



Mody GUIRO
President
Président

Kwasi ADU-AMANKWAH
General Secretary
Secrétaire Général

Route Internationale d'Atakpamé
Centre FOPADESC Agoè – Nyivé
P. : 4401 – Tel. : 00228 225 07 10
Fax : 00228 225 61 13
LOME - TOGO

Email : info@ituc-africa.org
Web : www.ituc-africa.org

President Benigno Aquino III
Malacañang Palace
Manilla, the Philippines

op@president.gov.ph

Lomé, 8 July 2013

O/R.: 045/2013/SG/RB

Murder of Antonio Petalcorin

Dear Mr President:

The **African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa)** expresses its shock at the recent murder of Antonio “Dodong” Petalcorin, President of the Davao City-based Network of Transport Organizations (NETO), an affiliate of the National Confederation of Transportworkers’ Union (NCTU)-Alliance of Progressive Labour (APL). His name is now added to an ever-growing list of trade unionists murdered for their union activity in the Philippines.

At about 8:00am on 2 July 2013, Dodong Petalcorin was shot three times in the chest by an assassin as he was leaving his home for the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB). The assassin sped off on a motorcycle that had been waiting nearby.

Two other APL leaders were murdered previously this year. Following the May 2013 elections, Romy Almacin, a Municipal Councilor and transport leader was shot to death in broad daylight. His murder is believed to be related to his campaign against graft and corruption and illegal logging in that municipality. Emilio Rivera, former Chairman of an independent transport workers’ organization, Matina Aplaya Transport Cooperative (MATRANSCO), was murdered on 25 January 2013 near the offices of the LTFRB. It is believed his murder was linked to his campaign to expose corruption at the LTFRB and to oust its director. In neither case has the state arrested or prosecuted those responsible for these crimes. This is wholly unacceptable.

Last April 2013, a grenade was lobbed into the home of another transport union leader but fortunately did not explode.

ITUC-AFRICA calls upon your government to act immediately to identify and prosecute the material and intellectual authors of these crimes. Further, it is obvious that violence against trade unionists is a serious and growing problem in the Philippines. We urge the government to work with the trade unions to develop a plan to ensure that trade union rights are respected and that trade unionists at risk of reprisals for their legitimate activity are provided the protection necessary to carry out their work.

Sincerely,

Kwasi Adu-Amankwah
General Secretary