



OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

J. HERBERT NELSON, II  
STATED CLERK



OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

877 EDSA, WEST TRIANGLE,  
QUEZON CITY

March 21, 2017

The Honorable Rodrigo Roa Duterte  
President of the Republic of the Philippines  
Malacañang Palace  
J.P. Laurel Street  
San Miguel, Manila 1005

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you as the highest ecclesial officers of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) and Presbyterian Church (USA). We write to you as partners in ministry with the same deep concerns and highest hopes for our countries and our world. We urge you to appeal to the United Arab Emirates' authorities to overturn the death penalty for Jennifer Dalquez who is currently awaiting her appeal hearing that will take place on March 27, at the Al-Ain Court of Appeals.

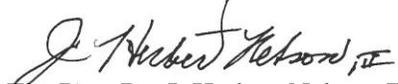
Twenty-two years ago, Flor Contemplacion was executed in Singapore. We recall your outrage over her death and the subsequent souring of relations between the Philippines and Singapore. From those days of serving as the mayor of Davao City to now as the highest elected official of the Republic of the Philippines, you continue to be in public office with greater challenges and aspirations.

Sadly, twenty-two years later, the lives of several overseas Filipino workers, especially young women are still vulnerable due to the lack of safety and protection from abuse and exploitation. Compounding their vulnerability are the protracted legal processes that they and their families must endure without full legal support and protections of their host countries and the Philippine government. The lives of vulnerable OFWs like Jennifer Dalquez should serve as reasons enough to create better support and strengthened protections for workers.

As church leaders who walk with people in death and in life, we affirm God's calling to justice with hope and redemption. We call upon you to promise and to do the same for your people.

Respectfully yours,

  
Bishop Reuel Norman O. Marigza  
General Secretary,  
United Church of Christ in the Philippines

  
The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly,  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)