

Palace slams UN rapporteur's dictatorship remark

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Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea denies the remarks of United Nations special rapporteur for indigenous peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz on the Duterte administration's governance.

MANILA, Philippines — Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea said that what is really happening in the Philippines is contrary to the statement of United Nations special rapporteur for indigenous peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz.

Corpuz is included in the 600 names that the Department of Justice (DOJ) wants declared as "terrorists" due to alleged involvement in Communist Party of the Philippines New People's Army (CPP-NPA).

Medialdea made the statement after the reported statement of Corpuz in the Human Rights Festival in Milan, Italy last March 25.

The special rapporteur likened the Philippine government to a dictatorship because of its alleged control over Congress; filing of an impeachment case against the chief justice; and imprisonment of a senator.

She accused the government of opposing institutions that are supposed to balance the executive branch.

In her statement, Corpuz said the critics of the government are lumped together with criminals and made out to be guilty by association.

According to the rapporteur, they are now the next target of another war led by vigilantes and police in the anti-drug war.

Executive Secretary Medialdea said that the democracy in the country is strong and all government branches are working.

The executive also respects the separation of powers in other government branches and does not interfere with their duties.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said Corpuz should prove to the court that she is not involved in the group considered as a terrorist. — **Rosalie Coz | UNTV News & Rescue**

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