

Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines
Chairperson Jose Luis (Chito) Gascon
By email: chairgascon.chr@gmail.com

Date:
27. september 2017

Letter of Support to the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines

Dear Chairperson Gascon,

We address this letter to you on behalf of the Norwegian National Human Rights Institution (NHRI). Our institution is one of the 78 NHRIs around the globe enjoying A status accreditation at the UN, testifying to our full compliance with the UN Paris Principles of 1993.

We are writing to you following the statements made by President Rodrigo Duterte during a press conference on 24 July 2017, in which he publicly denounced the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP) and threatened to block any CHRP investigations of alleged abuses by Philippine security forces.

The Norwegian NHRI supports the statements made by Chairperson of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), Professor Dr. Beate Rudolf, in her open letter to you on 11 September 2017. As a fellow NHRI we share her grave concerns regarding the threats to the independence and mandate of the CHRP.

We extend our support and admiration for the CHRP's continued efforts to promote and protect human rights in the Philippines despite the challenging circumstances in which you operate. Your continued mandate to operate in full independence in accordance with the Paris Principles, free from any political pressure, is of utmost importance to the protection of human rights in the Philippines.

The Norwegian NHRI stands in solidarity with the CHR of the Philippines.

Yours sincerely,

Petter Wille
Director

Adele Matheson Mestad
Deputy Director

This letter is approved electronically and therefore has no handwritten signature