To her Excellency GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines

Name of organisation, **based in** *country* **expresses its deep concern about the sudden accusations that have been raised against the Philippines citizen and labour activist, Emmanuel Asuncion and several other known labour and human right activists for crimes perpetrated in 2006 in Mindoro. The undersigned organisation urges the Philippines authorities to halt the trial and release the imprisoned activists.**

Name of organization is a member of the GoodElectronics network, an international network of labour unions and NGOs working for human rights and sustainability in the global electronics sector.
We have been informed by one of our partners within the Good Electronics network, the Philippines organization, Workers' Assistance Center (WAC), about the arrest of and the accusations raised against one of its board member, Emmanuel Asuncion, in the Southern Tagalog region, by the Calapan City Regional Trial Court (RTC) in Mindoro Oriental by virtue of a warrant of arrest issued by Judge Tomas Leynes
Emmanuel Asuncion and several other known labour and human rights activists (see the enclosed list) have been accused of multiple murders and attempted murders committed back in 2006.

According to the information we have received from WAC, the accusations have been fabricated, no preliminary investigation has been conducted and the accused have not had the proper possibilities to defend themselves.

Name of organisation is deeply concerned about this situation and is urging you to consider the demands of WAC, our partner within the Good Electronics network, which are as follows:

1. To recall the criminal charges against Emmanuel "Manny" Asuncion and to all other labour activists and leaders of people's organizations in Cavite;

2. To immediately and unconditionally release Atty. Remigio Saladero, Arnaldo Seminiano, Emmanuel Dioneda, Rogelio Galit, Nestor San Jose, and Crispin Zapanta.

3. More generally to stop all harassment, intimidation, threats, and deliberate attacks - including through judicial proceedings – against human rights defenders in the Philippines, and release immediately and unconditionally all those currently detained.

This should be done in accordance with the international and national obligations that the Philippines have ratified and we therefore urge the Philippines authorities to:

- Respect their human rights obligations as established by the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights and enshrined in the international instruments ratified by Philippines, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and guaranteed by the Philippines Constitution; sections four and eight, accordingly to fully respect and protect the right of all citizens to enjoy in particular the freedom of expression and association and the right to peaceful assembly;

- Comply with the provisions of the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, especially its Article 1 ("Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels") and Article 5 ("For the purpose of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, at the national and international levels: (a) To meet or assemble peacefully; (b) To form, join and participate in non-governmental organizations, associations or groups; (c) To communicate with non-governmental or intergovernmental organization").

Best regards,
your name
your association
Date

This letter was copied to :

Honorable Tomas Leynes
Presiding Judge
Regional Court of Justice, Branch 14
Calapan City, Oriental, Mindoro

Secretary Raul Gonzales
Department of Justice (DoJ)
Manila, PHILIPPINES

Secretary Ronaldo V. Puno
Department of Interior and Local Government
Quezon City, Philippines

Hon. Leila De Lima
Chairperson, Commission on Human Rights
Quezon City, PHILIPPINES