

26 September 2023

Attention:

**H.E. HANS MOHAIMIN LIM SIRIBAN**

The Philippines Representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)

Cc:

**H.E. WAHYUNINGUM**

Indonesia Representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)

**MS. LE THI HAM HUONG**

Assistant Director, Human Rights Division, ASEAN Secretariat

**Your Excellencies,**

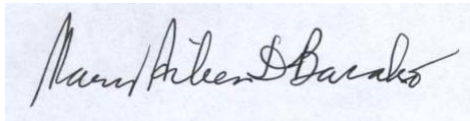
Warm greetings! We highly appreciate your referral of our submission to the Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat (PHRCS) and the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP). We are also relieved to know that Jonila and Jhed have been released on 19 September 2023. However, we are alarmed by Jonila and Jhed's account during their time in custody, stating that they were forced to surrender by the military through infliction of mental torture.

As we express our profound concern over this development, may we ask you to kindly convey our call for the protection of human rights defenders and the pursuit of truth and justice by urging the Government of the Philippines to thoroughly investigate this matter and ensure accountability to its perpetrators.

We thank you once again for your assistance in this matter.

Please feel free to contact us if you need any further information.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature is cursive and reads "Mary Aileen Diez-Bacalso".

MARY AILEEN DIEZ-BACALSO

Executive Director