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To

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cc

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Subject

Submission by NGO Working Group on Asia - with sign-ons

To the United Nations Human Rights Council:

Attached herewith is the submission of the NGO Working Group on Asia to the United Nations in New York. We comprise of thirteen member organizations with strong ties to grassroots groups in Asia and a focus on addressing human rights violations in the Asian region.

As civil society stakeholders in this process, the NGO Working Group on Asia believes that a credible and effective Human Rights Council with a credible and effective Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism is vital to the protection, promotion and realization of human rights. As the UPR mechanism starts its first reviews, we make this Submission seeking to assist the UPR Working Group in being effective by developing good practices and procedures.

The NGO Working Group on Asia was convened as an initial response to the "collective cry for justice" for the victims of extra-judicial executions and forced disappearances in the Philippines that was made in Let the Stones Cry Out: an Ecumenical Report on Human Rights in the Philippines and a Call to Action. As a part of that "collective cry for justice", this Submission focuses on the voluntary pledges made by the government of the Philippines in 2006 and in 2007 when it successfully sought election/re-election to membership in the Council. The relevant pledges are listed in our submission, followed by questions appropriate for the UPR to consider.

We hope that this report can help the Human Rights Council for the UPR involving the Philippines scheduled in April 2008. Thank you very much.

Very respectfully yours,

Chris Ferguson

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The World Council of Churches promotes Christian unity in faith, witness and service for a just and peaceful world.

An ecumenical fellowship of churches founded in 1948, today the WCC brings together 347 Protestant, Orthodox, Anglican and other churches representing more than 560 million Christians in over 110 countries, and works cooperatively with the Roman Catholic Church.

The WCC General Secretary is Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia, from the Methodist Church in Kenya.

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.

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