

Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

25 August 2016

Thursday

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

NEWS HEADLINES 25 AUGUST 2016



Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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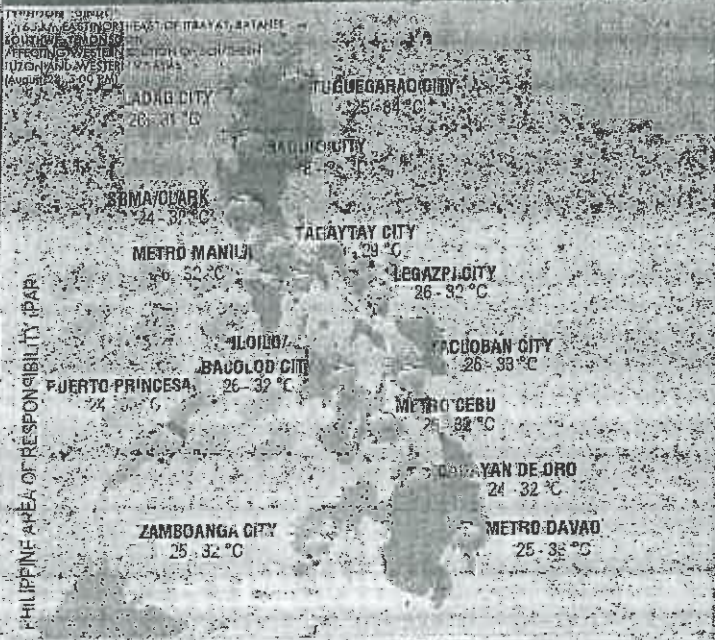


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TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | AUGUST 25, 2016 | THURSDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)



SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:43 AM	6:13 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
11:56 PM	12:03 PM

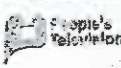


LAST QUARTER	NEW MOON
AUG 25 11:41 AM	SEP 3:06 PM


LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 8:35 PM	10:16 AM

Partly cloudy to clear with showers and/or thunderstorms.
Cloudy with showers and/or thunderstorms.

	AUG 25	AUG 26	AUG 27	AUG 28	AUG 29
METRO MANILA	25-32°C	24-31°C	23-28°C	22-27°C	21-32°C
TAGAYTAY			23-28°C	22-27°C	
TUGUEGARAO	25-32°C	24-31°C	23-32°C	25-31°C	25-32°C
LEGAZPI			23-32°C	25-31°C	
CAGAYAN DE ORO			25-32°C	25-32°C	
LAOAG	25-31°C	25-30°C	24-31°C	24-31°C	25-33°C
PUERTO PRINCESA			24-31°C	24-31°C	
METRO DAVAO					25-34°C
BAGUIO	17-22°C	16-21°C	24-32°C	24-31°C	24-32°C
ILJOLO/BACOLOD			24-32°C	24-31°C	
ZAMBOANGA					24-32°C
SBMA/CLARK	24-30°C	24-29°C	25-32°C	25-32°C	
METRO CEBU			25-32°C	25-32°C	

Watch PANAHON.TV everyday at 5:00 AM on PTV (Channel 4).



SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

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25 August 2016



Page: 1

Ex-DOJ exec tags Leila

Duterte: Sex escapades made De Lima break law

By EDU PUNAY and ALEXIS ROMERO

The secretary of justice had ultimate responsibility over the New Bilibid Prison (NBP).

Former justice undersecretary Francisco Baraan III washed his hands yesterday of involvement in drug trafficking by NBP convicts in the previous administration, saying Sen. Leila de Lima, as justice secretary, had overall supervision over the national prisons.

This developed as President Duterte continued his attacks on De Lima yesterday, saying "she was on the take" from drug lords at the NBP where she was part of a "matrix" that included Baraan, a provincial governor who served time in the prison, a police superintendent and her former driver Ronnie Dayan.

Baraan was appointed to the Department of Justice in September 2010 and resigned in November last year. He stressed all his actions in the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), which has supervision over the NBP, had the approval of De Lima.

"Folders of BuCor contracts, documents on my desk endorsed and reviewed by technical services, with the latter's corresponding recommendation, are reviewed by me, then I countersign the action document for the secretary's final signature," he said.

Baraan clarified his role in the NBP and BuCor as the supervising undersecretary in the previous ad-

ministration.

The BuCor is just one of several DOJ agencies under my limited administrative supervision... I never did oversee, either on the ground or from a distance, the prison operations in the seven penal colonies, more so the NBP," he explained.

Baraan issued the statement amid reports that he would face investigation for collecting drug money along with De Lima and Dayan. Baraan vowed to clear his name.

"All I ask is fairness and due process, a chance to vindicate myself in a formal proceeding. If a complaint will be filed, then I will have the opportunity to present my side," Baraan stressed.

President Duterte on Tuesday bared the "matrix" of drug operations inside the NBP, which he said was based on information and evidence gathered by authorities.

Duterte also said Baraan and Dayan could turn state witnesses

Turn to Page 6

Ex-DOJ exec From Page 1

against De Lima

'Sexual escapades'

Duterte, in a mix of personal and political attacks, yesterday said De Lima allowed the irregularities, including the trafficking of shabu, at the NBP when she was justice secretary.

"She (De Lima) was on the take. She would not have allowed those things to happen for nothing? You must be kidding. They were awash with shabu that time. Everyone was using it and they

were enjoying the trappings of the wealthy," Duterte said yesterday.

Duterte claimed De Lima's "sexual escapades" had compelled her to violate the law and to grant special privileges to prisoners at the national penitentiary.

"Here is a woman posturing as a crusader for good government but because she cannot control her immorality - to the credit of De Lima, she's legally annulled, she is single. But her sex escapades led her to commit several serious violations of law,"

he said.

On Tuesday, Duterte revealed De Lima is the highest-ranking official in the matrix of "narco officials" he would present this week.

Duterte also claimed the senator had built a house for Dayan in Barangay Galarin in Urbiztondo, Pangasinan.

De Lima has vehemently denied the charges, saying Duterte's allegations could be revenge for her previous investigation on his alleged involvement in the Davao death squad killings when he was mayor and she the chair

of the Commission on Human Rights.

She has denied having links with narcotics but admitted that there were "snippets of truth" in the President's allegations. She also claimed Duterte was defaming her because of her criticisms against his anti-drug war, which critics claimed have led to extrajudicial executions.

Duterte has yet to present evidence to support his accusations against De Lima.

"De Lima is angry because she got caught. All of her shenanigans even in bed are coming out," Duterte said.

New boyfriend

While he claimed he was exposing De Lima's affair

because of its connection to drugs, Duterte could not help but reveal more personal details about his nemesis.

He said De Lima has a new boyfriend but said he had nothing to do with illegal drugs.

"Ask De Lima if she has a new boyfriend. If she refuses to name her new boyfriend, I will be the one to give the name," Duterte told a press conference in Antipolo, Rizal.

Duterte later identified De Lima's new lover as a certain "Warren," a motorcycle constable of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Duterte said former MMDA chairman and defeated senatorial candidate

Francis Tolentino, who was edged out by De Lima for the last Senate slot in the elections, relayed the information to him.

Duterte hinted De Lima's private moments were even caught on camera.

"These were not (manipulated). The man intentionally did it. You will see the angles," he said.

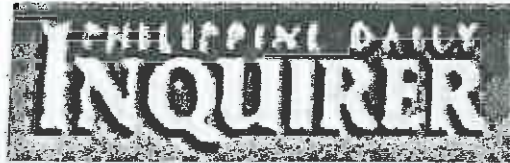
"Because of her pitfalls, she cannot control her urges. They call it *tsuk-isak*," the President said, using slang for sex.

Asked if Warren is involved in drugs, Duterte replied "None."

Duterte could not say if Warren is married.

- With Eva Visperas

August 2016



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5-yr-old girl latest fatality in war on illegal drugs

By Gabriel Cardinosa

Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—Maximo Garcia, 53, surrendered to the police on Saturday after he was told that he was on a drug watch list.

Three days later, a man approached his house at Barangay Mayombo at 12:30 p.m. and opened fire on Garcia as he and his family were having lunch.

Garcia fled to the back of the house but was shot and wounded by the gunman. His 5-year-old granddaughter, Danica May, was hit in the head and later died in hospital, the youngest fatality and latest collateral damage in President Duterte's war on illegal drugs.

