



Regional Secretariat
10/96 Trendy Building (Fl. 6), Soi 13,
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10 October 2017

Mr. Tim Cook,
Chief Executive Officer,
Apple Incorporation.

Re: Immediately remove apps that are promoting murder, extrajudicial killings, violence, and the war on drugs in the Philippines.

Dear Mr. Cook,

We, the undersigned, bring to your attention numerous apps, which actively promote and endorse violence and killings of marginalized communities of people who use drugs. As organizations and networks representing these communities, we find these depictions and promotions extremely shocking, especially given their divergence from Apple's strict guidelines that pertain to your apps. Where Apple is a staunch proponent of human values, community and connectedness, your promoting, through the App store, of the killing of people who use drugs is in clear contradiction of your values as an organization.

Specifically, numerous apps currently available through Apple are actively promoting the war on people who use drugs in the Philippines, a war that has resulted in the state-endorsed murders of more than 13,000 people¹ – many of them children – ostensibly suspected of using or selling drugs since June 2016. Duterte's war on people who use drugs, that is often referred as 'War on Poor' has brought destruction of millions of lives of people who use drugs, including thousands who are imprisoned under inhumane conditions, their families and children who were already the most marginalized in and vulnerable to the Philippines system.

On the Human Rights Council 36th session, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in his statement said, *"In the Philippines, I continue to be gravely concerned by the President's open support for a shoot-to-kill policy regarding suspects, as well as by the apparent absence of credible investigations into reports of thousands of extrajudicial killings, and the failure to prosecute any perpetrator."*²

The atrocities occurring in the Philippines are widely known, but bear repeating: as you probably know, Duterte has repeatedly incited the public and Filipino police to murder any people suspected of any drug offences³ with impunity and has given a clear *'license to kill'*⁴. Recently, his war on people who use drugs hit a new level of brutality in the killing of 32 people in just one night of August⁵, targeting impoverished people, young people, and students, and has recently given a clear order to his authorities to shoot human rights activists⁶. His message is clear: drug users are subhuman, they are zombies, and they do not have the right to life.



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To reiterate, numerous apps, including those in the picture below actively promote these atrocities occurring in the Philippines. These games valorize and normalize the emerging tyranny of Duterte's presidency and his government's disregard for human rights principles. In virtual reality these games may seem harmless and fun, but when they are placed within the context of existing realities, of real murders of people and the impunity of law enforcement, then these games become offensive and distasteful.



Fighting Crime 2
Games



Duterte knows
Kung Fu: Pino...
Games



In-App Purchases



Duterte Running
Man Challeng...
Games



In-App Purchases



Tsip Bato: Ang
Bumangga Giba!
Games



Duterte Vs
Zombies
Games



These games clearly violate the App Store Review Guidelines that explicitly mention following points as objectionable content under the very first section related to 'Safety':⁷

- “Defamatory, discriminatory, or mean-spirited content, including references or commentary about religion, race, sexual orientation, gender, national/ethnic origin, or other targeted groups, particularly if the app is likely to humiliate, intimidate, or place a targeted individual or group in harm’s way. Professional political satirists and humorists are generally exempt from this requirement.
- Realistic portrayals of people or animals being killed, maimed, tortured, or abused, or content that encourages violence. “Enemies” within the context of a game cannot solely target a specific race, culture, real government, corporation, or any other real entity.”

Mr. Cook, Duterte’s war on people who use drugs in the Philippines has been condemned by United Nations^{8,9,10}, International Criminal Court (ICC)¹¹, over 45 country governments¹² and over 375 community and civil society organizations globally¹³. Already 2 cases have been filed against him at the ICC¹⁴. It is entirely inappropriate for Apple to be promoting the actions, policies and discourses of a politician and state that have resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent people. It is also entirely incongruous with Apple’s progressive and inclusive philosophies. It is unacceptable that Apple is tolerant to making profit out of people’s unjust deaths and misery. We can only conclude that Apple is not aware that these apps are available in your store.



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Therefore, we urgently request a formal review of the apps made available by Apple, and demand that you remove all the abovementioned games immediately and issue an apology for hosting such insensitive content.

