

SHRINKING SPACE FOR TRUTH

PRESS FREEDOM IN THE PHILIPPINES





- Started as a Facebook page in 2011
- Launched website in 2012
- Journalists given full editorial and management control





SPACE SHRINKERS:

- GOVERNMENT
ATTACKS
- ONLINE ATTACKS



GOVERNMENT ATTACKS ON RAPPLER

- Securities and Exchange Commission decision to revoke license (not final and executory)
- Cyberlibel case over a 2012 story (dismissed for lack of legal basis, then revived)
- P133-million tax evasion complaint
- Department of Education terminates project with Rappler
- Presidential coverage ban

7 GOVERNMENT OFFICES AFTER RAPPLER

- Malacañang Palace
- Office of Solicitor-General
- Department of Justice
- National Bureau of Investigation
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- Bureau of Internal Revenue
- Department of Education



PHILIPPINES

Duterte himself banned Rappler reporter from Malacañang coverage

(UPDATED) President Rodrigo Duterte orders the head of Malacañang's Internal House Affairs Office to ensure that Rappler CEO Maria Ressa and reporter Pia Ranada cannot enter the Palace

Rappler.com

Published 2:22 PM, February 20, 2018

Updated 12:34 PM, February 24, 2018



Facebook



Twitter



Reddit



Email



DUTERTE'S BAN

- Reason from Palace: "annoyance" with Rappler
- No written order
- Ban from entire Malacañang complex
- No Rappler reporter can cover his events
- No timeframe



ONLINE ATTACKS



Duterte Today

April 27 · 🌐

Ressa said it's hard to be an anti-Duterte now.

She made the claim during a live radio interview for a media outlet in Vancouver, Canada.



Rappler's Maria Ressa claims 90 people per minute wanted to rape her

If this informant were to be believed, Rappler founder Maria Ressa said that there are about 90 people per minute who wanted to rape her. ...

ASIANPOLICY.PRESS

Batitang Mira IKAW AY ISANG NAPAKALAKING INUTIL AT BAYARAN NA REPORTER!
Like · Reply · 🍌 2 · June 3 at 7:30am

Batitang Mira Yan ang sinasabi ni Duterte.. kaya merong mga journalist na namamatay dahil sa kabastusan.. kaya Ms. Inutil Bayaran Pia ipagdasal mo na sana hindi ka **mapabilang sa mga napapatay..**
Like · Reply · 🍌 4 · June 3 at 7:35am

11.06.2017
ABANGAN!



THE WORLD ACCORDING TO PIA RANADA
(THIS, MY FRIENDS, IS HOW AN IDIOT LOOKS LIKE)



ThinkingPinoy

Like This Page · October 31 · 🌐

NAPAPRANING NA KAYA SI PIA?

Spokesperson [Harry L. Roque](#), whom the id Rapplerette [Pia Ranada Robles](#) accused of p to throw hollow blocks at critics, shall head t Office of the Presidential Spokesperson star November 2017.

Mababato kaya si SPO4 ng hollow blocks at adobe?

ABANGAN! — 🤔 feeling excited at 📍 Malac Palace.

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

🍌 🍌 🍌 6.2K

191 Shares

[Allan Ilava](#) Saan no ba nwideng inatala an



Write a comment...

CYBERBULLYING, ONLINE HARASSMENT OF JOURNALISTS

- **Hateful, hurtful, baseless, discriminatory, repeated attacks meant to embarrass and silence the victim.**

TRUTH UNDER SIEGE

Anonymous and fake accounts influenced and rallied real people to create and spread memes with simple, unified messages:

- "Bias" – that media groups are biased against Duterte.
- "Bayaran"/"Presstitutes" – that journalists are paid and corrupt.
- "Oligarchs" – Class war, and that journalists work for vested interests.
- "Clickbait" – that media groups are commercial interests so they use clickbait headlines for cash initiatives.
- "Yellow" – DDS vs Yellow; that the media is involved in a movement to bring back the Aquino government, and that if you are critical of the administration, you are anti-change and not pro-country
- "Fake News, Misinformation" – that the media is the source of fake news and misinformation

FAKE NEWS

QUEEN ELIZABETH PRAISED PRESIDENT DUTERTE FOR RAISING THE PHILIPPINES FROM "GRASS TO GRACE" ? MUST READ!!!

