

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

July 29, 2009

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA
Washington District of Columbia
United States of America

Dear Mr. President,


We shared the wonderful jubilation of the American people during your historic election triumph. When you assumed office early this year, we rejoiced at the audacious hope that you inspired, and on your promise of change for the common good.


We joined all freedom loving people of the world who exulted when you declared that “those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent... are on the wrong side of history.”


The Filipino people share the same morals, ideals, and aspirations that define the envied way of life of the American people. Filipinos yearn for the same kind of leaders that the American people yearn for themselves; leaders who are imbued with the right values, lead principled lives, and govern with the highest ethical standards. The ideals of justice, democracy and the upliftment of human rights animate the Filipino people's dreams of a better world in much the same way that these ideals animate the dreams of the American people.


Upon your invitation, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will have the chance to meet with you on July 30, 2009. In your meeting with Ms. Arroyo, it may serve you well to be mindful of Ms. Arroyo's legacy of corruption, extra-judicial killings, enforced disappearances, torture, bribery, election cheating, among others. We do not wish to belabor you with the details of these high crimes which have surely been documented and reported by the U.S. State Department to your Office.

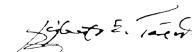
The Filipino people also yearn for change from the effrontery of hopelessness and the curse of decadence that Ms. Arroyo represents. In your meeting with Ms. Arroyo, we feel confident that you will make clear to her that a Government that does not comply with Principles of Democracy and respect for Human Rights cannot have the approval and support of your administration. We implore you Mr. President to inspire hope and be an instrument of change for the common good of the long suffering Filipino people.



Teofisto T. Guingona Jr.
Former Vice President


Jovito R. Salonga
Former Senate President



Franklin M. Drilon
Former Senate President


Camilo D. Quiason
Former Supreme Court Justice


Wigberto E. Tañada
Former Senator



Sergio R. Osmeña III
Former Senator


Vicente T. Paterno
Former Senator

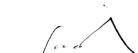

Agapito A. Aquino
Former Senator

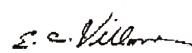

Josefina T. Lichauco
Former Cabinet Secretary/CCM


Francisco I. Chavez
Former Solicitor General



Corazon J. Soliman
Former Cabinet Secretary


Juan Santos
Former Cabinet Secretary


Jejomar C. Binay
Mayor, Makati City


Bro. Eddie C. Villanueva
National Chairman, PJM


Sr. Mary John Mananzan, OSB
Co-Chairperson, AMRSP


Harry L. Roque Jr.
UP Law/CCM


Jun I. Lozada
State Witness, ZTE-NBN