Garcia, who is recuperating from a bullet wound in the stomach in a hospital guarded by policemen, was a tricycle driver until he suffered a stroke three years ago.

He had been helping his wife Gemma operate a small eatery in front of their house provided by the Department of Social Welfare and Development in the flood-prone barangay.

The wife said earnings went to food, Garcia's medicines and caring for Danica, whose 29-year-old mother has separated from her husband.

But life had been good for Danica, Gemma said.

Danica had always been excited about attending kindergarten at East Central Elementary School here, the woman said. The child would take a bath early, eat her lunch and

5-YR-OLD GIRL/48

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC

From page A1

with police, Miro said.

5 Local: 5285, 5295

head for school.

"This is so painful to us," she said. "I would miss the nights when Danica would massage us until we fell asleep. I would miss her laughter when she teased her mother."

Gemma said she was surprised to learn that her husband was on the police drug watch list. He was later persuaded by the barangay captain to surrender to clear his name and also for his own safety.

She said she could not understand why anyone would attack her husband, who she said had never been involved in illegal drugs.

"We are afraid to stay here. But the problem is where will we go? The killers may come back for my husband," she said.

Supt. Neil Miro, Dagupan police chief, theorized that drug dealers were behind the attack.

As of Tuesday, 26 suspected drug dealers had been killed in the city, four of them in a clash

Bulacan beheading

In Bulacan province on Monday night, a 14-year-old boy was beheaded allegedly by his drug-crazed uncle in the City of San Jose del Monte.

The boy's body bore multiple stab wounds when it was found by his family members on a dump in Barangay Minuyan Proper at 10 p.m., hours after witnesses saw him fleeing from his uncle, who was wielding a knife, said Supt. Wilson Magpala, San Jose del Monte police chief.

On Tuesday the police arrested the attacker, who led them to a place near a river where the boy's head was buried. The suspect was incoherent when policemen detained him.

Also on Tuesday at Barangay San Jose in Quezon City, three drug suspects were killed in an encounter with police during a "buy-bust operation" at 2:35 a.m.

Senior Supt. Guillermo Lorenzo Eleazar, city police



GRIEF has fallen on the home of Danica May Garcia, the 5-year-old girl killed on Tuesday by a gunman who was chasing her grandfather. Three days earlier, her grandfather was convinced to surrender to the police because he was on the local drug watch list.

WILLIE LOMBAGO/
INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

chief, identified one of the fatalities as Rodolfo Hallare, 48. The two other slain suspects remain unidentified but policemen estimated them to be between 20 and 30 years old.

Operatives said one of their colleagues posed as a buyer of "shabu" (methamphetamine hydrochloride) and bought

from Hallare and his group. Hallare was about to receive payment when his partners shouted they were around, triggering a gunfight.

Recovered from the scene were two .45-cal. pistols, one .38-cal. revolver, three plastic sachets of shabu and P1,490 cash.

As of Wednesday, 56 drug

suspects have been killed in police operations in Quezon City since July 1.

Eleazar, however, said that more than 700 drug suspects did not resist arrest. **With reports from Carmela Reyes-Estrope, Inquirer Central Luzon; and Maricar Brizuela in Quezon City**

OFFICE OF THE A

25 August 2016

The Manila Times

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Army allots training quota for IPs

THE Philippine Army's 3rd Infantry Division (ID) on Wednesday said it allocated a 10 percent quota for indigenous peoples (IPs) in succeeding trainings of the 3rd Division Training Unit (3DTU).

Maj. Gen. Harold Cabreros, 3rd ID commander, said he had set the quota for the IPs for the next cycles of Candidate Soldier Course (CSC) to address the concern of the tribal groups.

The move, Cabreros added, is in response to Resolution 2016-006 of the Office of the Panay Indigenous Peoples' Organization (PIPOL) requesting a quota for the IPs, particularly Panay

Bukidnon and Ati, in the Army.

The resolution was adopted on June 18, 2016.

Cabreros pointed out that the indigenous people's are more than welcome to be part of the Philippine Army.

Capt. Gizele Lim, 3rd ID spokesman, said interested applicants must have at least 72 units in college and must be 18 to 26 years old.

If the applicants are high school graduates, they must possess certified skills needed in the military service, be at least 5-feet in height, be physically and mentally fit and not have any pending case in any court.

The applicants must bring valid identification card, original transcript of records and diploma, birth certificate from the National Statistics Office, pencil and long folder.

"For interested applicants who want to dedicate their lives to serving the people and securing the land, there will be an examination called the Armed Forces of the Philippines Service Aptitude Test (AFPSAT) on August 27, 8 a.m., at the 605th Community Defense Center, RCDG [Regional Community Defense Group], Panaad Complex, Bacolod City [Negros Occidental]," Lim said.

FERNAN MARASIGAN

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15 August 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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• **Military denies
occupying Lumad
schools**

DAVAO-CITY - The 10th Infantry Division denied the allegation of the Lumad supporter Save Our Schools (SOS) Network that their soldiers occupied Lumad schools and encamped within the communities in two towns in Compostela Valley last Saturday. Capt. Rhyar Baichar, 10th ID chief division for Public Affairs Office told a joint AFP-PNP press conference that the troops under the 66th Infantry Battalion were just resting at Sitio Bongloy, Brgy. Pagsabangan, New Bataan. Baichar also called "unfounded, baseless, and malicious" another allegation that troops under the 67th Infantry Battalion, along with the 66th IB, occupied another Salugpongán school in Purok 3 in Brgy. Panansalan in Compostela. In a Facebook post Sunday, the Save Our Schools Network claimed that "several soldiers from both 66th and 67th IB stayed and encamped within the community which was just about 10 meters away from Salugpongán School in Purok 3, Barangay Panansalan, Compostela Town, Compostela Valley Province." (Antonio L. Golina IV)

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25 August 2016

POLICE FILES

Page. 3

2 sundalo patay, 3 sugatan sa engkwentro sa Abu Sayyaf

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Dalawang sundalo na ang napanat na nasawi sa engkwentro ng militar laban sa Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) na nang-ari sa Barangay Dugaa sa munisipyo ng Tuburan, Basilan. Hindi pa kinikita ang mga sundalong namatay na dinila na sa isang pribadong puneraya sa Zamboanga City.

Habaing nabatid na isa umano sa tatlong sugatang sundalo ang nasa malubhang kondisyon.

Batay sa ulat ng militar, sumiklab ang bakbakan dakong 10:20 kamakalawa ng umaga na tumagal ng ilang oras.

Sumugod umano ang tropa ng Army Special Forces sa lugar kasunod umano ng mga natanggap nilang impormasyon ukol sa nakitang presensya ng ASG.

Humihingi naman ng pagtutulungan sa mga residente si Basilan Governor Jim Hataman upang maresolba na ang itang taong problemang dala ng bandidong grupo sa lalawigan.

Siniguro rin nito ang suporta ng provincial government sa militar sa pagpapatuloy na intensified law enforcement operation laban sa mga bandido.

Sa ngayon ay hindi pa masabi kung may mga casualty din mula sa panig naman ng Abu Sayyaf.

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Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

COURTESY CALL | PMC Commandant MGen Valdez Pays a Visit to CGPA Lt Gen Año

Alvin Santiago



FORT BONIFACIO, Taguig City (DWDD) – Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps receives full military honors upon his arrival at the Army headquarters here on Tuesday, Aug. 23. Maj. Gen. Remegio C. Valdez was warmly welcomed by the Army troopers headed by Army Inspector General, BGen. Joselito M. Reyes.



Army Chief, Lt. Gen. Eduardo M. Año handed over a plaque of appreciation to Maj. Gen. Valdez at the Commanders Lounge here. Valdez, who is set to retire from the military service on Aug. 25, paid courtesy call to the Army Chief and his staff. Both Año and Valdez are members of PMA “Matikas” Class of 1983. **Photo Cpl Cesar P Lopez OACPA / MCAG**

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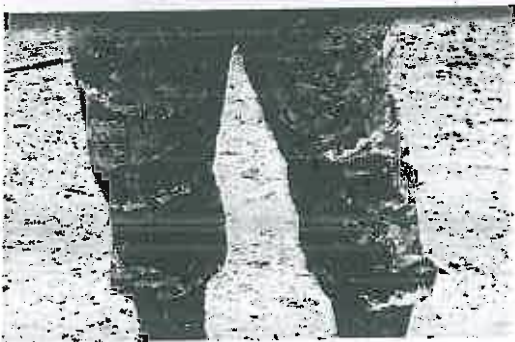
<http://news.abs-cbn.com/news>

Uniporme ng mga sundalo, papalitan na ng bago

Danielle Rebolos, ABS-CBN News



GAMU, Isabela – Pagsapit ng 2024, pangarap umano ng pamahalaan na maging world class ang sandatahang lakas, at kabilang umano sa kanilang paghahanda ay ang pagpapalit ng uniporme. "It's lighter [and] more applicable sa environment...this uniform is practically designed to adapt sa environment," ani Colonel Benjamin Hao, tagapagsalita ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), habang binibisita ang 5th Infantry Division ng Army. Nais nila umanong maisapinal ang bagong uniporme pagsapit ng Disyembre ngayong taon.



