



MIS-367-2008

10 May 2008

Ms. Ellene Sana
Executive Director
Center for Migrant Advocacy
Teachers Village
Quezon City

Re: Updates on the Case of OFW Pedro Mabanto


Dear Ms. Sana,

The Embassy would like to inform you that today, 10 May 2008, Post reps attended the scheduled hearing on the case of OFW Mabanto. Post reps waited for almost two (2) hours outside the chamber of Judge Abdulaziz Al-Sheik. During the hearing, Post reps were asked by Judge Al-Sheik whether the family of the victim had executed a Special Power of Attorney (SPA). Post reps immediately replied in the affirmative and presented the said SPA to Judge Al-Sheik. After Judge Al-Sheik examined the said documents, he suggested to Post reps to advise the family of the late Benjamin Cruz to issue an affidavit stating therein their demands, either to forgive the accused or to demand payment of blood money. Judge Al-Sheik then decided to set the hearing after three (3) months or earlier than that as soon as the said documents are available.

Rest assured that Post is extending the necessary assistance to Pedro Mabanto in order to accord him due process.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,


ANTONIO P. VILLAMOR
Ambassador