



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

NV-EPG-241-2021

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 (Attn: Special Procedures Branch) and, with reference to SPMH joint communication **AL PHL 3/2021 dated 27 May 2021** on the alleged arbitrary arrest and harassment against Ms. Renalyn Tejero, Ms. Maria Jesusa Sta. Rosa, and Mr. Dan Balucio, has the honor to enclose the response from the Philippine Government.

The response presents comprehensive information on the facts of the cases, establishing in this regard the diligence of Philippine law enforcement officials and their proper observance of standards and protocols with respect to arrest and detention, consistent and in keeping with the rule of law. All subject individuals are fully afforded the right of due process and are able to pursue and exhaust all legal remedies necessary for their case.

In line with its commitment to constructive engagement with the UN and all human rights mechanisms on the basis of facts, the Philippine Government has also invited the Special Procedures mandate holders' attention to the pattern of systematic allegations levelled against the Philippine Government concerning lawful operations to hold certain personalities to account for crimes before the court of law.

It is regrettable that certain sectors are exploiting their access to civic space in Geneva to falsely characterize lawful actions of the Government as "arbitrary arrests, trumped-up charges, planting of evidence, attack against defenders, act of reprisal, etc.". Proper observance of due diligence in dealing with such representations should expose them to be attempts to mislead well-meaning human rights institutions in Geneva about the situation on the ground and thwart the efforts of the Philippine Government to pursue accountability within well-established national mechanisms and processes.

Mission refers the concerned Special Procedures mandate holders to the Philippine Human Rights Situationer¹ provides a concise background of the political context in the Philippines, including the activities of the armed non-state actor and terrorist organization CPP-NPA-NDF in exploiting human rights issues and co-opting human rights and democratic platforms in advancing its violent political agenda. It also contains information on the robust accountability mechanisms in the country and the reforms continuously being undertaken by the Philippine Government to further strengthen rule of law, access to justice, and accountability.

The Permanent Mission of the Philippines requests the assistance of the OHCHR Special Procedures Branch in publishing the Philippine Government's response to AL PHL 3/2021 in the SPMH communications website.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Attn: Special Procedures Branch) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 2 September 2021

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
(Attn: Special Procedures Branch)

Palais Wilson
52 Rue de Paquis
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland

Enclosure: The Philippine Government's Response to AL PHL 3/2021 dated 27 May 2021



¹<https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2020/06jun/20200609-PH-Human-Rights-Situationer.pdf>

The Special Procedures' Joint Communication AL PHL 3/2021 cites information received on the alleged arbitrary arrest, harassment and criminalization of three individuals, namely Ms. Renalyn Tejero, Ms. Maria Jesusa Sta. Rosa, and Mr. Dan Balucio.

The Philippine Government emphasizes at the outset the high importance it attaches to safeguarding civic space. It acknowledges that ensuring plurality of voices including dissenting ones is vital to the functioning of democracy. The Philippines continues to have one of the most vibrant civil societies in the region and the world, with over 101,000 non-profit organizations, around 60,000 of which are non-government organizations engaged in social advocacy work and a further 10,000 grassroots civil society or people's organizations engaged in advancing the welfare of vulnerable sectors. Their roles in Philippine public life are established, unhindered, constructive, peaceful, well-recognized and highly-valued.

The Philippine Government further emphasizes that it takes seriously all reports of alleged violations and abuses of human rights and has repeatedly invited the cooperation of all parties to substantiate information to enable the resolution of cases within domestic accountability mechanisms and processes. The Government has taken concrete steps to further strengthen these accountability mechanisms through various programs and activities in partnership with the Commission on Human Rights, civil society organizations, and international partners, among others.

Even as it remains committed to constructive engagement with the UN and all human rights mechanisms on the basis of facts, the Philippine Government has also invited the Special Procedures mandate holders' attention to the pattern of systematic allegations levelled against the Philippine Government concerning lawful operations to hold certain personalities to account for crimes before the court of law.

