



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



No. NV-CDS-516-2025

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 High Commissioner for Human Rights-Special Procedures Branch, and has the honor to refer to the communication dated 4 February 2025 from the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (Reference AL PHL 1/2025).

The Philippine Mission has further the honor to convey the written response of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines to the said communication.

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

Geneva, 11 June 2025

**OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Special Procedures Branch**

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Written Response of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines to the communication from the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression concerning the case of Agnes Callamard (Reference: AL PHL 1/2025)

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines underscores that it **faithfully adheres to its international obligations, including relevant human rights-related treaties, while maintaining its prerogative to enforce immigration laws within its jurisdiction as an exercise of its police power, which is inherent in any sovereign State.**

The Philippine Government clarifies that there is **no case or ongoing investigation** on Ms Agnes Callamard in any court or judicial body in the Philippines. However, an **entry ban** was issued on 20 April 2018 on Ms. Callamard **for violating the mandate of her office** when she was still the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions.

Former UN Special Rapporteur Agnes Callamard visited the Philippines in an unofficial capacity from 04 to 08 May 2017 without prior notice to the Philippine Government.

This was in spite of a **standing invitation** for her to visit the Philippines **in an official capacity** and for which the Terms of Reference were already being discussed in preparation for finalization with her former office in Geneva.

Her act is in direct contravention of Paragraph 77 of the Manual of Operations of the Special Procedures Mandate Holders of the UN Human Rights Council which stipulates that the State concerned shall be informed as a matter of courtesy and for reasons of transparency of the visits of a Special Rapporteur in both an official and unofficial capacity.

To address her entry ban, Ms. Callamard has recourse by way of filing a **notarized request for the lifting of the entry ban** with the Commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration in Manila. The request for the lifting of the ban shall include the following information as prescribed under the relevant Philippine Immigration rules:

- The petitioners' full name, known aliases, if any, and present address;
- Grounds for lifting and cancellation of the name from the entry ban list;
- Reference number of the derogatory order; and
- Proof of payment of the prescribed fees.

The request for the lifting of the entry ban **shall be subject to the evaluation and decision of the relevant Philippine Government authorities. END**