

## **UNI-PLC Statement Condemning the Signing of the Anti-Terrorism Act into Law**

Despite widespread opposition from trade unions, human rights groups, sectoral groups, Church groups and other civil society organizations, President Duterte has signed the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 into law. Instead of focusing on effectively addressing the COVID-19 pandemic or in crafting laws and programs that will help the projected 10 million working class Filipinos keep their much-needed jobs the Duterte regime has chosen to prioritize the passage of this law that would possibly endanger further the already grim human rights situation in our country.

This draconian law negates important constitutionally guaranteed civil and political rights. Its potential for abuse is vast. Such vague and ill-defined acts as “threat to commit terrorism” and “inciting to terrorism” is punishable by 12 years imprisonment. “Providing material support” is punishable by life imprisonment without benefit of parole. Any suspected “terrorist” can be arrested without a warrant and they can be detained for an extraordinarily long period of 14 days (extendible for another 10 days) before they are delivered to judicial authority for the filing of cases. The Terror Law unconstitutionally gives the Anti-Terrorism Council (ATC) judicial powers to determine probable cause and declare an organization or person/s as terrorist. In short, this law can be used by the regime and any petty tyrant who comes after it to stifle lawful dissent and arbitrarily arrest dissenters and political opponents.

The UNI Global Union – Philippine Liaison Council (UNI-PLC) condemns and opposes the signing of the Anti-Terrorism Act into law and calls upon the Supreme Court to declare this law unconstitutional. We stand united with the trade union movement, the human rights community and the broad social movement in opposing this law. We call on the Filipino people to join us in this campaign against the Terror Law.

#ResistTerrorLaw  
#WalangLigtasSaGoberyongMarahas  
#AyudaHindiTerrorLaw

### **UNI GLOBAL UNION-PHILIPPINE LIAISON COUNCIL (UNI-PLC)**

Buklod ng Manggagawa sa RCPI (BMRCPI-NFL) ♦Globe Telecom Employees Union (GTEU-FFW) ♦Lakas sa Industriya ng Kapatirang Haligi ng Alyansa (LIKHA) ♦Philippine Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial Workers Union (PACIWU)/National Congress of Unions in the Sugar Industry of the Philippines (NACUSIP)/Congress of Independent Organizations (CIO) ♦National Alliance of Broadcast Unions (NABU), National Union of Bank Employees-Insurance and Finance Organization (NUBE-IFO) ♦Union Impresores de Filipinas (UIF).

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