

Menardo I. Guevarra
Department of Justice, Philippines
Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila 1000
PHILIPPINEN

Maria Ressa

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,