Aktionsbündnis Menschenrechte - Philippinen c/o philippinenbüro e.V. im Asienhaus

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Philippines: AMP presents new human rights report

Five months after the inauguration of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., there is still no clear and visible progress on the critical human rights situation. President Marcos Jr. refuses to acknowledge the human rights violations committed under his predecessor President Rodrigo Duterte, to hold the perpetrators accountable, and to stop the systematic repression of human rights defenders (HRD).

In this year's commemoration of the International Human Rights Day on December 10, the Aktionsbündnis Menschenrechte-Philippinen (AMP) publishes its fourth human rights report.

The report describes the pattern of human rights violations during former President Duterte's administration in the period between 2019 and 2022. It highlights the bloody "war on drugs" as well as systematic repressions against HRDs, the political opposition, indigenous peoples, and the independent media. The report lists at least 85 extrajudicial killings of HRD and journalists between August 19, 2019, and May 31, 2022

New human rights violations have also occurred under President Marcos Jr. The recent <u>murders</u> of the government-critical radiobroadcasters Percy "Lapid" Mabasa in October and Renato Blanco in September underline the urgency for immediate measures to increase the protection of human rights defenders. The Philippine government must hold perpetrators of human rights abuses accountable. Since 2016, only one case of an extrajudicial killing resulted in a conviction.

Most recently, in November, several UN member states <u>called</u> on the Philippine government during the 4th cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council to end the persistent "culture of impunity." The AMP reinforces this call with its report and underlines that human rights violations must be investigated, victims protected, and perpetrators prosecuted.

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