2 comments



The Queen of United Kingdom had already commented about President Rodrigo Duterte? Well, this very unusual, unlike the United States, United Nations, and the European Union are against the President of the Philippines. Queen Elizabeth had praised President Duterte for he is raising the Filipinos from "grass to grace"

" The Philippines is now reforming in the hands of President Duterte. Who would have thought that one day, a simple ordinary man would rise and shine? Who would have thought that one day, Philippines will get a brave

DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGNS

PHILIPPINES

Propaganda war: Weaponizing the internet

In the Philippines, paid trolls, fallacious reasoning, leaps in logic, poisoning the well – these are only some of the propaganda techniques that have helped shift public opinion on key issues

Maria A. Ressa
@mariaressa
Published 7:00 PM, October 03, 2016
Updated 8:36 PM, October 03, 2016

164
733
Twitter
Reddit
Email



RAPPLER.COM

NEWSBREAK

How Facebook algorithms impact democracy

Its algorithms decide what you see. And they don't distinguish fact from fiction.

Maria A. Ressa
@mariaressa
Published 12:23 PM, October 08, 2016
Updated 11:15 PM, October 08, 2016

75
19



RAPPLER.COM

INVESTIGATIVE

Fake accounts, manufactured reality on social media

Suspicious and fake Facebook accounts share common practices, forming a nest that spreads and repeats lies and propaganda

Chay F. Hofileña
@chayhofileña
Published 10:04 AM, October 09, 2016
Updated 9:55 AM, October 15, 2016

67
241
Twitter
Reddit
Email

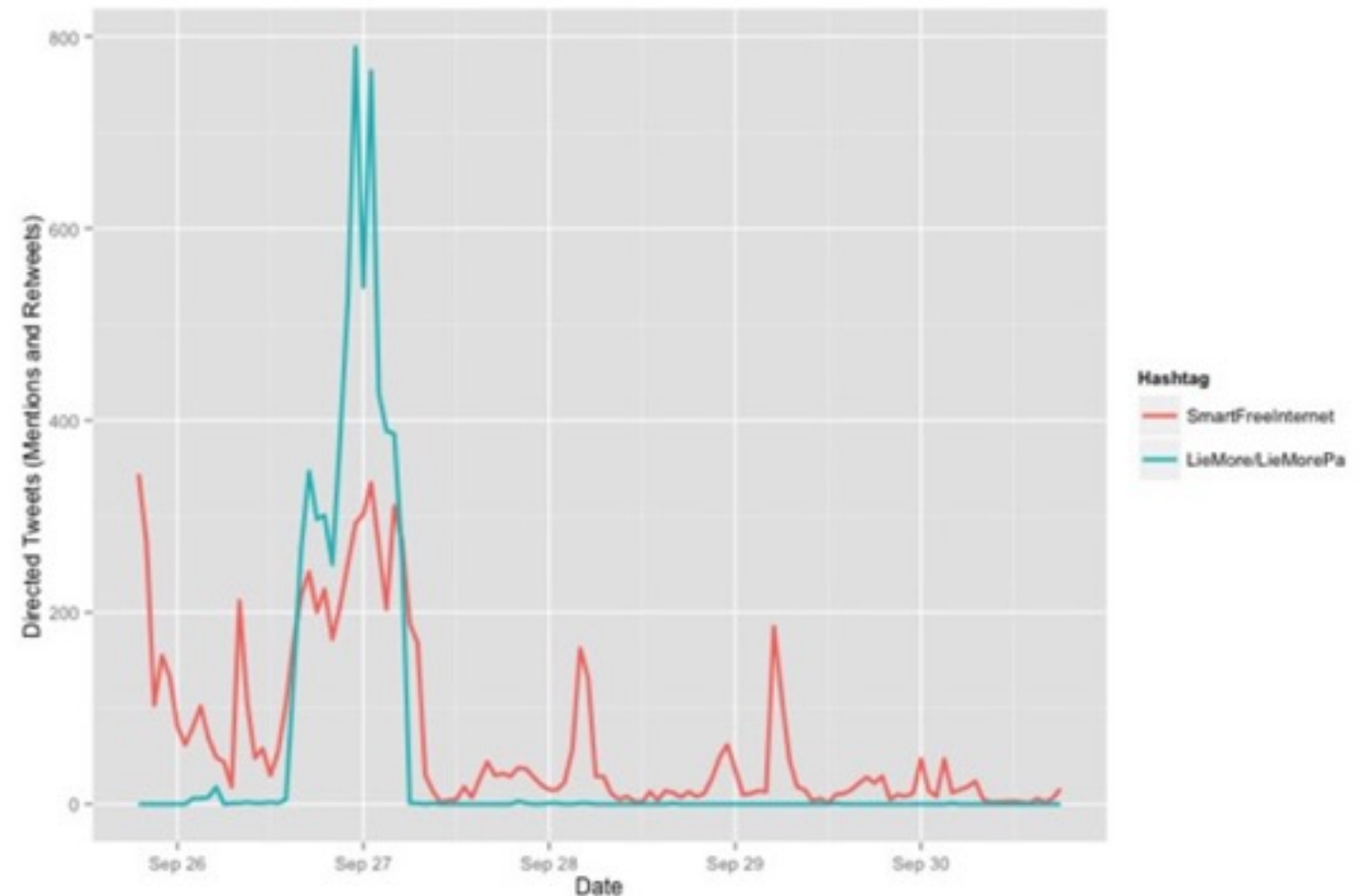


RAPPLER.COM

BOTS

a program written to give an automated response to posts on social media, creating the perception that there's a tidal wave of public opinion. Since this is machine-driven, it can manufacture thousands of posts per minute.

#SmartFREEInternet vs #LieMore. #LieMorePa



FAKE ACCOUNTS

a manufactured online identity, sometimes also considered a troll depending on the account's behavior.

The image is a screenshot of a Facebook profile page for a user named Anna Nicole Rodrigo. The profile features a cover photo of a scenic landscape with a lake, a bridge, and trees with autumn foliage. The profile picture is a portrait of a young woman. The page includes a navigation bar with links to 'Timeline', 'About', 'Friends', 'Photos', and 'More'. Below the profile information, there is a section titled 'DO YOU KNOW ANNA NICOLE?' with a green 'Add Friend' button. The 'Intro' section lists details about the user's background, including being a former talent manager at GMA Network Inc., studying at the University of the Philippines Diliman, and living in Bacoor, Cavite. The 'Photos' section shows 'Nothing to show', and the 'Friends' section shows '56' friends. A post by Haring David, dated April 15, 2016, is visible, titled 'An Open Letter to Mayor Duterte and Sen. Bongbong Marcos'. The post text expresses support for both and mentions the user's family's connection to the Iglesia Ni Cristo. The right sidebar shows 'YOUR GAMES' and 'RECOMMENDED GAMES'.

Anna Nicole Rodrigo

Timeline About Friends Photos More

DO YOU KNOW ANNA NICOLE?

To see what she shares with friends, send her a friend request.

Add Friend

Intro

- Former Talent Manager at GMA Network Inc.
- Studied at University of the Philippines Diliman
- Went to Bacoor National High School
- Lives in Bacoor, Cavite
- From Bacoor, Cavite

