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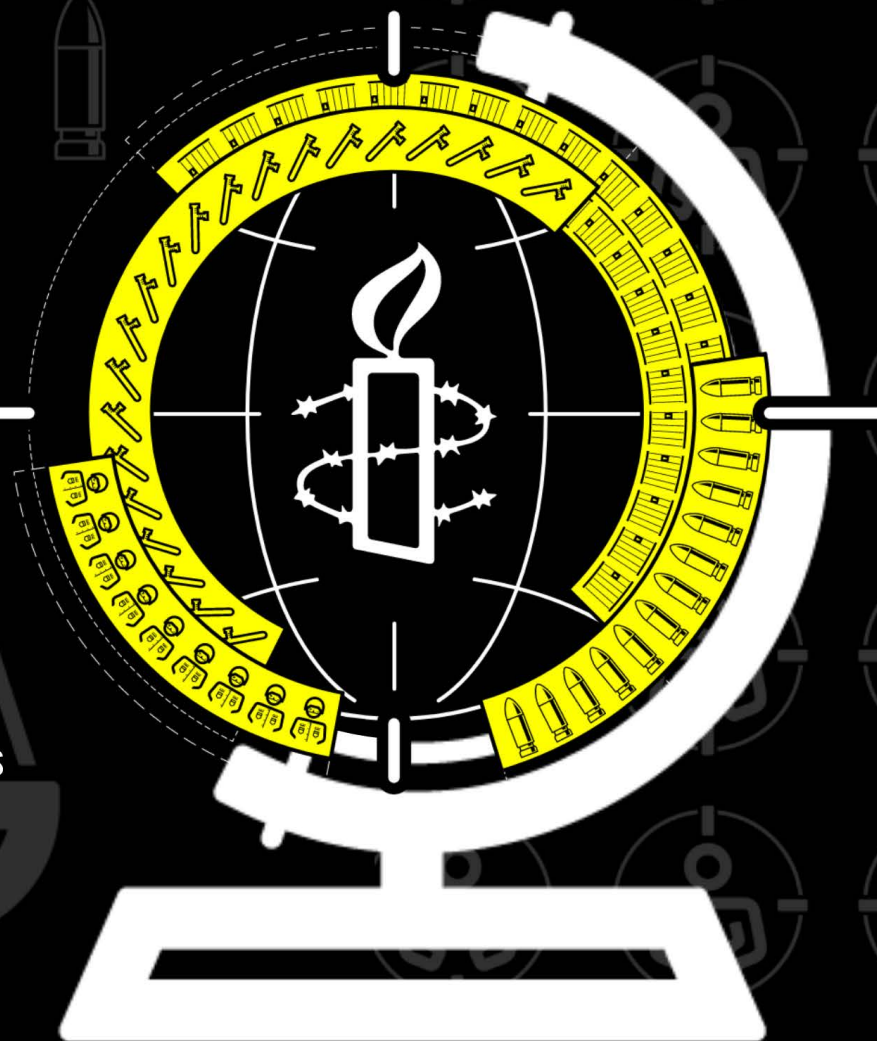
VOLUME 23 / ISSUE 1

HUMAN RIGHTS ARE UNDER **ATTACK**

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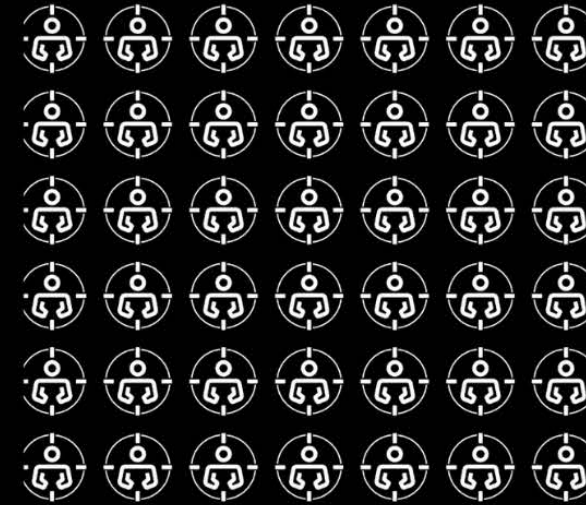


AIR 2023

Amnesty International's Annual Report for 2022/23 was released last 28 March 2023. It highlights double standards throughout the world on human rights and the failure of the international community to unite around consistently-applied human rights and universal values.

"The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was created 75 years ago, out of the ashes of the Second World War. At its core is the universal recognition that all people have rights and fundamental freedoms. While global power dynamics are in chaos, human rights cannot be lost in the fray. They should guide the world as it navigates an increasingly volatile and dangerous environment. We must not wait for the world to burn again." said Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General.

The Philippine section highlights how unlawful killings under the "war on drugs" continued and impunity for thousands of past killings remained entrenched. The report notes that repression of dissent intensified, and freedom of expression was further restricted as human rights defenders, political activists, journalists and others were subjected to unlawful killings, arbitrary arrest and detention. It cited instances where authorities blocked the websites and ordered the closure of independent media.



PROTESTS ARE UNDER ATTACK

Governments around the world have made it increasingly difficult to protest



The figures refer to the number of states (out of the 155 covered in the 2022/23 annual report) where Amnesty International recorded credible allegations of the concern mentioned

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS AND IMPUNITY

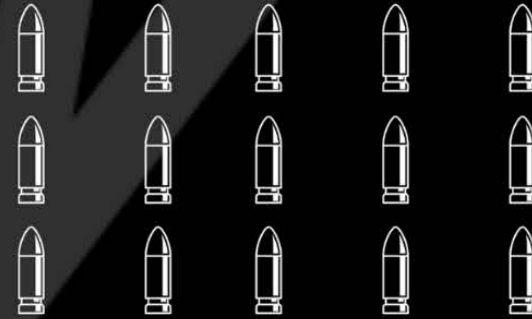
The number of killings committed in the context of the "war on drugs" rose after the new administration took office. According to the university-based research group Dahas, 324 drug-related killings by the police and other unknown assailants were recorded during 2022, 175 of which took place after July. \

In June, the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor filed an application with the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber to resume investigations into crimes against humanity, including in the context of the "war on drugs". The Prosecutor stated that investigations by national authorities were inadequate and that the suspension of ICC investigations in late 2021 at the request of the Philippine government was therefore unwarranted.1 The government maintained its position of non-cooperation with the ICC.

REPRESSION OF DISSENT

The continued linking of organizations and individuals to communist groups by the authorities and their supporters, known as "red-tagging", led to further killings, arbitrary detentions and harassment of human rights defenders, political activists and others.

Prisoner of conscience and former Senator Leila de Lima spent her sixth year in detention over politically motivated drug related charges, despite the retraction of testimonies by key witnesses.6 In August, the Office of the Ombudsman dismissed a separate bribery case against her.



FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

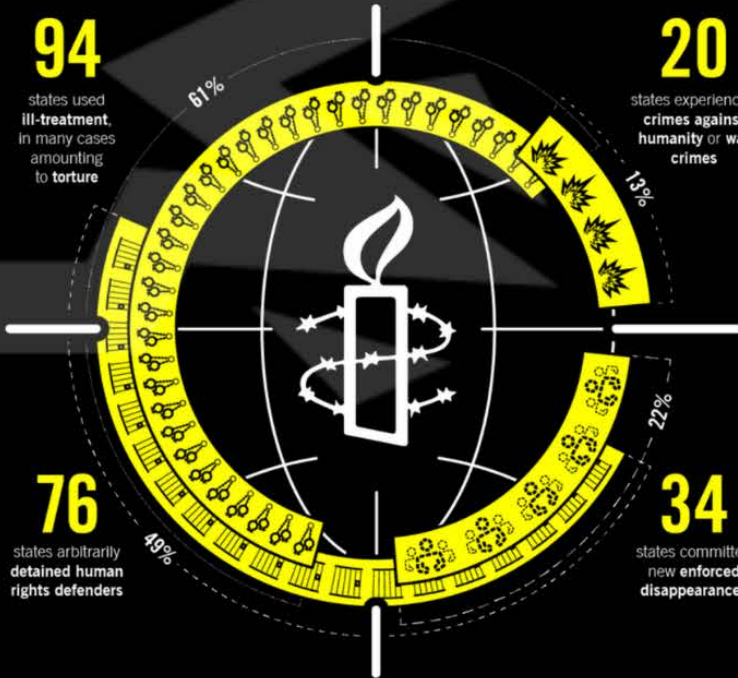
Physical attacks and judicial harassment of journalists intensified and independent news sites were blocked.

At least two journalists were killed in 2022, including prominent radio broadcaster Percival Mabasa (known as Percy Lapid) who was shot on 3 October in Las Piñas City, Metro Manila.7 A man allegedly involved in the killing was murdered in prison shortly afterwards. The head of the Bureau of Corrections, who Percy Lapid had criticized on air for corruption, was subsequently named as a suspect in investigations which remained ongoing at year end.

FAILURE TO TACKLE CLIMATE CRISIS

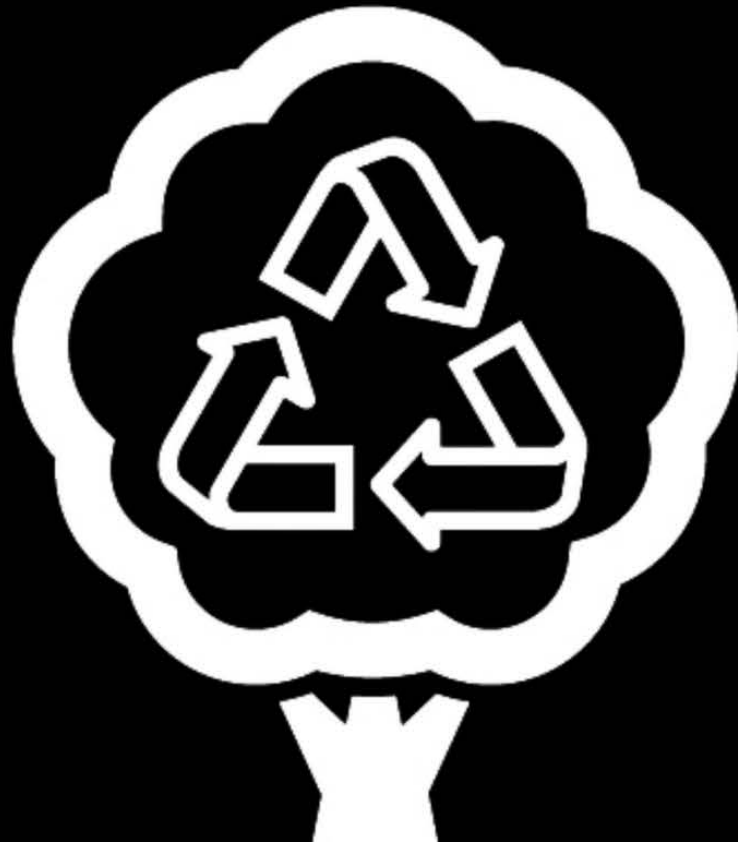
President Marcos Jr. committed to tackle climate change on taking office. However, budget cuts, including to the national Climate Change Commission, and a push towards the use of nuclear and fossil fuels raised concerns among environmental groups about whether adaptation plans and commitments to increase the use of renewable energy sources would be met.

HUMAN RIGHTS



The figures refer to the number of states (out of the 155 covered in the 2022/23 annual report) where Amnesty International recorded credible allegations of the concern mentioned

UNDER ATTACK



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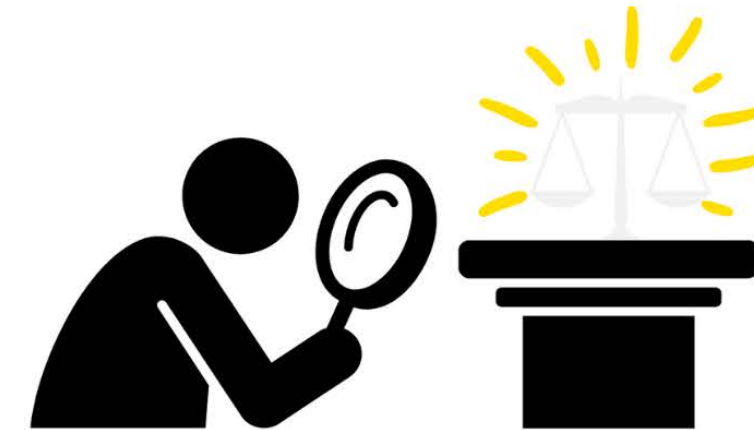
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O P I N I O N



IN SEARCH OF ELUSIVE JUSTICE

By Aurora Corazon A. Parong, M.D.

Vice-Chairperson, Amnesty International Philippines

Co-Chairperson of the Philippine Coalition for the International Criminal Court (PCICC)

Will there ever be justice for the tens of thousands of victims of killings in the context of the brutal war on drugs (WoD) at the domestic and international levels? In one month, the government of Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will finish its first year in office. It has also been more than 6 years since communications from various groups regarding widespread and systematic killings related to the WoD have been sent to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly, of which the Philippines is a member, approved the guiding principles on victims' "right to remedies" for gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law. According to this resolution, remedies include equal and effective access to justice, adequate, effective and prompt reparation for harm suffered and access to relevant information concerning violations and reparation mechanisms.

DOMESTIC JUSTICE

The Philippine government reported that at least 6,252 were killed in police operations since the War on Drugs started in 2016 but this pales in number with the estimates of human rights institutions of about 30,000 killed. Law enforcement agents have asserted that the killings were in "self-defense" allegedly because those killed fought back ("nanlaban") and there is "presumption of regularity" in the police operations. Various human rights groups like Amnesty International, members of the Philippine Coalition for the International Court (PCICC), as well as the government's Commission on Human Rights have shown that the "self-defense" assertions are without basis on the hundreds of cases they have investigated, yet no serious impartial investigations were conducted and thus many were never brought to the local courts.

For several years, families of victims have not been seeing much progress in their quest for justice locally. To date, only four policemen have been convicted for the killing of 3 teen-ager victims with one convicted for torture and planting of evidence. In these cases, the "nanlaban" narratives were debunked in the courts.

In addition, despite the systematic and massive killings, government law enforcement agents and investigators have not been looking into possible serious crimes violating international humanitarian law. Top officials have repeatedly denied the existence of possible crimes against humanity, crimes included in a domestic law Republic Act 9851 also known as the "Philippine Act on Crimes against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes against Humanity." No one top official of the Duterte government, who enabled and encouraged the massive killings, have been investigated and criminally prosecuted.



Historically in the Philippines, sanctions against top officials for crimes have been scarce, with many escaping the domestic criminal justice system to enjoy their loot or bask without shame despite evidences of wrongs and arrogantly comeback to power with impunity, assisted by misinformation and false narratives funded by their ill-gotten wealth.

