



The Hon Julie Bishop MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra

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Dear Minister

I am writing to you on behalf of Harm Reduction Australia to urgently request your support in condemning the ongoing spate of extra-legal killings of alleged drug traffickers and drug users in the Philippines.

President Duterte's so-called "anti-crime" campaign has to date resulted in over 2,000 people being slain in extrajudicial killings and hundreds of thousands imprisoned without access to appropriate treatment. This brutal initiative is a breach of international human rights conventions. It is also traumatising many children, families and communities as people accused of involvement in drugs are summarily executed, often in full view of their loved ones.

As you are no doubt aware, the United Nations Secretary General, the Heads of the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board and the United States of America Department of State have all condemned the wave of extrajudicial killings in the Philippines.

In addition, over 370 non-government organisations from across the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world, including Harm Reduction Australia, have joined in the condemnation of President Duterte's campaign.

In light of these denunciations and noting that the wave of government-endorsed killings continues unabated, we ask that the Australian Government join efforts to stop President Duterte's merciless approach to people accused of using illicit drugs.

We implore you to use all diplomatic avenues available to you and your Department to express Australia's opposition to the horror unfolding in communities across the Philippines. We believe Australia's view needs to be made expressly clear to the President and the Government of Philippines as a matter of urgency.

Humane and human rights-based approaches to drug use have been at the heart of Australia's own successful national drug strategy for several decades now. These need to be presented to the Philippines as far more successful, evidence-based and effective alternatives to its current approach.

Please do not hesitate to have your officers contact Harm Reduction Australia for any assistance or advice on this matter and your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gino Vumbaca', with a long, sweeping underline.

Mr Gino Vumbaca
President
Harm Reduction Australia
9th September 2016

cc *Senator Penny Wong – Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs*
Senator Scott Ludlum – Australian Greens Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs