



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

NV-EPG-8-2022

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 (Attention: Special Procedures Branch) and with reference to Joint Communication AL PHL 6/2021 dated 28 October 2021 on the allegation of killings involving five individuals allegedly in relation to their human rights work, has the honor to provide the Philippine Government's response, as follows:

- 1) The incidents involving Mr. Emmanuel Asuncion, Mr. Ariel Evangelista, and Ms. Ana Mariz "Chai" Lemita Evangelista transpired following the implementation of legitimate search warrants for violation of Republic Act no.10591 or the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Act and Republic Act no. 9516 on Codifying the Laws on Illegal/Unlawful Possession, Manufacture, Dealing in, Acquisition or Disposition of Firearms, Ammunition or Explosives. Pertinent documents and records on the operations on Mr. Mark Licoros Bacasno and Melvin Dasigao are under the jurisdiction of relevant operating unit of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police.
- 2) The Philippine National Bureau of Investigation had already assumed the lead in the further investigation of the cases. The cases are likewise being looked into by the Administrative Order no. 35 mechanism which handles cases of enforced disappearances, torture and grave violations of human rights.
- 3) Detailed information on specific measures in place to ensure a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders and other members of civil society in the Philippines can be referred to in the [Philippine Human Rights Situationer](#)<sup>1</sup>, specifically in Section IV on Accountability and Rule of Law which outlines the mechanisms in place and the Philippine Government's continuing reforms to strengthen rule of law, access to justice and accountability mechanisms in the judiciary and executive institutions.
- 4) Detailed information on the human rights compliance of the Philippines' relevant terrorism legislation can be referred to in the [Philippine Government's response of 27 August 2020](#)<sup>2</sup> to Joint Communication JOL PHL 4/2020 concerning the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 wherein the Government exhaustively addressed presumptive and speculative allegations and concerns on the newly-passed law and provided assurances of the law's compliance with obligations under international law and guarantees respect for human rights.

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

<sup>2</sup> <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadFile?gld=35537>

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines requests the assistance of the OHCHR Special Procedures Branch in publishing the Philippine Government's response on the SPMH communications webpage.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva provides the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (Attention: Special Procedures Branch) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 11 January 2022



**OFFICE OF THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Attention: SPECIAL PROCEDURES BRANCH**

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