

May 2, 2007

The Honorable Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President, Republic of the Philippines
Malacanang Palace
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Dear President Macapagal-Arroyo:

In November, a number of prominent American clothing retailers sent you the attached letter concerning reports of violence against trade unionists and labor rights advocates in the Philippines. We write to inform you that we share their concern about this situation and support their call for the Filipino government to take action to protect the safety and rights of workers, unions, and other worker rights organizations.

We too are aware of reports of violent attacks on striking workers and killings of labor rights advocates in the Philippines, including the recent Worker Rights Consortium report concerning the Chong Won factory in the Cavite Export Processing Zone. We are deeply concerned about these reports.

Specifically we join Wal-Mart, Gap, and the other signatories of the November letter in asking you to do the following:

- Take proactive measures for ensuring the physical safety and for protecting the rights of workers and labor rights promoters.
- Support, and fully cooperate with, independent and impartial investigations into the killing of Bishop Alberto Ramento, chair of the Board of Directors of the Workers Assistance Center, and the shooting of Gerardo Cristobal, former union president and a member of the Solidarity of Cavite Workers (SCW). In addition, we ask that you do the same regarding the murder of Jesus Buth Servida, officer of the SCW, as well as the shooting of Joel Sale, another SCW member.

As companies that believe strongly in ensuring respect for the rights of workers throughout our supply chains, it is very important to us that the countries from

which we source are places where these rights are respected. This includes the right to freedom of association and the right to speak out publicly concerning labor rights issues without fear of retaliation.

We appreciate your attention to these concerns. We look forward to receiving your response to this letter and to your taking the actions necessary to prevent any further acts of violence and to investigate fully those that have occurred.

Sincerely,

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