A neoliberal landscape of terror: Extrajudicial killings in the Philippines

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Keywords: neoliberalism, terror, social movements, violence, extrajudicial killings, oligarchy, wealth redistribution, War on Terror, state terrorism

Abstract

Neoliberalism is a set of economic policies emphasizing free trade, privatization, and the retreat of the state. In recent years social movements have emerged in many nations challenging its master narrative of unlimited progress through unfettered markets; states embracing neoliberalism have often engaged in violence to suppress these movements. In the Philippines, social movements have emerged to oppose neoliberal policies, resulting since 2001 in widespread extrajudicial killings of social movement participants. The killings must be understood in the context of Filipino society’s domination by an oligarchy whose privilege has been increased by neoliberalism’s disavowal of wealth redistribution and by the enhancement of the state’s coercive powers during the “War on Terror.” Extrajudicial killings in the Philippines demonstrate neoliberalism’s propensity for violence through state terrorism.
This submission highlights extrajudicial and summary killings in the country. Among such cases are those perpetrated in relation to the Duterte Administration’s “war on drugs.” The Philippines is a State Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and is duty-bound to address the spate of summary killings. The prohibition against summary killings is slowly achieving the status of jus cogens in international law. As such, the right of the citizens to be protected against such admits of no derogation, not even with a declaration of state of lawlessness. Extrajudicial killing is the political issue in the Philippines that the group chose. Extrajudicial killing is defined as the execution of a person or group of persons by state agents without due process of the law. The group chose a video presentation as the medium in order to cope up with modern times. Extrajudicial killings became a way to silence people who are against the government. This problem led to severe graft and corruption because the check and balance cannot be conducted for the people who speak or know about it are silenced or abducted. When you look at the government and its citizens and see the different policies that are implemented and obeyed, you see the reason why or why not a country is flourishing, this is the institutional theory approach. The Philippines is overcrowded. 100 million people in a country the size of California. The country’s economy simply cannot support its population. Many Filipino friends have told me privately that the population needs some thinning out so getting rid of ‘druggies’ is a good way to do it. Take note, media stories of extrajudicial killings were aggravated by supporting statements from bleeding heart politician(opposition). 1.8K views · View 3 Upvoters.