



8455 Colesville Road, Suite 1100, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910 USA

August 7, 2019

H.E. Rodrigo Duterte
President of the Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang Palace
JP Laurel St., San Miguel
Manila, The Philippines 1005

Dear President Duterte:

On behalf of the undersigned unions, representing over one million nurses around the globe and united under the banner of Global Nurses United, we would like to express our deep concern about the experiences of threats and harassment faced by our affiliates, friends and colleagues in the health sector in the Philippines.

Our affiliates, **Alliance of Health Workers (AHW)** and **Filipino Nurses United (FNU)**, are non-profit organizations and labour unions of nurses and other health workers that have been fervently working for the economic and democratic rights of workers in the health sector, including support of the Filipino people's right to health care. Recently, they have been victims of vilification and a smear campaign with systematic attacks of false information, labelling them as communist fronts.

The unions report that men in civilian clothes, identifying themselves as police agents, visited their union offices and interrogated a union officer. In addition, leaders and staff of health organizations have received threatening anonymous messages that they are being watched. Furthermore, AHW was included in a list of organizations purportedly "acting as CPP fronts," issued by National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon.

The sinister campaign against progressive and dedicated organizations, such as AHW and FNU, sows fear among the people and suppresses legitimate protests and dissent of the people. Furthermore, it is in direct contravention of Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labour

Organization concerning the right of workers to organize unions and bargain collectively, as well as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In this kind of situation, the safety and lives of leaders and members of the aforementioned organizations are put in clear danger. In so doing, their work as representatives of nurses and health care workers is put at risk, which also negatively impacts patient care.

We earnestly call on the Philippine government to protect them and to ensure an immediate stop to further attacks and vilification campaign. In so doing, they can conduct their work without fear for their lives and safety.

Sincerely,

Brett Holmes, General Secretary
New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association
NSW Branch Secretary Australian Nursing Federation
Australia

Solange Caetano, President
Federação Nacional dos Enfermeiros
Sindicato dos Enfermeiros do Estado de São Paulo
Brazil

Linda Silas, President
Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions
Canada

Nancy Bédard, President
Fédération interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec
Canada

Maria Esther Hernandez Solis , Executive Committee Director
Asociación Nacional de Profesionales en Enfermería
Costa Rica

Julio Cesar García Cruceta, General Secretary
Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de Enfermería
Dominican Republic

Virgilio Lebron, President
Asociación de Enfermera del Instituto Dominicano Seguros Sociales ADEIDSS
Dominican Republic

George Tsolas, President
Thomai Aslanoglou, General Secretary
Pan-Hellenic Federation of Nursing Staff (PASONOP)
Greece

Luis Antulio Alpírez Guzmán, General Secretary
Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de Salud de Guatemala
Guatemala

Rince Joseph, National Working President
United Nurses Association
India

Edward Mathews, Director of Professional and Regulatory Services
Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation
Ireland

Kerri Nuku, Co-President
Grant Brookes, Co-President
New Zealand Nurses Organisation | Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa
New Zealand

Zoila Cotrina Díaz, President
Federación de Enfermeras del Ministerio de Salud del Perú (FEDEMINSAP)
Peru

Na, Sun Ja President
Korean Health and Medical Workers' Union
South Korea

W. Saman Rathnapriya Silva, President
Government Nursing Officers Association
National Trade Union Front
Sri Lanka

Zxyyann Lu, Board member
Taiwan Nurses' Union
Taiwan

Justus Cherop Kiplangat, President
Uganda Nurses and Midwives Union
Uganda

Bonnie Castillo, Executive Director
Deborah Burger, President
Zenei Cortez, President
Jean Ross, President
National Nurses United
United States of America

Silvia Santana, President
Sindicato Unico de Enfermería del Uruguay
Uruguay

cc: Ms. Jocelyn Andamo, President, Filipino Nurses United
Mr. Robert Mendoza, President, Alliance of Health Workers
Mr. Guy Ryder, Director-General, International Labour Organization
Ms. Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation