



National Union of Peoples' Lawyers

3F Erythrina Bldg., Maaralin Cor. Matatag Sts.,
Central District, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. No: +632-9206660 E-mail Add: nupl2007@gmail.com

Margaret Biggs
President
Canadian International Development Agency

Dear Ms. Margaret Biggs,

Greetings.

The National Union of Peoples' Lawyers (NUPL) is a nationwide association human rights lawyers, law students and para-legals in the Philippines. Since its founding, the NUPL has been in the forefront in the fight for the protection of human rights, and in ensuring greater access to justice. We have provided legal services to victims of human rights violations. We also served as legal consultants to peasant, trade union and other sectoral organizations, and provided them with legal services when required.

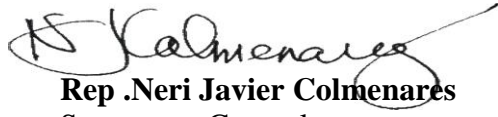
More than just ensuring that the people has access to justice, the NUPL, as an organization of peoples' lawyers, also endeavors for the elimination of inequality and oppression that pervades the Philippine society. The same ills that lead to inequality also contributed in the increase in incidents of human rights violations. NUPL believes that its mandate for justice and human rights will be best achieved through the elimination of these ills, and this forms an essential part of its struggle and advocacy.

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives has been a partner in this endeavor and struggle, and has played an important role in NUPL's advocacy, and in the struggle of the Filipino people as a whole. As such, through the support of KAIROS, the NUPL was able to hold a nationwide consultation on the Writ of Amparo, a new remedy for extra-judicial killings and enforced disappearances promulgated by the Philippine Supreme Court in 2007. As a result we were able to gather lawyer-members of the NUPL from all over the Philippines who shared their experiences in handling cases involving the Writ of Amparo, thereby helping us enhance our capability in handling such cases. The NUPL plans to hold more consultations in the future on this subject to ensure that peoples' lawyers will be updated on any developments regarding the Rule on the Writ of Amparo and to cull more experiences from lawyers who handle this kind of cases.

NUPL was asked by the Philippine Supreme Court to submit its recommendation on how to enhance the Writ of Amparo and make it more effective in protecting human rights as a result of this Kairos supported project.

Under the circumstances, your decision not to fund KAIROS 2009–2013 program raises a serious concern. While this development will not in any way stop us from continuing with our advocacy and struggle, it will nevertheless affect, and may even hamper, some of our programs to the detriment of our clients. As such, it is our

fervent request for you to reconsider your aforesaid decision, if only to allow KAIROS and its program partners to continue their work for human rights.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neri Colmenares", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rep .Neri Javier Colmenares
Secretary - General