Since the Philippines escalated its "drug war" in June of last year, over 3,900 people have been killed in anti-drug operations\(^1\), with nearly 2,300 more drug-related murders\(^2\) and thousands still "unexplained,"\(^3\) according to police reports. Estimates by media and human rights groups for the total drug war killings have ranged from 7,000 up to 14,000.\(^4\) Though the Duterte administration recently suspended most police participation in its drug war,\(^5\) it has done so before, with unclear impact.\(^6\)

**Appearance suggests there may be a deliberate policy of extrajudicial killing.**

Officials insist drug suspects get killed from resisting arrest, and that other drug-related killings are from criminal gang fights.\(^7\) But authorities have opened investigations into just 1% of the acknowledged police killings\(^8\), and initiated no prosecutions from them. Many believe government-linked vigilantes or police account for some of the drug-related and unexplained killings.\(^9\)

Additional facts raise questions. The Philippines saw a 50% increase in the official homicide rate starting that June.\(^10\) Video shows police killing Kian delos Santos, an unarmed, cooperating 17-year old\(^11\) – one of 54 known cases of children under 18 killed in the Philippine drug war, including an infant.\(^12\) International NGOs and the Philippines' own human rights defenders have documented many abuses, including incentive payments for killing.\(^13\)

**We call for a process of accountability, starting with a UN-led investigation.**

The first venue for justice is a nation's own courts. If a government is unwilling or unable to seek justice, treaties allow for intervention by the International Criminal Court, or a similar body chartered for the situation.\(^14\) But the road to international justice is lengthy.

In the immediate present, the most feasible step forward is an investigation led by the UN.\(^15\) Such an investigation would probe the nature and scale of the alleged crimes, while giving priority to protecting witnesses and investigators. Should the Philippine government not allow this to proceed, a UN Commission of Inquiry could be formed to gather facts.\(^16\)

An investigation would look for the mid-level organizers and the individuals implementing policies or practices on the ground. But it would also seek out the leaders. In that context, it is impossible to ignore words publicly spoken by Duterte himself. The president has repeatedly called for mass killings, and promised to protect police from prosecution.\(^17\) He has even threatened to kill human rights activists.\(^18\) **Even in the absence of known official orders, international law considers inducement to commit murder a basis to hold individuals criminally responsible for that crime.**\(^19\)

It is similarly impossible to ignore Duterte's reputed ties as mayor to the infamous Davao Death Squad.\(^20\) Investigators would likewise probe the possible roles of key administration officials such as Police Chief Ronald dela Rosa and Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre.\(^21\)

**The situation in the Philippines makes a purely internal solution unlikely, at least for now.**

Human rights defenders, attorneys and journalists have attempted to respond to the crisis, but faced retaliation.\(^22\) The list of incidents in which political leaders who have criticized the administration's drug policies have been targeted is long enough to raise questions about the motivation for the attacks.

After Senator Leila de Lima organized testimony in the Justice Committee from a confessed former member of the Davao Death Squad, Edgar Matobato, she was jailed based primarily on accounts from
drug traffickers she'd helped incarcerate. Vice President Leni Robredo has faced the threat of impeachment since providing a video criticizing the killings for an event at the UN. The Supreme Court Chief Justice and the Ombudsman, both critics of the killings, are facing impeachments.

After Senator Risa Hontiveros arranged protective custody for witnesses to the delos Santos killing, a legislator accused her of kidnapping because they are minors, and administration prosecutors have treated the spurious argument with credence. Duterte has threatened to "destroy" Senator Antonio Trillanes, a critic of the killings who has accused the president as well as his son of additional crimes.27

By contrast, an impeachment filing against the president was quickly dismissed by a committee of the House of Representatives, ostensibly for its reliance on news reports. Aguirre's response to Matobato, and to similar testimony by retired officer Arturo Lascañas, was to seek their arrest. But Aguirre took no action against the president, whom they'd also implicated.

We call on the world to take decisive actions to stop the killings and encourage better policies.

