



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

NV-CDS-38-2024

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 06 December 2023 transmitting the Joint Communication (Ref. AL PHL 6/2023) from the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association requesting information on the alleged killing of Mr. Jude Thaddeus Fernandez.

The Philippine Mission has further the honor to convey the enclosed *Written Response of the Philippine Government* and request that the same be published or made publicly available.

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, 05 February 2023

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Attention: 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 RAPORTEURS ON THE
ALLEGED EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING OF MR. JUDE THADDEUS FERNANDEZ**

The Republic of the Philippines refers to the Joint Communication AL PHL 6/2023 dated 06 December 2023 from several UN Special Rapporteurs¹ on the alleged extrajudicial killing of Mr. Jude Thaddeus Fernandez on 29 September 2023.

In relation thereto, the Republic of the Philippines conveys the following points:

- In the Philippines, rule of law and accountability are fully functioning through its criminal justice system.
- The Republic of the Philippines underscores that it does not tolerate the abuse of power and use of force beyond the bounds of law. **Extrajudicial killing is not and has never been a state policy.**
- Through the issuance of Administrative Order (AO) No. 35, s. 2012 on the Inter-Agency Committee (IAC), a comprehensive government mechanism was created, dedicated to the resolution of unsolved cases of political violence and other grave violations of the right to life, liberty, and security of persons including enforced disappearances. The Department of Justice (DOJ) leads the AO35 IAC in addressing enforced disappearances through the rule of law.
- On the alleged extrajudicial killing of Jude Thaddeus Fernandez, the Philippine National Police (PNP) has conducted a thorough investigation and coordinated with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).
- The PNP informed the Tripartite Monitoring Body, Department of Labor and Employment (Region IV-A), that the police operation in Binangonan, Rizal on 29 September 2023 was **a lawful execution of a Warrant of Arrest against Mr. ██████████ and was not related to anyone named Jude Thaddeus Fernandez as no such individual exists.** The CHR corroborated the PNP's statement stating that their verification with the Philippine Statistics Authority revealed that there is no existing record on Jude Thaddeus Fernandez.

END.

¹ Ms. Mary Lawlor, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; Mr. Morris Tidball-Binz, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; Ms. Irene Khan, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; and Mr. Clement Nyaletsossi Voule, Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association