Photos - Nothing to show

Friends - 56

Anna Nicole Rodrigo updated her cover photo. January 15 · gh

Haring David

April 15, 2016 ·

An Open Letter to Mayor Duterte and Sen. Bongbong Marcos

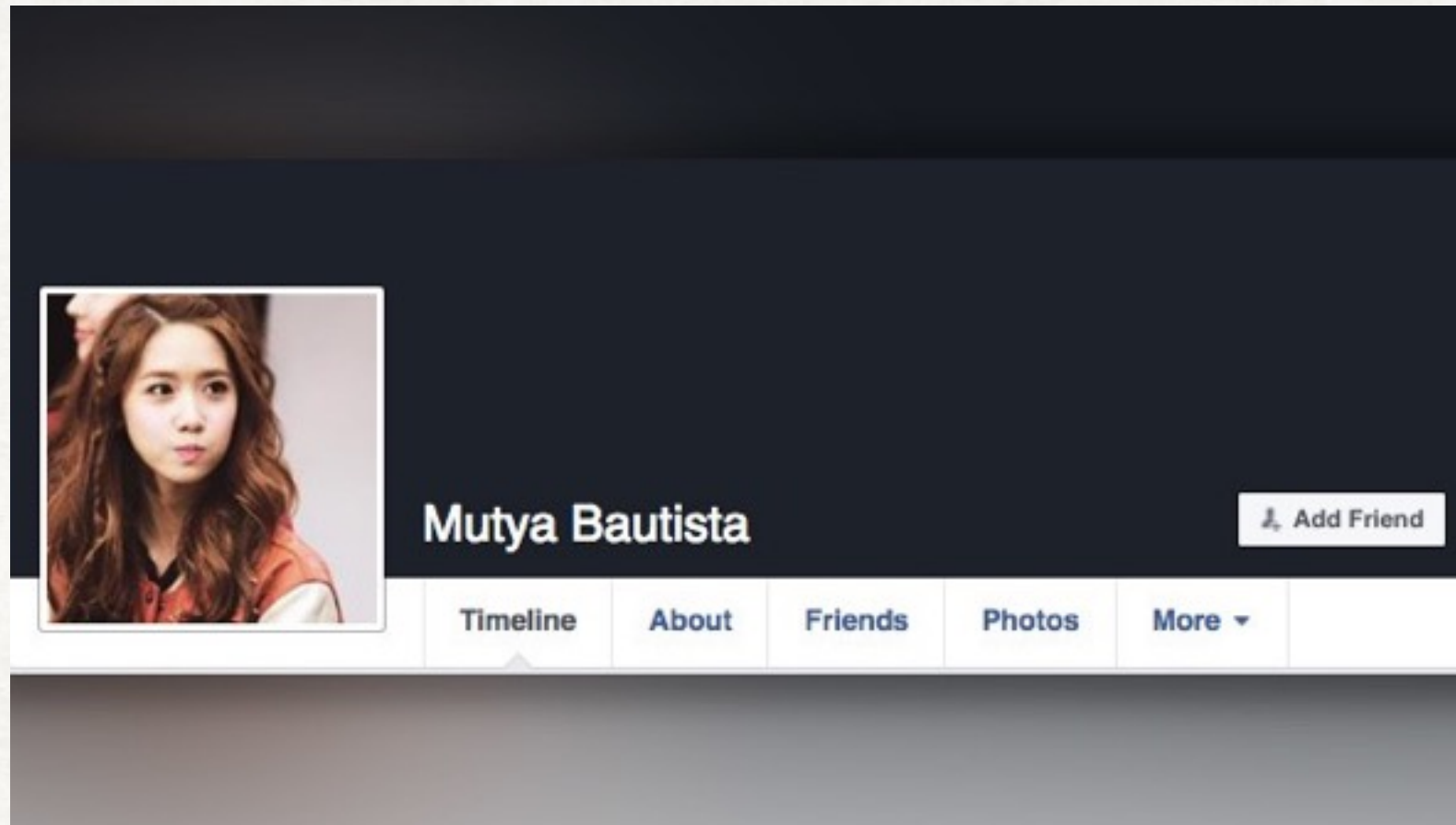
I am taking this opportunity to show my support to both of you. I will make this short as possible para naman yong iba na hindi mahilig magbasa ay hindi mainip.

First to Sen. Bongbong Marcos. I know that your family is close to Iglesia Ni Cristo leaders, especially your deceased father, your mother Imelda, to our deceased beloved Ka Erdy. I know that in every election, INC is always behind your back and they never abandoned you. I know a lot about it, and many people know about it. Bilang anak ng dating ministro ng Iglesia na malapit kay Ka Erdy, naikwento rin ng yumao kong ama kung gaano kalapit si dating pangulong Marcos kay Ka Erdy kung kaya't ganun na rin ang pagsuporta ng Iglesia sa iyong kandidatura noon at ngayon, maging sa ibang miyembro ng inyong pamilya.

SOCKPUPPETS

used to either amplify a message, drown out a contrary or conflicting message, or even create a false sense of the popularity of an idea or cause through amplification and spread.





- A supposed 'software analyst at ABS CBN (but is not)
- Uses photo of Kpop group Girl's Generation's Im Yoona
- 21 friends
- Tied to over 160 groups and other OFW groups
- **Linked to over 2.8 million accounts**