A statement of concern by 39 countries at the Human Rights Council underlines the seriousness of this situation. So does the rejection or non-commitment by the Philippine government to many of the Council's recommendations. The world should act with the urgency this suggests.

We therefore call on the UN, international donors – including the US, EU, Canada, western European states, Japan, and Australia – and other governments or organizations with ties to the Philippines, to bring their financial and diplomatic leverage to bear on this. At a minimum, donor states should condition most law enforcement assistance on upholding human rights norms.

We likewise call on world leaders attending the ASEAN Summit to unequivocally call for an end to the killings and for human rights to be respected. ASEAN itself should end its silence on this matter. Leaders should warn other countries against adopting similar tactics.

The international community should promote the right to health, by funding evidence-based alternatives to the drug war in the Philippines.

We finally urge the international community to fund Philippine human rights defenders, at a level matching the crisis. In September the House voted to defund the nation's Commission on Human Rights – later reinstating funds, but at a lower level and with conditions. The future of rule of law in the Philippines may depend on the work of the CHR and its allies.

The world is at a crossroads.

The UN Charter, supreme among treaties, lists human rights among the few supreme obligations of states. But support for this global system of responsibilities and rights has become uncertain. At this uncertain time, lawlessness and extrajudicial violence must not become a model for more countries.

When human rights are attacked, all are called on to act – by individual conscience, age-old moral principles, and the global agreements seeking peace and security for all. The time for action is now.
ENDORSERS (current as of November 15, 2017)

