



a toxics-free future



9 November 2015

**Hon. Angeline T. Chua Chiacco,
Acting Chairperson
Professional Regulation Commission**

**Hon. Jose Luis Martin C. Gascon
Chairperson
Commission on Human Rights**

Dear Chairpersons Chua Chiacco and Gascon,

Subject: Appeal to Stop Harassment Complaints against Toxicologist Dr. Romeo F. Quijano

We, leaders of public interest environmental health and justice groups across the globe, submit this letter to express our solidarity with our highly respected colleague Dr. Romeo F. Quijano, President of the Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Philippines and Steering Committee member of PAN Asia Pacific. Dr. Quijano is also a former Co-Chair of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), a global civil society network pursuing safe chemicals policies and practices.

Through this letter, we earnestly request your offices to ensure that Dr. Quijano's exemplary work for chemical safety and public health is duly honored and protected against dubious complaints that seek to cast doubt on his professional integrity as a medical doctor, scientist and retired professor in Pharmacology and Toxicology at the College of Medicine of the University of Philippines (Manila).

The complaints of "unprofessionalism" were filed before the Professional Regulation Commission purportedly by six residents of Sitio Kamukhaan, Hagonoy, Davao del Sur, that were reportedly orchestrated by the banana and pesticide companies. They cited Dr. Quijano's study, "Poisoned Lives," as "questionable." "Poisoned Lives," published in 2000, brings to light the detrimental health and environmental consequences of the aerial and ground spraying of pesticides *Baycor*, *Decis*, *Dithane*, *Furadan*, *Gramoxone* and *Nemacur* in privately-owned banana plantations in the said village. The study, originally published at the now defunct Philippine Post, became the subject of long-drawn-out libel and damage lawsuits by the companies against Dr. Quijano and his daughter Ilang-Ilang that were eventually dismissed in 2007 and 2013.

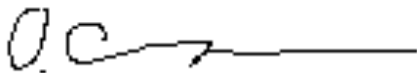
The complaints were unkindly filed over 15 years after the publication of the study, after Dr. Quijano spoke in June 2015 at a Congressional inquiry in favor of House Bill 3857, which seeks to ban aerial spraying as a method of applying chemicals and similar substances on agricultural crops. Please note that at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management held in Geneva from September 28 – October 2, 2015, delegates from 130 countries recognized the harmful impact on human health and the environment of highly hazardous pesticides, in particular in developing countries, and agreed to take concerted action with emphasis on promoting agroecology as an alternative to highly hazardous pesticides.

As we deplore the callous persecution of Dr. Quijano by powerful and moneyed business interests, we ask the Professional Regulation Commission to dismiss outright the harassment complaints filed against him, noting that these are recycled complaints intended to intimidate expert witnesses like Dr. Quijano against speaking their minds about the adverse impacts of aerial spraying of pesticides to human health and the ecosystems.

We likewise ask the Commission on Human Rights to use its legal and moral authority to halt the malicious harassment against Dr. Quijano and to support his efforts to ferret out the truth and obtain justice for the victims of pesticide poisoning, which is totally in line with the Commission's "The People's Right to Chemical Safety: A Fifteen-Point Human Rights Agenda."

We thank you very much for heeding our request for action to stop the unjust persecution of Dr. Romeo Quijano.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Olga Speranskaya
Co-Chair, IPEN



Manny C. Calonzo
Co-Chair, IPEN

(SGD) Sarojeni Rengam
Executive Director
Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP)

NOTE: Please e-mail your reply to the IPEN Secretariat at ipen@ipen.org and PAN AP Secretariat at panap@panap.net, or send to IPEN, 1962 University Ave., Suite 4, Berkeley, CA, 94704, USA, and PAN AP, P.O Box 1170, Pulau Pinang, 10850, Penang, Malaysia.

Endorsed by:

Cecilia Bianco
Taller Ecologista
Argentina

Elena Manvelyan
Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE)
Armenia

Dr. Mariann Lloyd-Smith PhD (Law)
National Toxics Network Inc.
Australia

Dr. Shahriar Hossain
Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO)
Bangladesh

Zuleica Nycz
AMAR Environment Defense Association
APROMAC Environment Protection Association
National Commission of Chemical Safety of the Brazilian Ministry of
Environment (Civil society representative)
TOXISPHERA Environmental Health Association
Brazil

Jeffer Castelo Branco
Associação de Combate aos Poluentes
Brazil

Zoraide Vilasboas
Associação Movimento Paulo Jackson - Ética, Justiça, Cidadania (Bahia)
Articulação Antinuclear Brasileira
Brazil

