
Submitted by: JOSE SONNY G. MATULA National President, FFW

ALARMED BY the spate of extrajudicial killings occurring across the Philippines, apparently abetted by the Philippine National Police's anti-drug campaign called “Oplan Tokhang” and “Oplan Double Barrel”. This so called “war on drugs” has already claimed between 8,000 to 10,000 lives, many of whom come from the families of the poor -- all deprived of the right to life or to be heard, likewise, the chance to defend themselves in the court of law.

AT THE SAME TIME, the country is confronted by other forms of violence and terror, related to or arising from armed insurgencies, separatist rebellions, and ISIS-backed terrorism centered in Marawi City in Northern Mindanao.

CONSEQUENTLY, directly as a result of the war on drugs, the Philippine House of Representatives voted to reinstate the death penalty on 7th March 2017, now awaiting approval from the Philippine Senate, in contravention of the Philippines' obligations under international human rights law, which we oppose.

Directly in response to the ISIS-linked terrorism in Marawi City the writ of habeas corpus has been suspended, and together with the imposition of martial law in the whole of Mindanao, that has been extended by the Philippine Congress up to the end of this year (2017), threaten to bring back the nightmare of 14-year dictatorial and conjugal rule of the former President Ferdinand Marcos and his wife, Imelda.

CALL ON CONGRESS TO STRONGLY CONDEMN the use of violence, intimidation, and authoritarianism by this administration, including groups involved in armed insurgency, rebellion and terrorism.

WE STAND SQUARELY FOR PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, and urge all concerned, but most specifically this Administration, to continue with the peace talks and to strengthen the foundations for social peace, national security, and socio-economic development and progress.

WE URGE the administration to end, investigate and punish perpetrators of extra-judicial killings. We urge the administration to recognize the right of the workers to actively and effectively participate in policy and decision making bodies at all levels.

SIGNATURE: