



AI Index: IOR 40/5882/2017
14 March 2017

ITEM 4: GENERAL DEBATE

Amnesty International's oral statement to the 34th session of the UN Human Rights Council
(27 February-24 March 2017)

Mr President,

Amnesty International is alarmed by the deteriorating human rights situation in Bahrain. We are particularly concerned by the resumption of executions and the excessive use of force and the clampdown on peaceful assembly. We are also very concerned that powers have been restored to the National Security Agency and civilians could be tried before military courts; that rights to freedom of expression, association and movement are being seriously constrained; and enforced disappearances continue to take place.¹

We urge Bahrain to take concrete steps to address these concerns, and ensure accountability for all human rights violations. We also call on Bahrain to facilitate the visits requested by a number of Special Procedures, including the Special Rapporteur on Torture.

Mr. President,

Over 8,000 drug-related killings have been reported in the Philippines.² These appear to be systematic, planned and organised by the authorities, and may constitute crimes against humanity. Amnesty International has found evidence of extrajudicial executions, recruitment of paid killers by the police, and under-the-table payments to police for each alleged drug offender they kill.³ Children are among those who have been killed or otherwise harmed during anti-drug operations.

Amnesty International calls on the Philippines to initiate independent and effective investigations into every drug-related killing, and guarantee accountability for these crimes. We urge the international community to ensure that no external financial support to Philippine authorities is being used to fund human rights violations in the war on drugs, and to offer material and technical assistance to the Philippines Commission on Human Rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde11/5692/2017/en/>.

² <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-drugs-usa-idUSKBN16BOKL>.

³ Amnesty International, Philippines: "If you are poor, you are killed": Extrajudicial killings in the Philippines' "War on Drugs", <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa35/5517/2017/en/>