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2 **A Call for Solidarity with the Persecuted in the Philippines, and an**
3 **End to Extra-Judicial Killings and other Human Rights Violations**

4 (Resolution of Witness)

5 **RESOLUTION**

6 **WHEREAS**, More than 800 people have been murdered in extra-judicial killings in the
7 Philippines over the past 5 years, and nearly 200 people have been forcibly abducted,
8 with none of these cases solved;

9 **WHEREAS**, Those who have been killed or disappeared have been involved in work for
10 economic and political justice within the legal framework, yet characterized by the
11 Philippine government as *destabilizers* and *enemies of the state*;

12 **WHEREAS**, Our sisters and brothers of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines,
13 are subject, as are most of the citizens of the Philippines, to a culture of repression and
14 terror, and additionally live and work with the awareness that 16 of the 27 religious
15 workers killed to date [March, 2007] have been members of the UCCP;

16 **WHEREAS**, \$179.6 million has been provided by the U.S. government to the
17 Philippines, from 2001-2004 “to equip security forces” [See GAO report, July, 2005] with
18 then-assistant U.S. Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz referring to the Philippines as
19 the “Second Front in the War on Terror” [See on-line *AsiaTimes*, May, 2003];

20 **WHEREAS**, in a country where basic needs for health care, public education, and
21 gainful employment are neglected, the Philippine government has allocated \$208 million
22 for military hardware upgrades to combat insurgency;

23 **WHEREAS**, As people of faith we cry out to the Most High to “*listen and do justice for*
24 *the vulnerable and the oppressed, so that mortals may bring terror no more;*”

25 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that General Synod XXVI calls upon

26 The General Minister and President

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- 28 • to communicate to the United States Congress that any future appropriations from
29 the United States of America to the Philippines should be conditioned on the
30 demonstrated promotion of human rights through effective prosecution, trial and
31 appropriate punishment of those alleged to perpetrate, assist, tolerate or are
otherwise responsible for human rights violations against civilian populations;
 - 32 • to encourage Wider Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries,
33 Conferences, and Local Churches to advocate that military appropriations be
34 conditional upon demonstrated promotion of human rights;
 - 35 • to ask individual members of the United Church of Christ, U.S.A., and Local
36 Churches to pray for our partner church, the United Church of Christ, Philippines,
37 in this time of upheaval, and to understand and be ultimately concerned for the
38 economic, political, and religious dynamics of the country;

- 39 • to invite our ecumenical partners in the United States to join us in
 40 denouncing the extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances in the Philippines;
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- 42 • to call upon Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to stop the executions
 43 and violence and call the perpetrators into account under the law;
- 44 • to call upon U.S. President George W. Bush to reconsider his 2003 description of
 45 the Philippines as a “model of democracy” and to pursue the realization of
 46 democratic rule in the Philippines;
- 47 • to maintain supportive communication with the UCCP;

48 Wider Church Ministries

- 49 • to encourage mission partnerships between Conferences and the UCCP;
- 50 • to maintain supportive communication with the UCCP;
- 51 • to provide and disseminate information on the current state of the Philippines to
 52 Local Churches & Conferences;

53 Justice & Witness Ministries

- 54 • to call upon U.S. government agencies and elected representatives to examine the
 55 links between U.S. funds and the violence and repression in the Philippines;
- 56 • to identify, through Justice and Peace Network communications, legislators who
 57 could be called upon to provide leadership in addressing policy and funding issues
 58 pertinent to the violations of human rights in the Philippines;
- 59 • to provide information and resources to raise awareness in Local Churches;

60 Conferences

- 61 • to express support and solidarity with the members of the UCCP in living out
 62 Jesus Christ’s Gospel message, particularly in promoting economic justice. (Luke
 63 4:18-19);
- 64 • to establish linkages (dialogue, conversations, programs, etc.) toward mission
 65 partnerships with the UCCP.

66 Local Churches

- 67 • to seek out and employ avenues of advocacy for those persecuted in the
 68 Philippines;
- 69 • to prayerfully consider forming personal relationships with members of UCCP in
 70 affected areas for support and solidarity.

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72 **FUNDING**

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74 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the
 75 overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

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77 **IMPLEMENTATION**

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79 Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries are requested to be the
80 primary implementer of this resolution.

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