

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO PHILIPPINES – ADDENDUM 1**

### **CANADA**

The ongoing extra-judicial killings in the Philippines is a key concern as it spans a range of human rights abuses and creates an apparent culture of impunity.

*What measures is the government taking to improve the protection of witnesses (highlighted in both Alston Report and EU Needs Assessment Mission) and the conviction of perpetrators?*

### **ITALY**

- We have noted in your national report that the Government of the Philippines will work towards the adoption of legislation concerning important aspects of the rights of the child. Minimum age of sexual consent; child pornography; corporal punishment and other forms of violence at home, school and within society; and foster care and legitimization of children born from underage parents. Could you provide more information on the above initiatives, in particular about the adoption of legislation concerning corporal punishment and other forms of violence?
- Could you provide more information on what measures have been taken so far to address the problem of minors in detention, particularly in relation to the risk of physical and sexual abuses, to the separation of adults from children in detention centres and to educational activities within detention centres?

### **SWEDEN**

- The government of the Philippines has acknowledged the occurrence of a number of extrajudicial killings by agents of the state in the past several years. In his report from his visit to the Philippines in February 2007, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions issued several recommendations toward the elimination of the practice. In its national report to the 2008 Universal Periodic Review, the government of Philippines described some of the measures it is taking with regard to the problem, including the creation of a special group of prosecutors from the Department of Justice and recommendations from the President on legislation on improved witness protection and harsher penalties for political killings. Could the government of the Philippines elaborate on the effect that these and other measures are having toward the elimination of extra-judicial killings?
- The constitution of the Philippines guarantees the freedom of expression. Civil society organisations have expressed concern, however, that a number of defamation charges brought by representatives of state bodies against journalists in the past several years have been employed to curb critical press coverage. What measures is the government of the Philippines taking to ensure that actions are not taken by agents of public authorities in contradiction of the purpose and principle of the freedom of expression?

## FINLAND

- We acknowledge that the Government of the Philippines has made commitments to protect children from violence, including by adopting, in 2004, the Anti-Violence against Women and Their Children Act (Republic Act No. 9262) which defines violence against women and their children, providing for protective measures for victims and penalties for the perpetrators of such violence<sup>1</sup>, and by setting in place the Inter-agency Council on Violence Against Women and Children (IAC-VAWC)<sup>2</sup>.
- With regard to the United Nations study on violence against children<sup>3</sup>, which states that "no violence against children is justifiable; all violence against children is preventable", we would appreciate to receive further information on legislative, administrative and other measures taken to implement the Study's overarching and setting-specific recommendations. In particular, we would greatly appreciate if the Government of the Philippines could share with us good practices to prevent and respond to violence against children<sup>4</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Concluding observations adopted by the Committee on Rights of the Child (CRC/C/15/Add.259) in 2005 and concluding comments adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/PHI/CO/6) in 2006. Furthermore, the national report for the universal periodic review submitted by the Government of the Philippines, paragraphs 16, 74 and 144.

<sup>2</sup> The national report for the universal periodic review submitted by the Government of the Philippines, paragraph 66.

<sup>3</sup> Report of the independent expert for the United Nations study on violence against children (A/61/299).

<sup>4</sup> Report (which provides information on the dissemination of the United Nations study on violence against children and on progress made in the initial phase of follow-up to the study) of the independent expert for the United Nations study on violence against children (A/62/209, see footnotes 15, 27 and 63).