



February 11, 2016

The Honorable Mr. Barack Obama  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As members of parliament from Southeast Asia, dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights, we write to express our desire for you to make discussion of human rights and the democratic aspirations of the people of ASEAN a priority during the upcoming summit at the Sunnylands estate in California on 15-16 February 2016.

As you are surely aware, democracy is struggling in Southeast Asia. Many countries in our region have taken dramatic steps backward in the past two years. While Southeast Asia appeared to be on the cusp of a genuine political transformation only a few years ago, more recently the region has instead witnessed military takeovers, the rollback of fundamental rights, intensifying government-sponsored discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities, and the increasing persecution of activists and opposition voices, including fellow parliamentarians.

These setbacks constitute a fundamental threat to the future of the ASEAN Community and the US relationship with it. While we recognize and understand your administration's desire to strengthen trade and security cooperation with Southeast Asian governments, we urge you to proceed with caution. Human rights, democracy, and basic dignity cannot take a backseat to economic or security prerogatives. Open dialogue on fundamental political and rights-based questions is vital to ensuring the sustainability of bilateral relationships and promoting broad-based benefits of trans-Pacific cooperation.

When you sit down with ASEAN leaders in California, we urge you to press them on unfulfilled human rights commitments and to directly raise specific concerns with them. Among the outstanding issues to address are the continued detention of political prisoners, the rampant violation of land rights through arbitrary land confiscation, the denial of free elections, and restrictions on fundamental rights to freedom of expression, association, and assembly that impact too many residents across the ASEAN Community.

We also urge you to continue to speak directly with civil society and listen to the voices of the people of ASEAN. In many cases, restrictive laws and government policies have made it harder for them to support the development of the democratic societies that are

vitally important to political and economic success. These individuals are our constituents and the true engines of dynamism and growth in the ASEAN region. Collaboration with the region's political and economic leadership must be paired with a genuine commitment to addressing the concerns of a broader spectrum of voices.

Our constituents demand and deserve governments that respect their rights and dignity. The United States is uniquely positioned to support our demands for accountability from our region's leaders, and the upcoming summit presents a distinct opportunity to do just that. We hope you will aid us in our efforts to achieve a more democratic and truly people-centered ASEAN Community.

