



Utrecht, February 24, 2020

Mr. R.R. Duterte  
President of the Philippines  
c/o Mr. Jaime Victor Ledda, Ambassador  
Embassy of the Philippines in the Netherlands.

Dear Mr. Ledda,

Please find herewith a letter addressed to the president of the Philippines, Mr. R.R. Duterte, which the Utrecht Cannabis Social Club "Leila de Lima" in exile has asked me to transmit.

I have the honor to leave the letter in your care and trust you will forward it to the addressee.

Sincerely yours,

Adriaan Bronkhorst  
Drugs Peace Institute

Utrecht, February 24, 2020

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte  
Republic of the Philippines.  
c/o Embassy of the Philippines in The Netherlands, The Hague.

Sir,

Subject: nomination of Senator Leila de Lima for the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.

gathered in the Sticht (the former Prince-Bishopric Utrecht) to enjoy the gift of life and to sympathize with those who cannot fully enjoy it, the Cannabis Social Club "Leila de Lima" (in exile) would like to inform you of the following:

Since you apparently reject the humane treatment of criminal suspects, dissenters and the poor, and since your government actively exploits the law to promote injustice, it is in the interest of your country and your countrymen who you murder, that others tax you on your sworn duty to promote justice and that they neither abet the continued desecration and demolition of institutions of justice and accountability nor condone the mass murder you ordered<sup>1</sup>. Senator Leila de Lima has resolutely taken on this task and is therefore swallowed up by your lawfare industry, to no avail to you as she continues from her prison cell to defend the rule of law and respect for human rights in the Philippines.

Too many critics are afraid to speak out against you. They enable you and your murderous gang to continue the killings by terrorizing the market - buyers and sellers alike, under the pretext of a war on drugs. The weaponizing of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs has met its pinnacle in your Philippine genocide.

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court is preparing your trial and we dare hope that she will succeed. But today, on the third anniversary of her detention, it is not so much your punishment but the fate of Senator Leila de Lima that interests us. It is therefore with great pleasure that we have learned that she has been nominated for the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize and that she will be considered as laureate, for her relentless interventions to protect democracy in her country and in particular for her firm and unwavering defense of the right to life of all Filipino citizens, including those who use and deal drugs, and this at the expense of her own freedom and well-being. "A lesson of courage and solidarity in adversity," Jean-Luc Mélenchon has said about her<sup>2</sup>.

History gives mankind the opportunity to learn from setbacks and to overcome them so that they can benefit us. The more brutal and inhumane the injustice that has taken place, the more sublime the correction can be. In the end, the barbarity of your regime may also benefit the Philippines and humanity in the international reflection that your presidency causes. We would like to mention two of the shimmers of hope that we see on the horizon.

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1 and 2. "International Forum on Lawfare: Weaponizing the Law vs Democratic Dissent", La Salle University, Manila, Philippines, February 21, 2020, as reported on Rappler, [Maria Lourdes Sereno](#) and [Jean-Luc Mélenchon](#) (Part 2C, 1:06:30)

The first is related to the use of mind-altering substances. Consumption of mind-altering substances or drugs taking is a highly personal undertaking that society should accompany not with abdication but with education and regulation, based on facts, so that it will benefit the user and society alike. Your perverse transgressions highlight the need to view drug taking from a human-interest point of view, so that the evil of abuse is not aggravated by devilish people but is prevented by a committed society. On a global level it would implicate the transfer of drug administration from Vienna to Geneva, from the UN Office on Crime to the Office of the High Commissioner for Drugs and Human Rights and to the World Health Organization. The same way as the happiness of human beings is not included in the mission of UN crime units for the mere fact that there exists human trafficking. A shimmer of hope, perceived in a dream.

A second advantage is your cooperation with the rehabilitation of senator Leila de Lima, because one way or another, the nomination for the Nobel Prize puts you before a dilemma: or you free her or, for each additional day of detention, you contribute to her chances to become its laureate. Given the impossibility to have her tried in court, even after three years, the choice does not seem difficult. As the Inquirer recently reported, your former professor Joma Sison thinks that you, [Duterte, can be the greatest President yet](#). Perhaps you even can become a humane President.

Sincerely yours,

The Grower in chief  
name in pectore

The Cannabis Social Club “Leila de Lima” in exile  
Utrecht, The Netherlands

Cc: Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC  
Ms. Hakima El Haité, president Liberal International  
Senator Kiko Pangilinan  
Ms. Maria Lourdes Sereno  
Mr. Jean-Luc Mélenchon  
Mr. José Maria Sison