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Hundreds of OFWs rally to release Beltran

“GMA deserves arrest, not those who serve the people and OFWs”

“It is neither Ka Bel nor other progressive partylist lawmakers who deserve arrest. It is GMA for being the biggest cheat, liar, and traitor in the country who should be detained.”

This was declared today by Dolores Balladares, chairperson of the United Filipinos in HK (UNIFIL-MIGRANTE-HK) as hundreds of OFWs trooped to the Philippine Consulate General to demand the government the “immediate and unconditional” release of Rep. Crispin Beltran who is still being held under arrest by the police.

The protesters also demanded the immediate withdrawal of “unfounded” charges against Reps. Satur Ocampo, Teddy Casino and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna (People First) Partylist, Rep. Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis (Toiling Masses) Partylist and Rep. Liza Masa of Gabriela Women’s Party.

“It is because of Ka Bel and the rest that the destructive policies of GMA face stiff resistance in the Congress. It is due to their presence that GMA is having nightmares for her cheating, corruption and economic and political decisions that just plunge the people in total desperation,” she added.

According to Balladares, the ongoing “political harassment” against progressive solons is a sign of GMA’s crumbling hold over the economic and political crisis that has gripped the country.

“It is not enough for this government to kill activists who fight issues such as corruption, VAT and oil price hikes. It just has to round up all its critics – disgruntled military officers, critical media, and oppositionist members of the Congress,” she decried.

Balladares said that OFWs in Hong Kong have always admired Beltran and other militant partylist representatives for their “consistent stand” on OFW issues such as the OWWA Omnibus Policy, misuse of OWWA funds and government neglect of OFWs in distress.

“They gave us the services and support that GMA never did. We’ll take them anytime over this inutile president,” she said.

The rallyists called to immediately release of Cong. Beltran as well as to stop the threat of arrest of the other lawmakers.

“It is GMA who has mangled the lives, rights, and livelihood of OFWs and our families. It is she who deserves permanent incarceration. She should be ousted,” Balladares concluded.#