It is regrettable that certain sectors are exploiting their access to civic space in Geneva to falsely characterize lawful actions of the Government as "arbitrary arrests, trumped-up charges, planting of evidence, attack against defenders, act of reprisal, etc.". Proper observance of due diligence in dealing with such representations should expose them to be attempts to mislead well-meaning human rights institutions in Geneva about the situation on the ground and thwart the efforts of the Philippine Government to pursue accountability within well-established national mechanisms and processes.

The Philippines has narrated in the Philippine Human Rights Situationer¹ (Section 3 on the Political Context) the dynamics in the country as it relates to human rights and the activities of a small but well-resourced group of actors decrying alleged human rights violations before the international community. This section illustrates the challenges confronted by the Philippines, as one of the top ten countries most impacted by terrorism per the 2019 Global Terrorism Index, to decisively defeat the longest-running and most violent communist insurgency in Asia pursued by the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF).

The terrorism of the CPP-NPA-NDF constitutes a challenge to the democracy and development of the Philippines and it has been waged over the past five decades based on the group's so-called "dual revolutionary tactic" that blurs the boundaries of social activism and armed struggle. Facts and case studies are provided to illustrate how this group has exploited human rights issues and democratic spaces as a platform for advancing their agenda of an armed revolution and covering crimes and atrocities.

¹ <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2020/06jun/20200609-PH-Human-Rights-Situationer.pdf>

The CPP-NPA-NDF is responsible for civilian casualties with their use of improvised explosive device (IED) in the Philippines, which has been noted in High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet's statements².

In order to properly contextualize many reprisal allegations in the Philippine setting, it is important that the Special Procedures mandate holders bear in mind the following considerations:

- a) The need to expand the notion that reprisal is only carried out vertically---by State actors against individuals or defenders for criticizing the government. In the Philippine context, this is carried out horizontally--- by non-state armed actors against civic actors who cooperate with the government;
- b) The need to challenge the notion that "human rights defenders" only apply to a select group of people or groups, the loudest and most prominent, well-resourced, influential and have a visibly anti-government stance. The Philippines has always highlighted the need to democratize this space, that "defenders" also refer to a wide range of other actors including State actors and, more importantly, community-based grassroots organizations and rights-holders themselves such as indigenous peoples who very often lack the means to self-advocate and pronounce themselves on issues and allegations made about them especially in the UN by interest groups self-styled as human rights defenders; and
- c) The need to acknowledge the reality that in certain situations civic space and defender title are being exploited and used as cover by interest groups for criminal ends. This is very notable in the self-professed use of "dual revolutionary tactic" by the CPP-NPA-NDF. "Dual" refers to the use of *both* legal means (legal struggle, legitimate human rights issues, democratic platforms, front organizations) *and* criminal means (armed struggle, recruitment and use of child warriors, use of funds for illicit activities, extortion and killing of civilians, etc.) to advance the group's political agenda of toppling duly-constituted democratic governments. Note that the legal aspect is used merely as a cover for the violent and criminal aspect of the CPP-NPA-NDF operations. This insidious and highly deceptive modus operandi of the group has contributed to its continued operations and decades of evade accountability.

On the allegations contained in AL PHL 3/2021, the Philippines provides the following facts as well as updates on the cases of the subject individuals based on information received as of May 2021:

MR. DAN BALUCIO

Mr. Danilo Banalnal Balucion, alias "Pastor Dan", was arrested on 2 May 2021 at Barangay San Isidro, Sto. Domingo, Albay, for violation of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10591 (Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunitions Regulations Act)³ and R.A. 9516 (on the Illegal Possession of Firearms, Ammunition, and Explosives)⁴.