ILIGAL NA DROGA

Bilang bahagi rin ng pagsasaayos ng sandatahang lakas, sisikapin umano ng liderato na puksain ang droga sa hanay nito.

Bumuo na sila ng Task Force Midas, na siyang tututok sa programa kontra droga, ani Hao.

Noong Hulyo 5, mula sa 3,000 na sumailalim sa drug test, ay 13 ang nagpositibo, sabi ni Hao. Apat sa mga ito ay muling nagpositibo sa confirmatory test, at posibleng matatanggal sa serbisyo.

Sa ngayon ay mas mababa pa ang bilang ng mga natanggal sa serbisyo dahil sa droga kumpara sa mga nakaraang taon. Noong 2015 ay may 30 na natanggal sa serbisyo dahil sa droga, samantalang noong 2014 ay may 38, at 131 naman noong 2013.

Dagdag ni Hao, bagama't wala pang pormal na utos sa kanilang hanay patungkol sa bawal na gamot, tatlong kampo sa bansa ang ipapagamit para sa rehabilitasyon ng mga sangkot sa droga.

<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

BLACK PROPAGANDA | SOSN – SMR Falsely Accusses Troops of the 66IB and 67IB

Alvin Santiago



NSFA, Panacan, Davao City (DWDD) – The 10th Infantry (Agila) Division note with grave concern the allegations of Save Our School Network (SOS) – SMR against soldiers of 67th and 66th Infantry Battalions for allegedly encamping inside a school building at Brgy Pagsabangan, New Bataan and with community households 10 meters from a school at Brgy Panansalan, Compostela town, both of Compostela Valley Province since Saturday, August 20, 2016.

The SOSN – SMR posted on their Facebook page the said allegations on Monday, August 22, 2016. The Headquarters 10th Infantry Division immediately directed the 67IB and 66IB to explain their side on the said allegations.

Per 67IB, they do not have any troops in the said areas as these are outside of their area of operations. It appears that these allegations of SOS-SMR against 67IB are unfounded, baseless and malicious.

Per document provided by 66IB, the temporary stay of their troops at Purok 3, Brgy Panansalan was permitted by Purok Chairman Artemio Magno. In the same document, the Purok Chairman also stated that the soldiers stayed away from the houses and school.

Other documents provided by 66IB and signed by Purok Chairman Rex Basta and Purok Secretary Nerisa Gollodo stated that the troops of 66IB were allowed by the Purok Chairman and the residents to enter and rest at Sitio Bongloy, Brgy Pagsabangan. In another document, Purok Secretary Nerisa Gollodo stated that the same troops did not occupy the Salugpungan school. A picture provided by 66IB showed the said Salugpungan school at a distance of about 100 meters from the position of the soldiers where the picture was taken.

As we have always said, the 10ID welcomes reports against our troops and encourages those who were victimized to file their complaints in appropriate agencies as we do not tolerate any misbehavior by our soldiers. We have time and again called on NDF-SMR – affiliated organizations to go beyond mere propaganda by filing charges against our misbehaving troops, so that we can purge our ranks of misfits. 10DPAO / MCAG

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FIGHTING STANCE Duterte with jungle fighters of the Philippine Army.

JOAN BONDOG

25 August 2016



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President Duterte gestures along with Army soldiers during a visit at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal yesterday.

KRIZJOHN ROBALES

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25 August 2016

THE PHILIPPINE

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AFP suspends preparations for Marcos burial at Libingan

By JAIME LAUDE

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has suspended burial preparations for the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayan in Parañaque, Taguig City.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief, yesterday said suspension of preparations was in line with the status quo ante order issued by the Supreme Court with a 20-day

effectivity on the hotly debated burial issue.

"There is a status quo ante order which means that everything will have to be suspended and everything will have to be reverted to how it was before," Arevalo said.

He added the suspension covers everything from the directive issued by the Department of National Defense (DND) to the AFP to implement the planning for the interment of the former president.

The DND, acting on the verbal orders issued by President Duterte, had directed the AFP to commence preparations for Marcos' burial at the heroes' cemetery.

In return, the AFP issued an order to the Philippine Army to make the necessary preparations for burial of the deposed president.

"At the very moment that the status quo ante order was issued by the Supreme Court, the AFP readily complied with it as a manifestation of its respect to the majesty of the court," Arevalo said.

Various groups opposed to the burial of the late strongman at the Libingan filed a petition before the high court seeking to bar his interment at the Libingan on grounds that he was not qualified being a dictator and author of martial law.

Earlier, former senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr., bared that his father, whose remains now lie in state at the Marcos Mausoleum and Museum in Batac, Ilocos Norte would be finally buried at the heroes' cemetery on Sept. 18.

The young Marcos said that President Duterte has already given his approval for his father's burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayan.

President Duterte himself declared that the late strongman was qualified to be buried at the LNMB because he was a soldier and a former president.

He added that he himself would attend the burial in an event the Supreme Court (SC) rules in favor of the Marcos family and allows them to bury the late strongman at Libingan.

AFP

From Page 2

Sen. Paolo Benigno Aquino IV asked yesterday the Supreme Court to decide quickly on petitions to stop the burial of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos at the heroes' cemetery.

The senator said the status quo ante order was a good sign for him and others opposing a hero's burial for Marcos.

"We're hoping that the SC can decide already regarding the matter. And many of us who are against the burial are

waiting for the Supreme Court to have a definitive decision on the matter," Aquino said.

Sen. Leila de Lima hailed the SC order, calling it a significant victory for those against the burial.

"This means that the issue is not a purely executive decision, but involves the people, especially those who suffered and sacrificed their lives during the dictatorship," De Lima said. - With Paolo Romero

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15 August 2016



Page: 2

I'd like to beat up whoever grabbed Scarborough

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

He won't pick a fight with China, but he would happily beat up the one who seized Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal if given the chance, President Duterte said yesterday.

Addressing soldiers at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Duterte said that while he would not insist on making China follow the ruling of the UN-backed arbitral court in The Hague favoring the Philippine position on the West Philippine Sea, he made clear it would be bloody if the Chinese make further attempts to trample on Philippine sovereignty.

"Yung kumuhang Scarborough yung ang gusto ko upakan (Whoever seized Scarborough Shoal, that's the one I want to punch)," Duterte said.

"We will not raise hell now because of the judgment but there will come a time that we have to do some reckoning about this," he said.

He called on Beijing to show good faith and to foster good relations with

the Philippines.

"I hope China is dealing with us in good faith. They seem to be conciliatory. We're not insisting on arbitral judgment, I know they're listening to us now, they can monitor us through satellite," he said.

"But they better come up with what they really want. Because whether we like it or not, that arbitral judgment would be insisted, not only by the Philippines but the whole countries here in Southeast Asia," he said.

He stressed China would pay a high price if it dares to attack the Philippines.

"I am sure, I guarantee them, *kung kayo nasa masok dito* (if you come here) it will be bloody. And we will not give it to them easily. It will be the bones of our soldiers *pati na sa akin isahin niyo* (include even mine)," he said.

"We'll not allow any country to bamboozle (us). We'll not allow it."

Duterte added.

He noted that other claimant countries such as Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and Brunei might also use the UN ruling to further assert their rights in areas where they have conflict with China.

Even the United States, which is an ally, would definitely prod the Philippines to use the UN ruling to assert the country's position, the President added.

"But we will chart our own course in the national interest of this country," he said.

Duterte's challenge to Beijing came as the latter was offering to help the country rehabilitate military camps and boost the weapons capability of the Philippine National Police.

PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa has been invited to China, the President noted.

"The problem is what about us? What about the issue between us? We will not raise hell now because of the judgment but there will come a time that we have to do some reckoning about this," he said. He said his administration is committed to modernizing the armed

forces.