Despite rhetoric for human rights and accountability by the Marcos government, here and in its diplomatic runs abroad, the killings continue, the Memorandum Circular on Drug War “Oplan Double Barrel” has not been revoked and needed reforms on law and policy on drugs remain wanting. Rubbing salt to injury, we read about several Congress officials publicly invoking “unequivocal defense” of former President Duterte and support for former PNP Chief, now Senator Dela Rosa. Top Philippine government officials have expressed non-cooperation with the ICC and even demonized the international court and its officials.

As families of victims of the bloody WoD experience economic dislocation and emotional turmoil, their efforts to seek justice domestically were going nowhere.

BEYOND THE PHILIPPINE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Frustrated with the domestic criminal justice system, human rights groups and families of victims of the drug war sent information to the United Nations (UN) Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and communications to the ICC. The plan to create a Commission of Inquiry at the UN failed when the Philippine government argued that there is a robust and functional criminal justice system in the country.

The communications to the ICC did not fall on deaf ears! The Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) of the ICC initiated preliminary investigations into the situation in 2018, less than a year after it received the first communication from the Philippines. It was on 15 September 2021 that the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber (PTC) authorized “the commencement of the investigation into the situation in the Philippines, 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”. The PTC stated that: “the so-called ‘war on drugs’ campaign cannot be seen as a legitimate law enforcement operation; the available material indicates, to the required standard, that a widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population took place pursuant to or in furtherance of a State policy [...]” and thus the need to investigate possible crimes against humanity of murder, torture, arbitrary detention and sexual abuse and collect data for further analysis.

The Philippines became a State Party to the Rome Statute of the ICC in November 2011 and the Philippines’ withdrawal from the Rome Statute became effective on March 17, 2019. The investigation by the ICC is limited to those crimes which occurred during the period that the Philippines was a State Party to the Rome Statute and was bound by its provisions. This surfaced a big problem: families of victims of killings and torture in the WoD from March 17, 2019 to the present cannot seek justice at the ICC-

-Will they ever find justice in our country, or these cases will just be included among the many where the perpetrators and those who have command responsibility escaped the criminal justice system?

A 2021 ruling by the Philippine Supreme Court of the Philippines states that: “‘Even if it has deposited the instrument of withdrawal, it shall not be discharged from any criminal proceedings. Whatever process was already initiated before the International Criminal Court obliges the state party to cooperate.’” Yet the executive and legislative branches of the Philippine government have been adamant and unwilling to criminally prosecute officials and to cooperate with the ICC. On several occasions, the Philippine government has been an obstacle to the proceedings at the ICC. In November 2021, it requested a deferral of the investigation which delayed the proceedings by 14 months. Not content, the Philippines sought the ICC Appeals Chamber to overturn the decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber to investigate the Philippine situation.

The ICC Victims Participation and Reparations Section (VPRS) in its report this May stated: “In all the communications received by the VPRS, victims unanimously support an ICC investigation into crimes against humanity allegedly committed in the context of the WoD in the Philippines.” The ICC Appeals Chamber has yet to decide on the appeal.



WHAT LIES AHEAD?

Will there ever be justice under a Marcos presidency? The Philippine government has been denying possible crimes against humanity in the WoD. President Marcos recently admitted that there were “abuses by certain elements in government” in Duterte’s drug war but goes on to say “I’m in no position to assess the administration of anyone else.” President Ferdinand Marcos Jr has to be reminded that the Philippine government has an obligation to deliver justice for past grave crimes as well as those committed under his government. Remedy is a right and the State is mandated by Philippine laws including the Constitution, as well as international human rights and humanitarian principles which form part of the law of the land.

Will there be justice at the ICC? So far, the actions of the ICC OTP as well as the ICC PTC and Appeals Chamber have been welcomed as rays of hope by the families of the drug war and human rights organizations. It must be noted, however, that the ICC is facing serious challenges such as the high number of situation countries under preliminary examination and investigation, limitations of resources and attacks on the court itself. The Assembly of States Parties (ASP) must extend political support as well as resources to the ICC in order that it can deliver justice and help prevent serious international crimes in any part of the world. The ICC must be an effective court of last resort so that when our country fails us, we have a place to seek accountability.

The “Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law” adopted by the UN General Assembly states: “the statutes of limitations shall not apply to gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law which constitute crimes under international law.” This means that at any time, other methods and other venues for justice may be sought.



The right to remedy will become meaningful and real in the lives of peoples when governments have strong commitments to the rule of law and justice. Good governance requires peoples’ commitment and unceasing actions for rights and remedies! The search for justice, though difficult and very challenging, must be constant and persistent.

Burning Question:

"WHAT DOES PROTEST MEAN TO YOU?"



"Protest is a social movement that seeks to influence and engage in activism. Its purpose is to uphold perceived grievances to exhibit social change. It may discuss political reformation, resistance, or societal issues. It values the ingenuity of the truth. The truth that empowers the silenced, the truth that seeks accountability, and the truth that screeches for justice."

