



Statement on the Fraternity-Related Incidents at UP Diliman

We are confirming two fraternity-related incidents on June 18. To respect their privacy, we will not mention the names of the victims. Neither will we mention the fraternities involved since this might just exacerbate the tensions.

The first incident took place at about 3 p.m., involving the attack of two students by a group of assailants wearing masks and who were able to escape. Both were treated at the University Health Service for injuries, with one of them having to be transferred to a private hospital.

The second incident occurred an hour later when a group of suspects inflicted damage on a parked vehicle and then ganged up on the occupants. One of them sustained serious injuries. The suspects used two vehicles to try to escape but the UP Diliman Police pursued and stopped one vehicle outside the campus and apprehended its occupants.

The UP Diliman administration condemns these brutal attacks. The use of getaway vehicles shows these attacks were premeditated.

Ironically, the assaults occurred during our celebration of the University's Foundation Day (June 18). Instead of upholding UP's cherished values of honor and excellence, the assaults bring great disgrace to the frats concerned, and to the university.

We would like to assure the UP community and the public that investigations are ongoing and that all security forces are on alert to prevent further violent incidents.

The key to peace, however, lies with the fraternities themselves. We have appealed to the fraternities involved to desist from further acts of retaliation.

I would like to end on a personal note. I was shocked when I saw the principal victim at the University Health Service. To use the Filipino description,

he was “bugbog sarado.” He was clearly in a daze and could not speak. Only the term “savage” can be used to describe what the assailants did to this student, who only happened to be on campus to get his grade.

Later, as he was about to be transferred to an ambulance, I went in to see him again and this time, he managed a wan smile and a thumbs up, his way of saying, “I’m OK, don’t worry.”

I thought of the contrast between this student’s courage and concern for others and the cowardice of masked assailants out to maim others in the name of frat “honor.”

UP Diliman will act firmly, initiating immediate preventive suspension on students involved in the assault and promptly conduct hearings. We will impose the full penalty for those found guilty, and this is expulsion. There is no place for cowards in UP.

Once again, we call on all fraternities to use the inter-frat mechanisms they have committed to in order to resolve their differences, with honor and dignity.

Signed:

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Chancellor
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