

# 2017 Independent and Peaceful Australia Network Conference

10 September, Melbourne

Whereas a vibrant, inclusive and just social order where human rights and dignity are respected is the best defence against all forms of terrorism employing violence and fear to cower a people; and

Whereas, true peace based on justice can only be realised through building up a just society and not by the way of violence, war and terror; and

Whereas, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has promoted extra-judicial killings, violence, and direct attacks on human rights and the defenders of a justice, continuing a bloody heritage of Philippine Presidents and traditional clan based politicians; and

Whereas the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) have over the decades used violence and fear to attack human rights and communities promoting justice and genuine development; and

Whereas vast amounts of Australian military aid, and training of Philippine military and police have only increased the violent and anti-democratic nature of the AFP and PNP, and

Whereas Australian assistance and cooperation should be non-military and directed towards building up just and inclusive societies respecting the rule of law and human dignity as the best answer to hate, terror and conflict

**WE, the participants of the Independent & Peaceful Australia Network [IPAN] National Conference, 8 - 10 September 2017 in Melbourne, affirm our commitment to justice and peace in the Philippines over violence, hatred and war, and call on the Australian government to:**

- Transform all military aid and training to development assistance directed to promoting peace based on justice;
  - Condemn the violence and injustice of the Duterte regime's so-called war on drugs which is a war on the poor;
  - Condemn the Duterte government's militarisation of rural communities and the anti-insurgency program which target activists, human rights advocates and indigenous Filipinos for various forms of human rights violations and extrajudicial killings;
  - Support non-government organisations in the Philippines confronting all forms of terror and violence through their vision of a just society where opportunity and the national wealth is shared fairly; and
  - Act as a good-faith collaborator in promoting genuine peace talks in the Philippines to find solutions to the basic problems on the grounds as the basis of genuine, and lasting peace and prosperity.
  - We are concerned that the sending of Australian military advisors is an interference in the internal affairs of the Philippines and will only aggravate the existing conflict and open the way for further military escalation.
- Passed.