

**MANIFESTO OF UNITY CALLING FOR THE
IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL
RELEASE OF CONG. CRISPIN BELTRAN
AND A HALT TO POLITICAL REPRESSION**



K A B E L

*An alliance for the immediate release of Anakpawis Representative Crispin B. Beltran, true leader of the Filipino people
Tel. No. (+632) 426 9442*

We, the undersigned, hereby unite in defense of Anakpawis Partylist (*Toiling Masses Party*) Representative Crispin B. Beltran.

We condemn the illegal arrest and inhumane detention of Cong. Beltran by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) last February 25, 2006. We deplore how Cong. Beltran and company were accosted without a warrant by elements of the CIDG, forcibly brought to Camp Crame for interrogation, and detained on false and null charges of inciting to sedition.

We deplore how Cong. Beltran was treacherously taken from his cell by the police on February 27 on the pretext of being given medical attention, and was subjected to an inquest on new charges of rebellion--an incident condemned as "an act of political harassment" by no less than international human rights lawyer Atty. Romeo T. Capulong. We deplore how Cong. Beltran has remained in detention under police custody up to this very moment.

We express deep concerns for Cong. Beltran's well-being and health. Cong. Beltran is 73 years old, recovering from a mild stroke, and is taking maintenance medicine for hypertension and diabetes. Several days after his unjust incarceration, Cong. Beltran was rushed to the PNP General Hospital for unstable blood pressure levels and remains there to date. These infuriating circumstances have considerably contributed to the deterioration of his health, something which this veteran labor leader does not deserve. We stand united in the belief that the best way to restore and stabilize his health is by immediately transferring him to a hospital of his choice and reversing the false and malicious charges filed against him.

Only dictatorships detain parliamentarians the way the PNP has detained Cong. Beltran. His continuing incarceration is not only unforgivably inhumane and blatantly unconstitutional, it is also a despicable act of political repression that deserves the condemnation of the entire Filipino people and the international community. We condemn this brazen violation of the right to due process under the law and the treacherous connivance between the public officials involved in Cong. Beltran's arrest and detention.

We demand nothing less than Cong. Beltran's immediate and unconditional release from unjust detention in Camp Crame. We strongly support the dropping of false, null, repressive and malicious charges of inciting to sedition and rebellion filed against him by the PNP and the Department of Justice (DOJ).

We also deplore the rabid campaign of political repression against progressive solons such as Cong. Beltran, Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano, Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza, Bayan Muna Reps. Satur Ocampo, Joel Virador, and Teddy Casino, leaders and supporters of progressive organizations, the Filipino mass media, and ordinary citizens. It is deeply tragic how human rights violations and violations of civil and political rights have persisted and reached alarming levels in contemporary Philippine society. These acts of political repression must be duly condemned and the perpetrators held accountable.

We call on the Filipino people and the international community to stand in favor of basic civil and political rights.

**RELEASE CONG. CRISPIN "KA BEL" BELTRAN NOW!
SUPPORT THE END OF POLITICAL REPRESSION IN THE PHILIPPINES AND ELSEWHERE IN THE
WORLD WHERE INJUSTICE AND TYRANNY REIGNS!**