

# Appendix I: Letter to the Department of Social Welfare and Development

350 Fifth Avenue, 34<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10118-3299  
Tel: 212-290-4700  
Fax: 212-736-1300; 917-591-3452

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January 24, 2020

Hon. Rolando Joselito D. Bautista  
Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development  
DSWD Building  
Constitution Hills, Batasan Complex  
1126 Quezon City, Philippines



HRW.org

Re: Impact of "Drug War" on Children

Dear Secretary Bautista:

I am writing to you on behalf of Human Rights Watch, which is a global non-governmental organization that monitors violations of human rights by state and non-state actors in more than 90 countries around the world, including the Philippines.

We would appreciate your responses to our questions based on our research on the human rights cost to children of the government's "war on drugs." Among those who have perished in the "drug war" are children who were either targeted in police operations or were struck by gunfire during drug raids. The impact of the "drug war," however, goes beyond the physical violence inflicted on these children.

We interviewed 46 people – 10 children; 24 adults who are either parents, relatives, or guardians to those children; and 12 individuals from several nongovernment organizations and government offices – for this research. They told us of the trauma they suffered after witnessing the killing of a parent or other loved ones. Several were forced to go into hiding or relocated to other communities because they feared for their lives. A number of children stopped going to school because of a lack of finances caused by the loss of the family breadwinner. Several experienced bullying in school and in their community because of the stigma of alleged drug use within the family. Some children were forced to live in extreme poverty and have had no choice but to work full time at too young an age. Some ended up living in the streets, further exposing themselves to violence and other harm.

Human Rights Watch is committed to producing material that is well-informed and objective. We hope you or your staff would be able to provide written answers to the questions below, so that your views and responses are accurately reflected in our reporting. In order for us to take your

answers into account in our forthcoming report, we would appreciate a written response by February 28, 2020. If you have any questions about this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at [REDACTED]

Thank you very much for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Phil Robertson  
Deputy Asia Director  
Human Rights Watch

**Please send your reply by email or fax to:**

Racquel Legerwood  
Asia Coordinator  
Human Rights Watch  
1275 K Street NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20005

## QUESTIONS FOR SECRETARY BAUTISTA

- 1) Does the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) have a specific program for the children left behind by victims of the “drug war”? That is, has any program been created specifically to address the impact of “drug war” killings on child dependents of victims, many of whom live in poor communities? If so, when was this program established and which agency in the DSWD oversees the program?
- 2) If such a program exists, what operations does it carry out? For example, does it provide financial assistance, such as funeral/burial costs (beyond the assistance already provided by the DSWD for indigent persons), health expenses, and/or other types of assistance?
- 3) Has the DSWD ever been consulted by the national government and agencies tasked with pursuing the “drug war” to address the impacts of the campaign on children? If so, please provide information about these consultations, including when they happened, who was involved, what was discussed, and what concrete outcomes came from the consultations.
- 4) Have families affected by “drug war” killings been covered by the government’s conditional cash transfer program? If so, how many victims or their families have received such assistance, and what is the total sum of cash provided? Please provide an appropriate breakdown of any transfers made so the amount paid in individual cases can be determined.
- 5) Did the DSWD provide support for the psychological and mental health needs of children and families directly affected by the “drug war”? If yes, what program interventions have been done, and how many persons have benefited from such support?
- 6) Did the DSWD or its municipal or provincial counterparts make regular site visits to residences of children left behind as a result of “drug war” actions to ensure that their specific needs are being taken care of? If so, please provide additional information about the methodology behind these visits, and the results of these visits.
- 7) Has the DSWD liaised with other government agencies tasked with the welfare of children, such as the Department of Health and the Department of Education, to discuss the impact of the anti-drug campaign on children and the interventions needed to help those children? If so, when did these engagements occur, and what were the specific outcomes of this engagement? Did any specific programs to help children arise from these liaison efforts and if so, please describe those programs?
- 8) Has the DSWD actively sought to protect the children of “drug war” victims, for instance by providing shelter to children who have no dependents, or acted on their behalf in cases where these children facing bullying in school or in their community, have had to drop out of school to work, or are compelled to live in the streets?
- 9) Please provide any additional information that you think would be helpful for Human Rights Watch to fully understand how the Philippines is assisting the child dependents of victims of the “drug war.”

Thank you for your time and attention to this inquiry.

# Appendix II: Letter to the Council for the Welfare of Children

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James Ross, *Legal and Policy Director*

January 30, 2020

Hon. Mary Mitzi Cajayon-Uy

Executive Director

Council for the Welfare of Children

10 Apo Street, Santa Mesa Heights, Barangay Santa Teresita,  
Quezon City, Philippines

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH

HRW.org

Re: Impact of “Drug War” on Children

Dear Ms. Cajayon-Uy:

I am writing to you on behalf of Human Rights Watch, a global non-governmental organization that monitors violations of human rights by state and non-state actors in more than 90 countries around the world, including the Philippines.

