

DRINGENDE ACTIES



FILIPPIJNEN: HET RECHT OP VOEDING VAN 500 LANDBOUWPACHTERS BEDREIGD

DEZE ACTIE LOOPT VAN 17 APRIL TOT 17 JUNI 2014

ACTIE

Vul het online formulier in op de website van FIAN International, of stuur een e-mail aan de president van de Filippijnse Republiek, met kopies naar het Presidentieel Bureau van de Filippijnen, het Ministerie voor Landbouwhervorming, en het Provinciaal Bureau voor Landbouwhervorming van Quezon II in de Filippijnen. Daarin vraag je hen om de herverdeling van de grond op de Hacienda Matias sneller te laten verlopen, zodat het recht op voeding van de landbouwpachters en hun families verzekerd is; en om een einde te maken aan de pesterijen tegen de landbouwpachters. De nodige adressen en een modelbrief vind je ook via de link naar de formulier-pagina.

Laat het ons weten als je antwoord krijgt!

ADRESSEN

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**His Excellency Benigno
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SUBJECT: Hacienda Matias: Right to Food of of 500 farmers and their families threatened

Dear Excellency,

Recently I was informed about the situation of 500 tenant-farmers and their families in Hacienda Matias who are suffering violations of their right to food. In 2004, the tenant-farmers petitioned for the coverage of the 1,716 hectares of coconut land in Hacienda Matias in San Francisco, Quezon province, under the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

10 years later, the tenant farmers are still waiting for the implementation of the CARP. Between 2004 and 2013, the landowners of Hacienda Matias protested against the inclusion of the property in the CARP by filing three appeals which have been all denied by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and two Motions for Reconsideration, where the first of them was denied while the decision of the OP on the latest is still pending. Aside from the decision of the OP, one of the legal hurdles is the Administration Order No. 7 (A.O. 7) Series 2011, according to which land will be distributed if there are no protests for exemption of exclusion by the landowners. The pending decision before the OP, as well as the said Order is inhibiting the DAR from taking any additional steps toward land distribution. I was informed that the tenant-farmers continue to face criminalisation by the landowners and that their security is threatened by armed men in the hacienda. Up to now, the DAR has only managed to survey five out of seven lots in the Hacienda Matias. Also the leasehold system which replaces share tenancy needs to be fully implemented to release tenant-farmers from economical hardship, hunger and poverty.

The Philippines is duty bound under international law to fulfil the right to food of the tenant-farmers in Hacienda Matias. Access to land is essential to rural populations' right to adequate food. The delayed implementation of the CARP due to the negligence of the DAR in the past, as well as the issuance of the A.O. No. 7 Series 2011, the Philippines fail to meet the obligation mentioned.

Furthermore, the Philippines failed to protect the tenant-farmers and their families from harassment and violence inflicted by the hired armed men. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to which the Philippine is a State party, describes these obligations in detail. In order to put an end to the related violations,, I would like to ask you to:

- fast-track the OP decision on the Motion for Reconsideration;
- revoke the A.O. 7 Series 2011;
- order the DAR to complete the land survey process and further the redistribution;
- order the DAR to effectively implement leasehold and abolish share tenancy, and
- provide adequate measures to protect the tenant-farmers and their families from further harassments and criminalisation.

Please keep me informed of the action you plan to take in this regard.

Yours sincerely,