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To all MEPs who signed the letter regarding the case of a Philippine journalist, Ms Maria Ressa

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 19 February on the case of Maria Ressa, the CEO and Executive Director of Rappler.

As you rightly point out, Ms Ressa was arrested on 13 February on grounds of cyber libel and was released on bail the following day in accordance with Philippine legislation.

The EU expects that Ms Ressa's case will be handled in accordance with the principles of due process. Journalists must be allowed to perform their work independently and without interference.

Following her release the Head of Delegation has been in contact with Maria Ressler and met with her on 16 February as a public sign of solidarity. Their meeting was posted on the Delegation's social media accounts.

Without freedom of expression and free media, an informed, active and engaged citizenry is inconceivable. The EU supports media freedom and pluralism in the Philippines and worldwide. Together with the Embassy of Denmark the EU is currently implementing a project on 'Safeguarding Press Freedom' in the Philippines.

I would like to assure the Honourable Members that the EU Delegation and EU Member States in Manila will continue to follow the case of Ms Ressa closely.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini