

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSION

The War on Drugs is a program established by Rodrigo Duterte, entrusted to the Philippines National Police, which aims to combat the Philippines' drug problem through the capture and assassination of drug suspects. The extrajudicial killings of drug suspects are carried out by shootings during house or drug den raids and 'buy-bust' operations. Drug-related killings have also been done by unknown armed persons which have been proved to be affiliated with the government. The operation has resulted in thousands of victims, with data ranging from 7.000 to over 20.000 deaths. As a member of the UNHRC, the Philippines is receiving intense backlash from both domestic and international communities. Pressure is also placed on UNHRC, as an IGO responsible to tackle human rights violations all around the world. The UNHRC has taken measures in addressing cases of EJK in the Philippines' War on Drugs. Through the view of neoliberal institutionalism, the role of UNHRC as an IGO is imperative in solving cases of human rights violations that cannot be addressed by the Philippines independently. This research described the efforts of UNHRC in addressing human rights violations in the form of extrajudicial killings present in the Philippines' anti-drug campaign or as widely referred to as War on Drugs from 2017 to 2020.

The first attempt is through UNHRC's UPR, a mechanism which reviews the human rights situation of states and facilitates discussion in regards to the review and produces recommendations for reviewed states. The UPR review of the Philippines was held in 2017 and addressed issues of human rights violations namely extrajudicial killings in War on Drugs. The UPR functions as the provider of information as well as the facilitator of information exchange which addresses human rights violations in the Philippines and raises

public awareness regarding the issue. The UPR also pushed the adoption of other measures such as the two resolutions that are also a part of discussion in this study.

The second effort of UNHRC is through resolution 4/12 for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Philippines. This resolution called for Philippines; cooperation in complying to OHCHR and UNHRC's requests and mechanisms in addressing human rights situations in the Philippines. It also requested the OHCHR to arrange a report on the current state of human rights situation in the Philippines. The report itself highlighted issues of human rights violations and provided recommendations in regards to the issues mentioned. The resolution's function in rule-making added another layer of provision in the field human rights, complementing existing international human rights regulations, to ensure the commitment of the Philippines government in respecting human rights and the rule of law in the practice of War on Drugs. This resolution also becomes the basis of another resolution which supports technical cooperation of the Philippines with UNHRC along with OHCHR.

Lastly, UNHRC adopted a resolution which was established to complement the previous resolution. The resolution requests OHCHR and all relevant stakeholders to support and provide technical assistance and capacity building to the Philippines government in an objective of promoting and enhancing human rights situation in the Philippines.

Through the analysis of SWOC, strengths of UNHRC efforts are supported by the inclusivity of its stakeholders which allows ease of information gathering, creates peer-driven cooperation and monitoring by local NGOs. The weaknesses of the efforts however, lies in the legal status of the recommendations and resolutions, as it is non-legally binding and lacks punitive sanctions. Opportunities of UNHRC efforts is reflected in its capability in raising awareness to the public and encourages the cases to be addressed by other entities in the international system, especially one with bigger authority than the UNHRC. However, challenges that the UNHRC faces is the Duterte administration which distrust and is not

inclined to cooperation under UNHRC and IOs in general. Through an analysis of SWOC, the UNHRC must place its focus on seizing the strengths and opportunities while taking measures in countering its weaknesses and challenges in order to ensure the effectiveness of its efforts in addressing cases of EJK in the Philippines War on Drugs and strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights.

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