-Dawn Laranjo



"As a trans woman, in a world that is unkind to queer people, protest to me means LIFE."

-Estelle Lopez

"Ang protesta ay ang ang tamang hakbang para ipaalam na may mali sa mga patakaran o batas, lalo't hindi isinangguni sa mas nakakarami."

-Dado Sta Ana



Protest to me does not necessarily entail being out in the streets. Protest to me is taking action, no matter how small. In the long run, it will bring greater impact to society. Doing away with products or businesses that have blatant disregard of the environment, or those that exploit and alienate workers, and instead patronizing products and businesses that espouse the idea of sustainability and give value to human life and dignity, among others are forms of protest

-Mae Quilit



"Protest/Protesta - pagpapakita ng hindi pagsang-ayon sa isang panukala o aksiyon partikular ng pamahalaan sa iba't ibang paraan - pagmartsa sa kalye, pagsulat ng position paper, press conference, pagsusulat sa mismong ahensiya para sa paliwanag at posibleng dayalogo."

Ang protesta ay pagtanggì sa hindi makatarungan. Hindi ito nangngahulugang tuligsain ang pamahalaan. Maraming protesta ay hindi bayolente at madugo."

-John Alster Soriano

WOMEN'S RIGHTS WINS OF 2022

IN 2022, WOMEN AND GIRLS ALL AROUND THE WORLD MADE TERRIFIC ADVANCES TOWARDS TRUE GENDER EQUALITY AND CLAIMING WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS. FROM NEW LEGISLATION TO STREET PROTESTS, WOMEN AND GIRLS HAVE SOME BIG WINS TO CELEBRATE FROM 2022. BELOW, WE DISCUSS SOME LANDMARK CASES:

UKRAINE

In July 2022, Ukraine ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (also known as the Istanbul Convention). The Convention went into force for the country on the 1st of November 2022. The Istanbul Convention was opened for signatures in May 2011 and obliges State Parties to take several measures to combat violence against women and domestic violence.



IRAN

Women and girls have been at the forefront of the popular uprising in Iran, challenging decades of gender-based discrimination and violence. These protests were sparked in September 2022 by the death of a young Kurdish Iranian woman who was allegedly beaten to death by the so-called "morality police" for not properly veiling her hair. By November, at least 328 more Iranians had died in the protests. The movement is predominantly women- and youth-led and has adopted the rallying cry of "woman, life, liberty."



SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone passed a landmark new law to increase the number of women in positions of power. The Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Act states that 30% of public and private jobs must be reserved for women, with further quotas for senior positions in the workplace. It also guarantees 14-weeks of maternity leave and equal access to bank credit and training opportunities.



SCOTLAND

Scotland became the first country in the world to provide free period products for "anyone who needs them" in August 2022. This is a landmark win in the war against period poverty. Many low-income women and girls struggle to afford suitable period products and with the cost-of-living rising, Scotland's Period Products Act is a shining example of hope for period dignity worldwide.

SPAIN, FINLAND, FAROE ISLANDS

Spain, Finland, and the Faroe Islands passed laws in 2022 that make lack of consent key to defining rape. In a great many European countries, for a crime to be considered rape the law still requires coercion, the use of force or threats of force to have been used – or the inability to defend oneself. This disregards the way that a majority of rapes take place, particularly when they are perpetrated by friends or partners of the victim. The "only yes means yes" sexual consent laws – as it was called in Spain – is an amazing win for women who no longer need to prove that violence or intimidation was used against her for an assault to be legally recognized as rape.



PHILIPPINES

Women's Human Rights wins continued into the early months of 2023 when in January Nobel Laureate Maria Ressa was acquitted of politically-motivated tax evasion charges in the Philippines. The tax court that ruled in Ressa's favor deemed that the prosecution failed to prove their guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

Responding to the decision by the Court of Tax Appeals to acquit Maria Ressa of four counts of tax evasion, Butch Olano, Amnesty International Philippines Section Director, said:

"Amnesty International welcomes the decision to drop charges of tax evasion against prominent journalist and Nobel laureate Maria Ressa."

SOGIE Equality Bill AN ACT OF LOVE FOR ALL

SOGIE—we hear it in campaigns, news articles, on tiktok and facebook, but what is it anyway?

SOGIE stands for Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression.

That may sound like it's a lot to unpack, but at the very heart of it, sexual orientation refers to who we're attracted to; gender identity is who we are; and gender expression is about how we share and show who we are.

Sounds relatable? That's because at the very heart of it, we all have SOGIE. 🌈 We all have a sense of who we're attracted to (or if we're not attracted to anyone at all), of who we are, and how we want to express ourselves.

All the problems and complications only come in when some people and institutions dictate and assert—many times, in the cruelest ways—that who we love, who we can be, and how we share ourselves with the world is limited, confined to black and white, and worse, that it should stay that way.



