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Statement at the 44th Session of the Human Rights Council

Enhanced interactive dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in the Philippines

30 June 2020

**by H.E. Ambassador Peter Matt, Permanent Representative of the
Principality of Liechtenstein**

Thank you Madam President,

Liechtenstein thanks the High Commissioner for her report on the situation of human rights in the Philippines.

We are appalled by the widespread and systematic killings related to the drug campaign carried out by the security forces of the Government of the Philippines. The report suggests that according to official data 8'663 people, among which 73 children, the youngest at the age of five months, have been killed since July 2016, estimating that up to triple of that number might reflect the reality.

The report verifies the killings of at least 208 human rights defenders, journalists, trade unionists, including 30 women, for the period between January 2015 and December 2019.

We appreciate last week's appeal of 23 UN Special Mandate Holders calling on the Human Rights Council to establish an international investigation into the human rights situation in the Philippines.

In this regard, we would like to recall the on-going investigation by the International Criminal Court into the situation in the Philippines and express our regret that the Philippines have left the Rome Statute while having been investigated. This shows us that the Government of the Philippines does not undertake all possible efforts to protect and prevent its populations from the most serious crimes and combat impunity for the killings of the past years. For these reasons, we call upon the Human Rights Council to appropriately react to the situation.

I thank you, Madame President.