices of the LTFRB. It is believed his murder was linked to his campaign to expose corruption at the LTFRB and to oust its director.

I urge your government to ensure that the appropriate authorities act promptly to identify and prosecute those responsible for these crimes. I hope that the government will work with the trade unions to develop a plan to counter the serious and growing violence against trade unionists. Trade union rights must be respected and trade unionists at risk of reprisals for

their legitimate activity must be provided with the protection necessary to carry out their work.

I look forward to receiving confirmation from you that our concerns have been conveyed to the government. Please could you also keep us informed of the progress of the investigation into the murder of Dodong Petalcorin and subsequent prosecutions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Frances O'Grady'.

FRANCES O'GRADY
General Secretary