

Secretary Jesus Crispin C. Remulla
Department of Justice'
Padre Faura Street
Ermita, Manila 10020
PHILIPPINEN

Dear Secretary,

Senator Leila de Lima surrendered on 24 February 2017 to the Philippine National Police (PNP) after being charged with drug related offences and has been detained at the PNP Custodial Centre in Camp Crame, Quezon City, Metro Manila since then. She was a vocal critic of the Duterte administration and the human rights violations that were committed in the so-called 'war on drugs' waged when President Duterte took power in June 2016.

In April and May, three witnesses against Senator Leila de Lima retracted their testimonies against her. They include a former government official who remains a prosecution witness and whose testimony was cited by a court in deciding to proceed with trial. In their latest statements, all three said they were coerced and threatened by the police and high-level government officials to falsely implicate the senator in the illegal drug trade.

In light of the above, I call on the new administration to carry out the review of Senator Leila de Lima's cases urgently and impartially, with a view to dropping the charges against her and ensuring her immediate release.

Sincerely yours,

Copy:

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