"We just have to spruce up your arms and your training and everything. We'll take in more men so we can defend our motherland. We do not want a quarrel. I would walk the extra mile to ask for peace for everybody," he added.

No rebalance of ties

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr said the Philippines' territorial dispute with China has not caused Manila to rebalance diplomatic ties with either its ally the United States or neighboring China.

"We want to make close friendship with China. It does not mean that we'll weaken our friendship with the United States," Yasay told *Reuters* during a break in a meeting of the senate foreign relations committee.

"We're just saying that in spite of our disputes, as regards China on the South China Sea, there are other aspects of our relationship that can proceed without having to touch upon the South China Sea issue."

On Tuesday evening, President Duterte said he expects talks with China over the maritime dispute within a year.

- Duterte, who has been in office for seven weeks, said the Philippines

will not raise the issues next month at a summit in Laos of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which the Chinese foreign ministry says welcomed.

"We look forward to China and the Philippines conducting dialogue at an early date," China's foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said yesterday.

"We believe the two sides have the ability and the wisdom to appropriately discuss and resolve problems, promote the return of relations to a track of healthy development, and bring benefits to both countries' people," he said.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea through which about \$5 trillion worth of sea-borne trade passes every year. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also have claims to parts of the sea believed to be rich in oil and gas.

China has made seven artificial islands in the disputed waters, three of them have airfields that can accommodate fighters, bombers and tankers to refuel aircraft.

At the senate hearing, Yasay said the United States will not allow China to reclaim Panatag Shoal.

In 2012, China seized Panatag Shoal after a standoff with the Philippines Navy.

- With Reuters

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Rody to troops: Look good, smell good, fight good

By ALEXIS ROMERO

Frontline troops have been given a new directive by their tough-talking and often foul-mouthed commander-in-chief.

"Do not go to war *na hila-mos lang* (just washing your face). *Magpagwapo kayo*. Look good, smell good, fight good so you can be a very good Filipino soldier," President Duterte told Army troops yesterday in Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal.

"Put on fragrant cologne so you will smell good even during war. You should be fragrant and attractive. For

the females, put lipstick," he added.

While tough on his critics, Duterte was humorous and light-hearted when talking to soldiers, who are playing a key role in his campaign against illegal drugs.

The President assured the soldiers that he would provide them everything they need to perform their mandate. And that includes a pair of decent combat boots.

"If you want new shoes, let me know, I'll buy you all," the Chief Executive said.

"I would not want to see soldiers with outmoded, outdated (equipment)," he added.

"I will give you whatever I can afford. The best there is and I hope that we would remain one nation strong and truly one republic."

Duterte said he is ready to support soldiers as they protect the people from security threats.

"I am a Filipino and just like you, I am ready to die for our country," the President said.

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Pahina. 3

Ex-Air Force colonel, co-pilot nawawala

PUSPUSAN ang search operation ng unit ng Philippine Air Force (PAF) sa paghahanap sa nawawalang retired colonel ng PAF at co-pilot nito sakay ng kanilang pribadong helicopter sa tapat ng kabundukan ng lalawigan ng Quezon.

Ang masinsinang search operation ng PAF ay tuloy-tuloy ngayong araw upang malaman ang lagay ng mga sakay ng civilian chopper na sina ret. Air Force Colonel Miguel Lobronio at kasama nitong co-pilot na si Jay Gregorio. Sa nakarating na ulat sa headquarters ng PAF sa Villamor Air Base sa Pasay City mula sa unang search team

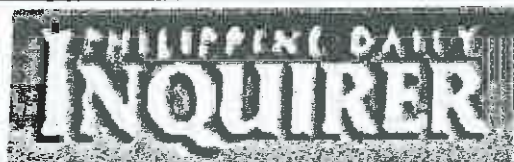
na nagsagawa ng aerial survey, arayon na rin kay General Nakar Mayor Eliseo Ruiz, namataan ang civilian chopper na may body number RP-C2688 sa crash site sa bahagi ng Sitio Tambo, Barangay Umiray.

Sinasabing patungong Sumag River ang private chopper mula Norzagaray, Bulacan pero pagkalipas ng apat na oras ay wala pa rin sa inasahang destinasyon at hindi na rin makontak.

Dahil naman sa same ng panahon sa Sumag, Quezon, pahirapang makarating ang unang rescue team na nagtungo sa kinaroroonan ng helicopter sa naturang lugar.

DAVE BALUYOT

25 August 2016



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Warriors for Peace: Soldiers' tales from Viet war

By TJ Burgonio

IN THE mid-1960s, while the Vietnam War was raging, then Army Capt. Jose T. Almonte and other Filipino soldiers flew to the war-torn country on a humanitarian mission.

Almonte was posted in Thanh Dien, a forested Viet Cong stronghold in the province of Tay Ninh where the Filipino contingent would build a resettlement project for the refugees.

During a foray into the forest, littered with homemade antipersonnel mines, Almonte was talking with his escort, a black American master sergeant, when a loud explosion occurred.

"I turned to look at him and I saw his headless body, with pieces of his flesh and bones splattered on my face," he recalled.

Almonte survived to tell the story. Others were not as lucky.

In March 1967, a member of the ordnance unit was killed, while another was wounded while deactivating a land mine. Some had come under sniper fire, shelling an attack by the Viet Cong, ending up dead or wounded.

Perils of war

Such were the perils faced by the Filipino troopers dispatched to Vietnam to build roads and bridges, and care for the war-weary Vietnamese through medical and dental missions.

The soldiers' tales were chronicled by

veteran journalist Ben Cal in the book, "Warriors for Peace," which was launched Tuesday last week at the AFP Museum in Camp Aguinaldo.

The launch coincided with the 50th anniversary of the departure of the Philippine Civic Action Group (Philcag), composed of soldiers, doctors, dentists, nurses, engineers and laboratory technicians for Vietnam.

"Ben gives a human face of Philcag's accomplishments during the war as it fulfilled its mission to build and not destroy," Undersecretary Ernesto Carolina, who commissioned the book as administrator of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, said at the launch.

After the war broke out in the early '60s, the South Vietnamese Government appealed to Free World countries, including the Philippines, to send combat troops to fight the communist rebels.

Noncombat mission

Since Congress opposed the deployment of combat troops, President Macapagal instead sent a 34-man Philippine Contingents (Philcon) to South Vietnam to conduct medical and dental mission in 1964.

Two years later, President Marcos followed suit by dispatching the Philcag contingent to South Vietnam.

And so during their three-year tour of duty, the medical team lived in the hamlets of Tay Ninh province and treated more than 1 million Vietnamese, while the engineers built the resettlement center for refugees in

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Thana Dien forest, as well as roads, bridges, schoolhouses and clinics.

"I discovered the great sacrifices that our troopers made during their tour of duty," recalled Cal, who interviewed Philcag veterans, including former President Fidel V. Ramos, and collated documents to write the book.

"Despite the risks, the Filipinos, who were noncombatants, performed their mission fearlessly and courageously."

'Philuatan'

Everywhere they went, they were called "Philuatan," meaning Filipinos are No. 1, according to Cal.

"When we arrived there Vietnamese started calling us Philuatan. It turns out that a Filipino contingent had been there ahead of us, composed of three doctors and three nurses who operated a very small hospital. We carried that label until now among Vietnamese," recalled former Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who was part of the first Philcag.

When they arrived there, the contingent lost no time in conducting medical and dental services because Tay Ninh had no doctors, he said.

"We had a Filipino doctor who left the Philippines as a general practicing doctor. By the time he left Vietnam after three years, he was a surgeon because of the many operations he handled," he said, referring to the surgeries of wounded soldiers and civilians at the local hospital.

WARRIORS FOR PEACE

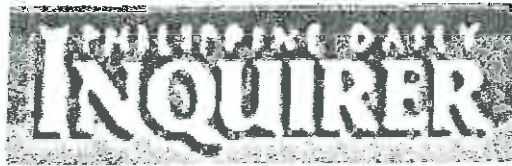


**THE SAGA
OF THE FILIPINO SOLDIERS
IN THE VIETNAM WAR**



BEN CAL'S book

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'Chinese invasion will be bloody'

By Leila B. Salaverria and Tarra Quismundo

CAMP CAPINPIN, Rizal—President Duterte said Wednesday he hoped that China was dealing with Manila in good faith over the West Philippine Sea, warning that "it will be bloody" should talks collapse and Beijing attempts to take over the country.