² <https://www.ohchr.org/FR/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=26506&LangID=F>

³ <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2013/05/29/republic-act-no-10591/>

⁴ https://lawphil.net/statutes/repacts/ra2008/ra_9516_2008.html

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Ms. Balucio is a minister of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines-South Luzon Jurisdiction⁵ and the spokesperson of "Bagong Alyansang Makabayan – Bicol" (Bayan Bicol)⁶. Mr. Balucio was arrested by joint elements of the Philippine National Police by virtue of Search Warrant Nos. EML-21-148 for violation of R.A. 10591 and EML-21-149 for violation of R.A. 9516 both issued by the Honorable Edgar L. Armes, Vice Executive Judge of the Regional Trial Court (RTC)-Legazpi City all dated 1 May 2021.⁷

Recovered from the suspect's possession, custody and control were the following:

- one (1) unit of M1911 A1 Army Remington Brand Inc. cal. 45 pistol with Serial No. 9658 with inserted magazine containing seven (7) pcs of cal. 45 live ammunitions;
- one (1) black holster for pistol/short firearm;
- two (2) steel magazines for M14 containing sixteen (16) and seven (7) live ammunition cal. 7.62; and
- one (1) unit of M26 fragmentation hand grenade inside a black canister with marking DBB7A and one (1) red "*Bagong Hukbong Bayan*" (New People's Army) flag.⁸

Mr. Balucio is currently detained at the Sto. Domingo Municipal Police Station in Legazpi City.⁹ For violation of Section 28(a) in relation to Section 28 (e) (1), Art. V of R.A. No 10591, the recommended bail was set at Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 200,000.00) while no bail was recommended for violation of Section 1 of R.A. No. 9516.

Upon coordination with the Regional Task Force, the Documents obtained in relation to the case of Balucio were the following¹⁰:

- Copy of the Certification of Legally, Peacefully and Orderly Execution of Search Warrant dated 2 May 2021;
- Copy of the Receipt/ Inventory of Property/ies Seized dated 2 May 2021;
- Copy of the Search Warrant SW No. EML-21-148 dated May 1, 2021;
- Copy of the Compliance/Return of Search Warrant with Motion to Withdraw Exhibits dated 3 May 2021;
- Copy of the RTC Order for Search Warrant No. EML-21-148 dated 3 May 2021;
- Copy of the PNP Regional EOD and Canine Unit 5 Certification dated 3 May 2021;
- Copy of the Action Pictures during the Implementation of the Search Warrant Nos. EML2021-148 and EML-2021-149;
- Copy of the Verification Result from the Firearms and Explosives Office dated 29 April 2021;
- Copy of the Blotter Certification dated 2 May 2021;
- Copy of the Investigation Report dated 2 May 2021;
- Copy of the Affidavit of Back-Up Arresting Officer [REDACTED] dated 3 May 2021;
- Copy of the Affidavit of Seizing/ Arresting Officer [REDACTED] dated 3 May 2021;
- Copy of the Criminal Complaint docketed as NPS Docket No. 21-00104 dated 3 May 2021;
- Copy of the Joint Inquest Resolution dated 3 May 2021;

⁵ <https://nccphilippines.org/2021/05/05/release-ptr-dan-balucio-defend-humanitarian-workers-and-rights-defenders/>

⁶ <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2021/05/03/2095471/2-top-officials-ng-militant-group-sa-bicol-tiklo>

⁷ <https://pnp.gov.ph/index.php/news-and-information/4253-police-search-yields-gun-grenade-bullets-in-albay-suspect-held>

⁸ <https://pnp.gov.ph/index.php/news-and-information/4253-police-search-yields-gun-grenade-bullets-in-albay-suspect-held> See also: Information dated 3 May 2021 and the Blotter Certification dated 2 May 2021.

⁹ <https://nccphilippines.org/2021/05/05/release-ptr-dan-balucio-defend-humanitarian-workers-and-rights-defenders/>

¹⁰ Copies of which are attached to the records of the case filed in court.

- Copy of the Information docketed as Crim. Case No. 15887 for violation of Section 1 of R.A. No 9516 dated 3 May 2021;
- Copy of the Information docketed as Crim. Case No. 15888 for violation of Section 28(a) in rel. to Section 28 (e)(1), Art. V of R.A. No 10591 dated 3 May 2021;
- Copy of the RTC Orders dated 7 May 2021;

As per the last document received, the arraignment of Balucio was set on 21 May 2021.

