

Palace to Pinay UN rapporteur: PHL gov't not authoritarian

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Malacañang on Saturday chided a Filipino United Nations special rapporteur who said in a recent event in Italy that the Philippine government has become authoritarian.

"The remarks of UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz show how detached she is with the realities happening in the Philippines," the Office of the Executive Secretary said in a statement.

Tauli-Corpuz, who is among the more than 600 people the government wants declared as terrorists for alleged connections with communist rebels, said during a speech at the Human Rights Festival held in Milan on March 25 that the government has become very authoritarian and trying to control the [government], according to news reports.

In response, the Office of the Executive Secretary said, "Democracy in the Philippines is vibrant and strong."

"All the branches of the government are functioning and the rule of law thrives. The executive branch respects the separation of powers and the independence of the other co-equal branches and doesn't meddle with their affairs," it said. —**Ted Cordero/LBG, GMA News**