



556 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036
TEL NO. (212) 764-1300

Letter no. 0183 - 2021

30 July 2021

Dear Mr. Borden,

I wish to refer to the side event *The Global War on Drugs vs. Rule of Law and Human Rights* that your organization organized on 13 July 2021. We wish to share with your organization the following updates regarding the Philippines' anti-illegal drugs campaign, and in relation to the points raised during the side event.

The Philippine Government and the United Nations formally launched the UN Joint Program on Human Rights (UNJP) on 22 July 2021. The three-year UNJP is aimed at further strengthening national institutions and supporting domestic processes through technical cooperation with relevant UN bodies and international partners.

The UNJP has six (6) areas of engagement, including strengthening domestic investigative and accountability mechanisms and strengthening the human rights-based approach to drug control. Activities relate to enhancing the conduct of investigations and filing of appropriate administrative and/or criminal charges on human rights violations, provision of treatment and care services for persons who use drugs, and establishment of a national referral pathway to address human rights concerns using appropriate domestic mechanisms.

The Philippine Government is openly and in good faith engaged in conversations on human rights issues in appropriate international fora, such as the Human Rights Council. The use of the Human Rights Council and other fora to promote certain political agendas must be subjected to proper scrutiny to prevent the weaponization of human rights.

The Philippines has an independent judiciary and functioning domestic accountability mechanisms. There is no basis to allege lack of accountability for human rights violations in the Philippines because there is evident progress in holding violators accountable. A Review Panel led by the Department of Justice has commenced its important work to review relevant cases on the anti-illegal drugs campaign. As of June 2021, there have been 81 cases under preliminary investigation. The Department of Justice also has access to at least 53 administrative cases under the Philippine National Police's Internal Affairs Service where they found liability on police officers.

We hope you find the above information helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Enrique A. Manalo'.

ENRIQUE A. MANALO
Permanent Representative

MR. DAVID BORDEN
Executive Director
StoptheDrugWar.org
borden@drcnet.org