MS. MARIA JESUSA STA. ROSA

Ms. Maria Jesusa “Sasah” Sta. Rosa is an alleged youth human rights defender and spokesperson of Jovenes Anakbayan, a regional chapter of Anakbayan in Bicol region.¹¹ She was arrested on 2 May 2021 by virtue of an arrest warrant also issued by Vice Executive Judge Edgar L. Armes of the Regional Trial Court-Legazpi for violation of R.A. No. 10591¹² and R.A. 9516¹³ (illegal possession of firearms and explosives)¹⁴. Ms. Sta. Rosa is currently detained at Police Station 2 in Naga City.

Seized during the implementation of the search warrant on Sta. Rosa were various war and personal materials including the following: a 9mm pistol; one magazine for 9mm pistol; eight pieces live ammunition for 9mm; one fragmented hand grenade; one improvised explosive device (IED); switch with inserted 9V battery; two pieces 9V battery; a book; and a green envelope containing documents.¹⁵

Consequently, the information filed against Sta. Rosa states that the following items were specifically seized from her possession, custody and control:

For violation of Section 28 in relation to Section 28 (e)(1), Article V of R.A. No. 10591:¹⁶

- One (1) unit cal. 380 pistol with trademark Star Becheverries with serial number 531657 marked as JSG 1 5/2/2021 and signature on the attached masking tape;
- One (1) pc. steel magazine for cal. 380 marked as JSG 2 5/2/2021 and signature on the attached masking tape;
- Eight (8) pcs ammunition for cal. 380 marked as JSG 3A to 3H 5/2/2021 and signature on the attached masking tape;¹⁷

For violation of Section 1 of R.A. No. 95162:

- one (1) casing of Hand Grenade MK2 marked as JSG 1 5/2/2021 and signature attached on the masking tape;
- one (1) hand grenade MK2 marked as JSG 1A 5 /2/2021 and signature attached on the masking tape;
- One (1) improvised Explosive Device (IED) marked as JSG 2 5/2/2021 and signature on the attached masking tape;

¹¹ <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1139325/>

¹² Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunitions Regulations Act.; Search Warrant No. SW No. EML-21- 150

¹³ Illegal Possession of Explosives; Search Warrant No. SW No. EML-21-151

¹⁴ <https://brigadaneews.ph/motion-to-quash-ihahain-ng-kampo-ng-aktibistang-naaresto-sa-nagacity/>

¹⁵ <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1139325/>

¹⁷ <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1139325/>

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- One (1) power source marked as JSG 3 5/2/2021 and signature attached on the masking tape;
- Two (2) 9-volt battery marked as JSG 4A to 4B 5/2/2021 and signature attached on the masking tape; and
- One (1) pc time fuse more or less 7 ½ meters marked as JSG 5 5/2/2021 and signature attached on the masking tape.¹⁸

For violation of Section 28 in relation to Section 28 (e)(1), Article V of R.A. No. 10591, the recommended bail was set at One Hundred Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php120,000) while for violation of Section 1 of R.A. No. 9516, no bail was recommended.

Upon coordination with the Regional Task Force, the Documents obtained in relation to the case of Sta. Rosa were the following:

