SANGGUNIANG PAMBANSA NG MGA SIMBAHAN SA PILIPINAS

National Council of Churches in the Philippines

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MEMBER CHURCHES

- Apostolic Catholic Church
- Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches
- Episcopal Church in the Philippines
- Iglesia Evangelica Metodista en Las Islas Filipinas
- Iglesia Filipina Independiente
- Iglesia Unida Ekyumenikal
- Lutheran Church in the Philippines
- The Salvation Army
- The United Methodist Church
- United Church of Christ in the Philippines

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Association of Christian Schools, Colleges and Universities
- Consortium of Christian Organizations in Rurban Development
- Ecumenical Church Foundation, Inc.
- Kaisahang Buhay Foundation
- Lingap Pangkabataan, Inc.
- Manila Community Services, Inc.
- Philippine Bible Society
- Student Christian Movement of the Philippines
- Union Church of Manila

August 31, 2010

The Reverend Po Kam Cheong
Hong Kong Christian Council
(po@hkcc.org.hk)

Dear Reverend Po,

Greetings from the National Council of Churches in the Philippines.

Through HKCC, may I convey to the sisters and brothers in Hong Kong our most sincere condolences. This reaching out in grief and sorrow is especially conveyed to the immediate families of the eight victims who died at the hostage-taking in Manila on August 24.

No words can match our deep remorse over the incident. Our pain and sense of loss go beyond our finite understanding. We are truly sorry for the senseless loss of lives.

We reach out too, to the other victims who were spared from death. We regret what has befallen them. We apologize to all the bereaved and the living victims and we seek their forgiveness.

Neither can things be the same again nor can we ever repay. We are sorry for the trauma that shall forever scar the lives of the bereaved and the living victims.

It was not very long ago, when Christians in Hong Kong, through the Hong Kong Christian Council campaigned actively with us to stop the killings in the Philippines. Today, we affirm this sense of solidarity for the defense and preservation of life in all its forms and other levels of cooperation in pursuit of our common humanity.

We join the demand for speedy and impartial investigation to render justice to the victims. We continue to raise our voice against the impunity and the roots of inhumanity. We continue to invite our constituents to prayer for peace and justice, for common discernment and concerted action against all things that deny the enjoyment of life abundant.

We commend to God's keeping all victims and their relatives as well as those who work tirelessly in order that we continue life together. May this regrettable incident draw us nearer to each other in prayer and in fellowship. May God encourage us to continue thinking and working for "whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious." (Phil. 4:8)

REV. REX RB REYES, JR.
General Secretary