Yours,

1. 4Front Advisors, USA
2. A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing), USA
3. Aafno Nepal
4. Access to Rights and Knowledge (ARK) Foundation, India
5. Acción Semilla, Bolivia
6. Acción Técnica Social, Bogota, Colombia
7. Advocacy, Research, Training and Services (ARTS) Foundation, Pakistan
8. AFEW International, Netherlands
9. Asia Catalyst, USA
10. Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA), Thailand
11. Asia Pacific Transgender Network, Thailand
12. Asian Network of People who Use Drugs (ANPUD), Thailand
13. Association for Promotion sustainable development, India
14. Association National de Soutien aux Seropositifs et malades du Sida (ANSS), Burundi
15. Bangladesh Apparels Workers Federation –BAWF, Bangladesh
16. Belangenvereniging Druggebruikers MDHG, Netherlands
17. Blacks in Law Enforcement of America, USA
18. BOOM!Health, USA
19. Bright Future Drug and Alcohol Treatment & Rehabilitation Center, Nepal
20. Broken No More, USA
21. CACTUS Montreal, Canada
22. Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Canada
23. Child Justice League Inc., Philippines
24. Coalition des organismes communautaires québécois de lutte contre le sida (COCQ-SIDA), Canada
25. Coalition of Drug Users in Nepal
26. Coalition Plus, UK
27. Correlation Network – European Network Social Inclusion & Health, Netherlands
28. Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats Secretariat, Philippines
29. Delhi Drug Users Forum, India
30. Denver Relief Consulting, USA
31. Drug Harm Reduction Advocacy Network, Nigeria
32. Drug Policy and Harm Reduction Platform in Malawi
33. Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii, USA



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34. društvo AREAL, Slovenia
35. Empire State NORML, USA
36. Empower India, India
37. EPSD Estudiantes por una Política Sensata de Drogas, México
38. Eurasian Network Of People Who Use Drugs, Lithuania
39. FAAAT.net (Foundation for Alternative Approaches to Addiction, Think & do tank), France
40. Family Council on Drug Awareness, USA
41. Fedito Bxl (Fédération bruxelloise des Institutions pour Toxicomanes), Belgium
42. Films4Peace Foundation, Bangladesh
43. Forum Droghe, Italy
44. Foundation for Women, Thailand
45. Fuoriluogo.it, Italy
46. Gateway Foundation Nepal
47. Gaurav, India
48. Golden Gate University School of Law SSDP, USA
49. Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS), India
50. GRASP: Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing, USA
51. Grupo de Ativistas em Tratamentos (GAT), Portugal
52. Harm Reduction Australia
53. Harm Reduction Coalition, USA
54. Harm Reduction International, UK
55. Harm Reduction Michigan, USA
56. Health GAP
57. Help Not Handcuffs, Inc., USA
58. Housing Works, USA
59. Human Rights and the Drug War, USA
60. Human Rights Focus Pakistan
61. ICEERS Foundation, Netherlands
62. India HIV/AIDS Alliance, India
63. Indian Drug Users Forum, India
64. Institute for Inner Balance, USA
65. Integrated Bar of the Philippines - National Center for Legal Aid, Philippines
66. Intercambios Civil Association, Argentina
67. International community of women living with HIV in Asia Pacific, Thailand
68. International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), UK
69. International HIV/AIDS Alliance, UK
70. International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD), UK
71. Jewish Social Policy Action Network, USA
72. John Mordaunt Trust, UK
73. KHANA, Cambodia
74. KORSANG, Cambodia
75. Kripa Foundation Nagaland, India
76. La Società della Ragione ONLUS, Italy
77. Latin American Network of People who Use Drugs
78. Latinoamerica Reforma, Chile
79. LatinoJustice PRLDEF, USA



