

### What does the Bible say?

Justice is pushed aside, righteousness far off because truth has stumbled in the public square and honesty can't enter. Truth is missing, anyone turning from evil is plundered. The Lord looked and was upset at the absence of justice. Seeing that there was no one, and astonished that no one would intervene. (Isaiah 59:14–16)



These are the things you should do: Speak the truth to each other; make truthful, just, and peaceable decisions within your gates. Don't plan evil for each other. Don't adore swearing falsely, for all of these are things that I hate, says the Lord. (Zechariah 8:16–17)

### What does the United Methodist Church say?

We reject governmental use of threats, extortion, unlawful detentions, extrajudicial killings, and other forms of coercion to silence political opponents and those objecting to unlawful or immoral government policies and practices. (Social Principles ¶ 163.A)



The United Methodist Church is increasingly alarmed by and concerned about the intensifying violations of human rights in the Philippines. Such violations that take place within the perpetual framework of U.S. counterinsurgency and military doctrine and the revival of a “war on drugs” rhetoric take the form of rampant extrajudicial killings, summary executions, abductions, torture, arbitrary and prolonged political detentions, red-tagging false charges and enforced disappearances. (2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #4110, “Philippines: Democratic Governance, Human Rights, and the Peace Process”)



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# HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

### What do the facts say?

- The Philippines has ratified all the core UN international human rights treaties currently in force, save only the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is enshrined in its Constitution. Sadly, the protections that these treaties and declarations afford to every human being are being wantonly denied, and with impunity, in the Philippines.
- During the term of Rodrigo Duterte as president and since the beginning of the present administration of Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr, victims of human rights violations have reached an estimate of 30,000 extrajudicial killings under the government's war on drugs, 442 politically motivated extrajudicial killings, 4,627 illegally arrested, 799 political prisoners, and 460,711 displaced or victims of indiscriminate firing or bombings.<sup>1</sup>
- There are reports of continuing attacks against media practitioners with 109 documented incidents of attacks and threats against journalists since the start of the Marcos Jr administration, including 4 killings. There have been 36 reported incidents of harassment, including surveillance, stalking, and accosting of journalists.<sup>2</sup>
- Both the Philippine and U.S. governments take an extremely militarized approach to the economic development of and humanitarian crises in the Philippines. This approach intensified following the 2012 announcement of plans by the U.S. Department of Defense to "Pivot to Asia" to counter and contain China's growing influence in the region.<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Karapatan, Dahas Project, Philippine National Police, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, <sup>2</sup> The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), <sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Defense

### What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Learn** more about the human rights situation in the Philippines at <https://ichrp.net/>.
- **Read** the report "Let the Stones Cry Out: An Ecumenical Report on Human Rights in the Philippines and a Call to Action" from the ecumenical and nongovernmental community in the Philippines: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/let-the-stones-cry-out>
- **Urge** your government to stop military aid to the Philippines unless the Philippine government demonstrates strict adherence to international laws and standards of human rights and good governance.
- **Sign up** for email alerts on the Philippines, including action alerts on the Philippines Human Rights Act at <https://www.umcjustice.org/>.



For more information contact:  
[advocacy@umcjustice.org](mailto:advocacy@umcjustice.org)

[www.umcjustice.org](http://www.umcjustice.org)

**General Board of Church and Society**

100 Maryland Ave, NE Washington, DC 20002

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