



Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations
Human Rights Council – Universal Periodical Review
Philippines, May-June 2012

Madam President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of the Philippines, led by H.E. Ms. Leila de Lima, Secretary of Justice. The National Report highlights the progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines during recent years. Continuous efforts have been made by the Government to respect human rights as an essential pillar in the peace process within the country. In April, 2010, the Supreme Court approved the *Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases* which serve as a significant catalyst for far-reaching reforms in environmental litigation and protection. Also, the *Increasing Access to Justice by the Poor Program* is commendable, as it unclogs court dockets of civil cases involving the poor. We are also pleased to hear about the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) that plans to distribute millions of hectares of agricultural lands.

The country, however, is still confronted with some human rights problems like some cases of extrajudicial killings, torture, physical violence, and enforced disappearances. The funding for the right to education drastically fallen in the past several years.

My Delegation wishes to present the following recommendations for consideration by the Philippines:

-To work toward the complete elimination of torture and extrajudicial killings, and to intensify efforts to carry out the prosecution of such crimes.

- To continue in the successful policy of combating the trafficking of persons at the national level and participate in such efforts at the international level.

- To step up efforts to meet the basic needs of the society's exposed groups, in particular the millions of migrants and seafarers.

- To increase measures on the right to education to ensure equal access to education for all children.

Thank you, Madam President.