- Copy of the Joint Minute Resolution docketed as NPS V-05- INQ-21E-0296 and NPS V-05-INQ-21E-0297 dated 3 May 2021;
- Copy of the Information for violation of Section 1 of R.A. No. 9516 docketed as Criminal Case No. 2021-0392 dated 3 May 2021;
- Copy of the Information for violation of Section 28 in relation to Section 28 (e)(1), Article V of R.A. No. 10591 docketed as Criminal Case No. 2021-0393 dated 3 May 2021;
- Copy of the Request for Inquest Proceedings dated 2 May 2021 from the PNP-CIDG, Region 5, Camarines Sur;
- Copy of the Affidavit of Seizing Officer, [REDACTED] dated May 2021;
- Copy of the Affidavit of Seizing Officer, [REDACTED] dated May 2021;
- Copy of the pictures taken during the implementation of the warrant;
- Copy of the Initial Firearm's Holder Verification Result;
- Copy of Search Warrant No. SW No. EML-21-150 dated 1 May 2021;
- Copy of the Compliance/ Return of Search Warrant dated 3 May 2021;
- Copy of the Receipt/Inventory of Property/ies Seized dated 2 May 2021;
- Copy of the Certificate of Orderly Searched dated 2 May 2021;
- Copy of the RTC Order for SW No. EML-21-150 dated 3 May 2021;
- Motion for Consolidation filed by Senior Assistant Prosecutor dated 3 May 2021;
- Order resolving the Motion for Consolidation dated 4 May 2021;
- Very Urgent Ex-Parte Motion to Produce and Transmit Records in relation to the Application for Issuance of Search Warrants with RTC Legaspi City dated 6 May 2021;
- Order granting the Very Urgent Motion abovementioned dated 10 May 2021;
- Urgent Omnibus Motion Ad Cautelam; (1) to quash the search warrants and to suppress evidence; (2) to declare unlawful the warrantless arrest arising from illegal search, (3) to defer arraignment and (4) to quash the two (2) Informations dated 11 May 2021;
- Judicial Affidavit of Maria Jesusa Sta. Rosa dated 11 May 2021;
- Judicial Affidavit of [REDACTED] dated 10 May 2021;
- Judicial Affidavit of [REDACTED] dated 11 May 2021;
- Judicial Affidavit of [REDACTED] dated 6 May 2021;
- Opposition/Comment on the Urgent Omnibus Motion Ad Cautelam dated 17 May 2021;
- Other Orders issued by RTC Branch 19, Naga City in relation to witnesses presented regarding the Omnibus Motion.

¹⁸ Criminal charged filed by the Prosecutor, 3 May 2021 for Criminal Case No. 2021-0393

A perusal of the last document received reveals that the trial court has yet to resolve the Motion to Quash filed by Sta. Rosa. Meanwhile, the continuation of the presentation of evidence was set on 25 June 2021.¹⁹

MS. RENALYN TEJERO

Ms. Renalyn Tejero is the secretary of the underground Kabataan Makabayan, a youth organization of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA).²⁰ She is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Regional United Front (RUF) Regional White Area Committee of the North Eastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NEMRC) of the NPA.²¹

Ms. Tejero, who is reportedly a full-time member of the Sub-Regional Sentro De Grabidad Southland of the NEMRC, is classified one of the most wanted NPA members with an arrest warrant against her issued by the Regional Trial Court Branch 34 in Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte for murder and multiple attempted murder.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines-Center for Law of Armed Conflict's (AFP-CLOAC) records of intentional killing of innocent civilians by the Communist Terrorist Group from 2010 to 2020 lists Ms. Tejero as among the suspects for the killing of [REDACTED], Tribal Chieftain at P-7 Sitio Indan, Brgy. Magroyong, San Miguel, Surigao del Sur and Mr. [REDACTED], farmer and former rebel, on 19 March 2020.

The case concerning the killing of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was filed with the Tandag Provincial Prosecutors Office, Tandag City, Surigao del Sur under National Prosecution Service Docket Nr XIII-07-INV-20C-00072 and NPS Docket Nr XIII-07-INV-20C-00071, on 15 April 2020. Warrant of Arrests under CC Numbers: 8112-20 and 8113-20, all for Murder, were also issued on 6 July 2020 (Murder and Violation of Nr 1 Par/Letter B of Section 4 of Republic Act 9851; violation to Section 6 (other crimes against Humanity) of IHL of RA 9851.

To illustrate the extent of violent activities of the Communist Terrorist Group in communities on the ground, the Philippine Government wishes to share that the AFP-CLOAC was able to document a total of 289 incidents of intentional killing of innocent civilians, assassination of former CTG members, and premeditated killing of military personnel who were performing their duty and providing humanitarian assistance, and other incidents of killings by the CTGs from 2010 to 2020, which resulted in the death of 77 soldiers and 296 civilians, or a total of 373 casualties.

