February 27, 2019

FCCJ Freedom of Press Statement

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan (FCCJ) joins the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and other media bodies in condemning the recent arrest of Maria A. Ressa, a well-known Philippine journalist and author. ([https://cpj.org/2019/02/cpj-condemns-arrest-of-rapplers-maria-ressa-on-cyb.php](https://cpj.org/2019/02/cpj-condemns-arrest-of-rapplers-maria-ressa-on-cyb.php))

Ms Ressa, a co-founder and executive editor of the Philippine on-line news site Rappler was detained by National Bureau of Investigation officers at Rappler's Manila bureau on February 13 over a cyber libel case filed against her by the country's Justice Department, Rappler reported. Former Rappler researcher Reynaldo Santos Jr. has also been charged in the case, reports said.

A former lead investigative reporter in Southeast Asia for CNN, Ms Ressa (55) was arrested on a charge relating to a story Rappler published in May 2012 about local businessman Wilfredo Keng, the CPJ said.

Reports suggest that the arrest is a retaliatory move against Ressa for exposing violence-inciting fake accounts on Facebook linked to President Rodrigo Duterte's administration, The CPJ has called on Philippine authorities to drop all pending charges against Ressa.

The FCCJ condemns any attempt to stifle investigative journalism and intimidate journalists performing their professional duties.

Peter Langan  Abigail Leonard
President                  First Vice President and Freedom of the Press Chair

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan Tokyo