

The Enlargement of the Definitions of Genocide and Crimes against Humanity in the Philippines — R.A. No. 9851

Tathiana Flores Acuña, Ph.D

58 ATENEO L.J. 1 (2013)

*SUBJECT(S): INTERNATIONAL LAW, GENOCIDE, CRIMES AGAINST
HUMANITY*

*KEYWORD(S): PERSECUTION, GENOCIDE, CRIMES AGAINST
HUMANITY*

The Philippines has been a State Party to international agreements like the Geneva Conventions for decades. In fact, with the number of countries currently being Parties to these agreements, there is a practically universal character to the condemnation of and commitment to put a stop to heinous crimes such as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

Pursuant to the mandate of these conventions to enact legislation to combat such crimes on a national level, the Philippines recently passed R.A. No. 9851, or the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes Against Humanity. While the law was primarily enacted as compliance with the international conventions, some features of the law have enlarged and redefined the scope of protection sought to be attained by the international community. This Article, written by an international consultant on international humanitarian law, delves into the new developments introduced by the law, and the background behind these new features.