Keam Makarady
Centre d' Etude et de Développement Agricole Cambodgien (CEDAC)
Cambodia

Gilbert Kuepouo
Centre de Recherche et d'Éducation pour le Développement (CREPD)
Cameroon

Beth Dollaga
Canada-Philippines Solidarity for Human Rights (CPSHR)
Canada

Evelyn Mondonede-Calugay
PINAY (Filipino Women's Organization of Quebec)
Canada

Yang Hongyan
Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center (PEAC)
China

Dr Mao Da
Rock Environment and Energy Institute
China

Imogen Ingram
Island Sustainability Alliance CIS Inc. ("ISACI")
Cook Islands

Jindrich Petrlik
Arnika - Toxics and Waste Programme
Czech Republic

Shaima Aly
KENANA
Egypt

Tadesse Amera
Pesticide Action Nexus Association
Ethiopia

Carina Weber
Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Germany
Germany

Kwame Ofori
Ako Foundation
Ghana

Emmanuel Odjam-Akumatey
Ecological Restorations
Ghana

Dr. Crentsil Kofi Bempah
Environment Youth Action Network
Ghana

Kwame Mensah
KASA initiative Ghana
Ghana

Ibrahima Sory Sylla
Carbone Guinée
Guinea

Agroecology Centre
India

P. Chennaiah
AP Vyavasaya Vruthidarula Union (APVVU)
Telengan Vyavasaya Vruthidaula Union
India

Dr. Mira Shiva MD
Diverse Women for Diversity
Foundation for Research in Science, Technology & Ecology
Initiative for Health & Equity in Society
India

Oswald Quintal
Kudumbam
India

Vijay Kumar Pandey
Laghu Seemant Krishak Morcha
India

Jayakumar Chelaton
Pesticide Action Network (PAN) India
THANAL
India

Fatima N.
Tamil Nadu Women's Forum
India

Zero Waste Centre
India

Rossana Dewi
Gita Pertiwi
Indonesia

Dewi Amelia
Seruni – Serikat Perempuan
Indonesia

Takeshi Yasuma
Citizens Against Chemicals Pollution
Japan

Griffins Ochieng
Centre for Environment Justice and Development (CEJAD)
Kenya

Okeyo Benards
Eco Ethics - Kenya
Kenya

Dr. Eng. Najj Kodeih
IndyACT
Lebanon

Henry Williams
Pollution Control Association of Liberia
Liberia

S.M. Mohamed Idris
Consumers' Association of Penang
Sahabat Alam Malaysia
Malaysia

Sarawak Dayak Iban
Malaysia

Hemsing Hurrinag
Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Mauritius
Mauritius

Fernando Bejarano G.
Red de Acción en Plaguicidas y Alternativas en México (RAPAM) A.C.
Pesticide Action Network in Mexico
Mexico

Marisa Jacott
Fronteras Comunes
Mexico

Urantsooj Gombosuren
Centre for Human Rights and Development
People's Coalition for Food Sovereignty
Mongolia

Anabela Lemos
JA! Justica Ambiental
Friends of the Earth (FoE) Mozambique
Mozambique

Balram Banskota
All Nepal Peasants Federation
Nepal

Ram Charitra Sah
Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED)
Nepal

Dr. Meriel Watts
Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Aotearoa New Zealand
New Zealand

Joanna Maduka
Friends of Environment Nigeria
Nigeria

Ayodele Akele
Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre
Nigeria

Tom Aneni
Sustainable Environment Development Initiative (SEDI)
Nigeria

NasiraHabib
Khoj-Society for People's Education
Pakistan

Fr. Max Abalos
Action for Nurturing Children and Environment, Inc.
Philippines

Jaybee Garganera
AlyansaTigil Mina
Philippines

Zen Soriano
AMIHAN National Federation of Peasant Women
Philippines

Rep. Leah Paquiz
Ang NARS, Inc.
Philippines

Marjorie Pamintuan
Asia Pacific Research Network
Philippines

Rahmat Ajiguna
Asian Peasant Coalition
Philippines

Dr.Carol P. Araullo
Bagong Alyansang Makabayan
Philippines

Richard Gutierrez
Anna Kapunan
Ban Toxics
Philippines

Joey Papa
Bangon Kalikasan Movement
Philippines

Grace Chia
Consumer Rights for Safe Food
Philippines

Javier M. Claparols
Ecological Society of the Philippines
Philippines

Aileen Lucero
EcoWaste Coalition
Philippines

Paeng Lopez
Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives
Philippines

Jennifer H. Guste
Green Action PH
Philippines

Dr. Angelina Galang
Green Convergence for Safe Food, Healthy Environment and Sustainable Economy
Philippines

