



PRESS STATEMENT

(for immediate release)

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TUCP condemns treacherous murder of a union leader; calls for immediate investigation and justice

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) condemns the senseless attack against trade unions leaders, the most recent of which involves the treacherous murder of former union president Edilberto Miralles.

Miralles, 65, was gunned down on his way to a labor case hearing at the National Labor Relations Commission in Quezon City in the morning of 23 September 2016.

“TUCP condemns the treacherous murder of brother Ed Miralles and the undeterred attacks against labor leaders,” says TUCP President Ruben Torres.

“We call on government for an immediate investigation and render justice for Bro. Miralles. Likewise, we reiterate our demand for government to resolve the pending cases of many labor leaders who met similar fate,” says Torres.

Miralles was employed by EPE Taxi (Ernesto P. Enriquez Taxi) until 2015. He was vigorously involved in resolving many work-related and labor relations problems of union members.

EPE Taxi is operated by the Enriquez clan --probably the largest taxi operator in the country today with over 4,000 units and 8,000 employees consisting of drivers, mechanics, helpers, dispatchers, and admin personnel.

TUCP expressed its condolences and prayers for Miralles and his family.

“Unions’ contributions to better working conditions, labor policy, social justice, and economic development are highly undervalued. Trade unions are not the enemy. Injustice, inequality, and the lack of respect for human and labor rights are.” says Torres.

“We are reminding our union leaders and members with pending labor complaints against erring employers to be extra vigilant. Being a trade union leader is getting more and more precarious. Other sector’s active scheme to curtail our freedom of association and collective bargaining are not mere dismissal but intimidation, threats, or worst, murder,” says Torres.

TUCP pledged commitment to pursue social justice, decent work, and equitable growth for all.
(end)

TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES

*TUCP is the biggest confederation of trade unions in the Philippines with 1.2 million members from 40 affiliated national labor federations. Its most representative labor organization character is evidenced by its range of members **in all sectors**, from agriculture to industry to services, those in public service, including public school teachers, the largest informal sector organization in the Philippines, the largest organization of OFWs, as well as the first registered unions of workers in call center and BPOs (business process outsourcing), the largest federation of hotel and restaurant workers union, and the largest federation of farmers unions.*

TUCP's representations extend to the ASEAN, where the TUCP-led ASEAN Trade Union Council (ATUC) is implementing a wide-range tripartite-based project to promote and protect the rights of migrant workers.

TUCP is an affiliate of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and its Asia-Pacific Regional Organization (ITUC-AP). TUCP serves as Secretariat of the ASEAN Trade Union Council (ATUC) which is composed of 18 National Centers in 9 ASEAN countries, representing five million workers.