



An Open Letter on the Extrajudicial Killing of People Who Use Drugs in the Philippines

October 2016

Since the election of President Rodrigo Duterte, more than 3000 people in the Philippines have been executed without due process for allegedly selling or using drugs. President Duterte has publically and repeatedly incited law enforcement and the general public to commit these murders and other acts of vigilante violence. Duterte's political rhetoric is becoming increasingly alarming, and he has openly stated his support for further mass murder, explicitly invoking Hitler's genocide against Jewish people in stating "There are 3 million drug addicts, I'd be happy to slaughter them."

We offer the deepest condemnation of the atrocities being committed against people accused of using or selling illicit drugs under President Duterte's regime. We urge the Canadian government to press the Government of the Philippines to stop these extrajudicial murders, and institute a drug policy that respects the human rights and dignity of people who use illicit drugs.

These murders are occurring within the context of the ongoing Philippines civil war, which has featured brutal counterinsurgency operations that have violated the human rights of the Philippines citizenry. We are steadfastly in support of further peace talks to end this protracted civil war. The people of the Philippines suffer from widespread economic inequality, and this issue must be addressed through economic and social reforms that would accompany a peaceful end to this conflict. Furthermore, we do not support foreign (U.S. or otherwise) military intervention or regime change operations, as these would only exacerbate neocolonial oppression and reduce the potential for a long lasting and just end to this civil war.

There are over 600,000 people of Filipino descent living in Canada, making them one of Canada's largest immigrant communities. Canada and the Philippines have important economic, social and cultural links. We urge the Canadian public to foster closer ties and support grassroots organizations that are resisting drug war violence and fighting for social and economic justice within the Philippines.

The human rights of people who use illicit drugs need to be respected and upheld. We are strongly urging:

1. An immediate end to the extrajudicial killings, harassment and violence against people who use drugs by the Philippine National Police, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and its linked paramilitary forces.
2. Prosecution of those responsible for the extrajudicial murders of people suspected of selling or using illicit drugs.
3. That the Canadian government end its training of and cooperation with the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines implicated in the recent extrajudicial killing of people who use drugs.

The Canadian public can show support for those actions by sending emails, letters, and tweets to the Philippines embassies and Canadian government representatives indicated at the bottom of this letter.

Thank you for your support,

Canadian Association Of People Who Use Drugs
Canadian Drug Policy Coalition
Vancouver Area Network Of Drug Users
Toronto Drug Users Union
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
Harm Reduction Network
South Riverdale Community Health Centre

TAKE ACTION

Please send your emails, tweets and letters to the diplomatic representatives of the Philippines in Canada. Contact information for these is below.

CONTACT

Philippines Diplomatic Offices in Canada

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