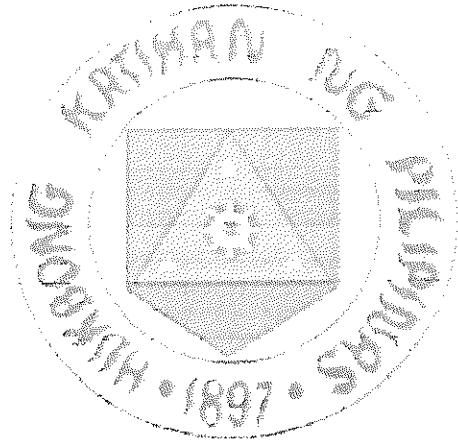


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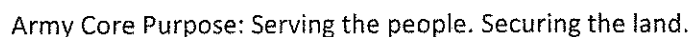
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**28 August 2016**

**Sunday**

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28 AUGUST 2016



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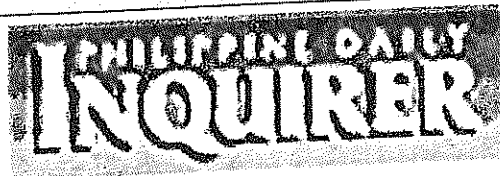
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TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | AUGUST 28, 2016 | SUNDAY

**TYPHOON "DINDO"**  
3,160 KM EAST-NORTHEAST OF ITABAYAT, BATANES  
SOUTHWEST MONSOON  
AFFECTING WESTERN SECTION OF LUZON  
(August 27, 5:00 AM)

**LAOAG CITY** 24 - 31 °C  
**TUGUEGARAO CITY** 23 - 33 °C  
**BAGUIO CITY** 16 - 20 °C  
**SBMA/CLARK** 24 - 29 °C  
**TAGAYTAY CITY** 23 - 28 °C  
**METRO MANILA** 25 - 30 °C  
**LEGAZPI CITY** 26 - 32 °C  
**ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY** 26 - 33 °C  
**TACLOBAN CITY** 27 - 34 °C  
**PUERTO PRINCESA** 24 - 30 °C  
**METRO CEBU** 26 - 34 °C  
**CAGAYAN DE ORO** 24 - 34 °C  
**ZAMBOANGA CITY** 25 - 33 °C  
**METRO DAVAO** 27 - 33 °C

**SUNRISE** 5:44 AM  
**SUNSET** 6:11 PM  
**MOONRISE** 1:47 AM  
**MOONSET** 2:54 PM  
**LAST QUARTER** AUG 25 11:41 AM  
**NEW MOON** SEP 1 5:03 PM  
**LOW TIDE** 2:50 PM  
**HIGH TIDE** 5:50 AM  
**MANILA SOUTH HARBOR**  
0.07 Meter 1.18 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms  
Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms  
Monsoon rains/rains

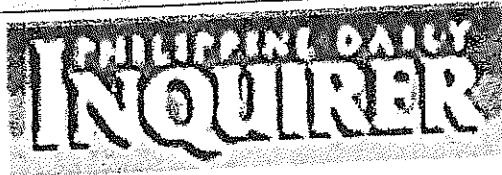
	AUG 27	AUG 28	AUG 29	AUG 30	AUG 31	SEP 1
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	25 - 30 °C	24 - 29 °C	24 - 29 °C	24 - 30 °C	26 - 35 °C	28 - 35 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	22 - 33 °C	22 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	24 - 34 °C	24 - 35 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	23 - 30 °C	23 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	24 - 31 °C	26 - 34 °C	26 - 34 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	15 - 19 °C	15 - 19 °C	25 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C	24 - 34 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	24 - 29 °C	23 - 30 °C	26 - 34 °C	25 - 35 °C		
<b>TAGAYTAY</b>						
<b>LEGAZPI</b>						
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<b>METRO CEBU</b>						
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<b>METRO DAVAO</b>						
<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>						

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**AIR 21**  
**SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!**

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24 August 2016



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# 'Junkies are not humans'

## Define human being, Duterte tells rights groups

By Marlon Ramos

DAVAO CITY—Junkies are not humans.

That is how President Duterte sees drug users whose bodies are piling up as he presses his brutal war on drugs.

International human rights groups and the United Nations

have raised concern about the killings, but Mr. Duterte, addressing soldiers at a military camp in his hometown Davao City on Friday night, said those groups should review their con-

cept of human rights.

"These human rights (advocates) did not count those who were killed before I became President. The children who were raped and mutilated [by drug users]," he said.

"That's why I said, '[W]hat crime against humanity?' In the first place, I'd like to be frank

with you, are they (drug users) humans? What is your definition of a human being? Tell me," he said.

Mr. Duterte, 71, was angry at persistent criticism of his bloody crackdown on the illegal drug trade, which he launched right after taking office on June 30, with instruc-

tions to police to kill suspects who would resist arrest.

