



**ALLIANCE *for*
JOURNALISTS'
FREEDOM**

Level 3
1 Bligh St
Sydney 2000
Australia

11 May 2020

To President Duterte

**Regional Coalition calls on Duterte Govt to re-open ABS-CBN
and ensure Press Freedom in the Philippines.**

At times of crisis, reliable information is a key part of society's ability to cope and respond. In the context of the Covid19 pandemic, the closure of broadcaster ABS-CBN is unconscionable.

Lack of a free media makes democracy vulnerable, fractures societies and undermines trust in institutions – especially in Government.

The Filipino public greatly needs reliable information. This is particularly the case given the well documented vulnerability of the Philippines to fake news spread through Facebook.

We cannot beat this virus without knowledge through transparency, and cooperation through communication.

Governments have a responsibility to maintain their democratic and social systems, and a free media plays an essential role within that.

The closure of ABS-CBN makes the Philippines a less healthy society, and also undermines the ability of the region and the world to respond to this crisis.

We, the undersigned journalists, press freedom groups and media organisations have come together to call on you to urgently reinstate ABS-CBN's operating license and make an ongoing commitment to press freedom.

Join us in maintaining a regional and global standard.

Sincerely

Peter Greste
Director
Alliance for Journalists' Freedom
UNESCO Chair of Journalism & Communication at the University of
Queensland



&

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Simons'.

Margaret Simons, freelance journalist and author

with:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Soon'.

**Alan Soon
Co-founder Splice Media**



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexandra Wake'.

**Dr Alexandra Wake
President, Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Draffin'.

**Anna Draffin
Chief Executive Officer, The Public Interest Journalism Initiative**





A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. McMahon', with a long, sweeping underline.

Dr Cait McMahon OAM, PhD, MAPS
Managing Director, Dart Centre Asia Pacific



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Feik'.

Chris Feik
Editor, Quarterly Essay

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gaven Morris'.

Gaven Morris
Director, News, Analysis & Investigations at Australian Broadcasting Corporation



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Dickson'.

Gary Dickson
Press freedom researcher and writer

Helen Garner
Writer



Associate Professor Jason Bosland
Centre for Media and Communications Law, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JK Walsh', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jean Ker Walsh
Moderator, Cranlana Centre for Ethical Leadership

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Johan Lidberg', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Johan Lidberg
Deputy Head Journalism, Monash University

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jon Bisset', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jon Bisset
Chief Executive Officer, Community Broadcasting Association of Australia



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr Joseph M Fernandez', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dr Joseph M Fernandez
Adjunct Associate Professor, Curtin University



Karen Mahlab AM

Publisher, Pro Bono Australia, Founding Director The Public Interest Journalism Initiative



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Lenore Taylor'.

Lenore Taylor

Editor, The Guardian Australia

**The
Guardian**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Lisa Davies'.

Lisa Davies

Editor, The Sydney Morning Herald

The Sydney Morning Herald

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Lisa Waller'.

Lisa Waller

Professor of Digital Communication, RMIT University





Marcus Strom
President of MEAA Media



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Mark Ryan'.

Mark Ryan
Executive Director, The Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Maria A. Ressa'.

Maria A. Ressa
CEO and Executive Editor, RAPPLER



RAPPLER



Misha Ketchell

Misha Ketchell
Editor & Executive Director, The Conversation, Australia and New Zealand

THE CONVERSATION

Nick Feik

Nick Feik
Editor, The Monthly

The Monthly

Helen Sullivan

Professor Helen Sullivan
Academic

Premesh Chandran
CEO, Co-Founder of Malaysiakini

malaysiakini
news and views that matter



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabra Lane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sabra" and last name "Lane" clearly distinguishable.

Sabra Lane
President, National Press Club of Australia



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Forde". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized.

Professor Susan Forde
Dean (Academic), Arts Education and Law Group, Griffith University