

59th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council
Item 3: Interactive dialogue with
the Special Rapporteur on summary, arbitrary and extrajudicial executions

18 June 2025

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Mr. President,

We welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur, which focuses on the right to security, truth, justice and reparations of families of victims of extrajudicial killings.

In the Philippines, families of those killed in the “war on drugs”—continue to suffer threats, harassment, and reprisals. Organizations such as Rise Up, composed of families of victims, have shown remarkable courage in seeking accountability, especially from former President Rodrigo Duterte. We therefore welcome the Special Rapporteur’s calls for the protection of victims’ families from reprisals, their rights to form associations and to guarantees of non-repetition, among others.

Regrettably, the pursuit of justice for families in the Philippines has been met with online attacks—false images, fabricated narratives, misogynistic hate speech, and rampant disinformation—designed to discredit and intimidate. These attacks intensified after the International Criminal Court’s arrest of Mr. Duterte.

We agree with the Special Rapporteur, that the right to personal security obliges States to act with due diligence to protect victims’ families from threats to their safety. This includes shielding them from reprisals such as violence, arbitrary arrest, or online intimidation.

We therefore urge this Council to call on UN member states, including the Philippines, to ensure the protection and support of families seeking redress, uphold their right to access to justice, and accountability, nationally and globally. We respectfully urge the Government of the Philippines to extend an invitation to the Special Rapporteur to conduct an official country visit.

Thank you, Mr President.