



Breaking Through: A DECADE OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC STRUGGLES & VICTORIES

Resolution against Political Persecution of Philippine Opposition Leaders and in support of UN Probe on drug-related killings in the Philippines

1. The Philippines is experiencing the worst human rights crisis since the Martial Law era according to the Human Rights Watch¹. The president's campaign against drugs have led to a staggering number of drug-related killings, estimated by government to be at 5,500, and with rights groups estimating the number can be as high as 27,000 – including those killed by masked vigilantes².
2. The blatant disregard for human rights in the country have led to a culture of impunity and has emboldened more violence and human rights abuses. Politically motivated killings of labor leaders, environmentalists, journalists and human rights defenders have been on the rise, with the Philippines consistently ranking most dangerous country for civilians, journalists and human rights defenders³.
3. The UN Human Rights Council on 12 July 2019 approved a resolution led by Iceland, along with 27 other countries, calling on UN Rights Chief Michelle Bachelet to write a comprehensive report on the human rights crisis in the Philippines within a year.⁴ The resolution was passed in recognition that national institutions have failed to investigate and ensure accountability for the staggering levels of human rights abuses.

¹ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2018/country-chapters/philippines>

² <https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/iq/235775-why-iceland-led-un-resolution-drug-war-killings-philippines>

³ <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2019/07/30/1939189/philippines-most-dangerous-land-environment-defenders-2018-watchdog>, <https://www.rappler.com/nation/234659-philippines-one-most-dangerous-places-civilians-think-tank-findings>, <https://www.rappler.com/nation/191744-philippines-deadliest-country-journalists-asia-reporters-without-borders-2017-report>

⁴ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/07/approves-resolution-probe-duterte-war-drugs-19071111144270.html>.



4. The Philippine government have not only failed in exacting accountability and addressing the extra-judicial killings (EJKs), the administration have consistently employed legal acrobatics to persecute opposition leaders, rights groups, media organizations and individuals in an effort to silence any dissent to the government's anti-human rights policies. Some notable cases include the imprisonment of opposition senator Leila De Lima who has been in jail for over 900 days at present, the unconstitutional removal of Supreme Court Chief Justice Lourdes Sereno, to the multiple cases filed against, and subsequent arrests of journalist Maria Ressa.
5. Most recently, the Philippine National Police – Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) filed a sedition case against Akbayan Senator Risa Hontiveros, chairperson of one of Socdem Asia's founding member organizations, along with Vice President Robredo and 36 other opposition and civil society leaders⁵.
6. SOCDEM Asia demands the Philippine government to immediately put a stop the bloody war on drugs, exact accountability for the on the massive killings under the current administration and heed calls from the international community for a meaningful investigation into the current human rights crisis.
7. SOCDEM Asia supports the resolution sponsored by Iceland, adopted by the UN HRC and the subsequent by the UN to probe on the human rights abuses in the Philippines.
8. SOCDEM Asia condemns the trumped-up sedition cases against Akbayan Senator Risa Hontiveros and other opposition and civil society leaders as another effort to cripple the opposition and silence those critical of the government.
9. SOCDEM Asia stands in solidarity with the Filipino people, especially those targeted by Duterte's war on drugs and political persecution, and joins the international community in shedding light and calling for justice on the worsening human rights crisis in the Philippines.

Adopted this 29th of August 2019.

⁵<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1143721/hontiveros-on-sedition-raps-badly-written-telenovela>