



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SHANGHAI

IMPORTANT ADVISORY

***Subject : Information on the Philippine
Government's Intensified Anti-Illegal Drugs (AID)
War***

The Consulate General of the Philippines in Shanghai informs the public of the attached Statement on the Anti-Illegal Drugs (AID) War of the Philippine Government as prepared by the Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat.

For the public's information.



Shanghai, 02 September 2016

Rationale Behind the Philippine AID War

The extent of the current illegal drug problem in the Philippines perplexes the mind. And it has taken no less than Philippine President, Mr. Rodrigo Roa Duterte, to uncover by sheer political will and to bring to the public's awareness the magnitude of this menace which has destroyed – and continues to destroy – the lives of millions of Filipinos.

Crimes that include massacres, rape with homicide or murder, kidnapping, armed assault, robbery, etc. have been perpetuated daily by people and groups under the influence of illegal drugs, and have posed serious threats to the country's peace, order, security, and development.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, at a Senate hearing on August 18, 2016, reported that it has conducted 11,128 anti-drug operations, arrested 12,081 individuals, and filed 12,288 cases. And this is just the so-called tip of the iceberg. Illegal drugs have proliferated in almost every nook and cranny of the country's archipelago and have made the lives of Filipinos miserable for decades.

Philippine AID War is not Discriminatory

Over the past several weeks, the war against pushers and users of illegal drugs has been without let-up. And it has not spared or discriminated against any of the alleged guilty, a few of whom the President himself acknowledged as personally known to him.

Through intensified Intelligence information gathering, heads and coddlers of drug syndicates have been identified by the President. The list included top-ranking officials in the Philippine government, such as police generals, governors, congressmen, mayors, and others who are both active in or have since retired from public service. Many, if not all of these personalities wield influence and power, possess arms or have armed bodyguards, and are part of the wide network that now defines the illegal drug environment in the Philippines. Many of them have surfaced and turned themselves in. Narco-politics has reared its ugly head, and it is our State obligation to put a stop to its proliferation.

Warning Issued Prior to Conduct

Prior to the start of the massive war against illegal drugs, the President has served notice to all concerned to surrender and, as necessary, undergo drug rehabilitation at the expense of the government.

Today, there are more than 600 thousand of these drug pushers and dependents in government custody. Comprehensive rehabilitation programs are being finalized, with some already being undertaken.

On the other hand, there are those who have not heeded this call. Many chose to disregard the President's appeal to surface and come clean. As a result, they have been apprehended in accordance with the law. While many have surrendered peacefully, many have also fought back with arms, and many have tried to escape while in police custody. Anyone who is familiar with heavy drug addiction would know that one who is drug-crazed does not have full control of one's mental faculties, and many of these attempts to escape have resulted in their deaths.

Killings through Law Enforcement Operations: Not Extrajudicial

The deaths resulting from legal police operations have been criticized by some as having been committed extra-judicially. This is farthest from the truth. The Philippine government denounces and will not resort to this mode of killing. Every police officer has been given instructions by no less than the President not to abuse their authority while going after suspected criminals. Every police officer is aware of the principle of and exercises due process, even at the risk of his or her life while on duty.

The President has also been clear that if such abuses are or have been committed, anyone who has knowledge of these abuses may file charges against the erring police officers and personnel. Already, a case has been filed against a police officer who was seen on CCTV manhandling a man already in handcuffs and who was later found dead.

The number of deaths in this on-going war against illegal drugs can only be viewed as a sad manifestation of the gravity of the illegal drug problem that the Philippines now confronts. Chief of the Philippine National Police, Police Director Gen. Ronald de la Rosa, at a Senate hearing held on August 18, 2016, reported that there have already been 665 deaths resulting from legitimate anti-illegal drug enforcement operations by the police. In earlier statements, De la Rosa also called on people to file complaints against police officers who might have erred in their performance of duty.

Vigilante Killings: Not Sanctioned

On the other hand, it cannot be discounted that there have been deaths that were not committed in line with legitimate police operations. Rather, these are the result of vigilante killings, which the government will not nor will ever tolerate. These killings are now being investigated, and the vigilantes will be made to account for their misdeeds. At the end of the day, these vigilantes are just as guilty as the alleged culprits they intend to decimate.

Internal Purging: Justice will be Served

There are likewise killings perpetrated by drug dealers or bosses against their own henchmen for fear that the latter will tell on their activities. The government is enraged over this turn of events, will identify the brains behind these acts, and is committed to put these people behind bars at all cost and by all means. And it will do so in accordance with due process and the rule of law.

Call for Global Support for the Philippine AID war

Finally, we call on all States of the world to support the Philippines in its current war against illegal drugs. We lament the fact that our situation has sadly gone this far, but we need to be firm in our resolve if only for us Filipinos to live in a society that is as peaceful and progressive as those of developed States.

Prepared by

Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat
August 18, 2016