



Lifeless body of Kian Loyd delos Santos in a body bag.



JACKSONVILLE, Florida — Readers of this column are, at times, treated to light and funny subjects or even jokes.

But, these past months, my sense of humor has deteriorated.

I am angry.

But, it is righteous anger.

I'm incensed, like many of you, by the reported brutal, cruel and senseless killing of a 17-year-old boy in Caloocan City by certain members of the Philippine National Police, as well as the extrajudicial killings that have been taking place in the native country since Duterte assumed the presidency.

A Filipina friend couldn't help exclaiming, "*Mga dimonyo!*"

She was referring to police officers in Manila who killed 17-year-old Kian Loyd delos Santos mercilessly earlier this week.

To-date, over 8,000 suspected drug addicts and traffickers had been killed during anti-drug police operations.

The past week alone, over 70 suspects had been killed, all were poor.

Obviously, the police are emboldened by the repeated assurances and re-assurances by President Rodrigo Duterte in recent speeches that no police officer will go to jail if he kills during an anti-drug operation.

And that if any police officer is found guilty, Duterte said he would grant pardon.

Satanic ruthlessness.

Filipinos should pray for conversion for their president.

If he doesn't convert, he and his police chief, Gen. Ronald dela Rosa, should resign.

Of course, the two won't step down.

They are virtually drunk with power.

Since Duterte became president of the Philippines, the reputation of the native country before the rest of the world has considerably worsened.

Duterte is viewed as having no regard and respect for the rule of law.

His handling of the drug and crime problems had been condemned in the United Nations and the European Community.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have condemned human rights abuses under Duterte.

From New York, Human Rights Watch reported, "President Rodrigo Duterte has unleashed a human rights calamity on the Philippines in his first year in office."

Amnesty International for Southeast Asia and the Pacific commented, "Duterte's violent campaign has not ended crime or solved the problems associated with drugs. What it has done is turn the country into an even more dangerous place, further undermined the rule of law, and earned him notoriety as a leader responsible for the death of thousands of his own citizens."

Twelve U.S. senators, in a letter sent to President Donald Trump, questioned the wisdom of inviting President Duterte to step into the White House.

The letter said, "Inviting President Duterte to the White House while this murderous campaign continues could be interpreted as an endorsement of his government's gross human rights abuses..."

It is most unfortunate that instead of "rule of law," it is kind of "ruler's law" which is happening in the native country.

Respect for democratic practices and value for human life had been set aside because the leadership is blinded with power and misplaced sense of values.

Worse, the rubber stamp Congress, has openly declared in earlier hearings that extrajudicial killings and death squads are non-existent in the Philippines.

(The thousands of victims killed themselves?)

Its Senate President called for another hearing on the recent increase in killings by police.

As in past investigations, it may come with a conclusion covering up the “murderous instincts” of the Duterte regime.

The spokesperson of President Duterte continues to insult the intellect of thinking Filipinos and feed the myopia of many Filipinos with his frequent interpretations of presidential self-centeredness and pugnacious statements.

Public discourse had gone down to the level of “kanto” dialogue where accepted social norms and logic had been swept aside and replaced with what used to be unacceptable language and words and curses.

All because the President of the country himself sets the bad example.

This President was voted into power with a promise (which has proven to be unfulfilled) that he would end drug, crime and corruption problems of the country in three months.

After three months of non-fulfillment, Duterte asked for another three months.

After six months, he asked for an extension of another six months.

Recently, he announced six years (or one term) won't be enough to solve the problems.

In a corporate environment, non-performing officers or even employees are either let go by management or they voluntarily step down for the good of the company.



Santo Niño image, patron saint of Bobon, Northern Samar people.

Greetings to Bobon Northern Samar USA Association

Like many regional organizations in the U.S., each year, former residents of the town of Bobon in Northern Samar, who are now residing in the United States and other places, gather together in order to celebrate the feast of the miraculous Santo Niño.

This week, they are gathered in Jacksonville, Florida.

Hermandad this year is the Alvarez Family.

We wish the good people of Bobon the best in their celebration.

Viva Santo Niño!

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