

International film festival and forum on human rights

Geneva
10-19 march
2017



Press release

Geneva, February 24th, 2017

The FIFDH, the OMCT and AI condemn the arrest of Philippine senator Leila de Lima

The International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH) strongly objects to the arrest of Philippine Senator Leila de Lima. A former Minister of Justice, de Lima is expected to attend the Festival on March 18th, as part of a panel about the Philippines. Co-presented with the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) and the Délégation Genève Ville Solidaire, the roundtable will discuss the current situation in the country.

One of the most vocal opponents to President Rodrigo Duterte's deadly anti-drug crackdown, Sen. de Lima is the former President of the Philippines Commission for Human Rights. She was arrested on drug charges. She has professed her innocence.

For Isabelle Gattiker, the General Director of the Festival and Philippe Mottaz, the Forum's Editorial Producer: «everything suggests that these accusations are completely unfounded and that the sole purpose of this arrest is to silence one of the most vocal opposition voices in the Philippines». Amnesty International (AI) have already declared that they consider Senator de Lima a prisoner of conscience.

The OMCT, AI, as well as the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, have in the past publicly denounced the deadly policies put in place by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. According to some NGOs, Philippine police could be guilty of crimes against humanity, acting under the direct orders of President Duterte. The President himself has boasted about having personally killed a number drug traffickers when he was mayor in Davao.

The FIFDH joins Amnesty International and the OMCT in requesting that Leila de Lima be released at once.

Full program on www.fifdh.org



debate

Philippines: A License to Kill


Saturday March 18th at 8.30pm
Théâtre Pitoëff /Espace Pitoëff
<http://www.fifdh.org/site/en/2017-edition/programme/philippines-a-license-to-kill/280882>

Contacts
+41 22 809 69 07

Luisa Ballin
Head of Media
l.ballin@fifdh.org
+41 79 649 71 45

Pierre-Yves Walder
Media Development Manager
py.walder@fifdh.org
+41 78 836 72 39

 twitter.com/fifdh

 facebook.com/droits.humains

 [festival_fifdh](https://instagram.com/festival_fifdh)

 youtube.com/fifdhgeneve1