LOVE NOT WAR

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War on drugs. Ten letters, three words, and terrifying outcome.

The effort of the new administration to seize the existence illegal drugs in the country is admirable, so as the President’s confidence and appreciation for his men in uniform. Many administrations came and went for the Philippines, but president Duterte’s conviction can easily be the greatest among them all. He is the best example of will of steel and tough love. He cares for the country; he wants to protect its people.

But the problem is that in the chain of command there are some rusted links that make the circuit fail. In the infamous war against illegal drugs, the thought behind the operation is to cut the circulation of illegal drugs in the country. The ‘Tokhang’ or the katok-pakiusap method is a non-violent and peaceful approach, originally. But somehow there have been breach in application that led to the ‘tokhang’ that is seen now. The killings and the murders, the shoot-outs and the rub-outs that cause up to 4000 deaths (according to latest reports). At the beginning the ones that were killed were criminals, suspects, and offenders. Then the belief that ‘if you are not doing anything illegal you don’t have to be afraid’ was easy to put at heart. But recently the killings have been more brutal and even less humane.

The particular ones that are very concerning are that of minors, children barely out of their teens. It is one to kill a drug addicts/pushers in the reasoning that they pulled the trigger and fought back, but to shoot and kill children, teens or otherwise while they were kneeling down and begging to spared are two different stories. As an educator who devotes time and effort to make sure that students have a shot for a better life and a
mother that lives and breathes for the well-being of her children, it is horrifying to think that all those effort and time, love and devotion to raise a good human being can be trashed just because some people feel like it.

It is true that even at a young age some are aware of their rights and that they are not bound by the law. But at that age there is high percentage that they could be guided to the right path and chance what they will become in the future, killing will wipe that all out, no chances, no future.

Violence and killing is not the right way in dealing with things. In the history, war never really brought good things, only bloodshed and casualties.

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