Abigail Lois P. Aguilar
Amalie Conchelle C. Hamoy-Obusan
Greenpeace Southeast Asia
Philippines

Pyra MacliingMalayao
Kalipunan ng mga Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas (KATRIBU)
Philippines

Betty Cabazares
Kinaiyahan Foundation
Philippines

Rolando Ian Mallari
Roberto Paligutan
Linis Ganda
Philippines

Geonathan T. Barro
MASIPAG Mindanao
Philippines

Dr. Tina Maramba
Ericka Buenaflor
Rolando Hallig
Shiela Lagmay
Jover Larion
Alejandro Marcelino
Hajji Maribella
Robert Mulhadi
Jasmine Nacabuan
Evelyn Pantoja
Regino Tindugan
Medecins du Monde – Philippines

Philippines

Sonia Mendoza
Mother Earth Foundation

Philippines

Atty. Gloria Estenzo-Ramos
Oceana Philippines

Philippines

Victoria M. Segovia
Partnership for Clean Air (PCA) Inc.

Philippines

Sylvia F. Mallari
Reina Kris Villaluna
People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty

Philippines

Isagani Serrano
Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement

Philippines

Victoria M. Lopez
SIBAT, Inc.

Philippines

Rey Palacio
Siyap

Philippines

Fr. Gillarme Joy B. Pelino
Social Action Center-Diocese of Marbel

Philippines

Ranmil Echanis
Unyon ng Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA)
National Federation of Agricultural Workers Union – Philippines

Philippines

Irma Percela
Zero Waste Philippines, Inc.

Philippines

Servando Pérez-Domínguez
Asociación Española de Afectados por Mercurio de Amalgamas Dentales y Otras Situaciones
(MERCURIADOS)
Spain

Dolores Romano Mozo
Ecologistas en Acción
Spain

Herman Kumara and Geetha Lakmini
National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NAFSO)
Sri Lanka

Chathu Sewwandi
Vikalpani National Women's Federation
Sri Lanka

P.P. Sivaprgasam
Workers' Solidarity Union
Coalition of Agriculture Workers International (CAWI)
Sri Lanka

François Meienberg
Berne Declaration
Switzerland

Xavier Sun
Taiwan Watch Institute
Taiwan

Silvani Mng'anya
Agenda for Environment and Responsible Development (AGENDA)
Tanzania

Loyce Lema
Environmental Human Rights Care and Gender Organization (Envirocare)
Tanzania

Lucy Mullenkei
Indigenous Information Network
African Indigenous Women's Organization
Tanzania

Dr. Rugemeleza Nshala
Lawyers' Environmental Action Team (LEAT)
Tanzania

Yusto P. Muchuruza
Kagera Development and Credit Revolving Fund (KADEFU)
Tanzania

Dr. Vera Ngowi
Tanzania Association of Public, Occupational and Environmental Health Experts
Tanzania

Mwadhini Myanza
Water and Environmental Training & Economic Empowerment Organization
Tanzania

Elorm Kokou Amegadze
Les Amis de la Terre - Togo
Togo

Dr. Najwa Bourawi
Association de la Protection de l'environnement et de Développement de Bizerte
Tunisia

Semia Gharbi
Association d'Education Environnementale pour la Future Génération (AEEFG)
Tunisia

Kamese N. Geoffrey
National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)
Uganda

Ellady Muyambi
Uganda Network on Toxic Free Malaria Control (UNETMAC)
Uganda

Olga Tsygulyova
UNENGO MAMA-86
Ukraine.

Juliette Williams
Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)
United Kingdom

Pamela Miller
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
United States of America

Tracey Easthope, MPH
Ecology Center
United States of America

Ann Blake, Ph.D.
Environmental & Public Health Consulting
United States of America

Antonio Tovar
Farmworker Association of Florida
United States of America

Daniel Parshley
Glynn Environmental Coalition
United States of America

Perry Gottesfeld
Occupational Knowledge International (OK International)
United States of America

Judy Hatcher
Pesticide Action Network (PAN) North America
United States of America

Peter Orris, MD, MPH
Occupational and Environmental Medicine
University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System
United States of America

Dr. Christine K. Durbak
World Information Transfer, Inc.
United States of America

María Isabel Cárcamo
RAPAL Uruguay
Uruguay

Maria Eugenia Gil Beroes
Fundacion Aguaclara
Venezuela

Liem Dao Duc
Center for Sustainable Rural Development
Vietnam

Le Thanh Phong, Msc
Research Center for Rural Development (RCRD)
Vietnam