September 21, 2025

To: President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.
Cc: Secretary of Foreign Affairs Maria Theresa Lazaro; Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the United States of America Jose Manuel G. Romualdez

Frankly, **your response is unacceptable and nothing new**; this is a canned response that different Philippine agencies have given us before. **Our letter contains the criticisms and valid questions about the so-called "support" you have given—we deserve direct replies to each of them and not just generalizations.** What kind of "commitment" is it when the Consulate in LA cannot even provide an endorsement letter for deportees to receive assistance from DSWD? Is it considered "timely" communication when you ask families to re-submit their ATN applications multiple times? Is an "assessment of detainee conditions" really being done when consular officials cannot even find out simple medical updates for the families, or denounce questionable decisions to place them in maximum security? Is your guidance from the Embassy and Consulates truly "always available", when the only guidance you have given is to self deport to the Philippines?

DFA Secretary Lazaro issued a statement saying she would be tackling "migrant protection" here in the U.S. and with the United Nations. **How could any possible discussions on protections be relevant and beneficial without the concerned party (being the actual migrant-detainees and their families) present?**

Labor Attaché Macy Maglanque's recent recall for a Senate investigation on the flood control corruption scheme and your continued refusal to meet with Tanggol Migrante and families of detained Filipinos necessitates our calls for accountability. To remind you of our demands that you all conveniently ignored:

1. **Stop ignoring our demands and take action to address the concerns of Filipinos in the U.S.** Hold a meeting with the formerly detained, their families, and Tanggol Migrante Movement, and account for the Philippine government's neglect of our welfare. We demand that Secretary of Foreign Affairs Maria Theresa Lazaro meet with us while she is here in the U.S. during her visit to the UN. We also demand that you, President Marcos, meet with us to account for your personal failings to us and all Filipinos who are being persecuted by the Trump administration.
2. **Exert your diplomatic power to ensure the well-being and protection of Filipino migrants who are currently detained**. Provide **urgent medical attention and care** for those facing medical neglect, including comprehensive medical examination and treatment for Tita R, Kuya G, Kuya R, Tita K, and for their release from unjust detention.
3. **Release financial/legal assistance promised to Filipinos in distress now**, including long delayed aid for Dhenmark Francisco, Jovi Esperanza, and Zenar Dela Cruz.
4. **Ensure comprehensive reintegration (e.g., immediate livelihood assistance, healthcare, shelter, financial support and security) to deported Filipinos**, and aid for those facing medical emergencies due to medical neglect while in detention. Provide immediate & safe repatriation for those who received deportation orders, including Kuya N and Kuya F.

5. **Mount diplomatic protest and intervention against targeted attacks and criminalization of overseas Filipino workers**, especially the wrongful detention/deportation of seafarers in Maryland, Virginia, and Florida. Ensure attacks do not happen anywhere else.
6. **Cooperate with an independent body chosen by the people, including Tanggol Migrante, that will hold an investigation into corruption and misconduct of Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) officials in the U.S., especially top officials like Amb. Romualdez**, who has known connections to those implicated in corruption schemes. Account for any misuse of funds allocated to the DFA and DMW.
7. **Expel and charge with graft all those who have abused their positions to take advantage of and mistreat those they are mandated to serve**, including former MWO/Labor Attache Macy Maglanque, who has consistently dismissed and belittled those seeking assistance from the Philippine government.
8. **Divulge the content of all military and economic deals and negotiations made with the Trump administration and foreign corporations**. Abrogate and reject all deals that prioritize U.S. foreign policy interests and the personal gain of Philippine politicians (from the local to executive) over the lives and welfare of Filipino migrants and our loved ones and fellow kababayan back in the Philippines.

In the words of Crystal Londonio, the wife of Maximo Londonio, whose concerns you also ignored in their family's time of need: "It's one thing to speak of your commitment to Filipino nationals. However, actions speak louder than words." We demand full transparency and a dialogue with DFA Secretary Lazaro and Ambassador Romauldez. We await your timely response before DFA Lazaro's visit to the U.S. this week.

Signed,
Tanggol Migrante Movement & Families of Filipinos in Detention (FFIND)