NGOs:
A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing)
AAFNO NEPAL
Access to Rights and Knowledge (ARK) Foundation, Nagaland (India)
Acción Técnica Social (ATS) (Colombia – Bogotá)
Action for Health Initiatives (ACHIEVE), Inc. (Philippines – Quezon City)
AFEW International
AIDES (France)
akzept e.V., Bundesverband für akzeptierende Drogenarbeit und humane Drogenpolitik (Germany)
Alliance for Public Health (Ukraine)
Americans for Safe Access (US)
Amitiel Welfare Society (Pakistan)
Andean Information Network (Bolivia)
APCASO (Asia-Pacific)
APDES - Agência Piaget para o Desenvolvimento (Portugal)
ASEAN Youth Forum-Philippines
Asia Catalyst
Asian Network of People Who Use Drugs (ANPUD)
Asia Pacific Transgender Network
Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas (ACEID) - Costa Rica
Association Guyanaise de Réduction des Risques (Harm Reduction Guianan Association) (French Guyana, Latin America)
Association for Humane Drug Policies (Norway)
Association for Safer Drug Policies (Norway -- Foreningen Tryggere Ruspolitikk)
Associazione Antigone (Italy)
Assonabis a cannabis society (Spain – Valencia)
Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation
The Beckley Foundation (UK)
Belangenvereniging Druggebruikers MDHG, Amsterdam
Black and Pink (US)
BOOM!Health, providing Harm Reduction and other services in New York City (Bronx)
Brazilian Drug Policy Center – Psicotropicus
Broken No More
CAN-DO Foundation (US)
Canadian Drug Policy Coalition
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy
The Cannabis Alliance (US – Washington State)
Caribbean Vulnerable Communities (CVC)
The Center for Harm Reduction Therapy (US – California)
Center for Living and Learning (US – California)
The CHOW Project
Chicago Recovery Alliance
CIDDH Centro de Investigación Drogas y Derechos Humanos (Drugs and Human Rights Center) (Peru)
Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign (Ireland)
Civil Survival (US)
Clergy for a New Drug Policy (US)
Clondalkin Addiction Support Group (CASP) (Ireland)
Clondalkin Tus Nua, Addiction Support Service (Ireland)
Coalition of Drug Users in Nepal (CDUN)
Corporación Humanas - Colombia
Correlation Network – European Network Social Inclusion & Health
Collectif Urgence Toxida (CUT) (Mauritius)
DC Cannabis Campaign, DCMJ.org (US)
Death Penalty Focus (US)
Delhi Network of Positive People (DNP+)
Deutscher Hanfverband (DHV) - German Cannabis Association
Diogenis, Drug Policy Dialogue (Greece)
Drug Policy Advocacy Group (DPAG) - Myanmar
Drug Policy Alliance (US)
Drug Policy Forum of Hawai’i
Drug Policy and Harm Reduction Platform in Malawi
Drug Truth Network (US)
Drugs & Democracy programme of the Transnational Institute
EADUMC (Ethio Africa Diaspora Union Millennium Council)
ECHO (Expertises Citoyennes Horizontales) (France)
Ecuador Cannábico
El Centro de Orientación e Investigación Integral (COIN) (Dominican Republic)
Empire State NORML (New York State Chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws)
Equis Justicia para las Mujeres (Mexico City)
FAAAT Foundation for Alternative Approaches to Addiction – Think & do tank (France, Spain)
Families for Justice as Healing (US)
Family Council on Drug Awareness (US)
Federación Andaluza Enlace (Spain)
Fedito Bxl - Drugs & Addictions Brussels
Fettercairn Drug Rehabilitation Programme (Ireland – West Dublin)
Fields of Green for ALL NPC (South Africa)
Filipino American Human Rights Alliance (FAHRA)
Forum Droghe (Italy)
Free Hearts (US)
Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) (Philippines)
From Life to Life (US)
Fuoriluogo.it (Italy)
GAT - Grupo de Ativistas em Tratamentos (Portugal)
Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+)
GRASP: Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing
The Grassrooted Trust (Sri Lanka)
GREA - Groupement Romand d’Etudes des Addictions (Switzerland)
Harm Reduction Coalition (US)
Harm Reduction Foundation (Warsaw, Poland – Warsaw)
Harm Reduction International
Harm Reduction Michigan (US)
Health GAP (US)
Health Poverty Action
Help Not Handcuffs (US – New Jersey)
Hep Free Hawaii
HIV Ireland
Housing Works (US)
Human Rights Defense Center (US)
Human Rights and the Drug War (US)
IDHDP (International Doctors for Healthier Drug Policies)
In Defense of Human Rights and Dignity Movement (iDEFEND) (Philippines)
Indian Drug Users Forum (IDUF)
Institute for Inner Balance (Slovenia)
Institute for Research and Development "Utrip" (Slovenia)
Institute for Policy Studies, Drug Policy Project (US)
Intercambios Civil Association (Argentina)
Intercambios Puerto Rico
International Center for Ethnobotanical Education Research & Service, ICEERS Foundation (Spain, Uruguay)
International Centre for Science in Drug Policy
International Drug Policy Consortium
International Network of People Who Use Drugs
International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY)
Italian Coalition for Civil Liberties and Rights
ITPC-South Asia (International Treatment Preparedness Coalition)
The John Mordant Trust (United Kingdom)
Just Say No Nepal
Justice Strategies (US)
Juventud País Solidario (Paraguay)
