



STATEMENT 03 April 2023

## **ICC APPEALS CHAMBER DECISION ALLOWING VICTIMS' PARTICIPATION IN THE APPEALS PROCEEDING, A CRUCIAL COMPONENT IN THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE**

“The Children’s Legal Rights and Development Center Inc, (CLRDC) welcomes the decision of the Appeals Chambers of the International Criminal Court (ICC) allowing the victims to present their views and concerns as to whether the Decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber ordering the resumption of the investigation by the ICC Prosecutor should be confirmed, amended, or reversed on appeal. This unprecedented decision will pave way for victims of other countries to exercise the right of the victims to participate in this type of appeals proceeding in the future.

CLRDC believes that victims’ participation at all levels is a crucial component in the pursuit of justice and as such, victims views, opinions, and their situation should be considered on matters that will affect them.

CLRDC likewise commends the decision of the Appeals Chamber in rejecting the Philippine government’s request to suspend the investigation on the Philippine situation pending the decision of their appeal. Even though such a request is in accordance with the procedure allowed at the ICC, it is perceived by victims as delaying tactics employed by the Philippine government which has caused undue burden and prolonged anguish to the families of victims who only want fair, impartial, and genuine investigations to exact accountability against the perpetrators of the various crimes committed in the war on drugs campaign.

As a member of the human rights community, CLRDC calls on the Philippine government to respect and honor its obligations under International Law to ensure an effective remedy for victims, and further appeals to the government to rejoin the ICC not only to show to the international community its commitment to human rights but also to protect the future of the Filipino children.”

**CLRDC**

*Convener, Campaign Working Group of the War on Drugs  
In Defense of Human Rights and Dignity (IDFEND) Movement*