



CONNECTING FILIPINOS IN EUROPE

ENFiD Statement

Concerning the posting “‘ENFiD: European Network of Filipino Diaspora’ is the YELLOW ARM here in Europe” posted on 28 April 2017 on the Facebook Wall “For the Motherland,” the ENFiD Board states the following:

The posting refers to a Facebook post of the ENFiD Country Representative of Iceland. This posting does not reflect the official position of the ENFiD Board and was not mandated by the same Board.

ENFiD is not a political network of any political party and comprises members from all sections of society, including all political leanings. ENFiD’s foundations are formulated in its Constitution. It provides a forum for regional and global interaction between and among Filipino individuals and organisations within the European Community, with Philippines and with the rest of the world. It inspires and initiates non-partisan dialogues and discussions on relevant topics and participates in the international dialogue on ethical, cultural and political issues with a view to alleviate global poverty.

Concerning the content of the posting of the ENFiD Iceland Representative regarding the war on drugs, ENFiD’s Board states the following:

“Since entering into office of the Duterte Government, the issue of Extrajudicial Killings (EJK) became a highly contested topic within the Philippines and within the community of OF’s/OFW’s. At the international level, many eyes have turned towards the Philippines commenting with surprise and disapproval on these EJK.

Also within ENFiD, reflecting the diversity of the Filipino society at large, different positions exist which have led to spontaneous partisan positions in public, which do not necessarily represent the official position of ENFiD.

ENFiD core values and principles: As mentioned in ENFiD Constitution, our network aims to bring different communities of the OF’s and OFW’s in Europe together, to function as a platform for exchange across European borders and to promote joint action for the cause of Filipinos in Europe, but also in support of the development of our home country.

As OF’s/OFWs in Europe, and our exposure to European society, we have benefitted from the core values and principles on which European democratic societies are built, such as the respect for the rule of law, solidarity and basic humanitarian principles. Europe’s development over the past decades cannot be delinked from these fundamental political and societal foundations.

Against this background, ENFiD was created with a spirit of openness, respect for the other and willingness to include all different OF/OFW communities. This spirit does not align with the manner

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Board of Directors 2017

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how the drug problems are being dealt with in the Philippines. The current practices go against the rule of law and against basic humanitarian principles as written in international agreements which also the Philippines has adhered to.

ENFiD's position with regard to the Philippine war on drugs is informed by four aspects:

- Recognition that drugs is a serious problem in the Philippines and that the Government needs to address it with vigor;
- Disapproval of the practice of EJK as it goes against the rule of law and human rights principles;
- Killings of humans, whether by drug gangs, other criminals or the police, is categorically unacceptable and should be condemned;
- Drugs problems need to be attended to by means of specific Government programs to help addicts and families and setting up rehabilitation centers;
- Drug problems, and the related criminal practice of users, cannot be looked at in isolation; they need to be seen as a product of poverty, inequality, social problems and economic exclusion which the Government's policies and actions should be focused on;
- Corruption within Government institutions, which have allowed criminal and drug-related illegal practices to proliferate need to be targeted and fought against.

What ENFiD does: ENFiD promotes towards our network, our members and our relations to support alternative approaches in dealing with the drug problems. This comprises support to rehabilitation projects, specific programs to help addicts and their families, anti-drug public awareness campaigns, the setting up of rehabilitation facilities and non-violent initiatives to combat drug use."

Betsy von Atzigen, Chairperson of ENFiD
28 April 2017

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