

Act NOW!

Philippines: Union leader Antonio “Dodong” Petalcorin shot dead - demand justice and an end to impunity now

Saturday 13 July 2013, by [LabourStart](#) (Date first published: 12 July 2013).

A LabourStart campaign in partnership with the International Transport Workers Federation, a global federation of 690 unions representing over 4.5 million transport workers in 153 countries, and the Alliance of Progressive Labor, a national trade union center in the Philippines.

Antonio “Dodong” Petalcorin, the leader of the Network of Transport Organizations (NETO-APL-ITUC), was shot dead on 2 July 2013 right in front of his home. The gunman was caught on a CCTV camera calmly escaping in a motorcycle.

The union suspects Benjamin Go, the regional director of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Regional Office in Davao City was behind the killing.

Dodong was part of a group of transport leaders who exposed the alleged corrupt practices of the director and launched a campaign to oust him in October 2012. Dodong’s colleagues believe that his murder might be a part of a series of attempts to silence those unmasking corruption in the LTFRB office, which primarily victimizes small-time public transport drivers and operators. They gave as an example what happened to Emilio Rivera, former chair of an independent transport workers’ group, the Matina Aplaya Transport Cooperative (MATRANSKO), who was shot dead; as well as that of Carlos Cirilo, who narrowly survived when a grenade was lobbed inside his home but fortunately failed to explode. Dodong, Emilio and Cirilo have one thing in common – they were co-complainants in a corruption case filed against Benjamin Go.

We are calling on the President of the Philippines to do his utmost to stop the murders of trade union and human rights activists, and to bring the killers to justice. We also call upon the President to address the issues that Dodong and his colleagues have raised and fought for - the alleged corruption at the LTFRB office in Davao City. This will ensure that they did not die in vain. You can help! Type in your name and email address, then click on ‘Send Message’ on the bottom of this page.

The letter

President
Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang Palace
Manila

Dear Mr. President

I am writing to express my outrage over the ruthless killing of Antonio “Dodong” Petalcorin, who may become just another statistic to the long and bloody list of victims of extrajudicial murders, especially among trade unionists and human rights defenders, in the Philippines. I wish to convey to you my grave concern regarding the virtual reign of impunity that apparently continues to worsen in the country.

I call upon you to do your utmost to stop the murders of trade union and human rights activists, and to bring the killers to justice. I also ask you to address the issues that Dodong and his colleagues have raised and fought for - the alleged corruption at the LTFRB office in Davao City.

Thank you.

To sign the letter, go to:

http://www.labourstartcampaigns.net/show_campaign.cgi?c=1879&src=unionbook

View online : [to sign](#):