



TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 763

PUBLIC, PROFESSIONAL & OFFICE-CLERICAL EMPLOYEES AND DRIVERS

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

David A. Grage, Secretary-Treasurer

14675 Interurban Ave. S, Suite 305 • Tukwila, WA 98168 • (206) 441-0763 • 1-877-441-0763 • Fax (206) 441-6376

May 21, 2008

Elmer Labog
C/O Kilusang Mayo Uno
63 Narra Street
Barangay Claro 1102 Quezon City
Philippines

Dear Brother Labog:

It was with great sorrow that we learned of the passing of that great trade unionist and patriot Honorable Crispin Beltran. We cannot begin to comprehend the grief of his family, friends and colleagues in the Philippines.

Teamsters Local Union 763, here in Seattle, WA has been following the struggles of Brother Beltran and the KMU against an illegal and immoral government and their corporate henchman for the past several years. Your fight to build a free and militant trade union movement based in the people's struggle for freedom and democracy and free of corporate or government control has been an inspiration to many of us in the United States.

In many ways by helping build solidarity for the struggle in the Philippines, it holds a mirror to our own fight against neo-liberal global economic programs hatched and nurtured by our own corporations that have hurt working people all over the world. It is with great sorrow that we see our own tax dollars used to buy the bullets that are used to assassinate trade unionists and political activists in the Philippines, Columbia, Iraq and elsewhere.

It is our great hope that the lives of great patriots and trade unionists like "Ka Bel" will inspire others with their virtue and dedication and remind us all in times of adversity that true heroes never give up.

We know that this is hollow comfort in your hour of loss, but "Ka Bel" now belongs to all of us and will be honored through ages to come. Where ever people struggle against injustice, for freedom from foreign domination, for a decent living wage, "Ka Bel" is there.

In Sorrow and Solidarity,

David Grage
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