



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

NV-EPG-318-2017

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 United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and, with reference to the letter dated 19 June 2017 from Ms. Beatriz Balbin, Chief of the OHCHR's Special Procedures Branch, on the letter from the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions Ms. Agnes Callamard (AL PHL 6/2017), has the honor to provide the response from the Republic of the Philippines, as follows:

- The Philippine Constitution guarantees the right to life. The Government of the Philippines will continue to undertake the campaign against illegal drugs in accordance with approved protocols and established operational guidelines to ensure the protection of human rights.
- These guidelines include the mandatory coordination of operations prior to the conduct of anti-illegal drug operations.
- Complaints against police officers on cases of deaths and alleged unlawful acts, omissions or abuses done in connection with the law enforcement operations are usually filed before the Philippine National Police and/or before the Office of the Ombudsman.
- There is a pending Omnibus Motion for Reinvestigation before the trial court in the Philippines in connection with the criminal case of direct assault against Efren Morillo. As such, the Department of Justice through its National Prosecution Service (NPS) is prohibited from discussing the merits of the case to the *sub judice* rule, which restricts comments and disclosures pertaining to pending judicial proceeding.
- The Government of the Republic of the Philippines does not tolerate nor allow any reprisals against family members of drug personalities.

The Government of the Philippines hopes that the above information is able to shed light on the case of Mr. Efren Morillo and similar cases related to the government's anti-illegal drug campaign.

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 United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 18 December 2017

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

47 Avenue Blanc, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel. No.: (+41) 22-7161930 / Fax: (+41) 22-7161932  
email: geneva.pm@dfa.gov.ph • www.genevapm.dfa.gov.ph