"But I am sure, I guarantee to them that if you invade our country, it will be bloody. And we will not give it to them easily. It will be the bones of our soldiers, and you can include my own," Mr. Duterte said as he addressed Jungle Fighters in Camp Capinpin.

But Mr. Duterte was quick to point out that China, now "seems to be conciliatory" after a UN-backed arbitral tribunal last month found in favor of the Philippines and invalidated Beijing's claim to the whole of the West Philippine Sea, also called South China Sea.

"Whether we like it or not, that arbitral judgment would be insisted [on] not only by the Philippines but by the whole countries in Southeast Asia. Everybody is affected," he said, citing Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei.

He noted that even the United States was prodding the Philippines to insist that the ruling be enforced.

"But we will chart our own course to the national interest of this country," the President said.

He stressed the Philippines was prepared to defend its territories

if bilateral negotiations fail.

"We will not allow any country to bamboozle us. I will not allow [it]," he said. "So it's up to China."

According to Mr. Duterte, China's offer to build rehabilitation centers inside military camps and host a visit by the country's police chief to look at armaments against drugs was a welcome peace overture. But it should not get in the way of enforcing the ruling.

Reclamations

"We will not raise hell now because of the judgment, but there will come a time that we have to do some reckoning about this," he stressed.

Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. reiterated Wednesday that China's reclamation activities in the disputed waters should immediately cease, saying Beijing's artificial islands violated international laws on pro-

tecting the biodiverse region.

"For the international community, the red line is that this should be stopped. Right now, there should be no further reclamation activities," Yasay told the Senate foreign relations committee, noting the risks it posed not just to freedom of navigation but on the environment.

Yasay said China's rapid expansion in the disputed waters has also "impacted negatively on the health and balance of the environment of this area."

He said fellow Southeast Asian countries have already expressed "serious concern" over Chinese reclamation.

China has reclaimed seven features, including rocks and low-lying elevations in the disputed waters, including those within the Philippines' 370-km exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Some of the artificial islands have been turned into naval and

air bases. These include the Kagitingan (Fiery Cross) Reef, Mabini (Johnson) Reef, Chigua (McKenna) Reef, Calderon (Cuarteron) Reef, Zamora (Subi) Reef, and the Panganiban (Mischief) Reef.

However, he said the Philippines would maintain its "friendship" with China, but it does not mean "that we'll weaken our

friendship with the United States."

"We're just saying that in spite of our disputes, as regards China on the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea), there are other aspects of our relationship that can proceed without having to touch upon the South China Sea issue," Yasay said.

With a report from Reuters

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Local: 5285, 5295

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Pahina. 3

3 isyu naresolba sa Oslo peace talks

NAKATAKDANG magtapos bukas ang isinasagawang peace talks sa Oslo, Norway.

Gayunpaman, hindi uuying luhaan ang mga negosyador ng Pilipinas matapos na magkasun-

do ang magkabilang panig sa tallo sa limang mahalagang isyu sa usapang pangkarayasaan.

Avon, sa Office of the President's Adviser on the Peace Process, kabilang sa nangagkasun-

duan ang pagpapalibay sa tatlong napirmahang mga kasunduan ang muling pagsasaayos sa istahan ng Joint Agreement on Security and Immunity Guarantees at ang priangkasin na proseso ng negosasyon.

Nagkasundo rin ang magkabilang panig na tapusin na ang ilan pang reitirang usapin tulad ng pagkakaroon ng reporma sa ekonomiya, pulitika at lipunang pagwawakas sa karahasan at ang tinatawag na disposition of forces at ang pagkakaroon ng joint monitoring committee.

Avon nagsabi na ang pag-uusap, noong Martes, at inaasahanang itutuloy kahapon.

"It was a frank and honest discussion among friends. We are candid with each other, knowing that we share the common agenda of peace," pahayag ni Labor Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III, chairman ng government peace panel.

Dagdag ni Bello, nagkaroon din umano ng maint na balitak-takan sa mga isyu, bagama't nauwi naman ito sa tawanan.

Sinabi rin ni Bello na lahat ng kasunduan na nalagda mula pa sa panahon ng dating Pangulong Corason Aquino ay dapat maipatupad kabilang na ang The Hague Joint Declaration of 1992; ang Breaker Joint Statement of 1994; ang JASIG at ang Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

Sinabi rin ni Bello na nagkasundo rin ang dalawang panig na baguhin ang listahan ng NDF consultants na hindi dapat huli-hin upang makasama sa pag-uusap.

Avon naman sa NDF, ang kanilang "immunity list" ay kinabibilangan ng 54 kilalang-negosyador at 87 pinuno ng larangang genlye ng New People's Army.

Sisikapin umano ng peace panels na resolbahin sa darating na mga araw ang dalawa pang natitirang mga isyu — ang "mode of interim ceasefire" at ang "amnesty proclamation" para sa pagpapalaya ng lahat ng political prisoners, na dapat maaprubalan muna ng kongreso.

FREDDIE CORTEZ

25 August 2016

The Manila Times

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ASG releases woman; holds husband, son captive

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Suspected Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) bandits freed a woman trader whom they kidnapped in Zamboanga Sibugay province on August 5 but kept her husband and son captive in Sulu.

Police said Nora, together with her husband Elmer Ronoc, and their son Ricson, 8, were taken by the bandits from their house in the village of Kulisap, Payao town.

They were spirited out on a motorboat and brought to Sulu and their captors reportedly demanded

ransom for their release.

The woman, who took a boat in Jolo and traveled to Zamboanga City, arrived by bus on Tuesday at her cousin's house in Siay town in Zamboanga Sibugay where she stayed for a while.

Authorities believed the woman's relatives paid an unspecified amount of ransom to the Abu Sayyaf for her freedom and are raising money for the safe release of her husband and son.

AL JACINTO

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Gov't, NDFP panels reaffirm agreements

By Yuji Vincent Gonzales
Inquirer.net
and Leila B. Salaverria

DESPITE some heated moments, the peace panels of the Philippine government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) have reached agreements on three of

five substantive issues they tackled, as they buckled down to formal discussions in Oslo, Norway.

The NDFP is the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), which has been waging for 47 years an armed insurgency that has

GOV'T/A6

Within 6 months

The working committee and the working group would proceed with simultaneous discussions on the issues, Bello said. These discussions would be held separately from the formal meetings of the panel and in the venue of their choice.

"We agreed that all RWC meetings will be held in Oslo, but RWG discussions may be held in

From page A1

claimed more than 37,000 lives.

One of the things the two panels agreed on was a formal commitment to fast-track the process of forging a political settlement during President Duterte's term, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (Opapp) said in a statement yesterday.

The panels settled on Tuesday the affirmation of previously signed agreements, the reconstitution of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig) list, and the accelerated process for negotiations, the Opapp said.

The accelerated process includes the timeline for the completion of the remaining substantive agenda for the talks: socioeconomic reforms, political and economic reforms, and end of hostilities and disposition of forces.

The Opapp said the peace panels took only four hours, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., to resolve the three key issues.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, who chairs the government panel, said the meeting was a "frank and honest discussion among friends."

The panel members were candid with each other as they shared the common agenda of peace, Bello said.

Heated discussions

"There were heated discussions, at times, which are normal during negotiations. In fact, we have to call a break on several occasions to cool off. But the general atmosphere was cordial as the session was punctuated

by laughter and light banter," he said in the statement.

Jose Maria "Joma" Sison, CPP founder, on Tuesday night said the talks were "running very well," as he commended Mr. Duterte's determination to end decades of armed insurgencies in the country.

In an INQ&A session, Sison said the next round of formal talks would be held to draft the comprehensive agreements.

"I've always said that President Duterte is more open to accelerating the peace negotiations. Previous ones were more interested in the capitulation and pacification of revolutionary forces under the guise of protracted ceasefire. Now there seems to be a greater determination on the part of the Manila government to make substantive agreements," Sison said via Skype.

The panels, in order to accelerate the peace negotiations, agreed to activate the Reciprocal Working Committee (RWC) on the Comprehensive Agreement on Socioeconomic Reforms, as well as the Reciprocal Working Groups (RWGs) on Political and Constitutional Reforms and End of Hostilities

the Philippines," he added.

Both panels also agreed to do their best to complete discussions on socioeconomic reforms within six months so that a comprehensive agreement on the issue may be signed at the panel level.

