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

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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.