

# CALL OF ACTION FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

APHR's new report ***Parliamentarians at risk: Reprisals against opposition MPs in Southeast Asia*** sheds light on how the governments of the Philippines, Thailand, and increasingly Malaysia, are using a range of tactics to **intimidate and harass opposition MPs** including:

- The filing of trumped-up criminal charges,
- Arbitrary removal of parliamentary status,
- Surveillance and threats,
- Government-backed disinformation campaigns, and
- Sexist campaigns of vilification.

Since 2018, at least **27 opposition MPs** have faced judicial harassment.

These reprisals not only violate the fundamental rights of those targeted, but also restrict civic space, weaken parliament representativity and undermine democratic representation.



As a fellow MP you can help push back against the silencing of lawmakers.

## STEP 1: TAKE ACTION

- ✓ **Use your position in parliament:** ask official questions, initiate fact-finders or inquiries, or use privilege speech, to ask your government about actions it is taking on the human rights violations faced by lawmakers;
- ✓ Systematically **call for the immediate and unconditional release of Philippine Senator Leila de Lima** in and outside of parliament;
- ✓ Work to **amend all laws** that restrict the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly to bring them in line with international human rights law and standards; and
- ✓ Refrain from using and/or **rebuke sexist** and abusive language against women lawmakers.

## STEP 2: INFORM APHR

Please inform APHR Secretariat of your action and your government's response. This will allow us to conduct follow-up and share your action. Contact Tsu Quin: [quin@aseanmp.org](mailto:quin@aseanmp.org).

## STEP 3: SHARE IT WIDELY

Please share your actions as widely as possible, including on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and the media. Tag **@ASEANMP** to keep us in the loop. Increase awareness and inspire others to also push back against the silencing of lawmakers.