

Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines

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Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. □ European Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc.
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Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Inc.



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PAMURI

JOINT FOREIGN CHAMBERS

STATEMENT ON MAGUINDANAO MASSACRE

The Joint Foreign Chambers joins Filipinos and numerous others at home and abroad in condemning the brutal massacre of unarmed civilians in Maguindanao on November 23 and in extending condolences to the families of the many victims.

The JFC is concerned about the impact of the massacre on the international image of the Philippines, and about the need for government authorities to address the underlying causes and conditions that allowed it to take place.

In economic terms, the massacre may adversely affect the country's reputation.

The world again watches the Philippines but for the wrong reasons. What happened in Maguindanao tarnishes the Philippine image as a destination for tourists and retirees and as an investment site. New foreign investment in the country has been declining and may further decrease because of this incident. People overseas cannot distinguish the difference between Maguindanao, Mindanao and the Philippines, and so the whole country gets tarnished. Businessmen may stay away from the Philippines because of heightened security concerns.

The international community is watching closely with deep concerns. The JFC urges the Philippine government to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice swiftly and convicted with the full force of law. Effective measures must also be taken to reduce future political violence, particularly as the country enters the 2010 pre-election period. The government should demonstrate its capability to conduct elections without the high number of election - related deaths as has occurred in the past.


AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN
President

American Chamber of Commerce
of the Philippines, Inc.


RICHARD BARCLAY
President

Australian-New Zealand Chamber
of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.



JULIAN PAYNE

President

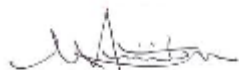
Canadian Chamber of Commerce
of the Philippines, Inc.



HUBERT D'ABOVILLE

President

European Chamber of Commerce
of the Philippines, Inc.



YASUHIKO ARIMITSU

President

Japanese Chamber of Commerce
& Industry of the Philippines, Inc.



EUN GAP CHANG

President

Korean Chamber of Commerce
of the Philippines, Inc.



SHAMEEM QURASHI

President

Philippine Association of Multinational Companies
Regional Headquarters, Inc.

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