

Akbayan cries harassment over revival of sedition raps vs. Ronald Llamas and Prof. Randy David

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AKBAYAN today expressed outrage over the revival of the sedition charges against AKBAYAN President Ronald Llamas and UP Prof. Randy David. Both were arrested and detained illegally when President GMA declared the State of National Emergency last February 25, 2006.

Both are also complainants in the impeachment charges filed yesterday against President GMA.

AKBAYAN dared Malacañang to pursue the sedition case against Llamas and Prof. David. "The case reinforces one of the more important impeachment charges. The Supreme Court already ruled that Proclamation 1017, the basis of our arrest, is a violation of the constitution. By reviving the sedition charges, the government is actually making an admission that it is consciously and willfully violating the Constitution," Llamas said.

Llamas said that the recycled accusations betray the government's real attitude toward the new impeachment complaint. "Malacañang wants to harass and intimidate citizens who refuse to be silenced. It is waging a desperate war in all fronts - through repressive policies in the streets, underhanded legal tactics, military and police harassment, and, if all else fails, through extrajudicial killings," AKBAYAN President Ronald Llamas.

AKBAYAN said that the sedition case will never deter its anti-Arroyo stance. "We will fight back, not through coercion, force or intimidation, but through wisdom and the celebration of democracy. We will never refuse to file counter-charges against people who abuse their authority. We will also not withdraw our signatures from the impeachment complaint, even if it is clear right from the start that the administration will resort to legal voodooism to mangle the process," Llamas said.

David and Llamas are also charged with violation of B.P. 880. The complainants of the case are SPO2 Geronimo Pastrana, PO2 Eric Sarinas, and PO2 Rudy Barrameda.