The need for a legislation, the need for protection

Discrimination is when individuals, institutions, systems of power, treat someone unfairly for being “different”. In the streets, it shows when someone who identifies as neither man nor women (non-binary) is laughed at for how they dressed. In schools, it shows when a young trans man is not allowed to attend their graduation unless they wear a skirt. In workplaces, it shows when a person is denied a promotion for being gay. In hospitals and clinics, it shows when a doctor invokes their religious belief to justify refusing treatment to someone with diverse SOGIE. In the community, it shows when the barangay chairperson refused to give aid during the pandemic because two women in a relationship and living together doesn't count as a household. In the justice system, it shows when a trans woman is murdered for being transgender and not only are the investigations slow and sloppy, but the murderer was even released early.

This is why the SOGIE Equality Bill exists, and why it needs to become law.

PRIDE AND RESILIENCE: Exploring Southeast Asia's LGBTQ+ Cinema

Through a combination of documentary, short fiction, and experimental works, this selection of award-winning films aims to shed light on the experiences, struggles, and defiance of LGBTQ+ individuals in the region.

This collection includes classic and contemporary films from Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Cambodia, exploring themes of coming out and the protagonists' defiance of conservatism in societies where acceptance of LGBTQ+ people continues to be challenging.

"This is Not a Coming Out Story" is a short fiction film from the Philippines that portrays a young man's struggle to embrace his sexuality in a predominantly patriarchal and conservative society. As he forms a friendship with another young man, the film delves into the complexities of his journey.



In "She's My Son," a powerful documentary from Malaysia, we witness Sugania's transformation into her true self as a transwoman. Despite facing criticism, she navigates life with the love and acceptance of her mother, highlighting the resilience of LGBTQ+ individuals in a predominantly Muslim country.

From Indonesia, "MAI CHO" focuses on the challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community in a society still working towards acceptance. This documentary follows the story of a masculine lesbian aspiring to have a child, capturing the fears and hopes of the community for a more inclusive future.





"Self-Portrait," a captivating documentary from the Philippines, invites us into the filmmaker's introspection as he reflects on his fears and struggles of revealing his identity to his father. Through their shared memories, this film poignantly explores the complexities of acceptance.



The program also includes two inspiring documentaries from Cambodia. "Black Balloons" follows the journey of Vorn Vireakboth, a queer dancer who finds solace in the arts as he overcomes a difficult past.



"Love Across Time" tells the story of two older women whose love has endured numerous challenges, reflecting on the debates surrounding same-sex love in Cambodian society.



In "Solo," set against the backdrop of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic in the Philippines, Ronnie, a talented dancer, grapples with his identity in a world where individuality is reduced to mere numbers. This short fiction film offers a poignant exploration of self-discovery and love amidst the chaos.

These ten* films from Cinemata, a video platform for social issue films, celebrate the resilience, strength, and diversity of the LGBTQ+ community in Southeast Asia through these remarkable films. Their stories are a testament to the power of love, acceptance, and the pursuit of equality.

For the rest of the films with sensitive content, kindly view the full film list here or email us at info@amnesty.org.ph.



Cinemata is a video site for social and environmental films in Asia-Pacific. It is managed and developed by EngageMedia as an open-technology platform. The curatorial team behind Cinemata highlights important yet often overlooked stories, which helps filmmakers reach a wider audience and have a greater impact.

Cinemata accepts contributions in various styles and genres, such as documentary, fiction, animation, experimental, and more. [Sign up](#) for an account to upload videos, make playlists and engage with other users.

TAKE ACTION FOR SOGIE EQUALITY BILL IN THE PHILIPPINES AND TÜRKIYE PRIDE ON AMNESTY PH'S WEBSITE

<https://www.amnesty.org.ph/take-action/>

AMNESTY TECH

Amnesty Tech asserts that it's time technology puts people and human rights first.

As a movement of 10 million people, Amnesty Tech has plugged hackers, coders, data scientists and technologists into our team too.

