



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (UPAA)

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U.P. ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DECRIES DND'S UNILATERAL TERMINATION OF 1989 ACCORD WITH U.P.


We, the University of the Philippines Alumni Association (UPAA) officers and members, express our collective dismay and dissent to the unilateral abrogation of the 1989 agreement between the Department of National Defense and the University of the Philippines.

The accord ensured that members of the student body, faculty, and staff of U.P., the country's national university, could fully enjoy their right to free expression in the U.P. campuses without interference or censure by the police and military. Under the agreement, prior notification shall be given to the U.P. administration by the military or police before they could conduct any operations inside the U.P. campuses, and except in cases of hot pursuit and similar occasions of emergency, no military or police shall enter the premises of the UP campuses.

The agreement was conceived and concluded in good faith by both parties to foster harmonious and peaceful relations in protecting academic freedom – the very wellspring and essence of the university's existence.

The one-sided cancellation of the 1989 accord violates established norms in a society that respects the sanctity of contracts. DND ignored and disregarded basic courtesies – there was no notification or consultation before taking action on a mutually agreed accord. Communication is the basis of understanding. Unfortunately, no prior communication transpired.

The UPAA alumni members, many of whom are parents themselves, are equally concerned as the authorities about the well-being and future of the students in the university. Thus, we urge the concerned government authorities and the U.P. administration to commence dialogue towards a viable and mutually acceptable solution without further escalation of rhetoric and emotions.

Signed:

REYNALDO C. LASERNA
President


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Secretary