



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

NV-CDS-36-2024

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Special Procedures Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and has the honor to refer to the latter's letter dated 30 October 2023 on the Joint Communication from the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean and sustainable environment (AL PHL 5/2023) regarding the case of Ms. Miguela Peniero and Ms. Rowena Dasig.

The Philippine Mission has further the honor to transmit the enclosed Written Response of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and request that the same be published or made public.

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 Special Procedures Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 01 February 2024

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Attention: Beatriz Balbin, Chief
Special Procedures Branch
Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Email address ohchr-registry@un.org



**WRITTEN RESPONSE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE JOINT COMMUNICATION OF UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS
ON THE
ALLEGED ARBITRARY DETENTION OF
MIGUELA PENIERO AND ROWENA DASIG**

The Republic of the Philippines refers to the Joint Communication AL PHL 5/2023 dated 30 October 2023 from several UN Special Rapporteurs¹ on the alleged arbitrary detention of environmental defenders Ms. Miguela Peniero and Ms. Rowena Dasig.

In relation thereto, the Republic of the Philippines contests this allegation and underscores the following points:

- In the Philippines, **rule of law and accountability are fully functioning** through its criminal justice system. An independent judiciary is a key pillar of the Philippines' vibrant democracy.
- The Republic of the Philippines underscores that it does not tolerate the abuse of power and use of force beyond the bounds of law.
- The Republic of the Philippines **disputes the allegation of arbitrary detention** of Ms. Miguela Peniero and Ms. Rowena Dasig.
- A **legitimate law enforcement operation** was conducted on 12 July 2023 which resulted in the arrest of Ms. Peniero and Ms. Dasig.
- Ms. Peniero and Ms. Dasig were both apprised of their constitutional rights.
- The cases against Ms. Peniero for **attempted homicide and violation of RA10591² and RA9516³**, and against Ms. Dasig for **violation of RA10591 and RA9516**, are proceeding in accordance with the rule of law. **The law should be allowed to take its course.**
- Ms. Peniero and Ms. Dasig have all the right and opportunity to defend themselves and disprove charges against them in court. They have access to counsel of choice. **END.**

¹ Ms. Mary Lawlor, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and Mr. David R. Boyd, Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

² RA10591 (Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act)

³ RA9516 (Unlawful Manufacture, Sale, Acquisition, Disposition, Importation or Possession of an Explosive or Incendiary Device)