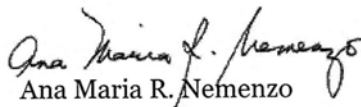


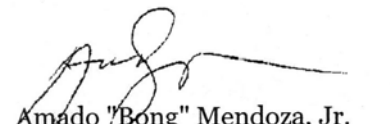
We, members of the civil society initiated an online petition signing in response to the issues of abuse of authority, arbitrariness and harassment against the UNDP RR / UN RC in the Philippines."

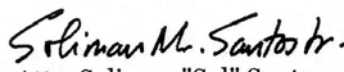
We would like to register our deep concern that officials, both in the Philippines and in the UNDP, take cognizance of the issues raised, and as well take appropriate actions.

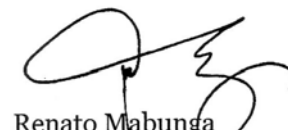
Attached is the statement and the list of petitioners.

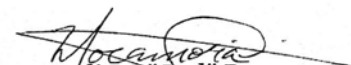
Respectfully yours,

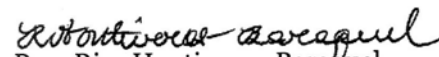
  
Ana Maria R. Nemenzo

  
Amado "Bong" Mendoza, Jr.  
Department of Political Science  
University of the Philippines

  
Atty. Soliman "Sol" Santos  
South-South Network (SSN) and  
Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines

  
Renato Mabunga  
Philippine Alliance of Human Rights  
Advocates (PAHRA)

  
Jose Eliseo "Joel" Rocamora  
IPD staff

  
Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel  
Representative  
Akbyan Party List

## **On Human Rights and Democracy: May the UN Walk the Talk**

Arbitrariness. Unilateralism. Abuse. Harassment.

These are words we do not normally attribute to the United Nations. Oftentimes we have seen the UN proactively responding to cases involving these. We are alarmed that now, a UN official is associated with the very things that are anathema to UN values.

Ms. Nileema Noble has been the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in the Philippines for more than a year. We are aware that numerous staff under her, whether temporary or fixed term, have complained and filed cases detailing verbal and physical abuse and arbitrary termination of employment contracts. We are appalled that numerous incidents involving Ms. Noble establish a pattern of systematic abuse of authority and downright harassment.

The UN has set historic precedents in human rights observance over the past decades. Ironically now, the human rights and dignity of UN staff in the Philippines are being trampled. We cannot stand idly by.

We are further alarmed that Ms. Noble's arbitrariness extends to external partnerships. She unilaterally invalidates existing contractual arrangements between the UNDP and government/academic institutions. Many affected agencies, through sundry statements and letters, have expressed deep concern and disappointment over these actions, citing the lack of consultation, mutual respect and professionalism.

All this, we have learned, is done in the name of "effecting change." Who does not want change? What we cannot be silent about, however, is the use of this supposed "change agenda" as a pretext and a license for excessive behavior with impunity. We are for change in favor of more democracy, more consultation, and more professionalism. We cannot support a change process towards unilateralism, tyranny, and utter disregard for basic rights.

We, from the civil society community in the Philippines, have a stake on how the UN conducts its programmes and operations in the country. We are ready to support and cooperate with the UN, but we remind the UN to heed the words of Cardoso:

*"The world stands today at a very delicate juncture. The United Nations needs the support of civil society more than ever. But will not get that support unless it is seen as championing reforms in global governance that civil society is calling for..." (Fernando Cardoso, Chair of the Panel of Eminent Persons on UN-Civil Society Relations. Transmittal letter to the Secretary General, 7 June 2004.)*

It is in this spirit that we call upon the UN to deal decisively with the living paradox within its ranks as embodied by its highest official in the country, Ms. Nileema Noble. It is imperative that the UN correct this intolerable situation. We expect far higher standards of ethical conduct and professionalism from its representatives. Otherwise, they must go.

1. Anna Maria "Princess" Nemenzo
2. Atty. Soliman "Sol" Santos, South-SouthNetwork (SSN) and Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines
3. Prof. Amado "Bong" Mendoza, Jr., Department of Political Science, University of the Aida Santos
4. Renato Mabunga, Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA).
5. Dr. Jose Eliseo "Joel" Rocamora, Institute for Popular Democracy
6. Congresswoman Risa Hontiveros, Representative, Akbayan Party List
7. Senator Wigberto "Bobby" Tanada
8. Etta Pargas-Rosales, Chair Emeritus, Akbayan & Co-Chair, Philippine Coalition for the International Criminal Court
9. Susan "Toots" Ople, Blas F. Ople Policy Center
10. Ronald Llamas, President, Akbayan Citizens' Action Party
11. Behn Cervantes
12. Sister Arnold Maria Noel,SSpS
13. Fr. Ben Moraleda, CSsR
14. Edicio "Ed" dela Torre, Education for Life Foundation (ELF)
15. Auxilium "Inday" Toling-Olayer, Human Rights Advocate, Board of Trustees of various HR organizations in the Philippines
16. Atty. Rosselynn "Jae" dela Cruz, Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS)
17. Arnel Ramos, ODA Watch
18. Arnold M. Tenerife, Filipinos for Better Philippines (FBP-KSA)
19. Prof. Patricio "Jojo" N. Abinales, Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University.
20. Atty. Cecilia Jimenez, Human Rights Lawyer. Geneva, Switzerland
21. Ellene A. Sana, Center for Migrant Advocacy
22. Ernesto M. Ordonez, Agriwatch
23. Earl Parreno, Vice President, Alter Trade Foundation, Inc.
24. Mary Aileen D. Bacalso, Executive Director, Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD)
25. Marianita "Girlie" Villariba, Institute for Popular Democracy (IPD)
26. Jean Enriquez, Executive Director, Coalition Against Trafficking of Women-Asia Pacific (CATW-AP)
27. Joe Valencia, KASAPI, Organization of Filipino Migrants in Greece
28. Maria "Mars" Mendoza, Executive Director, Children's Initiatives for Learning and Development (CHILD) Inc.
29. Luzviminda "Vim" Santos, People's Global Exchange (PGX)
30. Dorothy Grace "Dottie" Guerrero, Focus on the Global South, Thailand.
31. Melba de Guzman Marginson, Centre for Philippine Concerns Australia