We would sincerely appreciate receiving the benefit of your knowledge and expertise in responses to our questions below.

Human Rights Watch has recently conducted research on the impact on children of the government’s “war on drugs.” We interviewed 46 people – 10 children; 24 adults, who are either parents, relatives, or guardians to those children; and 12 individuals from several non-government organizations and government offices – for this research.

Among those who have perished in the “drug war” are children who were either targeted in police operations or were struck by gunfire during drug raids. The impact of the “drug war,” however, goes beyond the physical violence inflicted on these children.

The children told us of the trauma they suffered after witnessing the killing of a parent or other loved ones. Several were forced to go into hiding or relocated to other communities because they feared for their lives. A number of children stopped going to school because of a lack of finances caused by the loss of the family breadwinner. Several experienced bullying in school and in their community because of the stigma of alleged drug use in their family. Some children were reduced to living in extreme poverty and had no choice but to work full time at too young an age. Some ended up living in the streets, further exposing themselves to potential violence and other harm.

Human Rights Watch is committed to producing material that is well-informed and objective. We hope you or your staff would be able to provide written answers to the questions below, so that your views and responses are accurately reflected in our reporting. In order for us to take your answers into account in our forthcoming report, we would appreciate a written response by February 28, 2020. If you have any questions about this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at [REDACTED]

Thank you very much for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Phil Robertson  
Deputy Asia Director  
Human Rights Watch

**Please send your reply by email or fax to:**

Racqueal Legerwood  
Asia Coordinator  
Human Rights Watch  
1275 K Street NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20005

#### QUESTIONS FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CAJAYON-UY:

- 1) Does the Council for Welfare of Children (CWC) have specific policies for the children left behind by victims of the “drug war”? If so, do those policies specifically address the impact of “drug war” killings on child dependents of victims, many of whom live in poor communities? If so, when were these policies established and what was CWC’s role in formulating them?
- 2) If such policies exist, through what programs are they carried out? For example, do the policies provide for financial assistance, such as funeral/burial costs (beyond the assistance already provided by the Department of Social Welfare and Development for indigent persons), health expenses, or other sorts of assistance?
- 3) Has the CWC ever been consulted by the national government and/or agencies tasked with pursuing the “drug war” to address the impacts of the campaign on children? If so, please provide information about these consultations, including when they happened, who was involved, what was discussed, and what concrete outcomes came from the consultations.
- 4) Has the CWC conducted an audit or assessment of the DSWD’s conditional cash transfer program and how it benefited the families of victims in the drug war? If so, how many victims, or their families, have received such assistance and what is the total sum of cash provided? Please provide an appropriate breakdown of any transfers made so the amount paid in individual cases can be determined.
- 5) Did the CWC conduct any monitoring of the DSWD or its municipal or provincial counterparts to make sure they make regular site visits to residences of children left behind to ensure their specific needs are being taken care of? If so, please provide additional information about the methodology behind these visits, and the result of the visits.
- 6) Has the CWC liaised with other government agencies tasked with the welfare of children, such as the Department of Health and the Department of Education, to discuss the impact of the anti-drug campaign on children and the interventions needed to help those children? If so, when did these engagements occur and what were the specific outcomes of this coordinated engagement? Did any specific programs to help children arise from these liaison efforts and if so, please describe those programs?
- 7) To the CWC’s knowledge, has the DSWD actively sought to protect the children of “drug war” victims, for instance by providing shelter to children who have no dependents, or acted on their behalf in cases where these children facing bullying in school or their community, have had to drop out of school to work, or are compelled to live in the streets?
- 8) Please provide any additional information that you think would be helpful for Human Rights Watch to fully understand how the Philippines is assisting the child dependents of victims of the “drug war.”

Thank you for your time and attention to this inquiry.

# Appendix III: Letter to the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council

350 Fifth Avenue, 34<sup>th</sup> Floor  
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Bruno Stagno Ugarte, *Deputy Executive Director, Advocacy*

Dinah Pokempner, *General Counsel*  
James Ross, *Legal and Policy Director*

January 30, 2020

Hon. Tricia Clare A. Oco  
Executive Director  
Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council  
56 Matimtiman Street, Teacher's Village East,  
Quezon City, Philippines 1101



HRW.org

Re: Impact of "Drug War" on Children

Dear Atty. Oco:

I am writing to you on behalf of Human Rights Watch, a global non-governmental organization that monitors violations of human rights by state and non-state actors in more than 90 countries around the world, including the Philippines.

We would sincerely appreciate receiving the benefit of your knowledge and expertise in response to our questions below.

Human Rights Watch has recently conducted research on the impact on children of the government's "war on drugs." We interviewed 46 people – 10 children; 24 adults who are either parents, relatives, or guardians to those children; and 12 individuals from several non-government organizations and government offices – for this research.

Among those who have perished in the "drug war" are children who were either targeted in police operations or were struck by gunfire during drug raids. The impact of the "drug war," however, goes beyond the physical violence inflicted on these children.

