



**Mr. Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.**

President of the Republic of the Philippines  
Malacañang Palace, Kalayaan Hall, 2/F Jose Laurel Street  
San Miguel, Manila, Philippines 1005  
Email: op@president.gov.ph, op@malacanang.gov.ph

Amsterdam, 2024-03-31

Reference : 20240331001

Re.: urgent appeal for the release of Gerardo dela Peña

Tel. No. + 31 6 23180561

Honorable President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.

It has come to our attention that Mr. Gerardo dela Peña, the oldest political prisoner in the Philippines, was in 2013 arrested, convicted and sentenced to 20 to 40 years imprisonment, for a crime he did not commit.

Gerardo dela Peña's imprisonment is unjust. He deserves to spend the remaining years of his life with his family. **We call for the release of Mr. Gerardo dela Peña for humanitarian reasons.**

Coming from a family of land tillers, he was a peasant organizer in Bicol. In his younger years as an activist, he was detained and tortured by the police and military under the Marcos dictatorship in 1982. After his release, he became the provincial chairperson of SELDA (Samahan ng Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto) in Camarines Norte. Despite continued threats to his life and security, he continued his work in different people's organizations in the region.

We assume that Peña's conviction has to do with his fight for the rights of the oppressed, which applies to all political prisoners. We believe that arrests and detentions of activists are illegal, but futile attempts to stop people as dela Peña in defending the rights to life, livelihood, a society based on equality where everyone has a decent income. Gerardo dela Peña's deserves to spend the remaining years of his life with his family. We call for his release for humanitarian reasons.

We base our call on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and all major Human Rights instruments to which the Philippine Government is a party and signatory.

We would like to be informed about your decision!

Sincerely,

Theo Drcog  
Chairperson

Netherlands Philippines Solidarity Movement

CC to Department of Justice, Commission on Human Rights and Karapatan Alliance

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✉ Vlietwaard 318, 1824 LM Alkmaar | ☎ 0031(0)623180561 | @ stichting.NFS@gmail.com | www.nefiso.nl

**Mr. Jesus Crispin Remulla**

Secretary

Department of Justice

DOJ Building, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila,

Philippines 1000

Tel: (+632) 5238482, (+632) 5236826

Email: [osec@doj.gov.ph](mailto:osec@doj.gov.ph) | [soj@doj.gov.ph](mailto:soj@doj.gov.ph)

**Atty. Richard Palpal-latoc**

Chairperson

Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines

SAAC Building, UP Complex, Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City,

1101 Philippines

Tel: (+632) 89285655

Email: [ocrpp@chr.gov.ph](mailto:ocrpp@chr.gov.ph)

**Karapatan Alliance Philippines**

National Office

2/F Erythrina Bldg., #1 Maaralin cor Matatag Sts., Brgy. Central,

Diliman, Quezon City

1100 PHILIPPINES

Telefax: (+632) 435 4146

Email: [publicinfo@karapatan.org](mailto:publicinfo@karapatan.org)