



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

The Human Rights Consequences of the War on Drugs in the Philippines

Panel I



Ellecer “Budit” Carlos is the spokesperson of the “In Defense of Human Rights and Dignity Movement” or (iDEFEND) and the campaigns and advocacy officer of the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA), iDEFEND’s lead convener. iDEFEND is currently the broadest human rights coalition in the Philippines, composed of over 70 organizations and 40 recognized representatives of peoples’ struggles in the Philippines. iDEFEND is at the forefront of responding to the human rights crisis in the Philippines. Ellecer has been a human rights activist for over 20 years. In addition to iDEFEND, he is a member of the steering committee of the United Against Torture Coalition Philippines (UATC) and a member of the Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (CAED). He is a second generation activist whose parents fought the Marcos dictatorship.



Matthew Wells is a Senior Crisis Adviser at Amnesty International, where he undertakes human rights investigations in situations of armed conflict and major crisis. He is the co-researcher and co-author of Amnesty’s January 2017 report, *“If You Are Poor, You Are Killed”*: *Extrajudicial Executions in the Philippines’ “War on Drugs”*. Matt has more than a decade of human rights experience across Africa and Asia, with a particular focus on mass atrocity crimes. He has been quoted in print, radio, and television media and has

published several dozen human rights reports as well as articles in major print outlets, including *Newsweek*, CNN, *Le Monde*, and *The Sydney Morning Herald*. Prior to joining Amnesty, Matt was the Senior Adviser on Peacekeeping at the Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC) and a West Africa Researcher at Human Rights Watch. He has a law degree from Harvard Law School and a Bachelor's degree from Rice University.



Phelim Kine is a deputy director in Human Rights Watch's Asia Division. Kine worked as a journalist for more than a decade in China, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Taiwan prior to joining Human Rights Watch in April 2007. He has written extensively on human rights issues including military impunity, media freedom, transitional justice, corruption, religious intolerance, and extrajudicial killings. Kine's opinion pieces on human rights challenges in Asia have appeared in major media outlets including *The New York Times*, *Asian Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, *Forbes*, *The Guardian*, *CNN.com*, *Foreign Policy*, and the *Harvard International Review*. Kine has spoken publicly on Asia's human rights challenges at venues ranging from the European Parliament and the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong to the Council on Foreign Relations and the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. Kine is an adjunct professor in the Roosevelt House Human Rights Program at Hunter College in New York City.