



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

NV-EPG-193-2018

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) – Special Procedures Branch and has the honor to acknowledge receipt of the letter dated 1 June 2018 from Ms. Beatriz Balbin, Chief of the Special Procedures Branch of the OHCHR, transmitting communication AL PHL 7/2018 from Ms. Agnes Callamard, Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, on alleged drug-related arbitrary killings of 25 individuals to include Mr. Michael Aquino Cardente, et.al. The said communication has been referred to capital for consideration.

In addition, the Permanent Mission of the Philippines wishes to convey to the OHCHR-Special Procedures Branch the following points:

- The Philippines reiterates its openness to engage on issues and, as a responsible member of the Human Rights Council, stresses its belief in the value of constructive dialogue and objectivity in efforts to promote, protect and fulfil human rights.
- The campaign against illegal drugs is firmly anchored in the country's respect for fundamental human rights implemented in pursuit of peace, security and development. After one year since the campaign started, the government of the Philippines assures the OHCHR-Special Procedures Branch that multi-dimensional and well-rounded drug strategies, policies, measures and programs are in place for the effective implementation of the campaign and to ensure accountability of those responsible for any violations.
- However, the Government of the Philippines reiterates its disappointment over the work methods of Ms. Callamard, as earlier conveyed to the Special Procedures Branch, the Chair of the Coordination Committee, and the HRC President. Ms. Callamard's communication AL PHL 7/2018 bears yet again a tone of pre-judgement on the human rights situation in the Philippines.
- We encourage mandate holders to constructively engage with country concerned to ensure real positive impact on the ground. Continuous ranting, naming and shaming are unproductive and unhelpful.
- The Government of the Philippines assures the OHCHR-Special Procedures Branch on the country's unwavering respect for human rights and firm adherence to international laws and treaties to which the Philippines is a State party.

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 – Special Procedures Branch the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 26 June 2018

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