



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Transcript: Video Statement of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines

51st Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 5: Interactive dialogue on the Secretary General's report on alleged reprisals against those who seek to cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms

29 September 2022

Excellencies, the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines welcomes the report of the Secretary General and his continued efforts to advise Member States to address reprisals against national human rights institutions, human rights defenders and civil society that cooperate with the United Nations.

The Commission has been a subject of reprisals during the past administration despite constant reminder that we as the NHRI of the country acts on our mandate vested in the 1987 Philippine Constitution. Our work is non-adversarial, and we work with government and civil society. It is our duty, when we monitor and observe gaps in the protection and promotion of human rights, to remind and advise government on their human rights obligations under international treaties.

The reprisals against human rights defenders continue at the national level. Red-tagging is persistent, as well as online and physical threats against members of the media and community organizers. The Commission is firm in its position that it is crucial to observe due process and the rule of law and refrain from resorting to red-tagging.

We request the Secretary General to closely work with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions or GANHRI, the OHCHR and the UN system to strengthen the reporting of cases of reprisals against NHRIs and civil society, and develop a preventive mechanism to stop reprisals.

We remain firm in our position that it is crucial to observe due process and the rule of law and to refrain from red-tagging. We call for government commitment across all institutions to respect, protect, fulfill human rights.

Maraming salamat po.