He promised bounties and protection from prosecution for

DUTERTE/A18

**WHAT CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY? President Duterte addresses soldiers in Davao City.**

officers who would kill drug lords, drawing criticism from UN special rapporteur on summary executions Agnes Callamard.

"Directives of this nature are irresponsible in the extreme and amount to incitement to violence and killing, a crime under international law," Callamard said in a statement posted last week on the website of the UN high commissioner for human rights.

"Claims to fight illicit drug trade do not absolve the government from its international legal obligations and do not shield state actors or others from responsibility for illegal killings," she said.

UN special rapporteur on the right to health Dainius Puras added that the fight against illegal drugs must "respect the human rights of each person."

### **'Breach of fundamental rights'**

In June, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon condemned Mr. Duterte's apparent support for extrajudicial killings, saying these were "illegal and a breach of fundamental rights and freedoms."

The United Nations' antidrugs office also this month said it was "greatly concerned" by reports of extrajudicial killings in the Philippine government's war on drugs.

Mr. Duterte, who won May's presidential election on a promise to kill tens of thousands of criminals and stamp out illegal drugs within six months, refused to back down. He called the United Nations "stupid" and threatened to withdraw the Philippines from the world body.

A former prosecutor and longtime mayor of Davao City, where he was linked to vigilante killings of crime suspects, Mr. Duterte sees criticism of his drug war and calls for an investigation of the extrajudicial killings as interference in Philippine domestic affairs.

### **'Use human rights properly'**

In his speech to troops here on Friday night, he said those criticizing his war on drugs should use the concept of human rights "properly in the right context if you have the brains."

"Now, if your gray matter between the ears is melting, I cannot help you if that's your understanding," he said.

The Philippine National Police chief, Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, told a Senate inquiry last week that 1,946 drug suspects had been killed since the launch of the campaign.

Of those killings, 756 were by po-

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lice and the rest by other killers and the cases were under investigation, he said.

Police say the other killers could be vigilantes or drug syndicates, whose members are killing each other.

Mr. Duterte argued that the deaths were necessary because a war could not be waged without killing.

### Military camps for rehab

He, however, asked the military to make available its camps for the rehabilitation of more than 700,000 drug users who had turned themselves in for fear of ending up dead.

"Give a little space, in the mountain, not here (in the city). You cannot rehabilitate these guys there if they remain (here). You have to isolate them," Mr. Duterte said.

"And for those that cannot be repaired ... these are really the (legally insane). They become dysfunctional," he said.

Interestingly, Mr. Duterte has never referred to drug users as "victims" who can still recover from addiction, as claimed by individuals and institutions involved in drug rehabilitation programs.

Mr. Duterte claimed that experts from the United States had told him that continued use of *shabu* (methamphetamine hydrochloride) for one year would "shrink the brain," putting the users beyond redemption.

He said his critics should understand the extent of the drug problem in the Philippines, where there are 3.7 million people hooked on illegal drugs.

"This is no easy problem," he said. "This will pull down this country."

Again, Mr. Duterte lambasted the United Nations and other critics of his war on drugs.

He said the United Nations broke protocols when it issued a statement expressing concern about the killings.

"When I was mayor, you can really criticize me ... call me names. But these dimwits forgot that I'm now a President and I represent a country," Mr. Duterte said.

"Do not go outside to the media and start blabbering your mouth because I represent a sovereign state," he said.

Mr. Duterte said he did not care about what human rights advocates and experts from the United Nations were saying about his campaign against drugs.

"My business is to protect the people of the Philippines and keep intact the integrity of the republic. That is my solemn and sacred duty," he said. *With a report from AFP*

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The  
**Standard**  
DEFINING THE NEWS

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## Just usual activity, military maintains

By John Paolo Bencito

**C**OMMUNIST rebels on Saturday scored the military for allegedly maintaining troops in communities despite the promise to recall troops from combat operations, a day after they agreed to an indefinite ceasefire to create mechanisms for a binding interim truce with the government.

But the military insisted that routine law enforcement operations and patrols "will continue" despite the ceasefire to ensure the safety of their bases and the community.

"The CPP strongly criticizes the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] for maintaining their presence and continuing to make aggressive moves in and around the areas of operations of the NPA," the CPP said in a

statement.

"There have been persistent reports of continuing presence of armed operating troops of the AFP in barangay centers, occupying barangay halls, community schools and day care centers, senior citizen centers and other civilian structures. They continue to set up detachments or physical bases in the center of civilian population," the group added.

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"The presence and operations of the AFP in rural communities undermine the credibility of the Duterte government among the people as it projects an image of disunity within the GRP or refusal of the AFP to abide by the order of its commander-in-chief."