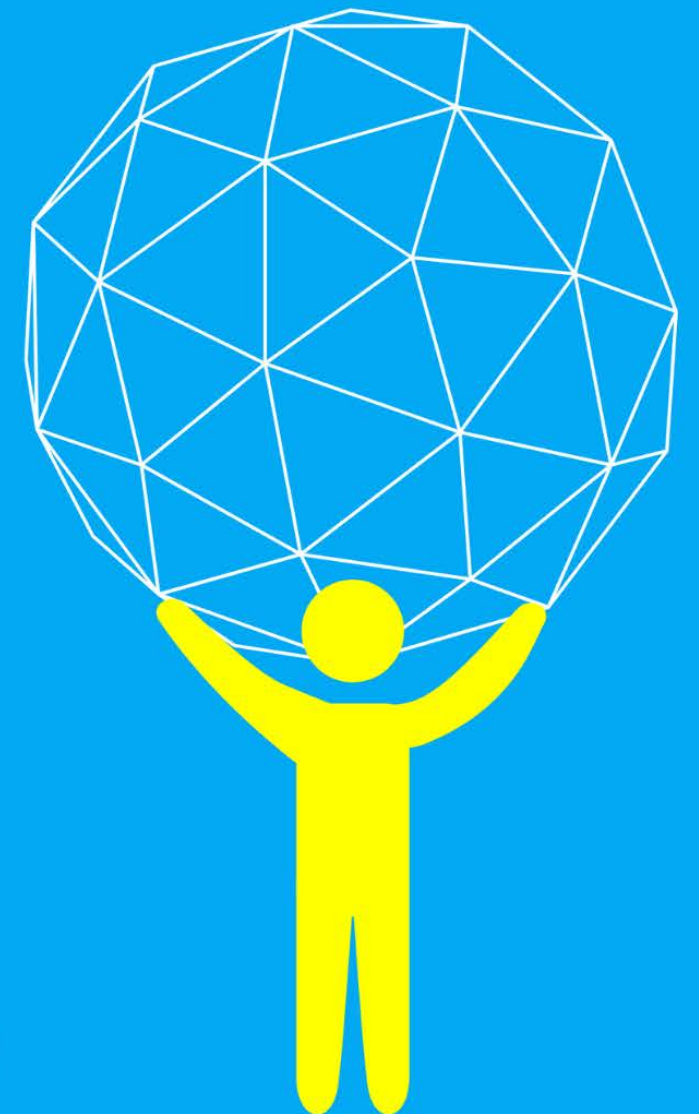
Amnesty Tech investigates; campaigns and works to change policy. It is a fight for justice and to hold the powerful to account. Amnesty Tech is setting the agenda for the future of human rights and technology to:

- Rewire the internet to put people and human rights first, ensuring Big Tech is effectively regulated to protect human rights, and companies are more transparent and more accountable.
- Resist the use of technology to silence activists, preventing unlawful surveillance, censorship and internet shutdowns.
- Rewrite the code to protect human rights, ensuring discrimination and bias are no longer programmed into algorithms that make life-changing decisions about us.

One of Amnesty Tech's biggest focus is the digital rights of children and young people. Each month, more than five million children go online for the first time and through the RIGHTS Click Programme, Amnesty Tech partners with young people to ensure digital technologies protect their rights, health and wellbeing.

From algorithms amplifying insecurities to influencers peddling hate speech, the dangers of online spaces for children and young people frequently make headlines; but too little is happening to change this, and youth voices are largely invisible from the debate.

Through this partnership, Amnesty Tech is developing research and campaigns to ensure young people can shape safe online environments that they can thrive in.



RESEARCH: UnSocial Media

Instagram, TikTok and other social media have become daily fixtures in the lives of children and young people around the world, with 59% of young people surveyed by Amnesty International now spending more than two hours of their average day on social media. Yet research on young people's experiences on social media remains overwhelmingly focused on North America, Europe and Australia.

Amnesty International collected responses from 550 children and young people between the ages of 13 and 24 across 45 countries to better understand their lived experiences, concerns and attitudes towards social media. Amidst praise for the diversity of ideas, users' creativity and opportunities for activism that young people find on social media, two major concerns stand out: the toll harmful content and what many young participants describe as "addictive" platform design take on young people's mental health and their feeling of powerlessness in the face of global companies' constant nudging to participate in a vicious cycle of personal data sharing and content consumption.

Against the backdrop of the constant rise in time spent by young people on social media, a staggering 74% of respondents report checking their social media accounts more than they would like to. Respondents bemoaned the "addictive" lure of the constant stream of updates and personalized recommendations, often feeling "overstimulated" and "distracted".

“

The algorithms and how they use / play on your personal information, vulnerabilities and interests. And that it takes up A LOT of time and is very easy to get addicted to

Non-binary, 18, Norway

Young people equally voiced a sense of a loss of control in relation to their privacy: Three-quarters of our respondents found social media's terms of service hard to understand, criticizing the often "technical language" and the take-it-or-leave-it approach social media platforms apply, forcing young people to choose between the perceived threat of social exclusion or signing up at the cost of their privacy. Amnesty has previously called for a ban on targeted advertisement, which relies on the invasive tracking of users. Only the EU has thus far passed regulation to stop large platforms' profiling of minors for advertising purposes.

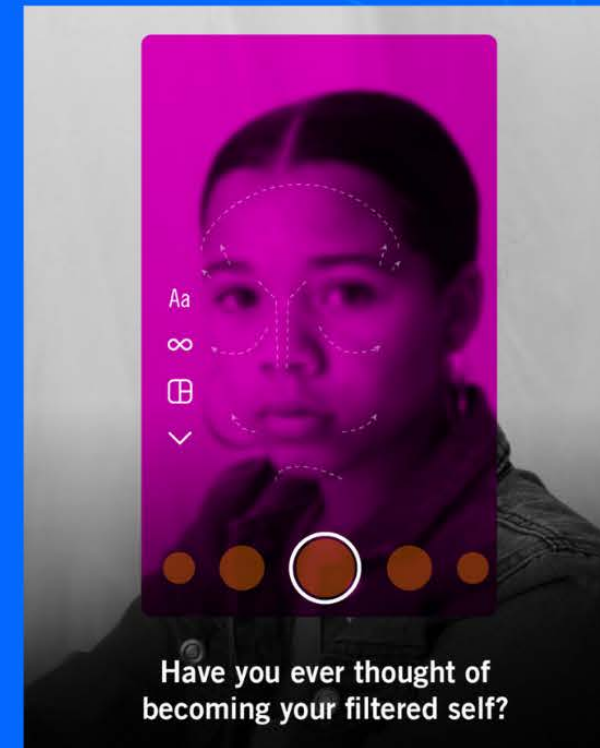


Social media can be more harmful than you think

“

The following posts are regular on social media and I truly wish I never had to see them:
Racism, Violence, Bullying.
Such posts make you see that social media companies have no control over these platforms and it's about to get worse.

