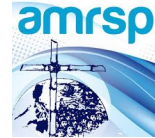




FASTENOPFER
ACTION DE CARÊME
SACRIFICIO QUARESIMALE



Franciscans International
A voice at the United Nations



**44th Regular Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Agenda Item 2: Enhanced Interactive Dialog on the comprehensive report of the High
Commissioner on the situation of human rights in the Philippines**

30 June 2020

Recorded statement by Fr Christian Buenafe O.Carm

Madam President,

Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund (Fastenopfer), Franciscans International, Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines and Task Force Detainees of the Philippines welcome the report on the Philippine human rights situation released by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The OHCHR has confirmed the systematic and widespread violations of human rights specially the deprivation of the right to life that continued even with one of the most severe lockdowns imposed in any country.

Even as I speak Madam President violations continue with arrests, extra-judicial killings, enforced disappearances and torture.

Over a two-month period Task Force Detainees of the Philippines monitored 118 human rights violations ranging from cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment to extra-judicial killings.

Human rights defenders have relentlessly been subjected to attacks online and offline. Recently, two prominent human rights defenders have been red-tagged by the State – Sr. Mary John Mananzan of the Benedictine order and Mr. Ritz Lee, Executive Director of Balaod-Mindanao. The Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates and Medical Action Group have also been tagged as part of the network of communist-terrorists.

These assaults on human rights and human right defenders must come to an end. These killings must stop.

We implore the Council to heed the recommendation of the OHCHR and establish a commission of inquiry. It will be a gigantic step forward in our common quest for accountability and justice.

Thank you for this opportunity Madam President.