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Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports

PHILIPPINES

Madam President,

Impunity for torture, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executionsⁱ persists in the Philippines, despite the State's commitment in the UPR to eliminate these grave human rights violations, including by bringing those responsible to justice.ⁱⁱ

Thousands of cases of extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances remain unresolved, and new cases continue to be reported. Victims and relatives of past human rights violations, including those who faced serious human rights violations under the Martial Law era over four decades ago, continue to be denied justice, truth and reparations. Almost no perpetrators have been convicted. Impunity persists due to inadequate criminal investigations and witness protection schemes, a lack of political will to ensure effective prosecutions, and lengthy delays in court proceedings.

Amnesty International urges the Philippines to rescind Executive Order 546, as recommended to it in the UPR.ⁱⁱⁱ State-sponsored militias continue to operate despite incidents such as the Maguindanao massacre, which illustrates how militias may be used by local politicians as their private armed groups, without any accountability mechanisms in place.

Amnesty International welcomes the ratification of the OPCAT. However despite this and the promulgation of the Anti-Torture Act, we are concerned that members and auxiliaries of both the military and the police continue to practice or be complicit in torture and other ill-treatment, including of under-18s, women, suspected common criminals, and supporters or members of armed groups.

Amnesty International is disappointed that the Philippines has not yet pledged to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance despite numerous recommendations to do so.^{iv} Further, we are concerned that the Philippines have been slow at fully implementing the Anti-Torture Act, IHL Law and Magna Carta of Women. Other laws crucial to protect the right to life of men and women, such as the Anti-Enforced Disappearance^v and Reproductive Health Bills,^{vi} have yet to be adopted.