



Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines

PRESS RELEASE STATEMENT

FROM: CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (CEAP)

Membership and Communications Unit

Tel. No. 926-0521

Exemplifying Obedience to the Gospel –
Being “Salt of the Earth” and “Light of the World”

(CEAP’s Statement of Support for Heidi Mendoza, Lt. Col. George Rabusa and Lt. Col. Antonio Ramon Lim)

*“Just so, your light must shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”
(Matthew 5: 16)*

As the Congressional Committee hearings unfold, the Filipino nation is stunned at the extent of corruption in the military. Justice hangs in the balance.

Public officials who have stolen from government coffers must be dealt with severely. We are deeply disturbed that this no longer seems to be true. So many have stolen with impunity. So much has been lost to unpunished theft. **The case of Maj. Gen. Garcia is now clearly a test of the Filipino People’s resolve to eradicate this foulness in its society. It is a test for this government’s resolve to walk “the straight and narrow path” – President Aquino’s “matuwid na daan”.**

The testimony of Heidi LLoce-Mendoza, who sacrificed her job, her personal security and that of her family, has brought to light the extent of corruption committed by Maj. Gen. Garcia and the mighty generals. Other witnesses, Lt. Col. George Rabusa and Lt. Col. Antonio Ramon Lim, corroborated her revelations. **The nation is appalled by the magnitude of the greed and corruption that have been institutionalized in the Philippine military.** It is revolted at the contrast between the ill-equipped foot soldiers who brave the war zones for the pittance they receive for their families and the generals basking in their mansions and enjoying multiple-millions for their families.

It is in this light that the **Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) calls all Filipinos to be vigilant and to strengthen their support for the truth-tellers.** We invite everyone to continue to pray for those who struggle to let justice be served. Let our prayers fortify them. **The Gospel last Sunday speaks of the ‘salt of the earth’ and the ‘light of the world’ (Mt. 5: 13-14), the challenge given every baptized Christian.** Heidi Mendoza, Lt. Col. Rabusa, Lt. Col. Lim, and all those who came before them as whistle-blowers, exemplify obedience to the Gospel in this benighted land.

We enjoin all our members to use this opportunity to continuously **educate their students towards Christian conscience. Discuss corruption in all academic circles; form our students in truth, integrity and courage.** It is worth mentioning that Heidi Mendoza is a product of our own. She graduated from the Sacred Heart College of Lucena City (BSC 1983), a school that is administered by the Daughters of Charity. While we receive flack for graduates of Catholic schools who have not been faithful to the teachings of the Church, we applaud Heidi Mendoza as one of our own who has been faithful. Further, **we encourage our members to publicly manifest their support for truth-tellers: hang banners of support in their schools, release statements of solidarity, partner with other Church groups and members of civil society who have all expressed support for the three, conduct joint activities that respond to this issue.**

We appeal to our government and its law enforcement agencies to ensure that those who dared speak to reveal the truth be protected. We appeal to the judiciary, and particularly the Ombudsman and the Sandiganbayan, to uphold the truth without fear or favour. We urge the legislature to ensure that this investigation results in concrete measures to curb corruption and improve the justice system in the country. Let it not degenerate into a circus for political vendetta and empty grandstanding.

May Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Light hear our pleas. May He guide us to peace and joy for our troubled society.