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Menardo I. Guevarra

Department of Justice, Philippines

Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila 1000

PHILIPPINEN

Datum

**Maria Ressa, Website Rappler**

Dear Secretary Menardo Guevarra,

No other news website or journalist has been so persistently harassed, intimidated and targeted by the government in recent Philippine history than *Rappler* and its executive editor, *Maria Ressa.*

One year ago, on 15 June 2020, both *Maria Ressa* and former *Rappler* researcher Rey Santos Jr were convicted of cyber libel, becoming the first journalists in the Philippines convicted of the offence, and for which they face sentences ranging from six months and one day to six years in prison.

*Maria Ressa* and *Rappler’s* directors collectively still face several other lawsuits and investigations, including alleged tax violations and violations of the prohibition against foreign control over mass media.

I urge you to immediately drop all charges against *Maria Ressa*, her colleagues in *Rappler*, and *Rappler* itself and to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the right to freedom of expression and media freedom in policy and practice.

Yours sincerely,