



Communiqué

Series 7 of 2019

Amidst the current challenges faced by our country and the pressing need to continue the fight to uphold human life, dignity, and liberty in these trying times, I would like to share a statement issued last August 2 by De La Salle Philippines (DLSP). Entitled *On the Criminal Charges Against Br. Armin Luistro FSC and Atty. Jose Manuel “Chel” Diokno*, the full statement—as posted on DLSP’s website—can be read below:

ON THE CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST BR. ARMIN LUISTRO FSC AND ATTY. JOSE MANUEL “CHEL” DIOKNO

Last week the Philippine National Police (PNP) filed criminal charges against Vice President Leni Robredo and 35 other individuals, many of whom are members of the opposition. Among those charged are Br. Armin Luistro FSC and Atty. Jose Manuel ‘Chel’ Diokno, both Lasallians who are at the forefront of the advocacy to uphold human life, dignity, and liberty. Fighting for these ideals does not equate to sedition nor inciting to sedition. They are merely exercising their freedom enshrined in our Constitution which guarantees “the freedom of speech, of expression, of the press, and the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances” (Article III, Section 4).

We strongly denounce these charges against them and the leaders of the opposition especially as these are based solely on the affidavit of a convicted felon Joemel Advincula.

We call on the PNP to live up to its ideals of Service, Honor and Justice and not to allow itself to be used for political ends.

We call on the current Administration to end the filing of charges against its perceived critics and instead perform its duty to protect the democratic space for dissent, grievances, and critical perspectives. The government is for all and not just for those who agree with the policies of the Administration.



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We also call on all freedom loving Filipinos to continue to voice out their views in support of human rights and democratic principles.

As we continue to pray for all those charged, we also pray that our leaders in government may be enlightened as we all seek a country that is socially and politically inclusive.

Finally, we call on all Lasallians to support Br. Armin and Atty. Chel, patriots and exemplars of our core values of Faith, Service, and Communion in mission.

(sgd.)
Mr. Edgar Chua
Chief Executive Officer
De La Salle Philippines

(sgd.)
Br. Iñigo Riola SC
President
St. Jaime Hilario School – De La Salle Bataan

(sgd.)
Br. Dennis Magbanua FSC
President
De La Salle – College of St. Benilde

(sgd.)
Br. Augustine Boquer FSC
President
De La Salle University – Dasmariñas
De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute

(sgd.)
Br. Victor Franco FSC
President
La Salle Green Hills

(sgd.)
Br. Raymundo Suplido FSC
President
De La Salle University

(sgd.)
Br. Dante Amisola FSC
President
De La Salle Lipa

(sgd.)
Br. Joaquin Martinez FSC
President
University of St. La Salle
St. Joseph School – La Salle



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(sgd.)
Ms. Evelyn Cimafranca
Officer-in-charge
De La Salle Andres Soriano Memorial College

(sgd.)
Br. Antonio Servando FSC
President
La Salle Academy

(sgd.)
Dr. Aristarco Ugmad
President
De La Salle John Bosco College

(sgd.)
Dr. Jimelo Tipay
President
La Salle College Antipolo

(sgd.)
Br. Bernard Oca FSC
President
De La Salle Santiago Zobel

(sgd.)
Br. Jaime Dalumpines FSC
President
La Salle University

(sgd.)
Dr. Bjorn Santos
President
De La Salle Araneta University

As members of the De La Salle Araneta University community and as Lasallians who are part of the great Philippine Lasallian family, let us continue to heed the call of DLSP to “voice out [our] views in support of human rights and democratic principles”.

Dr. Bjorn S. Santos
President