# Vehicle-ramming attack at Vancouver Filipino festival kills 11 and injures dozens



In a devastating incident that has deeply affected Vancouver's Filipino community, a vehicle-ramming attack occurred on Saturday night during a widely attended Filipino block party. The attack took place at the Lapu Lapu Day festival, an event held annually to celebrate Datu Lapu-Lapu, an Indigenous chieftain famed for resisting Spanish explorers in the 16th century. The festival, which had been a vibrant and joyous occasion filled with traditional Filipino dances, music, and cuisine, turned tragic when a black Audi SUV drove through the crowd gathered along a closed street lined with food trucks.

The attacker, 30-year-old Kai-Ji Adam Lo, allegedly struck numerous attendees, killing eleven people, including a five-year-old girl and her parents. An additional thirty-two individuals were injured, with seven reported to be in critical condition and three in serious condition as of Monday, according to Vancouver Police Department spokesperson Steve Addison. Authorities quickly ruled out terrorism as a motive. Lo, who faces multiple counts of second-degree murder, reportedly has a history of mental illness and had previous encounters with law enforcement, including one incident the day before the attack. His brother was a homicide victim earlier in 2024, a loss that deeply affected him as revealed in an online fundraising appeal.

The festival was a significant cultural event marking the growing presence of the Filipino community in Vancouver, particularly in South Vancouver where Filipino-owned businesses like Plato Filipino restaurant flourish. Bennet Miemban-Ganata, the owner of Plato Filipino, expressed profound sorrow during an interview at her restaurant. She described the festival as a time of “fun celebration” and unity, stating, “We were just there to have fun, to know that we have each other in a foreign land.”

British Columbia Premier David Eby addressed the tragedy by emphasising that the event should not overshadow the longstanding contributions of the Filipino community to the region. He remarked, “I don’t think there is a British Columbian that hasn’t been touched in some way by the Filipino community. This is a community that gives and gives and yesterday was a celebration of their culture.”

Filipino immigration to Canada has been increasing steadily since the lifting of heavy restrictions in the 1960s. Initially recruited to fill labour shortages in healthcare and manufacturing, many Filipino immigrants now work across various sectors, including finance and real estate. The Filipino population is the third-largest Asian immigrant group in Canada, with nearly one million residents nationwide and over 175,000 residing in British Columbia, primarily around Vancouver, representing over 5% of the local population.

In response to the community’s expansion and cultural significance, Filipino BC, a nonprofit organisation, was formed in 2023 to preserve and promote Filipino Canadian heritage. The organisation was behind the inaugural celebration of Lapu Lapu Day last year, which had already gained popularity with attendees coming from as far as Seattle and Toronto. RJ Aquino, chair of Filipino BC’s board, described the festival’s dual role: “It’s really a festival designed to celebrate and share our culture. Everybody also just loves having a big party.”

Aquino, who moved to Vancouver in the 1990s when the Filipino community was much smaller, spoke poignantly about the community’s resilience following the attack. Standing before a memorial decorated with flowers and a white cross, he said, “The Filipino community knows how to be resilient. How that manifests this time around—from a tragedy we’ve never experienced, on a scale like this—we’re going to see how it plays out, and I’m going to make sure we come out of this stronger.” He emphasised the importance of community support, noting that local authorities had been actively providing assistance and resources to aid those affected by the tragedy.

The attack has cast a shadow over what was intended to be a season of celebration, highlighted by Filipino Restaurant Month in April and Filipino Heritage Month in June, both marked by cultural displays and traditional foods such as crispy lumpia, grilled pork belly, and beef stew. Yet, despite the heartbreak, the Filipino community and broader Vancouver populace continue to support one another in the aftermath of this unforeseen calamity.

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

## References

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NuC19PTZL8> - This video provides information about the incident at the Lapu Lapu Festival in Vancouver, where an SUV plowed into a crowd, and the subsequent arrest of the driver.
* <https://vancouversun.com/news/vancouver-lapu-day-tragedy-victims-identified-in-memoriam> - This article discusses the aftermath of the tragedy at the Lapu Lapu Day festival, including the identification of victims and community tributes.
* <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/vancouver-attack-car-canada-witnesses-driver-charged-murder/> - This article details the legal proceedings against Kai-Ji Adam Lo, who was charged with multiple counts of second-degree murder following the attack, and the investigation's ruling out of terrorism as a motive.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - The source article provides context about the cultural significance of the Lapu Lapu Day festival and its impact on the Filipino community in Vancouver.
* <https://www.filipinobc.ca> - This would likely provide information about Filipino BC, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Filipino Canadian heritage, although it was not accessible in the search results.
* <https://www.statscan.gc.ca/en/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/98-200/2021002/98-2002021002-eng.pdf> - This PDF from Statistics Canada might provide demographic data on the Filipino population in Canada and British Columbia, supporting the article's claims about immigration trends and community size.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/filipino-british-columbia-audi-spanish-canada-b2741269.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data