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80. LUBIS - Indonesian Legal Roundtable, Indonesia
81. Marijuana Policy Project, USA
82. MARUAH, Singapore
83. Moms United to End the War on Drugs, USA
84. mumsDU -- moms united and mandated to saving the lives of Drug Users, USA
85. Nagaland Users' Network, India
86. National Council of Churches, USA
87. National CSO Platform for Climate Change and REDD+ in Vanuatu
88. National Users Network of Nepal
89. North American Network of People who Use Drugs, Canada
90. NSW Users and AIDS Association, Australia
91. Observatorio Global de cultivos y cultivadores declarados ilícitos, Colombia
92. Pasifika Network of People who Use Drugs
93. Penington Institute, Australia
94. PILS (Prevention Information et lutte contre le sida), Mauritius
95. Portail VIH/sida du Québec, Canada
96. Positive Women Inc., New Zealand
97. Prarambha Treatment and Rehabilitation center, Nepal
98. Project Inform, USA
99. Queensland Injectors Voice Advocacy and Action (QuIVAA), Australia
100. Rainbow Pride Foundation, Fiji
101. Recovering Nepal
102. Release | Drugs, The Law & Human Rights, UK
103. Richmond Fellowship Nepal
104. Romanian Association Against Aids (ARAS), Romania
105. Saathi samuha, Nepal
106. Safe Streets Arts Foundation, USA
107. Savisthri National Women's Movement of Sri Lanka
108. Shirkat Gah - Women's Resource centre, Pakistan
109. Social Awareness Service Organisation (SASO), India
110. Sonoran Prevention Works, USA
111. St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction, USA
112. StoptheDrugWar.org, USA
113. Students for Sensible Drug Policy, USA
114. Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) Australia
115. Suruwat, India
116. The American Alliance for Medical Cannabis, USA
117. The Cannabis Alliance, USA
118. The Theater Offensive, USA
119. TLF Share Collective, Inc., Philippines
120. Transform Drug Policy Foundation, UK
121. Trystereo/New Orleans Harm Reduction Network, USA
122. UDYAMA, India



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| 123. Uganda Harm Reduction Network, Uganda | 127. Youth Association for Development (YAD) Pakistan |
| 124. Vicente Sederberg LLC, USA | 128. Youth LEAD, Thailand |
| 125. Women and the Harm Reduction International Network, | 129. Youth Peer Education Network Pilipinas, Inc., Philippines |
| 126. Women's Coalition Against Cancer in Malawi | 130. Youth RISE, UK |
| | 131. Youth Voices Count, Thailand |

Endnotes:

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- ¹ Thousands demand end to killings in Duterte's drug war: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/08/thousands->
 - ² Darker and more dangerous: High Commissioner updates the Human Rights Council on human rights issues in 40 countries - Human Rights Council 36th session, Opening Statement by Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true>
 - ³ The Philippines' Duterte Incites Vigilante Violence: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/04/19/philippines-duterte-incites-vigilante-violence>
 - ⁴ "License to Kill" Philippine Police Killings in Duterte's "War on Drugs": <https://www.hrw.org/report/2017/03/02/license-kill/philippine-police-killings-dutertes-war-drugs>
 - ⁵ Philippine police kill 32 in bloodiest night of Duterte's war on drugs: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/aug/16/philippines-police-bloodiest-night-duterte-war-drugs>
 - ⁶ Philippines: Duterte Threatens Human Rights Community: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/08/17/philippines-duterte-threatens-human-rights-community>
 - ⁷ App Store Review Guidelines: <https://developer.apple.com/app-store/review/guidelines/>
 - ⁸ Secretary-General's remarks at the UN Correspondents Association Reception: <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2016-06-08/secretary-generals-remarks-un-correspondents-association-reception>
 - ⁹ Statement by the UNODC Executive Director on the situation in the Philippines: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2016/August/statement-by-the-unodc-executive-director-on-the-situation-in-the-philippines.html>
 - ¹⁰ INCB expresses concern about reports of violence against persons suspected of drug-related crime and drug use in the Philippines: https://www.incb.org/incb/en/news/press-releases/2016/press_release030816.html
 - ¹¹ Int'l Criminal Court chief prosecutor warns PH over drug killings: <http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2016/10/14/Intl-Criminal-Court-chief-prosecutor-warns-PH-over-drug-killings.html>
 - ¹² 45 UNHRC members call for end to killings: <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2017/05/12/1699064/45-unhrc-members-call-end-killings>
 - ¹³ Over 300 NGOs call on the United Nations to take immediate action on the hundreds of extrajudicial killings of suspected drug offenders in the Philippines: <http://idpc.net/media/press-releases/2016/08/over-300-ngos-call-on-the-united-nations-to-take-immediate-action-on-the-hundreds-of-extrajudicial-killings-of-suspected-drug-offenders-in-the-philippines>
 - ¹⁴ 'Mass murder' complaint filed against Philippines' President Duterte at ICC: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/25/mass-complaint-launched-against-philippines-president-duterte-at-icc>