Dear Friends,

This is the Pastoral Letter of the Bishops of the Philippines published this evening.

It will be read tomorrow in all the churches of the Philippines in the different languages of the country. In churches, where only 10% of the faithful are allowed after a four-month closure.

This letter, written and signed by our friend, Bishop Ambo David of Kalookan and Vice-President of the Conference of Bishops of the Philippines, describes well the current social and political climate of the country as we feel it. Thank you for your solidarity and prayers.

Very cordially. Bernard.



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

A PASTORAL LETTER AND A CALL TO PRAYER

"Sow for yourselves justice, reap in mercy. Break up for yourselves a new
time to seek the Lord, till he comes and rains justice upon you." (Hose

Dear Fellow Filipinos,

A few days ago, we received a letter from His Eminence, Charles Cardinal M
Archbishop of Yangon, Myanmar and President of the Federation of As
Conferences. It was an ardent request for prayers for Hongkong, on account
into law of a new National Security Act. He explained in his letter how this
a threat to the basic freedoms and human rights of the people of Hongkon
potentially undermines especially their freedom of expression.

Apparently, the Chinese government assures the people of Hongkong th
nothing to be afraid of, as long as "they don't get involved in any activity
national security." Why does this sound eerily familiar to us Filipinos? Beca
a similar situation. And so, while we responded with an assurance to H
Cardinal Bo, that we would join him in praying for the people of Hongkong,
him to pray for the Philippines and explained why we are as seriously in need
the people of Hongkong. Like them, we are also alarmed about the recent sig
of the Anti-Terror Act of 2020.

We are still in disbelief about the manner in which the contentious Anti-T
fast-tracked and approved in both Houses of Congress while the whole coun
was focused on the Covid-19 pandemic. They did not even seem to care tha
people they represent were against it—lawyers' associations, the academe
sector, labor groups, youth organizations, NGO's, political movements
communities, and even the Bangsamoro government.

The dissenting voices were strong but they remained unheeded. None o
concerns that they expressed about this legislative measure seemed t

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