



GLOBAL DAY FOR THE PHILIPPINES – END THE DRUGS WAR

We the undersigned are joining in the **Stand with Human Rights: Global Day for the Philippines** to raise the alarm over the ongoing extrajudicial killings in the Philippines drug war and to call for the immediate release of Philippine Senator **Leila de Lima** who has been imprisoned on politically motivated charges since February 24, 2017 as a result of her opposition to the unlawful killings.



Senator Leila de Lima

Since President Rodrigo Duterte took office two and a half years ago, Philippine National Police have acknowledged killing 5,000 people in anti-drug operations, and report another 22,000 "homicides under investigation." Philippine and international human rights organizations believe the 5,000 are extrajudicial killings by police, and that many of the 22,000 killings were orchestrated by the government.

President Duterte has repeatedly promised to engage in mass killings in the drug war, bragged about doing so, and promised protection from prosecution to police who engaged in such killings. The lack of prosecutions suggests the Philippine judicial system under President Duterte lacks a credible process for responding to these killings and those that are killed are overwhelmingly from poor, urban neighborhoods.

Tragically, a "Duterte effect" is having international ramifications, as the governments in Indonesia and Bangladesh have begun to engage in extrajudicial drug war killings, and leaders in Sri Lanka and Brazil have raised the possibility of following President Duterte's example.

We in Ireland, along with our EU partners, need to raise a strong voice calling for Senator de Lima's immediate release and we are calling on the Irish government to use our influence at international level to put pressure on the Philippines government to end this murderous policy. The world is at a moment when we can move forward in addressing these challenges, but could also fall back. This is a time for leadership – a time to stand up for what's right. We express our solidarity with the Global Campaign for the Philippines, and call for an International Drug Policy that recognises and respects our common human rights.

Signed by:

Anna Quigley, Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign

Gary Broderick, SAOL Project

STAND WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY:

Global Campaign for the Philippines