Based on further investigation, the Police Regional Office in Caraga (PRO-13) stated that Ms. Tejero was also involved in the attack of the Alpha Company of the 29th Infantry Battalion (29IB) in Barangay Hinimbangan, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte on 5 February 2017. She was also among the NPA members encountered by the Scout Platoon of the 29IB in the hinterlands of Barangay Mahayahay in Kitcharao on 9 October 2017.²²

On 21 March 2021, at around 5:30 am, a Joint Law Enforcement Operation was conducted by virtue of two (2) warrants of arrest: Murder with Criminal Case No. 2020-85 and Multiple Attempted Murder with Criminal Case No. 2020-116 both issued by Hon. [REDACTED] Presiding Judge of Regional Trial Court Branch 3, Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte.

¹⁹ Regional Trial Court Order dated 11 June 2021

²⁰ <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1134613>

²¹ <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1134397>

²² <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1134613>

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At around 5:44am on the same date, personnel of Regional Intelligence Division (RID), Police Regional Office 13 (PRO) appeared, coordinated, and reported to the Cagayan de Oro Police Station 3 (COCPS3) to put on record that they arrested a certain Ms. Renalyn G. Tejero by virtue of warrant arrest for Murder with Criminal Case No. 2020-85.

Ms. Tejero was then transported and temporarily detained in the custodial facility of the Butuan City Police Station 1 through the request of temporary detention by PLT [REDACTED] Assistant Chief, DEU of RID, PRO 13 dated 21 March 2021.

On 22 March 2021, around 2:50 pm, PMAJ [REDACTED] conducted service for the two (2) Alias Warrant of Arrest on Ms. Tejero at the custodial facility of the Butuan City Police Station 1 (BCPS 1), under Criminal Case No. 2020-82 for the crime of Multiple Attempted Murder and Alias Warrant of Arrest under Criminal Case No. 2020-140 for the crime of Attempted Murder – all issued by Judge [REDACTED]

On 24 March 2021, Judge [REDACTED] issued a Commitment Order for Ms. Renalyn Tejero to Insp. [REDACTED] OIC, District Jail Warden, Cabadbaran City District Jail.

On 13 April 2021, at about 2:50 pm, law enforcement personnel served the following warrants to Ms. Tejero at the custodial facility of Butuan City Police Station under Criminal Case Nos. 8112-20 and 8113-20 for the crime of Murder both dated 6 July 2020 issued by Presiding Judge [REDACTED] of RTC Branch 27, 11th Judicial Region, Tandag City, Surigao del Sur and, Criminal Case No. 19-3651 dated 21 November 2019 issued by Presiding Judge [REDACTED] of RTC Branch 28, Lianga, Surigao del Sur.

Likewise, under Criminal Case Nos. 19-3649 and 19-3650 for the crime of Attempted Murder both dated 21 November 2019; and Criminal Case Nos. 20-3747 and 20-3748 both dated 10 August 2020, all issued by Presiding Judge [REDACTED].

On 13 April 2021, Ms. Tejero was turned over and committed to Cabadbaran City Jail with Atty. [REDACTED] Member of the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers and alternate lawyer, Atty. [REDACTED] (Private) as the defense lawyers and, the Assistant Provincial Prosecutor of Agusan del Norte Atty. [REDACTED] as the prosecution lawyer.

The above-cited facts of the cases concerning Mr. Balucio, Ms. Sta. Rosa, and Ms. Tejero attest to the diligence of Philippine law enforcement officials and the proper observance of standards and protocols with respect to arrest and detention, consistent and in keeping with the rule of law. All subject individuals are fully afforded the right of due process and are able to pursue and exhaust all legal remedies necessary for their case.

The Philippines invites the Special Procedures mandate holders' attention to Section 4 of the Philippine Human Rights Situationer²³ which provides comprehensive information on the robust accountability mechanisms in the country and the reforms continuously being undertaken by the Philippine Government to further strengthen rule of law, access to justice, and accountability. It also contains information on the efforts by the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to further strengthen human rights mainstreaming into their work. **END.**

²³ <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2020/06jun/20200609-PH-Human-Rights-Situationer.pdf>