



UPDATES PHILIPPINES

RELEASED BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Amsterdamsestraatweg 50, 3513AG Utrecht, The Netherlands

T : +31 30 2310431 | E: updates.philippines@ndfp.org

VOL I NO 6

15 JULY 2019

EDITORIAL

Shooting the messenger

The Duterte government is facing increasing demands from the international community to stop its horrendously lethal ‘war on drugs’ and its equally appalling repression of human rights defenders, indigenous peoples, journalists, lawyers and members of the political opposition.

In the past few months, a number of UN member states, 11 UN experts on human rights, international legal experts and most recently the UN Human Rights Council have all called to investigate the killings by police agents of more than 6,000 Filipinos in connection with the so-called war on drugs. Independent reports place these murders at about 27,000. Add to this the almost daily killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest and detention, the intimidation and persecution of human rights defenders, journalists and members of the political opposition.

Instead of seriously confronting these allegations however, President Duterte and his officials have been frantically hitting back at their critics – figuratively and, most unfortunately, literally. Military, police and intelligence agents are stepping up the intimidations, harassments and assassination of human rights defenders, especially in the regions of Negros, Samar and Bicol. Outside the country, Duterte officials are using public funds and weaving lies to intimidate Filipino migrant communities and hoodwink foreign governments and civil society networks.

The Filipino people and the international community have to stand firm against the lethal bullying tactics of the Duterte government. **UP**



Philippine human rights defenders ask UNHRC to look into abuses by the Duterte government. (Photo by A.M. Umil | bulatlat.com)

UNHRC to investigate rights violations in the Philippines

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) [passed a resolution on 11 July](#) calling on the government of President Rodrigo Duterte to allow the Council to investigate allegations of state-sponsored human rights violations.

The resolution called on the Duterte government to “cooperate with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the mechanisms of the UNHRC, including by facilitating country visits and preventing and refraining from all acts of intimidation or retaliation”

The UNHRC plans to investigate “killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest and detention, the intimidation and persecution of or violence against members of civil society, human rights defenders, indigenous peoples, journalists, lawyers and members of the political opposition, and restrictions on the freedoms of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association.”

It raised particular concern about “threats, intimidation and personal attacks directed against special procedure mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples ([Victoria Tauli-Corpuz](#)) and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions ([Dr. Agnes Callamard](#)).”

The Duterte government rejected the resolution, saying it will not abide by its calls. According to foreign affairs secretary Teodoro Locsin, Jr, “It is an example of how (western countries) have undermined the Human Rights Council to advance their agenda and target a government that’s hostile to the very things they have done and continue to do.”

The Communist Party of the Philippines, meanwhile, [welcomed the resolution](#). “Duterte makes false claims the UNHRC resolution violates Philippine national sovereignty. The bigger question is how Duterte seeks to suppress the people’s sovereign power, their demand for an end to the mass killings and a stop to Duterte’s tyrannical abuse of power... The people will surely welcome the representative and investigators of the UNHRC and provide them with all the support and security.”

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is set to present the results of investigations during the 44th UNHRC Session in 2020. **UP**



Filipinos and international solidarity activists gather outside of the Philippine embassy in Berlin on 5 July calling on the Manila government to "Stop the Killings!". (Photo by Mary Walle)

Duterte officials tour US, Europe for aid in 'anti-terror' campaign

Military and propaganda officials of the Duterte government conducted meetings in various cities of the USA and Europe in the past three weeks soliciting foreign governments' help against its enemies in the Philippines.

The officials were led by Presidential Peace Adviser Gen. Carlito Galvez, Jr, military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade, Jr, and Presidential Communications Operations officer Lorraine Marie Badoy. They met with a handful of Filipinos and some foreign officials in New York, The Hague, Berlin, Oslo and Stockholm, soliciting their assistance.

Meanwhile, protesters gathered outside the meeting venues, demanding a stop to the killings and harassment of human rights defenders, and a stop to the lethal 'war on drugs'.

Asked for comment, Luis Jalandoni, Chief International Representative of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) said, "The so-called tour of Duterte's generals is a desperate attempt to diminish his growing international isolation. The historic approval today (11 July) by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) of a resolution to investigate human rights violations in the Philippines is a big blow against Duterte and his government." **UP**



Myca's younger brother in front of her coffin. Photo by NightsWatch | bulatlat.com

3-year old girl killed in Manila's 'war on drugs'

A three-year old girl became one of the latest casualties of President Duterte's 'war on drugs'. Kateleen Myca Ulpina was shot by police while they were allegedly conducting a drug bust operation against her father on 30 June 2019, in Rodriguez, Rizal province, east of the capital city Manila.

The police claimed Myca was being used as a shield by her father, Renato Dolofrina, who allegedly engaged the police in a gunbattle.

This was denied outright by the victim's mother who said they were asleep when the police barged into their home.

Senator-elect Ronald Dela Rosa, former chief of the

Philippine National Police and chief implementer of the 'war on drugs', downplayed Myca's killing. "Shit happens during operations," he retorted. "There are cases of collateral damage even in honest to goodness operations."

His comments earned widespread criticism in the country and abroad, including child rights groups.

Duterte government officials admit to killing more than 6,000 people in their "war on drugs", claiming that victims fought back against police operatives, like Myca's father. Almost all of those killed come from impoverished urban communities.

The Commission on Human Rights has announced that it will conduct an investigation on the killing. **UP**



UPDATES PHILIPPINES

RELEASED BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Amsterdamsestraatweg 50, 3513AG Utrecht, The Netherlands

T : +31 30 2310431 | E: updates.philippines@ndfp.org