

Secretary Jesus Crispin C. Remulla

Department of Justice
Padre Faura Street, Ermita
Manila, Philippines 1000

Dear Secretary Remulla:

I am writing to express concern over the continued detention of Adora Faye de Vera, a women's rights activist and former political prisoner who survived torture and other ill-treatment during martial law. The accusations against her are unfounded, and her arrest is arbitrary. I call for the charges against her to be dropped, and for her to be immediately released, especially given her medical condition.

I was distressed to learn from Adora Faye's family that she was only able to speak with them and her lawyer two days after her arrest on 24 August in Quezon City, where she was seeking medical treatment for chronic asthma and anaemia. Subsequently, she told her family and lawyer that the arresting team, presumably police officers, misrepresented themselves as from a different government agency (Bureau of Fire Protection) during the arrest; showed her an arrest warrant dated 16 years ago whose details she could not make out save for her name; and failed to inform her of the charges against her and of her rights, such as access to legal representation. Most importantly, her family believes the charges against her are fabricated, and she is being targeted for her human rights work, especially for seeking justice for victims of martial law abuses.

The government has been relentlessly accusing human rights defenders and activists of being members of the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army, which has led to increased attacks, including killings, against these individuals. Philippine authorities have repeatedly committed to respecting, protecting, promoting and fulfilling human rights, but Adora Faye's arrest and continued detention point to a gravely worsening human rights situation in the country.

In line with your official position, I call on you to:

- **Drop the charges against Adora Faye; and immediately release her especially given her deteriorating health;**
- **Ensure Adora Faye's timely and adequate access to medical tests and treatment while still detained; and**
- **Promptly, thoroughly, impartially, independently, transparently and effectively investigate allegations of irregularity during and after her arrest and bring to justice in fair trials those suspected to be responsible.**

Yours sincerely,