



Craig Whittaker MP

CALDER VALLEY

www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk

Extra-Judicial Killings in the Philippines

Thank you for contacting me about human rights violations in the Philippines

Thank you for contacting me about human rights violations in the Philippines.

I share your concern over the death toll and human rights violations associated with the 'war on illegal drugs' in the Philippines.

I am assured that the UK urges thorough and independent investigations into all violent deaths, and for the Philippine Government to ensure those involved in abuses, including security forces, are brought to justice. The UK Government also continues to offer UK expertise on evidence-based drug policies and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

I understand that Ministers and officials have raised concerns with their Philippine counterparts, including the Minister for Asia and the Pacific, with the Philippine Ambassador and senior Philippine parliamentarians. The UK has also raised concerns at the Human Rights Council including through the Philippines Universal Periodic Review process.

To be clear, in his visit to the Philippines in April, the Secretary of State for International Trade raised the war on illegal drugs, in the context of the importance of the rule of law, adhering to international obligations as well as the implications on international trade arrangements. Commercial relationships do not prevent the UK from speaking frankly to governments about issues of concern. In fact, relationships can help enhance the scope to positively influence Governments, helping to raise human rights standards.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me about this important issue.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP