

## Philippines: Social and Human Rights QSD on 24 January 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Lord Hylton to ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of social and human rights issues in the Philippines.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

### Key Information

- House of Commons, '[Written Question: Philippines—Human Rights](#)', 15 November 2018, 190341

*Response by the Government to a written question on the assessment of the protection of human rights in the Philippines. In its response, the Government outlines that the United Kingdom embassy in Manila has raised such concerns with senior officials and government figures, whilst maintaining regular contact with human rights groups and relevant United Nations bodies on a range of human rights issues.*

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office, '[Global Britain: Supporting the Rules Based International System](#)', 17 August 2018

*Transcript of a speech given by the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mark Field, on the need for countries, such as the Philippines, to adhere to the Rules Based International System. In his speech, Mr Field also expressed the Government's regret at the decision by the Philippines to leave the International Criminal Court.*

- David G Timberman, '[Philippine Politics Under Duterte: A Midterm Assessment](#)', Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 10 January 2019

*Article examining Philippine politics under President Rodrigo Duterte, more than two years after being elected to the role. This includes an assessment of Duterte's policies, including the 'War on Drugs' and its impact on the judicial system.*

- Human Rights Watch, '[World Report 2019: Philippines](#)', 7 January 2019

*Report detailing human rights abuses in the Philippines in 2018. This includes information on extrajudicial executions of alleged drug offenders, attacks on human rights defenders and the summary killings of journalists in the country.*

- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, '[Philippines Needs Urgent Action to Reverse Spiralling Rights Violations, UN Experts Say](#)', 31 July 2017

*Press release by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights calling on the Government of the Philippines to address reports of human rights violations in the country.*

### Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- A selection of written questions from both Houses: [208222](#) (17 January 2019); [196116](#) (5 December 2018); [HL11465](#) (27 November 2018); [157692](#) (2 July 2018); and [HL8271](#) (13 June 2018)
- [Oral Question on 'Diplomatic Relations: Philippines'](#), HC Hansard, 11 July 2017, col 144

### Press Articles and Comment

- Hannah Ellis-Petersen, '[Duterte's Philippines Drug War Death Toll Rises Above 5,000](#)', *Guardian*, 19 December 2018
- Nicola Smith, '[Rodrigo Duterte's Office Denies He Wants to Kill Bishops](#)', *Telegraph*, 6 December 2018
- Jason Gutierrez, '[Philippines Wins New Term on UN Rights Council, Drawing Outrage](#)', *New York Times*, 13 October 2018
- *Guardian*, '[The Guardian View on the Philippines: A Murderous 'War on Drugs'](#)', 28 September 2018
- Antony Loewenstein, '[Only the Law Can Stop Duterte's Murderous War on Drugs](#)', *Foreign Policy*, 26 February 2018
- Harriet Agerholm, '[Philippines Cuts its Human Rights Budget to £15](#)', *Independent*, 13 September 2017

### Further Information

- Congressional Research Service, [The Philippines](#), updated 19 December 2018
- Amnesty International, '[Philippines 2017/2018](#)', February 2018
- Vanda Felbab-Brown, '[The Human Rights Consequences of the War on Drugs in the Philippines](#)', Brookings, 8 August 2017
- Amnesty International, '["If You Are Poor, You Are Killed": Extrajudicial Executions in the Philippines' "War on Drugs"](#)', February 2017

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