TROLLS

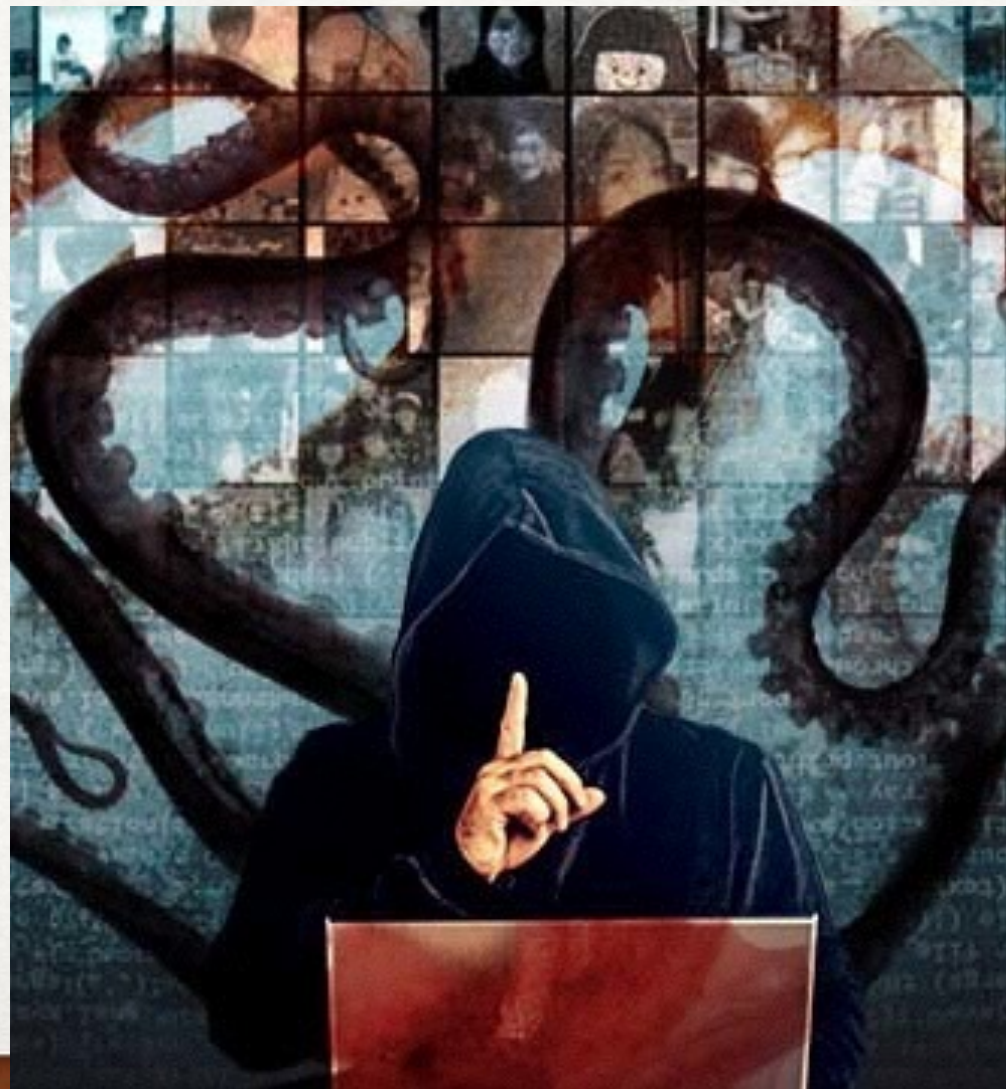
real accounts
sowing anger and
hatred. Not all
trolls are part of
a paid propaganda
campaign, but for
those who are,
they can get paid
up to P100,000/
month.



THEIR STRATEGY?

“Death by a thousand cuts”

- lies and half-truths that fabricate an alternative reality by merging the power of bots, trolls, and fake accounts, sometimes with personal attacks, to sow fear, doubt, and manipulate real people



WHAT JOURNALISTS ARE DOING

- ▶ Hold the powerful accountable
- ▶ Biased for the truth
 - ▶ Research. Verify sources. Attribute.
 - ▶ Speak truth. Debunk lies.
- ▶ Be innovative
- ▶ Engage and believe in the good
 - ▶ Fight for democracy.
 - ▶ Push for positive change.





The screenshot shows the homepage of 'THE ASIAN POLICY' website. The main headline reads: 'Rappler's Maria Ressa claims 90 people per minute wanted to rape her'. Below the headline is a video player showing a man speaking, with the text 'Psychology News' overlaid. To the right of the main content is a 'POPULAR POSTS' section with several article thumbnails. A large, semi-transparent red watermark with the word 'FAKE' in a stylized font is overlaid diagonally across the entire page.