Katal Center for Health, Equity, and Justice (US)
KIPAS (Indonesia – Bengkulu)
Kopenham (Indonesia – Mojokerto, East Java)
Kripa Foundation Nagaland (India)
KULDESAK (Indonesia – Depok, West Java)
The Ladies of Hope Ministries (US)
LatinoJustice PRLDEF (US)
Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP)
Lawyers Collective (India)
LBH Masyarakat (Community Legal Aid Institute, Indonesia)
Legalizziamo.it (Italy)
Life for Pot (US)
Luca Coscioni Association for Freedom of Scientific Research (Italy)
Mainline Foundation (Netherlands)
Marijuana Policy Project (US)
Médecins du Monde (MdM – Doctors of the World)
Menteng Matraman Community (Indonesia – Jakarta)
México Unido Contra la Delincuencia
Middle East and North Africa Network of/for People who use Drugs
Mommieactivist and Sons (US)
Moms Stop The Harm (Canada)
Moms United to End the War on drugs international campaign
mumsDU – moms united and mandated to saving the lives of Drug Users (Canada)
National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery (US)
National Association of Social Workers (NASW) (US)
National Coalition of PLHIV in India (NCPI +)
The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls (US)
National Lawyers Guild, Drug Policy Committee (US)
National Organization for Women (US)
National Urban Survivors Union (US – California, North Carolina, Washington)
Nepal for Public Health (working for the rights of drug users of Nepal)
Network of Maharashtra by people living with HIV/AIDS (NMP +)
Network of Young Democratic Asians (NOYDA)
New Beginnings Reentry Services, Inc. (US – Boston, Massachusetts)
New Zealand Drug Foundation
newsweed.fr (France)
No Peace Without Justice
NORML France
Normal Norge (Norway)
Pedro José Arenas García, Director del Observatorio de Cultivos y Cultivadores Declarados Ilícitos
(OCCDI Global)
One Million Americans, LTD
PCA UNICO (Union contre la co-infection VIH/Hépatites/Tuberculose) (Cote D'Ivoire)
Penington Institute (Australia)
PERBAN SAKTI (Indonesia – East Kalimantan)
PESONA (Indonesia – Bengkulu, Sumatera)
Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA)
Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing (PROP) (US)
PILOT (Indonesia – East Lombok, NTB)
PKN (Indonesia – Bandung, West Java)
PKN (Indonesia – Bogor, West Java)
PKN (Indonesia – Bukittinggi, West Sumatera)
PKN (Indonesia – Jambi, Jambi)
PKN (Indonesia – Kepri, Riau Islands)
PKNI (Persaudaraan Korban Napza Indonesia/Indonesian Drug User Network)
PKNL (Indonesia – Lampung)
Kevin Zeese, co-director, Popular Resistance
Fundacja Polityki Społecznej PREKURSOR/PREKURSOR Foundation for Social Policy (Poland – Warsaw)
PRERANA, First Organization Established by & for PLHIV in Nepal
Preventivna platforma (Prevention Platform) (Slovenia)
The Prison Consultants (US)
Project Inform (US)
proLAR Nasjonalt Forbund For Folk I Lar (Norway)
Prospective Jeunesse asbl (Belgium)
Quad Cities Harm Reduction (US – Iowa)
Recovering Nepal, National Federation of people who use drugs and drug service organizations
REDUC - Brazilian Harm Reduction and Human Rights Network
Reentry Central (US)
Release (UK)
Restore Her (US)
Resource Information Help for the Disadvantaged and Disenfranchised (RIHD) (US)
Rights Reporter Foundation
Romanian Harm Reduction Network
RTCOI (Reverse The Cycle Of Incarceration) (US)
Safe Streets Arts Foundation (US – Washington, DC)
St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction, Inc. (Bronx, NY)
San Francisco Drug Users Union (US)
San Francisco Safety and Wellness Coalition (US)
Sangram Sewa Sadan (Mauritius)
SAOL Project (Ireland)
SATHI SAMUHA, Community-led Organization of Positive People Who Use Drugs in Nepal
Seattle Hempfest
Sex Workers and Allies Network (SWAN)
La Società della Ragione (Italy)
Sonoran Prevention Works (US – Arizona)
StoptheDrugWar.org (US)
Students for Sensible Drug Policy
Students for Sensible Drug Policy Australia
SUPER PM (Indonesia – North Sumatera)
Supernova Women (US – Oakland, California)
Rajesh Didiya, Director, SURUWAT (Nepal)
TASKON Padang (Indonesia – West Sumatera)
Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group (TTAG)
TLF Share Collective (Philippines)
Transform Drug Policy Foundation (UK)
Treatment Action Group (US)
Treatment Communities of America
Trung tâm Hỗ trợ Sáng kiến Phát triển Cộng đồng | Centre for Supporting Community Development Initiatives (Vietnam)
UDK Consultancy (Malawi)
Uganda Harm Reduction Network
UNAD (Spain)
Union C (Nepal)
US Filipinos for Good Governance (US)
Virginia CAN (Change Addiction Now) (US)
Rubem César Fernandes, Executive Director of Viva Rio (Brazil)
Vocal-NY
Walkinstown Greenhills Resource Centre (Ireland – Dublin)
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
West Borneo Action (Indonesia – Pontianak, West Borneo)
William C. Velasquez Institute (US)
Witness to Mass Incarceration (US)
Women Who Never Give Up, Inc. (US)
Women With A Vision (US – New Orleans)
Women’s Coalition Against Cancer in Malawi
Women and Harm Reduction International Network (WHRIN)
Young Women’s Freedom Center (US)
Youth RISE
Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network

Celebrities:
Mike Farrell, Actor, Human Rights and Social Justice Advocate

Civil Society Leaders:
Hassan Bassi, Secretary of Forum Droghé (Italy)
Gretchen Burns Bergman, Executive Director and Co-Founder, A New PATH
Mardi Mapa-Suplido, Secretary General, KOMPRe, Koalisyon ng mga Mamamayan para sa Reporma (Philippines)
Maria Stagnitta, President, Forum Droghé (Italy)

Legal Community:
Scott Bernstein, Lawyer, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Jonathan Boersma, Lawyer, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Greenbridge Corporate Counsel (US – California)
Khurshid Khoja, Founder and Principal, Greenbridge Corporate Counsel
Jesse Stout, Of Counsel, Greenbridge Corporate Counsel
Raynov Tumorang Pamintori, SEA Fellow, Death Penalty Team, Reprieve (UK)
Vicente Sederberg LLC

Religious Community:
Ecumenical Advocacy Network on the Philippines
Evangelical Protestant Church of El Salvador (IEPES)
Michael Kleim, Germany, Protestant theologian and member of "Schildower Kreis"

Business Leaders:
David Bronner, President, Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps
Kayvan S.T. Khalatbari, Founding Partner, Denver Relief Consulting
Ean Seeb, Founding Partner, Denver Relief Consulting

Health Professionals:
Sunil Kumar Aggarwal, MD, Ph.D., Clinical Instructor & Affiliate Assoc. Professor, Univ. of Washington
Denise Cullen, LCSW
Patt Denning, Ph.D., Director of Clinical Services & Training, The Center for Harm Reduction Therapy (US – San Francisco)
Philip D. Harvey, Chairman, DKT International
Robert Heimer, Ph.D., Professor of Epidemiology, Yale School of Public Health
T. Stephen Jones, MD (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, retired)
Sam Snodgrass, Ph.D., Board Member Broken No More/GRASP
Eldred Tellis, Founder, Trustee and Executive Director, Sankalp Rehabilitation Trust (India)
Dr. Alex Wodak AM (Australia)

Law Enforcement:
Stephen Downing, Deputy Chief, LAPD (Ret.)
Jay Fisher, Former prosecutor, Denver, Colorado
James E. Gierach, Former Assistant State's Attorney, Cook County, Illinois
Diane Goldstein, Lieutenant Commander, Redondo Beach PD (Ret.)
Michael Hilliard, Police Major, Baltimore PD (Ret.)
Gordon D. McAllister, District Court Judge, Oklahoma (Ret.)
Norm Stamper, Ph.D., Seattle Chief of Police (Ret.)
Paul Steigleder II, Sheriff's Lieutenant, Portland, Oregon (Ret.)
Ray Strack, Special Agent, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Ret.)
Jack Wilborn, Retired Police Reserve Officer, Glendale PD

Political and Governmental Officials:
Silvana Amati, Member of Senate of Italy since 2014
Nathanial Erskine-Smith, Member of Parliament of Canada since 2015
Representative Roger Goodman, Chair, House Public Safety Committee, Washington State Legislature
Dr. Chee Soon Juan, Secretary General, Singapore Democratic Party
Donald Macpherson, Drug Policy Coordinator, City of Vancouver, Canada, 2000-2009
Andrea Maestri, Member of Chamber of Deputies, Italy since 2013
Marco Perduca, Member of Senate of Italy, 2008-2013
Mardi Seng, Member of Senate of Cambodia
Antonella Soldo, President, Radicali italiani
Mike Trace, Former UK Drug Czar

Loves Ones of People Deceased Due to Substance Issues
Marie Agioritis for her son Kelly, who died in 2015 at age 19.
Deb Hale Bailey for her daughter Izzy, who died in 2015 at age 21.
Kim Brown, RN for her son Andy Lamp, who died in 2011.
Louise Cameron for her son who died.
Laura Cash for her son Mark Stone, who died in 2014.
Denise Cullen for her son Jeff, who died in 2008 at age 27.
Catherine Maxwell Day for her brother who died.
Chris Dobs for her son Adam, who died in 2016 at age 27.
Lois Fridfinnson for her son Keith who died in 2010 at age 23 and her daughter Bricey who died in 2017 at age 26.
Faye Gray for her daughter Lindsey who died in 2015 at age 33.
Helen Jennens for her sons Rian and Tyler, who died in 2011 and 2016.
Niki Brooks Lukas for her son Dustin, who died in 2016 at age 27.
Donna May for her daughter Jac, who died in 2012 at age 34.
Sylvia Mennear for her son Aaron James who died in 2017 at age 30.
Shannon O'Sullivan for her son Patrick Norris Colby who died in 2017 at age 38.
Kym Porter for her son Neil Balmer who died in 2016 at age 32.
Petra Schulz for her son Danny, who died in 2014 at age 25.
Lorna Thomas for her son Alex, who died in 2012 at age 24.
Kari Ursulescu for her partner who died in 2016 at age 31.
Ruth Verkerk for her son who died in 2016 at age 54.
Lisa Wilkins for her son Chip Wilkins who died in 2011.

– END –


7 PNP Says No EJKs, [the article notes that a Philippine National Police statement claimed, "[T]here is only one case of extrajudicial killing or EJK for the period July 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017." However, PNP spokesman Dionardo Carlos later said, "[w]e dont have cases considered as EJK as of now, so I stand corrected."] Presentation of Chito Gascon, Chairperson, Commission on Human Rights of the Republic of the Philippines, in Human Rights Challenge: Responding to Extrajudicial Killings in the Drug War, side event at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs annual meeting, Vienna (Mar. 16, 2017) ("[T]he reality is not a single police officer that has already admitted is being held accountable.")], https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50JIaFBZP6c (last visited Oct. 22, 2017).


In 1982 the UN Economic and Social Council established the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on summary or arbitrary executions, in 1992 widening it to extrajudicial executions. It includes "country visits to examine the situation of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions...": Overview of the Mandate, Office of the United Nations High Comm'r for Human Rights (OHCHR), http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Executions/Pages/Overview.aspx (last visited Oct. 23, 2017).


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23 Two Supreme Court justices accused a colleague of contradicting himself vs. past rulings, in his majority opinion allowing the de Lima case to move forward: Marlon Ramos, SC: De Lima Faces Probe on Hearsay Evidence, Inquirer, Oct. 23, 2017 at http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/939888/sc-de-lima-faces-probe-on-hearsay-evidence (last visited Oct. 23, 2017); Jocelyn R. Uy & Leila B. Salaverria, Palace Slams Inter-Parliamentary Union for ‘meddling’ in De Lima Case, Inquirer, Oct. 22, 2017 at (“In its 16-page report last July, following a three-day mission in the Philippines in May, the [Inter-Parliamentary Union] cast doubt on the evidence presented in each of the three drug charges filed against De Lima...

There are general concerns about the over-reliance on testimonies by convicted drug lords, not only because they are proven criminals but because these individuals have an axe to grind with Sen. de Lima,’ stated the report.”), http://globalnation.inquirer.net/161018/inter-parliamentary-union-leila-de-lima-martin-andanar-war-on-drugs (last visited Oct. 22, 2017).