32. Noel C. Esquela, Center for Migrant Advocacy
33. Annelle P. Rivera-Beckstrom, Sociology Department, New School for Social Research, NY
34. Atty. Ibarra "Barry" M. Gutierrez III
35. Prof. Jerome Bailen, forensic anthropologist
36. Rene R. Raya, Action for Economic Refors (AER) Baguio City
37. Rodel P. Abenoja Student Council Alliance of the Philippines Vice-Chairperson for Mindanao
38. Tomas Villarin, Executive Director, SIAD Initiatives in Mindanao-Convergence for Asset Reform and Regional Development (SIMCARRD)
39. Alice Raymundo
40. Aliza L. Belarmino
41. Al Obre
42. Angging Aban
43. Anna Navarro, Center for Migrant Advocacy
44. Antonio "Tony" Villasor
45. Arianne Reyes
46. Arnold Tarrobago, Akbayan Citizens' Action Party
47. Banjo Vina, Bisig
48. Bobby Diciembre
49. Bonn Juego
50. Atty. Byron D. Bocar, Akbayan! Citizens' Action Party
51. Carlos Ocampo, Christian World Service, Sydney, Australia
52. Cecilia "Thea" Soriano, Civil Society Network for Education Reforms (E-Net)
53. Christian "Bong" Ramilo, Australia
54. Claudette "Dette-Dette" Arboleda
55. Daisy Valero, General Manager, Kalatas
56. Danny Carranza, Peace Foundation
57. David Andrade
58. Debbie Anne F. Soriano-Garcia
59. Debbie Carlos Valencia, DIWATA Phil. Women's Network in Greece
60. Delfin "Ted Borrero"
61. Dondon Parafina
62. Dong Calmada, Peace Foundation, Inc.
63. Edwin Chavez, Center for People's Empowerment
64. Flor Caagusan
65. Floyd Buenavente, MBS TEK
66. Frances Therese C. Lo
67. Francisco Cinco, Institute for Popular Democracy
68. Genie Chavez, Philippine-Australia Partnership for Economic Governance Reforms
69. Gil Navarro, Chair, Peace Advocates for Truth, Healing & Justice
70. Hazel Cotoner, Center for Migrant Advocacy
71. Himayat Rizvanqizi, Himayadar Humanitarian Progress Public Union
72. Ian Rivera Jr., Kalayaan
73. Cora Valdez Fabros
74. Jeselle Papa
75. Jesse C. Agbulos
76. Joel Saracho, Tbk Inc
77. Jose "Joey" Flora

78. Josel Gonzales, Active Citizens Foundation
79. Joseph Francis
80. Jude Esguerra
81. Ka Domingo Legario, OFW, West Australia
82. Klaid Sabangan
83. Ma. Fe Nicodemus, KAKAMMPI Chairperson
84. Maria Cecilia Angeles-Cabrera
85. Maria Luisa Jose-Tapnio
86. May Cinco
87. Mercedes "Mercy" L. Fabros
88. Milabel Cristobal Amar
89. Mylene Saluta, Panbansdang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (PKKK)
90. Nelson B. Sanchez
91. Nethz M. Salvan, TAO-Pilipinas
92. Niva Gonzales, Tbk, Inc.
93. Orlando "Dong" Tizon
94. Reynaldo S. Orbon, Member-V-Team, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
95. Peter Lavina, Councilor, Davao City
96. Rachel "Che" Aquino
97. Ramon Mapa, People's Initiative for Learning and Community Development (PILCD) Baguio City
98. Rebecca "Beckie" Malay
99. Reden B. Recio
100. Reynaldo S. Orbon, Member-V-Team, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
101. Rhodora A. Abano, Center for Migrant Advocacy
102. Richard Taduran
103. Ritchel Salve
104. Roberto Nicolasora
105. Rodolfo Villanueva, Center for Participatory Governance
106. Ronnie Abeto, Pusong Mamon Task Force / V-Team
107. Ronnie Tapnio
108. Rosemary Cheung-Bocar
109. Sylvia Estrada Claudio
110. Teresita M. Borgoños, Makalaya
111. Terry Olayta – Canada
112. Unlad Kabayan Migrant Services Foundation, Philippines
113. Victor S. Barrios, Chair, Global Filipinos Coalition Convenor/Moderator, Global Filipino Forum
114. William C. Yerro, V-Team
115. Wilson Requez, Regional Coordinator, Young Progressives Southeast Asia
116. Yasser F. Sarona, Boy Scouts of the Philippines - National Capital Region