

Since the start of the so-called “war on drugs” by the current government of the Philippines, the human rights situation in the country has deteriorated dramatically. The Philippines Commission of Human Rights estimates that over 27,000 people have been killed since 2016, either by police or vigilante groups. Critical voices – including human rights defenders, journalists, and religious and indigenous leaders – have faced reprisals and now work in a context where democratic space is increasingly limited.

In July 2019, the Human Rights Council responded to the situation by adopting Resolution 41/2, which requests the High Commissioner to prepare a comprehensive report that will be presented during the Council’s 44th session. During his side-event, grassroots human rights defenders will provide an update on the situation on the ground, focusing on the period after the adoption of Resolution 41/2.

Panelists

Angelito Cortez, ofm
Association of Major Religious Superiors
of the Philippines

Ellecer Carlos
In Defense of Human Rights
and Dignity Movement

Celia Sevilla
Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance

Moderator

Sandra Epal-Ratjen
Franciscans International

**Further supported by iDEFEND, PAHRA,
the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, and
the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines**

- **Location:** Room XXII - Palais des Nations
- **Date:** 11 September • **Time:** 12.00 - 13.00



The human rights crisis in the Philippines

Photo courtesy of Raffy Lerma