



International Association
of Art Critics

32 rueYves Toudic – 75010 Paris – FRANCE

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Ref: Censorship in Philippines

The membership of AICA International is global and culturally diverse, and we believe firmly in the principle of freedom of expression. AICA is appalled at the news that Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte is using the COVID-19 crisis to impose rigid censorship and martial law on both press, artists and institutions and using fake Facebook accounts stealing names of journalists and students. Artist and Chair of Concerned Artists of the Philippines (CAP) Leonilo Doloricon, publicly stated that the maneuver, the most recent in an ongoing confrontation between Rodrigo Duterte and ABS-CBN (National Telecommunications Commission) goes beyond the threat of press freedom writing, "Dutertere game is not only dead set at controlling the flow of information, but also culture and arts."

AICA International urges the Philippines authorities to desist from punishing individuals for the peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of expression. AICA International strongly condemns the Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte whose attitude is a clear violation of the international rights to freedom of expression. The international community must do everything possible to stop such an abuse of power.

On behalf of AICA,

Lisbeth Rebollo GONÇALVES
President of AICA

Burcu PELVANOĞLU
Chair of Censorship Committee