

29th International Old Catholic Congress

Resolution about the current political situation in the Philippines

The 29th International Old Catholic Congress (of the Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht), which met from 7th to 11th August 2006 with the theme “the Hope which lives in us”, in Freiburg i.B. (Germany), speaks out:

In view of the current political situation in the Philippines

- having taken notice of politically inspired attacks,
- being concerned about the fate of individuals active in the field of human rights and about cases of impunity in the Philippines,
- taking into account our bond with the clergy and faithful of our sister Church, the Iglesia Filipina Independiente,

we call upon the government of the Philippines, and its president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to

1. condemn the politically inspired killings and other forms of political intimidation publicly;
2. take steps immediately to protect the life and security of all individuals in the Philippines particularly those active in the field of human rights;
3. investigate and where necessary prosecute the alleged perpetrators;
4. investigate allegations that members of security forces could be involved in these activities in order to promote credibility of the government;
5. establish an independent body to investigate the politically inspired killings and intimidations and to follow its recommendations;
6. to take all measures to enforce human rights and the rule of law for the benefit of the whole people of the Philippines.

Agreed by the 29th International Old Catholic Congress with twelve votes against and one abstention.

Freiburg (Germany), 11 August 2006