

Philippines president to Obama: 'I'm no American puppet'

By Sheena McKenzie and Kevin Liptak, CNN

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Story highlights

Planned meeting between US and Filipino Presidents may be off the table

Duterte says he is "not answerable to anyone except the Filipino people"

(CNN) — President Obama had better think twice about raising the issue of Philippine extra-judicial killings, warned the country's confrontational leader on Monday.

The US president and his Philippines counterpart, Rodrigo Duterte, were set to meet in Laos this week, where Obama is attending a meeting of Southeast Asian leaders. White House officials [previously said](#) Obama would confront the Philippines President about his country's handling of drug dealers, [including extra-judicial killings](#), or government executions without the benefit of judicial proceedings or due process.

But the Filipino leader did not take kindly to that notion.

"Who does he think he is? I am no American puppet. I am the president of a sovereign country and I am not answerable to anyone except the Filipino people," Duterte scoffed in a speech Monday. "Son of a b****, I will swear at you."



Photos: Rodrigo Duterte has said some outrageous things.

As he addressed troops at the country's Armed Forces Central Command Headquarters on August 5 Duterte recounted U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's visit to the country, saying in Tagalog that he was feuding with U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg.

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Duterte went on to blame the US for causing the unrest on the southern Philippines Island of Mindanao.

"As a matter of fact, we inherited this problem from the United States," he said. "Why? Because they invaded this country and made us their subjugated people. Everybody has a terrible record of extra-judicial killing. Why make an issue about fighting crime?"

He added: "Look at the human rights of America along that line. The way they treat the migrants there."

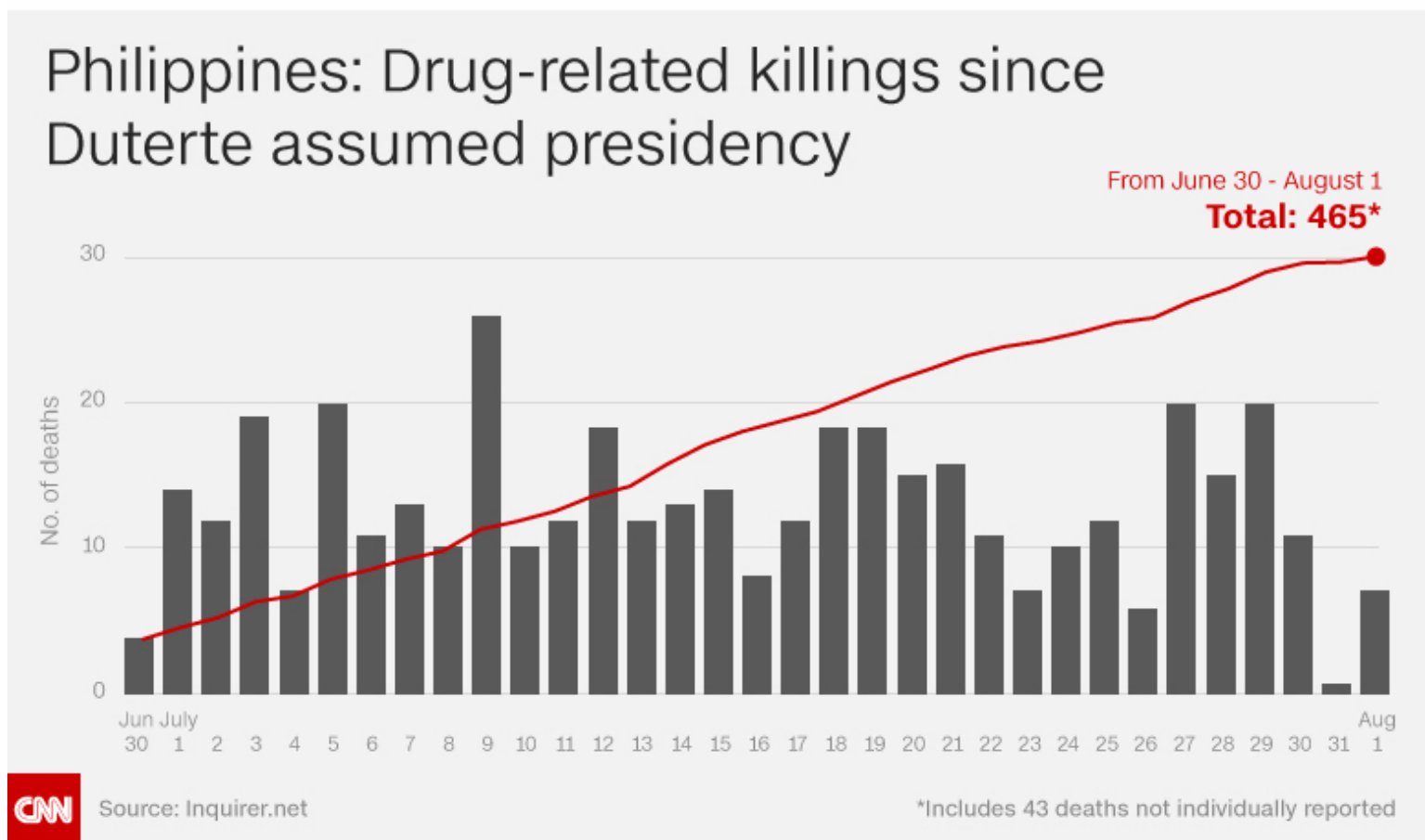
[Read more: Who is Rodrigo Duterte? From 'Punisher' to Philippines President](#)

Obama: Nothing off the table

In response, Obama suggested Monday his planned meeting with Duterte may not go forward.

"I always want to make sure if I'm having a meeting that it's productive and we're getting something done," Obama [said during his news conference](#).

"If and when we have a meeting, this is something that is going to be brought up," Obama said, referring to the Philippines' controversial record of combating drug crime since Duterte took office earlier this year.



The Philippines war on drugs

Since Duterte was elected, more than [1,900 people have died](#), including at least 700 in police operations that were part of the president's hardline war on drugs.

"Double your efforts. Triple them, if need be. We will not stop until the last drug lord, the last financier, and the last pusher have surrendered or put behind bars -- or below the ground, if they so wish," Duterte said during his State of the Nation speech on July 25.

[Read more: Duterte's crackdown -- 6 stories from the front lines](#)



Jennilyn Olayres hugs her partner, Michael Siaron, on the street where he was shot. Next to him is a placard which reads "I'm a pusher."

Despite the bullish tone, a government spokesman insists that the Duterte administration is [against any form of extra-judicial killings](#).

"We do not condone these acts," Presidential Communications Office Secretary Martin Andanar said.

"(The) government is here to save our people from the drug menace and punish the offenders, including the big-time ones. The PNP (Philippines National Police) continues to investigate situations involving vigilante killings and operational aspects where deaths are reported."



and crime to condemn the "alarming surge in killings of suspected drug users or dealers" in the country.

CNN's Ben Westcott and Euan McKirdy contributed to this report



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