# Eleven killed in Vancouver festival attack during Lapu Lapu Day celebration



In Vancouver, a tragic incident unfolded on Saturday night during the Lapu Lapu Day festival, a celebration honouring Datu Lapu-Lapu, an Indigenous chieftain who resisted Spanish explorers in the 16th century. The festival, which was marked by vibrant cultural displays including traditional Filipino folk dances, colourful attire, and a feast of authentic dishes such as crispy lumpia and marinated pork belly, turned into a scene of devastation when a black Audi SUV drove through a closed street crowded with attendees.

The vehicle-ramming attack left eleven people dead, including a 5-year-old girl and her parents, and injured thirty-two others. Of those injured, seven were in critical condition and three were serious, according to Vancouver Police Department spokesperson Steve Addison. Authorities swiftly ruled out terrorism as a motive. The driver, 30-year-old Kai-Ji Adam Lo, has been charged with multiple counts of second-degree murder. Police revealed that Lo had a history of mental illness and had involved law enforcement just a day before the attack. It was also noted that Lo had suffered personal tragedy earlier in 2024, with the homicide of his brother, a loss he had publicly mourned in an online fundraising appeal.

The Filipino community in Vancouver has been growing steadily, becoming a significant cultural presence in the city. Filipino-owned businesses, including restaurants like Plato Filipino owned by Bennet Miemban-Ganata, have become community hubs. Miemban-Ganata expressed the shock and sorrow felt by many, stating in an interview with The Independent, "We felt ... the whole day that it’s a fun celebration, that people are happy being together... We were just there to have fun, to know that we have each other in a foreign land."

The festival has become a significant event not only for the Filipino community but also for others in the region. RJ Aquino, chair of Filipino BC, a nonprofit formed in 2023 to promote Filipino Canadian heritage, described the festival as “really a festival designed to celebrate and share our culture,” adding, “Everybody also just loves having a big party.” Aquino also shared his personal response to the attack, describing the weekend as “the highest of highs and the lowest of lows,” and emphasising the community’s resilience and mutual support as they cope with the tragedy.

British Columbia Premier David Eby commented on the incident over the weekend, highlighting the importance of the Filipino community in the province. "I don’t think there is a British Columbian that hasn’t been touched in some way by the Filipino community," he said, adding that the community “gives and gives,” and that the festival was "a celebration of their culture."

The Filipino population in Canada, particularly in British Columbia, has grown significantly since the 1960s, when immigration restrictions were eased. Today, Filipinos constitute the third-largest Asian immigrant group in Canada, with nearly 1 million residents countrywide, and about 175,000 living in British Columbia, mostly in the Vancouver area.

The Lapu Lapu Day festival, held annually since 2023, has grown in popularity, drawing attendees from other cities such as Seattle and Toronto. It serves as a celebration of Filipino culture and heritage, fostering community identity and unity in the Vancouver metropolitan area.

In response to the attack, support services have been mobilised by both the city of Vancouver and the provincial government to assist those affected by the tragedy. The Filipino community continues to come together, striving to maintain solidarity and support during this difficult period.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://apnews.com/article/449f4b862315d5e3e444079a31ad0445> - This article provides details about the tragic vehicle-ramming attack during the Lapu Lapu Day festival in Vancouver, including the number of fatalities and injuries, the suspect's identity, and the community's response.
2. <https://apnews.com/article/67355e98cec3b16b86f1c153745708f2> - This source offers information on the specifics of the car-ramming incident at the Filipino heritage festival in Vancouver, including witness accounts and the suspect's background.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/multiple-dead-after-vehicle-drives-into-crowd-vancouver-street-festival-police-2025-04-27/> - This article discusses the charges against the suspect, Kai-Ji Adam Lo, and provides context about the festival and the community's reaction to the tragedy.
4. <https://apnews.com/article/4bf1d6ba8963af0ee4f17257674cda39> - This source identifies the victims of the attack, including a 5-year-old girl and her parents, and details the suspect's history of mental health issues.
5. <https://www.huffingtonpost.es/global/mueren-personas-atropello-multitudinario-festival-callejero-vancouver-canada.html> - This article provides details about the vehicle-ramming attack during the Lapu Lapu Day festival in Vancouver, including the number of fatalities and injuries, and the suspect's identity.
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7. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/filipino-british-columbia-audi-spanish-canada-b2741269.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data