

Birth of Anti-Duterte Movements

Written by Manuel Caballero
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The Daily Telegraph, a national British daily newspaper published in London and distributed across the United Kingdom and internationally, published the following opening paragraphs about the killing of young Kian Loyd delos Santos in Caloocan City reportedly by members of Caloocan City Police Department the other week.

“A horrifying image of a schoolboy being dragged to a violent death in a dirty alleyway has galvanized the Philippines against a brutal state-led war on drugs that has killed over 12,500 people in the last year.

“For a nation now largely immune to the bloodied corpses of alleged small time drugs users and dealers dumped on the streets, the graphic reports of the final moments of Kian delos Santos, 17, who was allegedly shot three times by undercover police officers, have been too much to bear.

“His killing last week has united the public, senior politicians and the Catholic Church into the most significant sweep of mass protests since President Rodrigo Duterte pushed for a savage crackdown on drugs after his election last June.”

The New York Times, in its story about Kian, raised the possibility that the 17-year-old boy would be the next Ninoy? (Ninoy Aquino’s assassination in the tarmac of then Manila International Airport united the opposition and the Filipinos against Marcos which led to the dictator’s ouster in 1986.)

The Washington Post titled its story: “Philippine teenager’s burial turns into protest vs. killings.”

The published stories, as well as, those broadcast in radio and television and posted in social media, put the blame for Kian’s death on President Rodrigo Duterte’s bloody anti-drug war since he assumed office in June 2016, where over 12,000 suspected poor drug traffickers had been killed supposedly by police and unknown gunmen.

The killings are continuing.

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New Movements

Less than 48 hours after Kian was interred, “Movement Against Tyranny” (MAT) was organized by a network of civic organizations and leaders of civic, religious and academic communities in the Philippines.

MAT calls for an end to drug killings and the so-called “tyranny and fascism” of the Duterte Administration.

The group scheduled a massive rally on Sept. 21 at Rizal Park to coincide with the 45th anniversary of the late Ferdinand Marcos’ martial law declaration.

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mcaball241@aol.com