Female, 22, South Africa



Asked about their vision of an ideal social media, our respondents shared clear ideas about how social media must change to respect their rights, from greater privacy protections to changes to algorithmic recommendations:

“More transparent and less intrusive privacy policies”
21-year-old man, Argentina

“No PhotoShop, no pornographic content, no violence or suicide glamorization, just real people doing real things.”
18-year-old woman, Portugal

Beyond social media's "addictive" nature, a significant number of respondents across genders and continents reported feeling that social media's promotion of social comparison and the amplification of harmful content had a negative impact on their mental health. Young people reported feeling "anxious" and "self-conscious" about "unrealistic [body] images" viewed in their feeds and told us of their "over-sexualizing" of their body "at a young age" in response.

Some young people attributed their lack of self-esteem, depressive thoughts and eating disorders to their use of social media, with some saying they had since sought out unspecified body-positive websites and platforms. Asked about their vision of an ideal social media, our respondents shared clear ideas about how social media must change to respect their rights, from greater privacy protections to changes to algorithmic recommendations:

...there are a lot of images that makes me (and other young girls) self-conscious as they push harmful/unrealistic images of what we should be like. There is also content that promotes eating disorders, implicitly or even explicitly.

Female, 18, USA

“A world where ideas, positive entertainment, educating content & creativity are embraced, proper dissemination of correct information without malice or hate.”
19-year-old woman, Kenya

As part of its RIGHTS Click programme, Amnesty Tech is going to conduct further research into the human rights concerns raised by the young survey participants. We will also continue working with children and young people in focus countries such as Kenya, Argentina and the Philippines to develop campaigns for regulatory change

EMPOWERING CHANGE: Reflecting on the RIGHTS Click Workshop Series

From April 19 to 28, the RIGHTS Click team embarked on a workshop series held in the Philippines. Led by Simon, the Global Program Manager from the IS, this event brought together the RIGHTS Click Philippines and Global teams to plan out how to create meaningful impact. Throughout the workshop series, participants explored a wide range of topics, fostering growth, collaboration, and empowerment.

The workshop series kicked off with a strong focus on enhancing the staff team's project management skills. Through engaging Action Learning Sets, the team had the opportunity to critically analyze the key learnings from the RIGHTS Click Program. These sessions allowed them to delve into effective collaboration, strategic planning, and the crucial aspect of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL).



Recognizing the invaluable contributions of young voices, the workshop dedicated a session to child and youth engagement and participation. Using Hart's Ladder of Participation as guide, the team analyzed case studies from Amnesty's Movement. This helped the team explore ways to create meaningful opportunities for young people within the RIGHTS Click Program. The session aimed to foster an inclusive environment that values and integrates the perspectives of youth participants.

The RIGHTS Click team emphasizes the importance of well-being in sustaining impact as activists. Therefore, a session discussing the well-being of activists was conducted. It was based on the insights gathered from a global survey conducted in collaboration with Greenpeace for the Protect the Protest campaign. Armed with new insights, the team explored tools and strategies to embed well-being practices within our work with young people. By prioritizing holistic well-being, RIGHTS Click aims to ensure long-term effectiveness and resilience.



Recognizing the influence of technology, a session exploring effective strategies to challenge surveillance-based business models was also conducted. The team delved into various tools and tactics that could be deployed to advocate for policy changes and challenge the practices of big tech companies. Our emphasis on technology research and campaigns aims to protect human rights in the ever-evolving digital landscape.

A significant milestone within the workshop series was the RightUp Kick Off, marking the beginning of Amnesty's first-ever youth-led research project. This session brought together representatives from Amnesty Tech, Global Children & Youth, AIPH, Research Standards and Practices Unite (RSPU), and three remarkable young individuals who played a pivotal role in shaping the youth-led research. The RightUp Kick Off set the stage for the delivery of a research project that promises to drive meaningful change, empowering our youth with the power of knowledge.

Gallow also delivered a presentation to the rest of the AI Philippines staff, providing a comprehensive overview of the RIGHTS Click Program and celebrating the achievements of the RIGHTS Click Philippines team to date. It served as a platform for engaging in dialogue with the wider section, exploring avenues to integrate RIGHTS Click into broader campaigning efforts.

The RIGHTS Click workshop series provided us with a remarkable opportunity to collaborate, learn, and grow together. With a comprehensive agenda covering various program areas, the team left the workshops feeling empowered and equipped to tackle the challenges ahead.



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