

Secretary Menardo I. Guevarra
Department of Justice, Philippines
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Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my concern about the ongoing prosecution of five activists arrested in Tacloban City early this year – **Frenchie Mae Cumpio, Mariel Domequil, Marissa Cabaljao, Mira Legion, and Alexander Philip Abinguna** – who are active members of organizations involved in independent journalism, human rights, and environmental issues.

According to the activists, the circumstances of the raid of their offices that resulted in their arrest on 7 February 2020 remain questionable, with allegations of fabrication of evidence and the absence of witnesses.

I therefor call on your office to promptly, thoroughly, impartially and effectively investigate the arrested activists' allegations. If these allegations are proven, all charges against them must be dropped, those still detained should be released, and those reasonably suspected to be responsible for the violations should be held accountable in fair trials.

Yours sincerely,