The children told us of the trauma they suffered after witnessing the killing of a parent or other loved ones. Several were forced to go into hiding or relocated to other communities because they feared for their lives. A number of children stopped going to school because of a lack of finances caused by the loss of the family breadwinner. Several experienced bullying in school and in their community because of the stigma of alleged drug use within the family. Some children were forced to live in extreme poverty and have had no choice but to work full time at too young an age. Some ended up living in the streets, further exposing themselves to violence and other harm.

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Thank you very much for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Phil Robertson  
Deputy Asia Director  
Human Rights Watch

**Please send your reply by email or fax to:**

Racquel Legerwood  
Asia Coordinator  
Human Rights Watch  
1275 K Street NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20005



**QUESTIONS FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OCO:**

- 1) Does the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC) have specific programs or policies for the children left behind by victims of the “drug war”? Have any programs or policies been created specifically to address the impact of “drug war” killings on child dependents of victims, many of whom live in poor communities? If so, when were these programs established and what was the role of the JJWC in formulating them?
- 2) If such programs exist, please provide details about the activities and how they are carried out? For example, do programs provide financial assistance, such as funeral/burial costs (beyond the assistance already provided by the DSWD for indigent persons), health expenses, or other assistance?
- 3) Has the JJWC ever been consulted by the national government and/or agencies tasked with pursuing the “drug war” to address the impacts of the campaign on children? If so, please provide information about these consultations, including when they happened, who was involved, what was discussed, and what concrete outcomes came from the consultations.
- 4) Have families affected by “drug war” killings been covered by the government’s conditional cash transfer program? If so, how many victims or their families have received such assistance and what is the total sum of cash provided? Please provide an appropriate breakdown of any transfers made so the amount paid in individual cases can be determined.
- 5) Did the JJWC provide support for the psychological and mental health needs of children and families directly affected by the “drug war”? If yes, what program interventions have been done, and how many persons have benefited from such support?
- 6) Did the JJWC make regular site visits to residences of children left behind to ensure that their specific needs are being taken care of? If so, please provide additional information about the methodology behind these visits, and the result of the visits.
- 7) Has the JJWC liaised with other government agencies tasked with the welfare of children, such as the Department of Health and the Department of Education, to discuss the impact of the anti-drug campaign on children and the interventions needed to help those children? If so, when did these engagements occur and what were the specific outcomes of this coordinated engagement? Did any specific programs to help children arise from these liaison efforts and if so, please describe those programs?
- 8) Has the JJWC actively sought to protect the children of “drug war” victims, for instance by making sure that shelter is provided to children who have no dependents, or acted on their behalf in cases where these children facing bullying in school or their community, have had to drop out of school to work, or are compelled to live in the streets?
- 9) Please provide any additional information that you think would be helpful for Human Rights Watch to fully understand how the Philippines is assisting the child dependents of victims of the “drug war.”

Thank you for your time and attention to this inquiry.

## Appendix IV: Response Letter from the Department of Social Welfare and Development



LS-OP-08  
REV 00 / 17 JUNE 2019

**Ms. RACQUEAL LEGERWOOD**  
*Asia Coordinator*  
Human Rights Watch  
1275 K Street NW, Suite 1100,  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear **Ms. Legerwood:**

This refers to the letter dated January 24, 2020, requesting the Department of Social Welfare and Development (Department) to provide answers to several questions about the "Impact of Drug War on Children", and the programs and services of the Department and its attached agencies in relation to the implementation and effects of the Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy.

Considering that the matters covered by the proposed questions call for extensive, evidence-based and statistics-laden answers, we are therefore constrained to inform you that the Department would require more time to prepare such answers and perhaps even beyond the deadline stated in your letter. Nonetheless, if the Department is able to compose the answers to the queries earlier than the deadline, please expect us to promptly send the same via email or fax.

Hoping for your kind consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rolando Jose D. Bautista', is written over a horizontal line.

**Rolando Jose D. Bautista**

Secretary

Date: FEB 20 2020

# Appendix V: Follow-up Letter to Department of Social Welfare and Development

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Bruno Stagno Ugarte, Deputy Executive Director,  
Advocacy  
Colin Mincey, Chief People Officer

Dinah PoKempner, General Counsel  
James Ross, Legal and Policy Director



HRW.org

March 6, 2020

Mr. Rolando Joselito D. Bautista  
Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development  
Manila, Republic of the Philippines

Dear Secretary Bautista,

Thank you very much for your reply dated February 20, 2020, to my colleague Racquel Legerwood. We greatly appreciate the Department's willingness to prepare information to respond to the questions we have posed about the impact of the drug war on children.

I am writing to let you know we would be happy to extend our deadline to receive a written response from the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Would it be possible to receive your replies to those questions by the close of business in Manila on Friday, March 20, 2020?

On behalf of Human Rights Watch, I look forward to hearing from you, and receiving the Department's replies to our questions.

Sincerely and respectfully yours,

Phil Robertson  
Deputy Director, Asia Division  
Human Rights Watch