Sincerely,

Son Chhay, MP  
Cambodia

Mao Monyvann, MP  
Cambodia

Mu Sochua, MP  
Cambodia

Ngor Kim Cheang, MP  
Cambodia

Botta Long, MP  
Cambodia

Nheng Ngim, MP  
Cambodia

Chanrith Ou, MP  
Cambodia

Phirum Keo, MP  
Cambodia

Chiv Cata, MP  
Cambodia

Pol Ham, MP  
Cambodia

Eng Chhai Eang, MP  
Cambodia

Sam An Um, MP  
Cambodia

Ho Vann, MP  
Cambodia

Sor Chandeth, MP  
Cambodia

Khy Vandeth, MP  
Cambodia

Sor Chandeth, MP  
Cambodia

Kong Kimhak, MP  
Cambodia

Te Chanmony, MP  
Cambodia

Lim Bun Sidareth, MP  
Cambodia

Tep Sothy, MP  
Cambodia

Lim Kim Ya, MP  
Cambodia

Yokda Tuon, MP  
Cambodia

Eva Sundari, MP  
Indonesia

Amelia Anggraini, MP  
Indonesia

Ammy Amalia, MP  
Indonesia

Charles Honoris, MP  
Indonesia

Dwi Ria Latifa, MP  
Indonesia

Ermalena, MP  
Indonesia

Irma Suryani, MP  
Indonesia

Itet Sumaryati, MP  
Indonesia

Katherine Oendoen, MP  
Indonesia

Melai Leimina Suharli, MP  
Indonesia

Mercy Chriesty Barends, MP  
Indonesia

Neni Moerniaeni, MP  
Indonesia

Nihayatul Wafiroh, MP  
Indonesia

Reni Marlinawati, MP  
Indonesia

Sirmaji, MP  
Indonesia

Tuti N Roosdiono, MP  
Indonesia

Charles Santiago, MP  
Malaysia

Abdullah Sani Hamid, MP  
Malaysia

Alice Lau Kiong Yieng, MP  
Malaysia

Anwar Ibrahim, MP  
Malaysia

Azman Ismail, MP  
Malaysia

Chong Chien Jen, MP  
Malaysia

Dr. Ko Chung Sen, MP  
Malaysia

Dr. Ong Kian Ming, MP  
Malaysia

Er Teck Hwa, MP  
Malaysia

Fauzi Abdul Rahman, MP  
Malaysia

Fong Kui Lun, MP  
Malaysia

Fuziah Salleh, MP  
Malaysia

G. Manivannan, MP  
Malaysia

Gobind Singh Deo, MP  
Malaysia

Gooi Hsiao-Leung, MP  
Malaysia

Hee Loy Sian, MP  
Malaysia

Ignatius Dorell Leiking, MP  
Malaysia

Jeff Ooi Chuan Aun, MP  
Malaysia

Johari Abdul, MP  
Malaysia

Julian Tan Kok Ping, MP  
Malaysia

Kamaruddin Jafar, MP  
Malaysia

Kamarul Baharin Abbas, MP  
Malaysia

Kasthuri Patto, MP  
Malaysia

Khalid bin Abd. Samad, MP  
Malaysia

Lee Boon Chye, MP  
Malaysia

Liew Chin Tong, MP  
Malaysia

Lim Guan Eng, MP  
Malaysia

Lim Kit Siang, MP  
Malaysia

Lim Lip Eng, MP  
Malaysia

Loke Siew Fook, MP  
Malaysia

M. Kulasegaran, MP  
Malaysia

Mansour Othman, MP  
Malaysia

Michael Teo Yu Keng, MP  
Malaysia

Mohamad Imran Hamid, MP  
Malaysia

Mohamed Azmin Ali, MP  
Malaysia

Mohamed Hanipa Maidin, MP  
Malaysia

Mohd Ariff Sabri bin Abdul Aziz, MP  
Malaysia

Mohd Idris Jusi, MP  
Malaysia

Mohd Rafizi Ramli, MP  
Malaysia

Mohd Hatta Md. Ramli, MP  
Malaysia

Mujahid bin Yusof, MP  
Malaysia

N. Surendran, MP  
Malaysia

Ng Wei Aik, MP  
Malaysia

Nga Kor Ming, MP  
Malaysia

Ngeh Koo Ham, MP  
Malaysia

Nurul Izzah Anwar, MP  
Malaysia

Oscar Ling Chai Yew, MP  
Malaysia

R. Sivarasa, MP  
Malaysia

Raja Kamarul Bahrin Shah Bin Raja  
Ahmad, MP  
Malaysia

Ramkarpal Singh, MP  
Malaysia

Shamsul Iskandar Akin, MP  
Malaysia

Sim Chee Keong, MP  
Malaysia

Sim Tong Him, MP  
Malaysia

Sim Tze Tzin, MP  
Malaysia

Siti Mariah binti Mahmud, MP  
Malaysia

Sivakumar Varatharaju Naidu, MP  
Malaysia

Su Keong Siong, MP  
Malaysia

Tan Kee Kwong, MP  
Malaysia

Tan Kok Wai, MP  
Malaysia

Tan Seng Giaw, MP  
Malaysia

Teo Kok Seong, MP  
Malaysia

Teo Nie Ching, MP  
Malaysia

Teresa Kok Suh Sim, MP  
Malaysia

Tian Chua, MP  
Malaysia

Tony Pua Kiam Wee, MP  
Malaysia

William Keong Jee Keen, MP  
Malaysia

Wong Chen, MP  
Malaysia

Wong Ling Bui, MP  
Malaysia

Wong Sze Phin, MP  
Malaysia

Wong Tien Fatt, MP  
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Zairil Khir Johari, MP  
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Zuraida Kamaruddin, MP  
Malaysia

U Shwe Maung, former MP  
Myanmar

Charles Chong, MP  
Singapore

Kraisak Choonhavan, former MP  
Thailand

Rachada Dhnadirek, former MP  
Thailand

Weng Tojirakarn, former MP  
Thailand