



**Joint statement by the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) and the Children's Legal Rights and Development Center**

**59th Session of the Human Rights Council**

**ID with the Special Rapporteur on Summary Executions**

Mr. President,

The World Organisation against Torture, the Children's Legal Rights and Development Center, and the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for the present report focused on the rights of families of victims of summary executions.

In the Philippines, during the so-called « war on drugs » conducted by the former President Duterte, thousands have been victims of extra-judicial killings, including human rights defenders, journalists, legal professionals.

Children have been a direct target of extra judicial killings, with more than 200 children victims. These killings continue today, as the national policies used to conduct and justify extra-judicial killings, such as *Oplan Double Barrel*, have not yet been repealed and are still being implemented. This still affect drastically the life of families, who experience intense trauma related to the death of their children.

Families who want to file judicial complaints for the unlawful killing of their child face harassment, threats, and intimidation, including online harassment, but also detention. Processes are also not confidential and expose families to risks, as they can imply that their identities as complainants be revealed to the respondent perpetrators. This creates a huge security risk on the part of the victims as early as the investigation stage, thus preventing some families from pursuing accountability due to fear of retaliation.

The period for claiming reparations from the Department of Justice ("DOJ") is very short, preventing many families for claiming justice for the death of their children and that most victims do not have information or access to resources to file such claims

Most victim families encounter difficulty in recovering the remains of the deceased due to financial constraints.

As for the killings of legal professionals, a consistent pattern of incomplete and inadequate investigations reflects a culture of institutional acquiescence, with 54 *prima facie* work-related killings under the Duterte administration, of which none proceeded to trial. The vast majority of them has been prematurely declared "cold cases", in clear breach of families' right to an effective remedy.

We urge the state to:

- repeal *Oplan Double Barrel* and *PNP Memo Circular 001-2016*
- to end all extra-judicial killings, including of children and legal professionals
- to establish an independent and impartial body to investigate thoroughly and effectively all extrajudicial killings
- to take a human rights-based approach to drug related issues
- to prevent any reprisals for families filing complaints
- identify, punish, and prevent perpetrators of harassment, and
- to train investigators in trauma-based approach to victims, including a child-sensitive response.

Thank you, Mr. President.