The peace negotiators, in reaffirming peace agreements signed during negotiations starting from the term of President Corazon Aquino, said these were nevertheless "subject to enhancements that may be mutually agreed upon later by both panels."

"We may need these enhancements in the future as we do not want to be tied down by the rigidity of the past. Learning from mistakes of the previous negotiations, we want to explore all options to move the process fast forward," Bello said.

As for the Jasig, the panels also would reconstitute the list of NDFP consultants who would be immune from arrest so that they could join the peace process.

The NDFP said the list would include 54 "publicly known" consultants and 87 "assumed names" of guerrilla leaders who remain underground but are involved in consultations for the

- Tel no. (02)

uring the

ident Duterte, made the decision. The Army, the military, has to follow,” Sison said.

“There has been no objection. Legal processes have been followed. The Jasi has been invoked to justify the releases,” he added.

Detained NDFP consultants, including top insurgent leaders Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, were released last week to participate in the peace talks. The NDFP declared a unilateral ceasefire hours after the release, which the government also reciprocated.

Sison said the NDFP was more optimistic of better results in the negotiations with a President like Mr. Duterte, who he said had a political will that goes along with that of the NDFP.

“The armed struggle has been necessary because of what Duterte himself described as corrupt or rotten character of the system. He recognizes that the oligarchs are servants to foreign powers like the US... He has a political will that goes along with the political will of the NDFP. It seems that he is determined,” Sison said.

Not a surrender

In spite of their optimism, Sison said communist rebels may stop the talks if the government was interested only in prolonging the truce instead of addressing their demands.

“If, for instance, the Duterte (administration) is only interested in a prolonged ceasefire so it can forget all the demands of the people for social, economic and political reforms, then the revolutionary movement has to reconsider if it will still go on with the peace process,” Sison said. When asked about the NDFP’s

nonnegotiables

Reciprocating the NDFP truce, Duterte restored the unilateral ceasefire with communists last week ahead of the ongoing Oslo peace talks.

The President first declared the ceasefire with the rebels during his first State of the Nation Address on July 25, but lifted it five days later as the ultimatum he gave lapsed without reciprocation.

The government said the ceasefire “will last as long as necessary to bring peace in the land” to “provide an enabling environment for the success of the peace talks.”

But Sison noted that participating in the peace negotiations was not equivalent to surrendering and giving up their demands, which he said were very attainable.

“The reforms being demanded are really attainable and if those negotiating on both sides have the interest of the people in mind, what is wrong with national independence and doing away with unequal treaties and agreements? What is wrong with giving more leeway to workers and peasants? What is wrong with economic development through national industrialization and land reform?” he said.

(INQ&A, broadcast live every Tuesday, 8 to 9 p.m. via Radyo Inquirer 990AM, INQ 990 Television (Digital Terrestrial Television), and INQUIRER net’s Facebook and YouTube accounts, is a weekly talk show that aims to deliver insightful interviews with the country’s leading newsmakers. Inquirer 990 TV can be viewed through ABS-CBN’s TV Plus, RCA and Godan digital TV boxes.)

Soldiers will follow

Asked about restive soldiers, especially those displeased with the release of NDFP consultants, Sison said he was confident that the military would play its part in the peace talks and follow the orders of Mr. Duterte as its Commander in Chief.

“In any Army, the first rule is to obey all orders on the command. And so the Commander in Chief of the Philippines, Pres-

25 August 2016



Page: 1

Armed struggle to continue, Joma warns gov't

By Ted Tuvera

Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria "Joma" Sison has vowed to continue with their armed struggle regardless of the outcome of the ongoing peace talks between the Philippine government and communist leaders in Oslo, Norway.

He maintained that the future of the insurgency would not be dependent on their taking part in the negotiations as this "is not a process of surrendering."

"As long as oppression and exploitation continue, there is always fertile ground for armed resistance of the people," Sison stressed.

He also warned that CPP is ready to sacrifice the peace talks if the Duterte administration is only interested in ending the hostilities.

"If for instance the Duterte government is only interested in a prolonged ceasefire so it can forget all the demands of the people for social, economic and political reforms, then the revolutionary movement has to reconsider if it will still go on with the peace process," Sison said.

Government peace panel chief negotiator and Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, in a statement, admitted that negotiations to forge an interim ceasefire is one of the "unresolved issues" discussed after their second day of talks with the CPP-NPA's negotiating arm, the National Democratic Front (NDF) peace panel. *Turn to page 3*

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Armed struggle to continue, Joma warns gov't

from page 1

He said two of the five issues in the Oslo talks remain on the table - the mode of information ceasefire and amnesty proclamation or the release of all detained political prisoners, subject to concurrence by Congress.

He, however, stressed these would be negotiated.

"There were heated discussions, times, which are normal during negotiations. In fact, we have to call break on several occasions to cool off," Bello stressed.

The Office of the President Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) announced that negotiators from both parties have agreed on three substantive issues, including a formal commitment to accelerate the process of forging a political settlement during Duterte's term.

It said the three major issues include Affirmation of previously signed agreements, reconstitution of the Joint Agreement on Security and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig) list, and accelerated process for negotiations including the timeline for the completion of the remaining substantive agenda for the talks: socio-economic reforms, political and economic reforms, and end of hostilities and disposition of forces, including the Joint Monitoring Committee.

"It was a frank and honest discussion among friends. We are candid with each other, knowing that we share the common agenda of peace," Bello said.

He added all agreements signed during peace negotiations from the time of President Corason Aquino up to the present were re-affirmed "subject to enhancements that may be mutually agreed upon later by

both panels."

"We may need these enhancements in the future as we demonstrate the need for the rigidity of the past. Learning from mistakes of the previous negotiations, we want to explore all options to move the process fast forward."

The agreements that were re-affirmed include The Hague Joint Declaration of 1992, Breukelen Joint Statement of 1994, the Jasig, and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL).

To accelerate the pace of peace negotiations, both panels agreed to activate the Reciprocal Working Committee (RWC) on the Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms (CASER) as well as the Reciprocal Working Groups (RWGs) on Political and Constitutional Reforms (PCR) and

End of Hostilities Disposition of Forces (EOH-DOF).

Bello explained that the RWC and the RWGs would hold simultaneous discussions on substantive issues separate from formal meetings being scheduled at the panel level.

"RWC and the RWGs may hold discussions on their own at the venue of their choice. We agreed that all RWC meetings will be held in Oslo, but RWG discussions may be held in the Philippines," he said.

Bello noted that both panels also agreed to exert best efforts to complete discussions on socio-economic reforms and political reforms so that a comprehensive agreement on the issue may be signed at the panel level.

On Jasig, both panels agreed to reconstitute the list of NDF consultants, who shall be immune from arrest in order to allow them to participate in the peace process.

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In this file photograph taken on December 26, 2009, New People's Army rebels stand to attention during the 41st founding anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines at an unspecified location in the hinterlands of Surigao del Sur province, in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao. AFP

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PRESIDENT Duterte in Camp Evangelista in Brgy. Patag, Cagayan de Oro City, last Aug. 9 in one of his visits to the military camps in the country.

FILE PHOTO

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15 August 2016



Pahina. 1



Maimit na tinanggap si Presidente Rodrigo Duterte ng mga kasundalohan ng 2nd Infantry Division ng Philippine Army sa Camp Capinpin, Tanay Rizal kahapon kung saan ito nagtalumpati at nagsabing bibigyan niya ng sapat at makabagong kagamitan ang mga uniformed personnel ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at Philippine National Police (PNP). Inihayag din nito ang incremental salary increase sa mga sundalo. (Jonas Sulit)

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Fist bump. President Duterte makes a "fist bump," his May presidential elections campaign gesture, with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana (left) and Armed Forces chief Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya (right) and female soldiers during a visit at the Capinpin military camp in Tanay, Rizal.

REUTERS PHOTO

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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**VISIT TO
CAPINPIN
— President
Rodrigo
Duterte
addresses
soldiers
during his
visit to Camp
Capinpin
in Tanga,
Rizal, the
headquarters
of the Army's
2nd Infantry
Division, on
Wednesday.
(Richard
Viñas)**



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Beyond burial, 'a time for ultimate reckoning'

LETTERS

CERTAIN groups are alarmed and wary. They are diligent in exerting efforts (rain or shine) to block the burial of former president Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, allegedly because of various human rights violations committed during his presidency. It was argued that if we are to go by the burial place's name, Marcos should not be interred in that hallowed ground—unless he is considered a hero.

