

Duterte 'happy to slaughter' drug suspects; mentions Hitler

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte raised the rhetoric over his bloody anti-crime war to a new level Friday, comparing it to Hitler and the Holocaust and saying he would be "happy to slaughter" 3 million addicts.

Duterte issued his latest threat against drug dealers and users early Friday on returning to his hometown in southern Davao city after visiting Vietnam, where he discussed his anti-drug campaign with Vietnamese leaders and ways for their governments to fight transnational crimes, including illegal drugs.

Duterte has said his public death threats against drug suspects are designed to scare them to stop selling drugs and to discourage would-be users. But his latest remarks took that crime-busting approach to a different level.

He said he had been "portrayed or pictured to be a cousin of Hitler," without elaborating.

Moments later he said, "Hitler massacred 3 million Jews ... there's 3 million drug addicts. There are. I'd be happy to slaughter them."

He was referring to a Philippine government estimate of the number of drug addicts in the country. Historians say 6 million Jews were killed by the Nazis under Hitler before and during World War II.

During the presidential election campaign earlier this year and during the three months he has held office, the tough-talking Duterte has threatened to drown drug suspects to fatten the fish in Manila Bay. He also threatened to execute drug traffickers by hanging — because he didn't want to waste electricity on them — until their heads were severed from their bodies.

While Hitler's victims were innocent people, Duterte said his targets are "all criminals" and that getting rid of them would "finish the (drug) problem of my country and save the next



AP Photo/Bullit Marquez

A pistol is marked near the body of a drug suspect after he was killed on Friday with two others in an alleged "buy-bust" operation by the authorities in the continuing "War on Drugs" campaign in Calocan city, north of Manila, Philippines.

generation from perdition." Germany's government slammed Duterte's comments as unacceptable, and called in the Philippine ambassador to the Foreign Ministry over the matter.

"It is impossible to make any comparison to the unique atrocities of the Shoah and Holocaust," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Martin Schaefer in Berlin.

World Jewish Congress President Ronald Lauder said Duterte's remarks were "revolting" and demanded that he retract them and apologize.

"Drug abuse is a serious issue. But what President Duterte said is not only profoundly inhumane, but it demonstrates an appalling disrespect for human life that is truly heartbreaking for the democratically elected leader of a great country," Lauder said in a statement issued from Jerusalem, where he was attending the funeral of former Israeli leader Shimon Peres.

The U.S. State Department, which is looking to sustain its longstanding alliance with the Philippines, called the comments "troubling."

"Words matter, especially when they are from leaders of sovereign nations, especially sovereign nations with whom we have long and valued relations with," spokesman Mark Toner told

reporters. He repeated U.S. calls for Philippine authorities to investigate any credible reports of extra-judicial killings.

U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin, top-ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was more blunt.

"It is reprehensible and frankly disgusting that a democratically-elected leader is talking about the mass murder of his own people, with Hitler's Holocaust as his inspiration no less," he said in a statement.

Philippine Rep. Teodoro Baguilat wondered if the president was suggesting that "it's open season now for all addicts, no more rehabilitation, just kill them systematically like what the Nazis did with the Jews." He expressed fears that Jewish businesspeople might boycott the Philippines.

Also critical was Phil Robertson, Asia deputy director for Human Rights Watch, who said it was baffling why anyone would want to compare themselves to "one of the largest mass murderers in human history."

Robertson said that in today's context, Hitler would be accused of crimes against humanity.

"Is that what Duterte wants? Does he want to be sent to the international criminal court? Because he's working his way there," Robertson said.

Clinton in a landslide — in endorsements: Do they matter?

Associated Press

NEW YORK — "A clear and present danger to our country." "Xenophobia, racism and misogyny." "Beneath our national dignity."

Those aren't excerpts from attack ads by Hillary Clinton's campaign. Those are longtime Republican newspapers disavowing Donald Trump.

If newspaper endorsements equaled victory, Clinton would be in line for a historic landslide. She has been endorsed by dozens of papers ranging from such expected backers as *The New York Times* to such once-certain GOP advocates as *The Dallas Morning News*, the *Arizona Republic* and the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, which on Sept. 23 called for "a leader who will bring out the best in Americans, not the worst."

On Friday, *USA Today* ended its tradition of not taking sides and published an anti-endorsement, contending that Trump "lacks the temperament, knowledge, steadiness and honesty that America needs from its presidents." The paper didn't back Clinton but advised readers to "Stay true to your convictions." The same day, *The San Diego Union-Tribune* endorsed Clinton — the first Democrat it has endorsed in its history.

Trump, meanwhile, is supported by far fewer publications. They include a paper owned by son-in-law Jared Kushner (the *New York Observer*) and the *National Enquirer*, a tabloid whose parent company is run by Trump friend David Pecker and whose content usually focuses on celebrity scandal.

Trump scorned the negative editorials Friday, tweeting that "The people are really smart in cancelling subscriptions to the Dallas & Arizona papers & now USA Today will lose readers! The people get it!" "I don't read USA



AP Photo/John Locher

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally Thursday in Bedford, N.H.

Today," he said later to WZZM13 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. "It's not much of a newspaper as far as I'm concerned."

If Clinton's overwhelming advantage among editorial boards mirrors the revulsion Trump has inspired from officials in both parties, the endorsements may also illustrate the decline in newspapers' power to shape opinions and the strength of Trump's anti-establishment appeal. Polls show Clinton trailing in Texas, Arizona and Ohio despite the unexpected support of GOP papers.

