

Joint Statement

on the

Criminalization of Human Rights Defenders

Addressed to:



**Armed Forces of the Philippines
Human Rights Office**

Camp General Aguinaldo
Quezon City 1100
Republic of the Philippines



**Commission on Human Rights
of the Philippines**

Commonwealth Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City
Republic of the Philippines



Department of Justice

Padre Faura Street
Ermita, Manila 1000
Republic of the Philippines



**Committee on Human Rights
House of Representatives**

HOR Complex
Constitution Hills, Quezon City
Republic of the Philippines



**Philippine National Police
Human Rights Affairs Office**

Camp General Crame
Quezon City 1100
Republic of the Philippines



**Supreme Court
of the Philippines**

Padre Faura Street
Ermita, Manila 1000
Republic of the Philippines

We express our concern about the soaring criminalization of human rights defenders (HRD) in the Philippines and demand that you take immediate and effective measures against the criminalization of HRD.

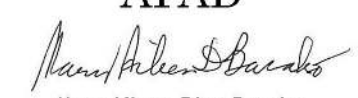
We remind you of legal duties and responsibilities that stem from international covenants and declarations, especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders:

1. That you “shall promote the realization of the right of self-determination, and shall respect that right, in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations” (Article 1(3), ICCPR).
2. “To respect and to ensure to all individuals within [your] territory and subject to [your] jurisdiction the rights recognized in the [ICCPR]” (Article 2(1), ICCPR).
3. That you “shall adopt such legislative, administrative and other steps as may be necessary to ensure that the rights and freedoms referred to in the [...] Declaration [on Human Rights Defenders] are effectively guaranteed” (Article 2(2), UNDHRD).
4. To “conduct a prompt and impartial investigation or ensure that an inquiry takes place whenever there is reasonable ground to believe that a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms has occurred” (Article 9(5), UNDHRD).
5. That you “take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the [...] Declaration [on Human Rights Defenders]” (Article 12(2), UNDHRD).

Signed on 10th of October 2015:




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Country Coordinator
International Peace
Observers Network (IPON)



Mary Aileen Diez-Bacalzo
Secretary-General
Asian Federation Against
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