CJD STATEMENT ON ABS-CBN FRANCHISE REJECTION

July 10, 2020, we experienced a serious downward spiral in media freedom.

The lawmakers that we trusted and voted for revealed their true color when it comes to press freedom, leadership, values, governance, accountability, responsibility and care for the constituency.

Instead of protecting our basic rights... they are the ones throttling media independence. They know for a fact that freedom of the press is more important now than ever. Their decision not to grant the franchise application of ABSCBN just shows their distorted mindset in a time where diverse news sources are very important for information to flow freely... so people could make sound decisions and communicate those decisions immediately to the authorities and vice versa. Information help people to prepare for the worst... and what better time to use such information than in this time of the coronavirus pandemic.

Moreover, 11,000 people who have their own families to feed were deprived of their jobs at a time where they needed it the most. Sad to say, some of the casualties are even our revered alumni.

Seventy (70) of our legislators chose to look the other way instead of choosing the best and the right decision for the common good. This should serve as a wake-up call to everyone, especially to our leaders that press freedom is a trademark of a true democracy... it should not be derailed just to cater to the whims of people with ill-intentions.

Democracy fails if we allow people with vested interests to trample on our rights. Democracy fails if we remain silent and apathetic.

Like they say, no democracy is complete without press freedom.

If we want justice, peace, development and human rights to prevail...

LET US DEFEND PRESS FREEDOM, PROTECT OUR JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA WORKERS, APPLY AND PROMOTE BEST JOURNALISM PRACTICES AND CONTINUALLY UPHOLD THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD JOURNALISM.

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