During the primaries, the venerable conservative paper the *New Hampshire Union Leader* endorsed Chris Christie, only to have the New Jersey governor lose the state decisively, drop out and back Trump. *The Arizona Republic* favored John Kasich in the state's GOP primary, but Trump won easily and the Ohio governor finished fourth.

"Newspaper endorsements don't have nearly the impact they used to," says Mark MacKinnon, co-host of Showtime's political show "The Circus" and a longtime adviser who has worked with former President George W. Bush and Sen. John McCain of Arizona, the GOP's 2008 presidential candidate. "There are just way too many other sources of information for voters today."

"They are just part of

the wave," says political historian Rick Perlstein, who is in the midst of a multivolume series on the rise of the conservative movement and has written in depth about elections of the 1960s, '70s and beyond. "They don't start anything, and probably didn't determine much — but betoken a widespread disgust in the air."

Readers may not let editorials tell them how to vote, but they care enough to respond. *Dallas Morning News* editor Mike Wilson recalls a group of about a dozen people demonstrated against the endorsement across the street from the paper.

Wilson went down to talk with them. In a series of tweets, he described a discussion that began angrily but settled into a serious dialogue.

"I got a few words in and persuaded zero people," he tweeted.

Wilson said he's received some messages from Clinton supporters thanking the newspaper for the editorial, but hasn't heard that it changed anyone's mind. "They're not really meant to end arguments, they're meant to start discussions, and this one certainly did that," he said.

"One of the reasons we exist is to take editorial positions on things that can improve lives in our community," he said. "That is one of the core functions of a newspaper."

BRIEFLY

Twitter, 'lies' and videotape: Trump shames beauty queen

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — Plunging deeper into campaign controversy, Donald Trump publicly shamed a former beauty queen on Friday for her "disgusting" sexual past and then — in one of presidential history's more bizarre moments — encouraged Americans to watch a "sex tape" he said would support his case.

The tweet-storm that Trump launched into at 3:20 a.m. started a day of did-that-just-happen moments that ended with Clinton's campaign calling Trump an adult film star. Even many of Trump's supporters shook their heads at their candidate's latest outburst, worried it could further hurt him among the nation's women, many of them already skeptical, whose votes he'll badly need to win election.

"Did Crooked Hillary help disgusting (check out sex tape and past) Alicia M become a U.S. citizen so she could use her in the debate?" read a missive from Trump posted on Twitter at 5:30 a.m. That referred to 1996 Miss Universe Alicia Machado, a Venezuela-born woman whose weight gain he has said created terrible problems for the pageant he formerly owned.

Unsurprisingly, Trump's pre-dawn Twitter tirade ricocheted across the campaign trail.

Trump's campaign accused the media and Hillary Clinton of colluding to set him up for fresh condemnation, to which Clinton retorted, "His latest twitter meltdown is unhinged, even for him."

Machado took to Facebook to say his tweets were part of a pattern of "demoralizing women,"

calling them "cheap lies with bad intentions." Planned Parenthood said it showed that Trump's "misogyny knows no bounds." And Clinton said they showed anew why someone with Trump's temperament "should not be anywhere near the nuclear codes."

With less than 40 days left in the election, Trump's broadside threw his campaign into a fresh round of second-guessing the candidate's instincts and confusion about what to do next. To believers in traditional political norms, it seemed like the opposite of what was needed to win over females, Hispanics and young Americans whose support could well determine the election.

Shaming Machado over intimate details from her past could be particularly risky as Trump tries to win over more female voters, many of whom are turned away by such personal attacks. It also risks calling further attention to the thrice-married Trump's own history with women.

Hackers targeted election systems of 20 states

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hackers have targeted the voter registration systems of more than 20 states in recent months, a Homeland Security Department official said Friday.

The disclosure comes amid heightened concerns that foreign hackers might undermine voter confidence in the integrity of U.S. elections. Federal officials and many cybersecurity experts have said it would be nearly impossible for hackers to alter an election's outcome because election systems are very decentralized and generally not connected to the internet.

The official who described detecting the hacker activity was not

authorized to speak publicly on the subject and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. It was unclear, the official said, whether the hackers were foreign or domestic, or what their motives might be. ABC News earlier reported that more than 20 states were targeted.

The FBI last month warned state officials of the need to improve their election security after hackers targeted systems in Illinois and Arizona. FBI Director James Comey told lawmakers this week that the agency is looking "very, very hard" at Russian hackers who may try to disrupt the U.S. election.

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Veterans Day Tribute

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Join us for Veterans Day Wednesday, November 9 in the Hermiston Herald and Friday, November 11 in the East Oregonian, as we honor the men and women of the U.S. Military. Their courage, hard work and sacrifice are the backbone of our nation, protecting freedom, liberty, justice and all we hold dear.

Bring in a photo and message to 211 SE Byers Ave, Pendleton or 333 E Main, Hermiston; or email to classifieds@eastoregonian.com.

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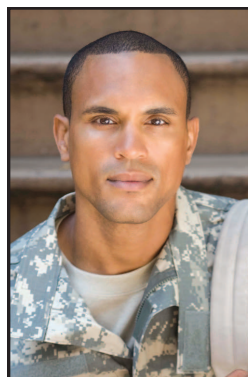


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