But if the policy crafted by the Armed Forces of the Philippines indeed allows that soldiers and presidents may be laid to rest at the Libingan without qualifying whether they are heroes or not, since no record of heroic acts were required of them before burial (apparently what only mattered is that they served the country in that official capacity), then Marcos cannot be disqualified.

Regrettably, not everyone agrees with such logic. Unless the 1987 uprising is tantamount to dishonorable act—"not dying with one's boots on" as a government official. While massive protests attempted to establish public discontent, it still does not confirm the guilt of the accused.

Marcos, however, was not convicted of any crime, though he was deposed by a popular revolt some three decades ago. Under any law, a person remains innocent unless proven otherwise.

Perhaps part of our misfortune as a Filipino nation is our tolerant psyche. We seem to be habitually torn between magnanimity and idiocy, despite all the censure.

• Former president and now second-term Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada was convicted of plunder and served his sentence for sometime until he was politically pardoned by then president and, now, likewise a second-term representative, Gloria Arroyo. Her absolution of Estrada was practically ratified by the people when he ranked second among several candidates in the 2010 presidential election.

• The Filipino people have (unwittingly) spoken: We have elected Rodrigo Duterte as president by an overwhelming 16 million votes or so. Have we forgotten that one of his campaign promises was to bury Marcos at the Libingan?

Marcos is long gone. To call him all sorts of vicious names is like kicking a

dead horse.

As a respondent/suspect, he cannot defend himself anymore. Ironically, no court of law is fit to judge the dead.

Should we not leave that task to our Creator? Of course, it could be twice more painful to supposed victims who could not assert themselves fully since then, till now.

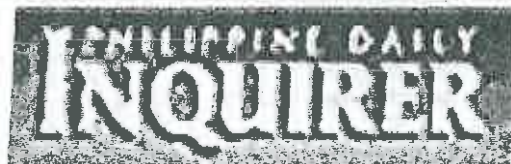
We can empathize that everyone needs to arrive at a fair resolution, but couldn't be a louder wake-up call for us as a people? It does not mean simply being oblivious of the past, but being more alert and more vigilant for more current issues that ought to be handled in the here and now, before it is rather too late. Otherwise, we will lose again and again by default. (And how come there was not any case ever won against Marcos?)

One may wonder why the sun keeps shining and the rains falling on both the good and the bad. Yet we can trust there will be divine justice in the end, a time of ultimate reckoning.

—ARMANDO LIBRANDO ALPAY,
c/o judithalpay@yahoo.com

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ROTC good for our young to make patriotic breed of Filipinos

THERE is an ongoing conversation—or shall I say “debate”—on reviving the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) as a mandatory subject in college courses. Some are in favor and some are against.

The idea—which President Duterte has broached early in his presidency, is a good one. ROTC will definitely benefit young Filipinos. To be sure, ROTC will teach them patriotism. It will inculcate in their minds and hearts a deep love for our country. It will condition and mold them into being disciplined and respectful. My two sons and my daughter chose ROTC during their college years; I am very proud of them for that decision of theirs and what they have become. They now teach their own children

(my grandchildren) to love our country, to be proud Filipinos and to respect the flag.

The basic military training taught in ROTC will also teach and help ROTC cadets to understand and appreciate our soldiers, their sacrifices for our country, why they chose to devotedly serve our motherland and to offer and risk their own lives to defend us and keep us safe.

I think there is nothing wrong about reviving ROTC as a mandatory college subject, like it is in many other countries. In South Korea, even celebrities are required to undergo military training. I am amazed at the Koreans’ sense of patriotism.

Sometimes, I feel quite disappointed when I see young Filipinos not giving our flag and national an-

them due respect.

I feel quite disappointed with what is happening to our young today when it comes to love of country.

But I believe that our youth are still the “pag-asa ng bayan.” And I believe that reviving the mandatory ROTC will make a difference, it will change their perspective of what a nation should be and of patriotism. I also believe that through ROTC our youth will stay away from such vices as illegal drugs.

I hope the government will strongly push for the restoration of mandatory ROTC, and I am hoping this will make our youth as patriotic like our heroes who fought and died for our beloved country.

—PHILEMON F. BARBOSA,
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<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

SERVICE TO EASTERN MINDANAO | PRRD to Grace EMC's 10th Year Anniversary

Alvin Santiago



NSFA, Panacan, Davao City (DWDD) – President Rodrigo Roa Duterte is expected to grace the Eastern Mindanao Command (EMC) 10th year anniversary which will be held at Naval Station Felix Apolinario, Panacan Davao City in the afternoon of August 26, 2016.

Lt. General Leonardo B. Guerrero, Commander EMC will lead the occasion and will receive the President in a full Military Honors upon his arrival at NSFA.

The celebration which has a theme “Katambayayong sa tinud-anay nga kausaban” will also be highlighted with the awarding of personnel and stakeholders who have significant contribution in the Command’s mission accomplishment.

It can be recalled that EMC was activated on August 28, 2006 in a simple ceremony at the Old Airport, Sasa, Davao City after the deactivation of the former Southern Command of the AFP in Zamboanga City on same date. PAO EASTMINCOM / MCAG

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Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

COURTESY CALL | 74 Newly Promoted Generals and Flag Officers

Alvin Santiago



CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – A total of seventy four (74) newly promoted generals and flag officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines paid a courtesy call to the Chief of Staff General Ricardo R Visaya today, August 24.

Arrival Honors were rendered at the GHQ Canopy Area and followed by a simple ceremony at the Commissioned Officers Clubhouse.



The call is a customary undertaking that followed the oath-taking ceremony presided by the President and AFP Commander in Chief Rodrigo R Duterte.

The oath that renews their commitment to the Chain of Command and the Constitution was held August 23, at the Malacañan Palace and included top military officers occupying vital units and offices in the AFP. **Photos by SN1 Donald Viluan PN and Ssg Randolph D Obinque PAF/PAO AFP / MCAG**

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Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/>

AFP pulls out almost 1,000 troops from Davao to fight Abu Sayyaf in Sulu

By Lilian C. Mellejor

DAVAO CITY, Aug. 24 (PNA) — Now that government is trying to strike a deal with the communist insurgents, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) started to pull out some forces in the region and deploy more to Jolo, Sulu for an all-out campaign against the Abu Sayyaf Group.

The 10th Infantry Division on Wednesday withdrew troops from the 69th Infantry Battalion, which operates in Paquibato, Panabo and Maragusan as the first tranche of deployment. On Thursday (August 25), the 2nd Scout Rangers based in Davao del Sur will be sent off by 10th ID officials. The first and second deployment would total about 400 to 500 army soldiers.

The 10ID spokesperson Capt. Rhyar Batchar said the deployment of more troops to Jolo, Sulu is in adherence to the order of their commander-in-chief President Rodrigo Duterte on counter-terrorism, focusing on the Abu Sayyaf.

"Hopefully, we can destroy the Abu Sayyaf," Batchar told reporters of the AFP-PNP Press Corps Wednesday at the Davao City Police Office (DCPO). Batchar said they are sending the best of their troops for the Abu Sayyaf campaign.

He recalled that the 69th IB was instrumental in the capture and death of Kumander Parago in Paquibato last year while the 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion has also an outstanding record in Davao Del Sur.

The past weeks saw President Duterte committing to destroy the Abu Sayyaf and vowed no negotiations with them.

The President said the Abu Sayyaf group puts to shame the country everytime they kidnap and kill hostages in public if they fail to get ransom money.

The President has ordered the army to destroy the Abu Sayyaf to end their nefarious activities. He described the Abu Sayyaf as gangsters, brigands and bandits resorting to torture and destroy humanity.

Although some troops have been deployed and there is a standing ceasefire between the government and the communist insurgents, Batchar clarified that they are not putting their guards down. He said other units will take over the areas in Davao.

"We will adjust the area of jurisdiction of the units on the ground in order to address the vacuum that caused by the pull out of the two battalions" Batchar added. (PNA)

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Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

HOAX | Circulating Bomb Threats on SMS

Alvin Santiago



CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Department of National Defense (DND) has called on all Filipinos to remain calm but vigilant after hoax text message began circulating for sometime regarding bombing threats in malls and other public places.

According to Defense Department spokesperson Dir Arsenio Andolong, despite being hoaxes, they are not taking these threats lightly and are currently looking into the matter.

