



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS, GENEVA**

NV-EPG-181-2017

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and, with reference to the letter dated 27 July 2017 (Reference No. AL PHL 8/2017) from Ms. Beatriz Balbin, Chief of the OHCHR Special Procedures Branch, addressed to Ambassador Evan P. Garcia, Permanent Representative of the Philippines in Geneva, on the Joint Communication from Special Procedures mandate holders, namely: Ms. Agnes Callamard, Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions; Mr. Michel Forst, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders; and Ms. Victoria Lucia Tauli-Corpuz, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, has the honor to confirm receipt of the said letter, which has been transmitted to capital for consideration and appropriate action.

The Permanent Mission of the Philippines in Geneva notes an inconsistency on the content and signatory of the Joint Communication with the article that is published in the OHCHR website entitled "Philippines needs urgent action to reverse spiralling rights violations, UN experts say" (a copy of which is attached).

The Permanent Mission of the Philippines further notes that the said Joint Communication was transmitted to the Mission late in the afternoon on Friday, 28 July, and that the OHCHR issued its press release on the matter on the next working day, Monday, 31 July. Such timing and sequence of actions do not support what is claimed in the Joint Communication that the Special Rapporteurs "have been in contact with the (Philippine) Government to clarify the issue/s in question". The Mission has previously conveyed its concern on such practice, which does not help facilitate authentic dialogue between the Special Procedures mechanism and the States.

In this regard, the Mission encourages the Special Rapporteurs to undertake proper and thorough consultations with the Philippine government in good faith, on the issues of their concern, as required by their work as Special Procedures mandate holders of the UN Human Rights Council.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 02 August 2017

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Wilson
52 Rue des Pâquis
CH-1201 Geneva

