

Secretary of Justice Menardo Guevarra
Department of Justice
Padre Faura Street
Ermita, Manila 10020
Republic of the Philippines

Noordwijk, the Netherlands, November 2018

Dear Secretary of Justice Guevarra,

I am dismayed by the continued detention of Senator Leila de Lima who was arrested on 24 February 2017. I am concerned that the drug related charges against her stem from her vocal criticism of President Duterte's 'war on drugs'.

I therefore call on you to drop all charges against Senator de Lima and release her immediately and unconditionally. While in detention, she should be held in humane conditions. She should be allowed to receive visitors and be able to discharge fully her legislative mandate, in particular in her position of Chairperson of the Committee on Social Justice.

Finally, I urge you to ensure prompt, impartial and effective investigations into all drug-related killings, particularly where law enforcement officials have been implicated, and to ensure that political opponents, independent media, and human rights defenders are able to carry out their work without fear of reprisals.

Thank you for your attention and time. I am kindly awaiting your reply.

Yours sincerely,