



SENATOR FRANK F. BLAS, JR.

I' MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

September 14, 2010

Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Hafa Adai (Greetings)! I write this letter to express my extreme disappointment with your administration's lack of compassion for Guam's World War II survivors in light of the pressure you put on the Iraqi government to pay claims to Americans for sufferings caused by the Saddam Hussein regime. I refer to stories reported by national media that states, "Settling the claims, which were brought by American citizens, has been seen as a key requirement for Washington to be willing to push for an end to (the) UN sanctions."

News of this recent action comes at a time when the United States is planning to move forward on a military buildup on Guam that would change the lives of my people forever. A buildup that many of Guam's leaders have demanded that before it is allowed to take place, unresolved issues such as our World War II Loyalty Recognition Act need to be resolved.

I hope that you can understand and appreciate the dismay the people of Guam have in your apparent inattentiveness to the moral and emotional obligation the United States has to recognize and acknowledge the sufferings caused on our people during World War II. Although we sympathize for the little American boy who was seen frozen-looking on Iraqi television while being questioned by Saddam Hussein, what about 73 year old Vicente Taisipic, who as a six year old during WWII, had to hold down dogs as captive soldiers delighted in decapitating the animals? Or 80 year old Teresa Borja, who at the age of about 12 during the war, was tied like a carabao to a coconut tree while she watched her crippled mother being forced to work in the fields? Don't Guam's WWII survivors deserve the same attention and commitment that you gave to those Americans who suffered at the hands of the Iraqi government? Did you forget your promise?

Mr. President, when you were a member of the U.S. Senate, I wrote to you and asked for your support of a Guam War Claims bill that was then before the House. In your response back to me, you stated that you knew of the death and atrocities caused on the people of Guam during WWII. You also stated that you will keep in mind my urging for your support of the measure when it finally comes before you.

In a December 2009 meeting with senior staffers from the offices of Senators Carl Levin and John McCain, of which staff members of Guam's House Delegate Madeleine Bordallo were also in attendance, Senator Levin's representative suggested that if you were in support of Guam's war claims effort, that you write a letter to the committee expressing that support. It was also suggested that your letter detail where the funding would come from to pay the claims.

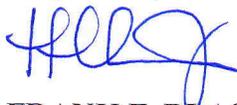
SUITE 908, DNA BUILDING, 238 ARCHBISHOP F.C. FLORES STREET, HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96910

TEL: (671) 472-2527/31 • FAX: (671) 472-2528

EMAIL: frank.blasjr@gmail.com

Although it is not known whether Guam's Delegate has since shared with you the suggestion from Senator Levin's office, I share it with you now and pray that you commit to your promise. Sir, it is before you now, and my people are waiting.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'FRANK F. BLAS, JR.', written in a cursive style.

FRANK F. BLAS, JR.

cc: Governor of Guam
Guam's Delegate to U.S. House of Representatives
Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
Secretary, U.S. Department of Defense
Secretary, U.S. Department of State
All Senators, 30th Guam Legislature
All Media