RAPPLER BLOGS

Is Duterte's '4 million drug addicts' a 'real number'?

The government holds a #RealNumbersPH forum but fails to justify the continued use of the '4 million drug addicts' figure



Pia Ranada

@piaranada

Published 10:30 AM, May 06, 2017

Updated 11:40 PM, May 08, 2017



Facebook



Twitter



INVESTIGATIVE

Bong Go intervenes in P15.5-B project to acquire PH warships

Special Assistant to the President Bong Go issues a blanket denial, saying someone might be using his name. But documents show otherwise.

Part 1



Carmela Fonbuena

@carmelaфонbuena

Published 4:11 PM, January 16, 2018

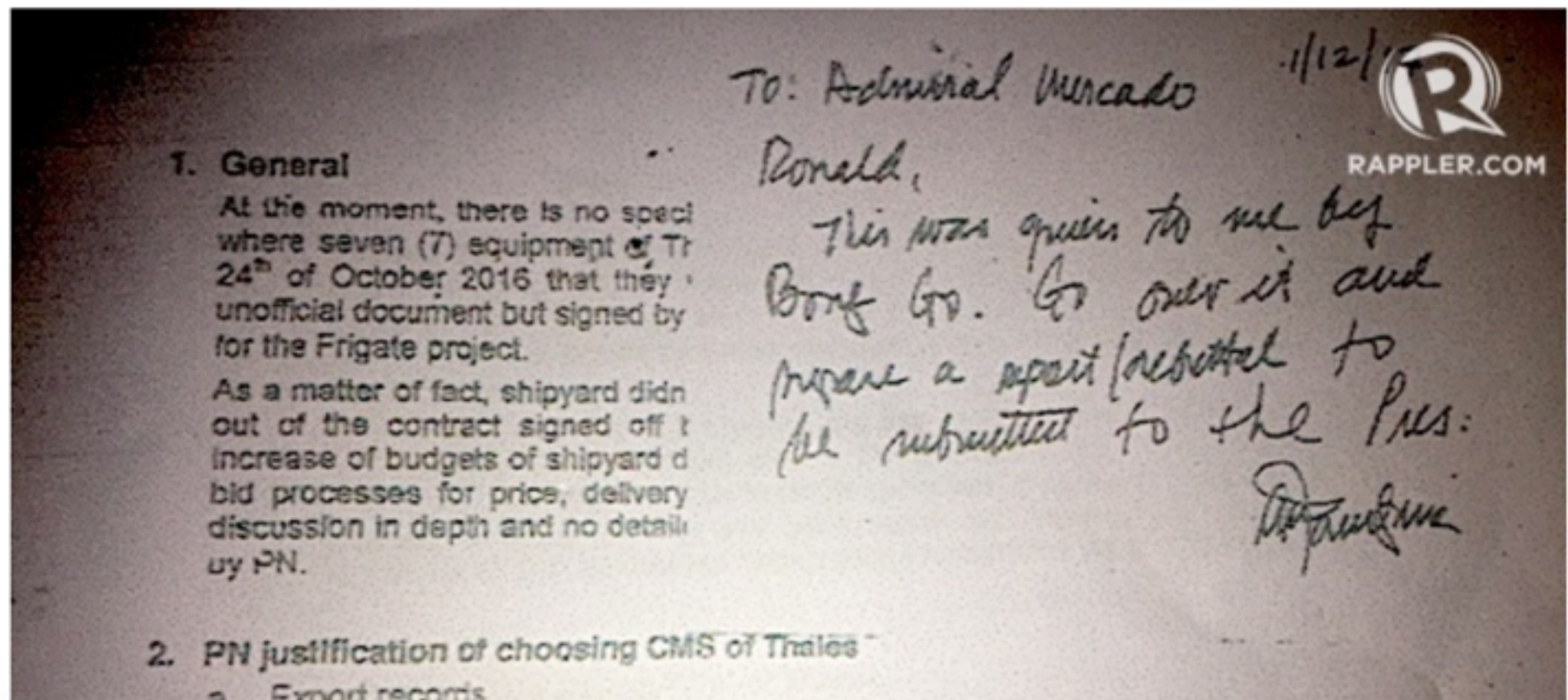
Updated 4:11 PM, January 16, 2018



Facebook



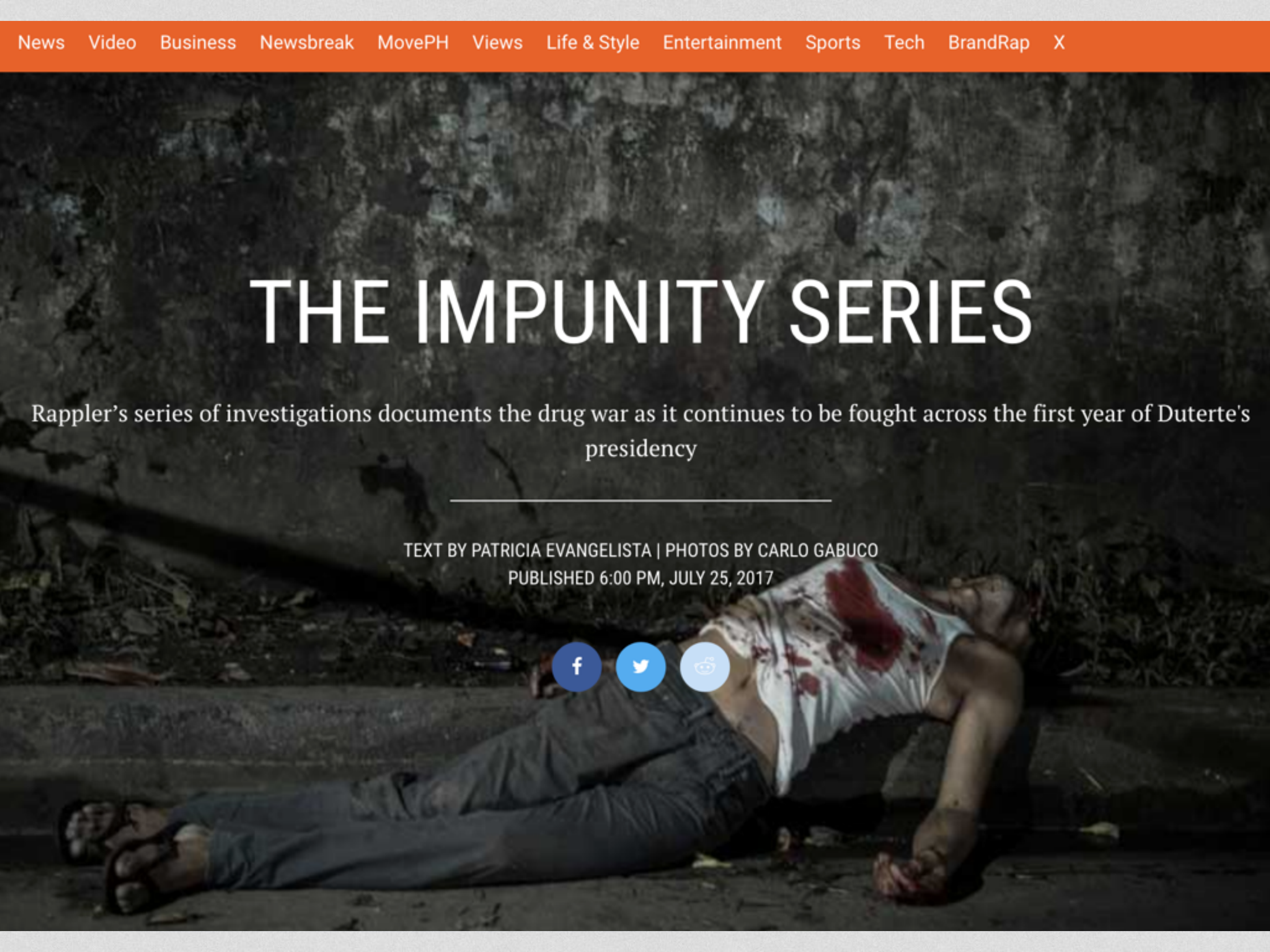
Twitter



THE IMPUNITY SERIES

Rappler's series of investigations documents the drug war as it continues to be fought across the first year of Duterte's presidency

TEXT BY PATRICIA EVANGELISTA | PHOTOS BY CARLO GABUCO
PUBLISHED 6:00 PM, JULY 25, 2017



"OUR LIBERTY DEPENDS ON
THE FREEDOM OF THE
PRESS, AND THAT CANNOT
BE LIMITED WITHOUT BEING
LOST."

— *Thomas Jefferson*