

### ***On Painting of Private Homes of Alleged "Drug Pushers"***

Secretary Alfredo S. Lim of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), has ordered the police nationwide to spray-paint all private homes of alleged or suspected drug pushers in Manila.

While the spray-painting may have a laudable motive to eradicate the growing drug menace, the Commission on Human Rights expresses its grave concern as to its adverse effects on human rights of individuals and on the right of privacy.

The spray-painting of private homes of persons alleged to be drug pushers is in effect convicting the homeowner as a drug pusher without any due hearing in violation of the Constitutional rights of due process of law. Any person is entitled to be heard before he is condemned. (*Article III, Section 14 (2), Philippine Constitution*)

The order of the Honorable DILG Secretary also violates the right of privacy of individuals. Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides:

*"No one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his honor and reputation."*

*"Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks."*

The right to privacy is reiterated in Article III, Section 2 of the Philippine Constitution.

The order of the Honorable DILG Secretary, therefore, is of doubtful validity, as it contravenes human rights, which the Philippines Constitution guarantees under Article II, Section 11, that the *"State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights."*

*Quezon City, 17 January 2000*