At the moment, the DND has not received any intelligence report regarding any terror or bombing.



In one such text, the sender who introduced herself as the daughter of Philippine National Police Chief Director General Ronald Dela Rosa warned of such an incident happening in various malls in Metro Manila.

Gen Dela Rosa immediately denied such message was sent by her daughter and warned perpetrators to avoid involving any of his family members. **ALS / AES / MCAG**

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Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

<http://bomboradyo.com/>

Kumalat sa text messages na bomb threat sa Metro Manila, hindi totoo - DND, AFP

By Bombc Anne Soberano

Maging ang pamunuan ng Department of National Defense (DND) ay itinanggi ang authenticity hinggil sa kumalat na text messages.

Ayon kay Defense spokesperson Arsenio Andolong, walang natatanggap na intelligence report ang militar hinggil sa umano'y apat na babae na mga suicide bombers.

Siniguro naman ni Andolong na hindi nila binabalewala ang nasabing impormasyon.

Sa kabilang dako sa panig naman ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), wala rin silang natatanggap na report hinggil sa apat na babaeng suicide bomber na ipinadala raw sa Kalakhang Maynila para maghasik nang terorismo.

Umapela naman si AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Col. Edgard Arevalo sa publiko lalo na sa mga nakakatanggap ng text messages na huwag nang ikalat ang mga nakaka-alarmang mensahe.

Sinabi pa ni Arevalo na ang pagpapakalat ng mga malisyosong mensahe ay nagiging sanhi ng panic.

Sinabi pa ng opisyal na walang natatanggap na anumang banta ang militar subalit kanila na ring bina-validate ang nasabing mga mensahe.

"In so far as the AFP is concerned, we have not yet recieved any kind, any such kind of threat, we have not recieved any such kind of information, but nonetheless were going to take into account that report for us to be able to do necessary steps on our part but yun nga our appeal is for our people not to be part of circulation of such kind of message or information that may cause undue panic and terror to our people," pahayag ni Arevalo.

<http://news.abs-cbn.com/>

After visiting military camps, Duterte to visit cops next

Dharel Placido, ABS-CBN News

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday vowed to make rounds on police camps next after visiting more than a dozen military camps.

Duterte's frequent visits to military camps has triggered speculations that the president is conducting loyalty check on his troops.

But the tough-talking commander-in-chief told soldiers during a visit in Camp Capinpin in Rizal Wednesday that he only wanted to make sure that the country's defenders and law enforcers are in good condition.

"This early, umilikot na ako sa mga kampo ng militar at isunod ko ang pulis because I'm a great believer na kapag matatag ang militar ko at matatag ang ating mga pulis at may dedication sa trabaho, lalago ang ating bayan," he said.

(This early, I am making the rounds in military camps – and I will visit police camps next – because I'm a great believer that if we have a strong military and police force, our country will grow.)

Duterte said he is doing his visits this early since he won't have the time later.

"I'm introducing myself (now) because I won't have the time to do it in the coming days because of the so many problems, from little to big things, that I have to attend to almost every day," he said.

Duterte also assured again the soldiers that their salaries will be doubled by year-end and incremental increases will soon come in.

Earlier this month, Duterte joked about coup attempts when he said that he expects to get in the way of some officials' personal interests while performing his duty.

"I promise you a clean government. It will be a clean government. Ganun na lang, marami akong masagasaan along the way. Sana naman huwag kayong magalit kung tama 'yung ginagawa natin," he said.

"Eh baka mag-coup d'etat kayo because nawalan ako ng trabaho. Anong coup d'etat? Tawagan mo lang ako sa Matalacang, 'Hoy, Duterte, umalis-ka-diyon, mag-takeover-kami.'"

<http://www.inquirer.net/>

PH-NDF panels fast-track peace talks

Kristine Angeli Sabillo

The peace panels of the Philippine government and the National Democratic Front (NDF) have been fast-tracking negotiations as formal talks started this week in Oslo, Norway.

The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), in a statement released Wednesday, said the two panels agreed on three out of five substantive issues.

"The negotiating panels only took four hours, from 9.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., to settle minor conflicting positions on the three substantive issues during a marathon session that was punctuated on several instances by laughter and light banter," it said.

The three issues agreed upon were (1) affirmation of previously signed agreements, (2) reconstitution of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig) list and (3) accelerated process for negotiations. Peace talks with the NDF, which is the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), were previously stalled because of disagreements regarding the list of JASIG-protected personalities.

CPP founder and chief political consultant Jose Ma. "Joma" Sison, who is also in Norway for the talks, told INQ&A on Tuesday that the NDF has already furnished the government panel with the reconstituted list so that those involved in the peace negotiations would be protected by the Jasig, which makes them immune from arrest.

The list contains the names of "publicly-known" 54 NDF consultants and 87 "assumed names" of guerrilla leaders who remain underground but are involved in consultations for the peace process.

Of the four agreements needed finalized by the peace panels, only the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (Carhrihl) was agreed upon in the past.

Opapp said the three remaining agreements—socio-economic reforms, political and economic reforms, and end of hostilities and disposition of forces—will be accelerated.

Sison said the panels have created reciprocal working groups to simultaneously work on the three remaining agreements.

He said the drafts would likely be available in six months.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, concurrent chair of the government panel, said the panel members were "candid with each other, knowing that (they) share the common agenda of peace."

"There were heated discussions, at times, which are normal during negotiations. In fact, we have to call a break on several occasions to cool off. But the general atmosphere was cordial as the session was punctuated by laughter and light banter," he said.

While all agreements, from the time of former President Corazon Aquino, were "re-affirmed," they will still be "subject to enhancements." The agreements are The Hague Joint Declaration of 1992, Breukelen Joint Statement of 1994, the JASIG and the Carhrihl.

"We may need these enhancements in the future as we do not want to be tied down by the rigidity of the past.

Learning from mistakes of the previous negotiations, we want to explore all options to move the process fast forward," Bello said.

The secretary said the working groups can hold their own discussions in their chosen venues.

To be discussed on Thursday are the mode of interim ceasefire and amnesty proclamation for the release of all detained political prisoners, subject to concurrence by Congress. **RAM**

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<http://www.inquirer.net/>

3 of 5 issues resolved in PH gov't, NDF talks in Norway

By: Frances Mangosing

The negotiating panels between the Philippine government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines have agreed on three major issues in the ongoing peace talks in Oslo, Norway, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process said on Wednesday.

In a statement, the OPAPP said the peace panels took only four hours — from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., to settle the three key issues.

The issues that were settled include

- Affirmation of previously-signed agreements
- Reconstitution of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) list; and
- Accelerated process for negotiations, including the timeline for the completion of the remaining substantive agenda for the talks: socio-economic reforms, political economic reforms, and end of hostilities and disposition of forces, including the Joint Monitoring Committee.

Only two of the five issues remain unresolved, the mode of interim ceasefire and amnesty proclamation for the release of all detained political prisoners, but these would be negotiated on Thursday, Labor Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III, concurrent chair of the government panel, was quoted as saying.

"It was a frank and honest discussion among friends. We are candid with each other, knowing that we share the common agenda of peace," he also said.

He added that there were heated discussions during the negotiations.

~~"But the general atmosphere was cordial as the session was punctuated by laughter and light banter,"~~ Bello said.

All agreements signed during the time of President Corazon Aquino up to the present were re-affirmed "subject to enhancements that may be mutually agreed upon later by both panels."

"We may need these enhancements in the future as we do not want to be tied down by the rigidity of the past. Learning from mistakes of the previous negotiations, we want to explore all options to move the process fast forward," Bello said.

The agreements that were re-affirmed include The Hague Joint Declaration of 1992, Breukelen Joint Statement of 1994, the JASIG and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

The OPAPP said that both panels agreed to activate the Reciprocal Working Committee on the Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms, as well as the Reciprocal Working Groups on Political and Constitutional Reforms, and End of Hostilities-Disposition of Forces.

"RWC and the RWGs may hold discussions on their own at the venue of their choice. We agreed that all RWC meetings will be held in Oslo, but RWG discussions may be held in the Philippines," Bello said.

Both panels have also agreed to try to complete discussions on socio-economic reforms within six months.

Bello also said that both panels also agreed to reconstitute the list of NDF consultants who shall be immune from arrest so they can participate in the peace process.

The NDF leaders said that the list would contain the names of 54 consultants who are classified as "publicly-known" and "assumed names" of 87 guerrilla leaders. **CDG**

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