



立法會主席

PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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29 October 2013

The Honorable Feliciano Belmonte, Jr.
Speaker
House of Representatives
Congress of the Philippines
c/o Consulate General of the Philippines
14/F, United Centre
95 Queensway
Admiralty
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Speaker,

On behalf of Members of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("SAR"), I am writing to express our grave concern about the Philippine Government's handling of the hostage tragedy which occurred in Manila back in August 2010 and its aftermath.

In the tragedy, a tour group of 21 Hong Kong people was taken hostage while on holiday in Manila by a gunman on 23 August 2010. Eight Hong Kong people were shot dead. Seven people were also injured, some very seriously and are still receiving medical treatment to date. Victims and bereaved families of the tragedy have requested the Philippine Government to first, offer a formal apology over the handling of the hostage situation; second, make compensation; third, hold the responsible officials accountable; and fourth, adopt measures to enhance the safety of tourists in the Philippines.

The Philippine Government has so far not made any response to the four requests. This has caused great distress to the victims and the bereaved families. People in Hong Kong are also frustrated and angry that the matter is still unresolved after such a long time. Some Members of this Council have called for the imposition of sanctions against the Philippines. As the findings in the report of the Incident Investigation and Review Committee of the Philippines have clearly established that some Philippine officials were at fault in handling the hostage situation, Members find it unacceptable that the Philippine Government has refused to admit its responsibility in the tragedy and address the requests of the victims and bereaved families.

Members of this Council urge the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Philippines to call on the Philippine Government to respond positively to the four requests of the victims and the bereaved families and also convene high-level official discussions with the Hong Kong SAR Government as soon as possible with a view to achieving an early resolution of the matter. The relationship between the people of Hong Kong and the people of the Philippines will continue to be affected if the matter is not properly and satisfactorily dealt with.

I have also written separately to the President of the Senate of the Philippines on this matter.

Yours sincerely
Jasper Tsang

(Jasper Tsang Yok Sing)
President
Legislative Council
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region