

**TF USIG News Releases 2007**

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Press Statement of  
**POLICE DIRECTOR GEARY L BARIAS**  
Director for Investigation and Detection Management  
April 26, 2007

The Philippine National Police welcomes the proposal of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines to hold a dialogue with the police and some key officials of government to discuss concrete measures on how to stem violence against members of media.

In my capacity as commander of Task Force USIG, I have informed the Chief PNP, Director General Oscar C Calderon, of this development and he assured me of the full support of the PNP leadership to this initiative of NUJP to open channels of communication with the police.

We had long wanted to establish channels with the media organizations to set into motion a more effective and lasting solution to their concern over the security of working journalists.

This gesture of cooperation by NUJP will undoubtedly hasten the solution of the remaining six cases of violence committed against journalists which Task Force USIG is now working on. We have already filed 21 cases in court out of the 27 recorded incidents of slain journalists, and four (4) of these cases have already resulted in conviction of the killers.

We are encouraged by our success in the prosecution of the killer of Marlene Esperat in Mindanao. We have revived the cases against the alleged masterminds and we are highly optimistic that something significant will come out of this effort.

Rest assured the PNP will pursue all the other suspects behind the cases of violence committed against journalists with the same zeal and commitment.

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