

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
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Subject: Fw: Philippine ex-president Arroyo arrested in hospital (Reuters)

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Subject: Philippine ex-president Arroyo arrested in hospital (Reuters)

MANILA (Reuters) - Former Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was arrested on Friday for electoral fraud, which carries a life sentence, at a Manila hospital, preventing her departure from the country to seek medical treatment.

President Benigno Aquino and his government have long accused Arroyo of corruption during her two terms in office, from 2001-2010, though until Friday, authorities had not formally charged her.

"She is now under our control, under our custody," Senior Superintendent Franklin Bucayu, head of the Southern Police District, told a news briefing outside St Luke's Hospital.

"The arrest warrant has been served. We tried to read her rights but her lawyers waived it because of her conditions. She smiled at us and she was expecting it."

The arrest warrant had been issued earlier in the day, just after the government lost a bid to reverse a Supreme Court ruling allowing Arroyo to travel abroad.

Arroyo denies any wrongdoing.

Police said Arroyo's family, her lawyers and some members of her cabinet were at her side in the hospital when the warrant was served. Her photograph would be taken and booking done over the weekend.

"We posted two police officers outside her room and there are more officers down here to protect," Bucayu said, adding the former president was wearing a neck brace when the warrant was served. "She just nodded and did not say any word."

Both military and police leaders promised to maintain law and order, dismissing rumours of unrest within their ranks.

"That is the real triumph of justice," said Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

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