

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE PHILIPPINES – ADDENDUM 2

NETHERLANDS

In its report (para 133/139), the government is very positive on the developments regarding torture. Could you indicate which steps the government has taken and will take?

Could the delegation elaborate on the policy regarding bringing an end to extrajudicial killings?

Defamation is still a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment, even though the government mentions a possibility to decriminalize libel (para 125/126). Are there any plans to decriminalise libel?

The CRC recommended in 2005 that the State strengthen its efforts to implement the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA). Has this recommendation been implemented?

In 2006, CEDAW urged the State to take concrete measures to enhance women's access to health care, in particular to sexual and reproductive health services. The Government's report (para 77/78) does not indicate the extent to which CEDAW's request has been given follow-up. Could you brief the committee on this issue?

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Could you elaborate further please on the role civil society in the Philippines played in the preparation of your national report for this process?

Your national report highlights the intention to strengthen institutional mechanisms, through the PHRC, to ensure that the Philippines complies fully with its reporting obligations to the UN Treaty bodies. This is a very welcome initiative. Could you elaborate on this please. Are any specific measures being considered?

While encouraging, the anti-corruption measures referred to in your national report do not yet seem to be having an impact on perceptions regarding the widespread nature of corruption in the Philippines. What measures is the government taking to ensure that senior figures, as well as low ranking officials, are brought to justice?

Could you elaborate further please on the existence of a national human rights institution in the Philippines, and if it operates in full compliance with the Paris Principles?