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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0117/2022**

15.2.2022

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 144 of the Rules of Procedure

on the recent human rights developments in the Philippines  
(2022/2540(RSP))

**Željana Zovko, Michael Gahler, David McAllister, Sandra Kalniete, Andrey Kovatchev, Isabel Wiseler-Lima, Miriam Lexmann, Adam Jarubas, Sara Skytvedal, Tomáš Zdechovský, Inese Vaidere, Krzysztof Hetman, Janina Ochojska, David Lega, Christian Sagartz, Antonio López-Istúriz White, Vladimír Bilčík, José Manuel Fernandes, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Eva Maydell, Vangelis Meimarakis, Romana Tomc, Peter Pollák, Stelios Kympouropoulos, Arba Kokalari, Loránt Vincze, Jiří Pospíšil, Ivan Štefanec, Seán Kelly, Michaela Šojdrová, Ioan-Rareș Bogdan, Luděk Niedermayer**  
on behalf of the PPE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the recent human rights developments in the Philippines  
(2022/2540(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Philippines,
  - having regard to United Nations (UN) Joint Programme for Human Rights in the Philippines signed by the Government of Philippines and the UN on 22 July 2021,
  - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
  - having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Philippines and the EU have long-standing diplomatic, economic, cultural and political relations;
- B. whereas the extrajudicial executions have increased during the COVID-19 lockdown from April to July 2020 under the “war on drugs” campaign; whereas the COVID-19 pandemic lead to a worsening of detention conditions, and delays in the administration of justice resulting in a high number of pre-trial detainees;
- C. whereas the connection made by the authorities of organizations and individuals with certain groups or ideas, known as “red- tagging”, continues to result in extrajudicial killings and harassment of human rights defenders, political activists and other citizens,
- D. whereas journalists in the Philippines are facing threats; whereas Nobel Peace Prize laureate Maria Ressa, a journalist and co-founder of the news website Rappler, was arrested in 2019 for cyberlibel and convicted on 15 June 2020; whereas in 2021 the journalists Orlando Dinoy and Reynante Cortes were killed by unidentified gunmen;
- E. whereas on 9 December 2021 the Supreme Court upheld the legality of most of the Anti-Terrorism Act passed by President Duterte’s administration, which gives security forces the power for warrantless arrest and detention of a suspected person for up to 24 days without charges;

1. Condemns the extrajudicial killings and other serious human rights violations related to the so-called 'war on drugs' campaign;
2. Underlines that the Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court granted the Prosecutor's request to commence an investigation in relation to crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court allegedly committed on the territory of the Philippines between 1 November 2011 and 16 March 2019 in the context of the so-called 'war on drugs' campaign;
3. Calls on the authorities to respect the right to freedom of expression, and to ensure that journalists can do their work without fear; calls for an end to the persecution of Maria Ressa;
4. Stresses that individuals responsible for violations of domestic law and international human rights law are to be held accountable, regardless of rank or position, in fair trials before civilian courts;
5. Calls on the authorities to end the "red-tagging" of organizations and individuals;
6. Calls on the Government to amend the Anti-Terrorism Act and its implementing rules and regulations in order to bring it in line with international standards on counter-terrorism;
7. Calls on the Government to ensure a safe, free and fair electoral competition and take measures in ensuring access for all to electoral resources;
- 8.. Reiterates its call on the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to closely monitor the situation in the Philippines, and to regularly report to the European Parliament;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments of the Member States, the President, the Government and Congress of the Philippines, the governments of the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Secretary-General of the UN , and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.