

# Philippine Human Rights Act

## Objective

To suspend the provision of security assistance to the Philippines until the Government of the Philippines has made certain reforms to the military and police forces.

## Findings

- **Long history of friendship and solidarity** ties between the US and Philippines **including 550 million dollars in military aid since 2016.**
- **Over 4 million Filipinos in the US**, one of the largest and fastest growing immigrant communities from Asia with significant contributions to American society and history.
- Since 2016, **US has continued to support the administration of Philippine President Rodrigo Roa Duterte**, whose brutal drug war and other campaigns have claimed over 30,000 lives from the urban poor, farmers, peasants, indigenous, environmental activists, and government critics.
- Local elected officials, journalists, and Catholic bishops **critical of the Duterte government** and advocating for the rural poor **have also been killed.**
- 2019, **Brandon Lee**, a US citizen, journalist, and environmental advocate living in the Northern Philippines **became the victim of an attempted assassination by the Philippine military** after being harrassed and surveiled for years for his environmental justice work against corporate mining in the area.
- In 2007, a historic **US Senate hearing led by then-Senator Barbara Boxer resulted in the cutting of Foreign Military Financing to the Philippine government** the following year based on the Philippine military's culpability in rampant human right abuses.

## Suspension and Restrictions

- **Suspension of security assistance** to Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippines National Police (PNP).
- US representatives of multilateral development banks to **veto loans to Philippine military and police.**
- US State Department and US Department of Defense to jointly **submit a report** to the Congressional Appropriations Committee specifying: 1) **All security assistance** from the US to the AFP and PNP, 2) Reports from the Philippine recipients on **usage of said aid**, 3) **All misuses of said aid by the recipients**, including but not limited to extrajudicial killings, intimidation, illegal sales, and misappropriation.

## Conditions for Lifting Restrictions

- **Investigating and prosecuting members of the military and police forces** who are credibly found to have violated human rights.
- **Withdrawing the military** from domestic policy.
- **Establishing protections of the rights** of trade unionists, journalists, human right defenders, indigenous persons, small-farmers, LGBTI activists, and critics of the government;
- Taking steps to **guarantee a judicial system that is capable** of investigating, prosecuting, and bringing to justice members of the police and military who have committed human rights abuses; and
- **Fully complying with any and all audits or investigations** regarding the improper use of security aid.