The CPP said: "According to our reports, when questioned, field commanders invariably justify their presence with claims of 'peace and development', 'anti-drug', 'anti-log-ging' and 'visitations'. To the people, these are nothing but thinly-veiled pretexts to impose their armed presence and to carry out psywar, surveillance and search and combat operations against the NPA."

On Friday, the government and the communist rebels agreed in Oslo, Norway to extend indefinitely their ceasefires and create mechanisms within 60 days for a binding interim truce agreement before returning to the negotiating tables next October.

The government and NDF panels agreed on six major contentious issues that would move the negotiations forward.

They also re-affirmed previously signed agreements, among them The Hague Joint Declaration in 1992, Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) in 1996, and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) in 1998.

Both panels also agreed to reconstitute the JASIG list, which will be on an encrypted file and will contain photos and identities of NDF consultants still in hiding but will enjoy immunity from arrest.

The list will contain the names and photos of 54 NDF "publicly known" consultants and 87 guerrilla leaders publicly known by their "assumed names."

Also given a thumbs up during the meeting were the revitalization of the joint monitoring committee, the submission of a recommendation to President Rodrigo Duterte on the issuance of an Amnesty Proclamation, subject to Congress concurrence, for the arrested, imprisoned and charged NDF members.

After more than half a decade of impasse, both negotiating panels signed the "Joint Statement on the Resumption of the Formal Peace Talks in the Peace Negotiations" as a result of the formal peace talks from August 22 to 26.

Military officials had earlier confirmed that troops had been recalled from combat operations, insisting however, that there won't be any pull-out of troops.

Army spokesperson Col Benjamin Hao said all combat operations have been canceled and their troops are returning to the barracks.

"Some field units are still on their way [to barracks]," Hao said. "But definitely we no longer have ongoing combat operations."

"There is no instruction (from higher authorities) for us to pull out from the communities. The instruction is for us to stop combat operations so we will stop our combat operations. Focused military operations have corresponding orders so these were already cancelled," Hao said.

The Suspension of Offensive Military Operations (SOMO) against the CPP-NPA-NDF reiterated that AFP troops shall remain in communities.

Should the NPA conduct actual attacks against soldiers or communities, the AFP leadership authorized military action to "defeat" the enemy.

"Commanders must clearly understand the strategic implications of any actions so as not to jeopardize the implementation of the [ceasefire] and, more importantly, the realization of the President's intent for a lasting agreement with the CPP," the SOMO read.

"In cases of actual NPA violent attacks, the AFP shall treat the incidents as law enforcement operations in coordination with the PNP and immediate use of military force to repel and defeat the attack is authorized," the instruction from AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya added.

The Oplan Bayanihan, the military's anti-insurgency measure, will also continue despite calls from leftist group for Duterte to rescind the alleged mil-

itarization efforts by the army.

Security operations, focused on the neutralization of other threats to national security, such as the ASG and other terrorist groups, and the protection of communities, government facilities, military camps and other vital installations will continue despite the truce.

President Duterte, who welcomed CPP's declaration of ceasefire, had reiterated "there is no such thing as militarization."

"Every inch of this property of the Republic must be occupied by the soldiers of the government. There is no such thing as hindi kayo papasok diyari kasi (do not enter that because) no militarization there," the President said in Davao City.

The CPP, however, slammed the military's excuses, saying "people are made to suffer by the oppressive presence of armed operating troops."

It said: "The AFP must also stop making the stupid counter-demand for the NPA to also withdraw from their communities. These are nothing but empty noise to drown the clamor for their removal."

"In the first place NPA units do not set up detachments inside the communities or use barangay halls as their barracks," the group said, claiming the people's right to free movement is restricted for fear of being accosted by the soldiers.

"Economic activity is affected as peasants choose not to tend their fields for fear of being questioned by soldiers. There have been restrictions on commerce, particularly, on the amount of goods that can be purchased by community stores. Community leaders, especially those active in struggles for land and against mining are being summoned or 'invited' by the AFP."

But the NPA said "If the AFP will insist on maintaining its presence in communities and launching aggressive operations into the interior areas, armed skirmishes are bound to erupt despite the NPA's effort to maintain the ceasefire."

The CPP also announced that the NPA is set to release "at least seven prisoners-of-war in Surigao and Compostela Valley."

"In Northern Mindanao, the NPA command took the initiative of extending the effectivity of the ceasefire to facilitate the safe and orderly release of the prisoners, all of whom are GRP police officers accosted to undergo preliminary investigation," it added.

Meanwhile, the Royal Norwegian Government welcomed the signing of the joint statement between representatives of the Philippine Government and the communist movement National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) in Oslo this week.

"In the course of a few days, the parties in the Philippine peace process have reached agreement on issues that have blocked progress for many years. The agreement to recommend amnesties and a ceasefire is a breakthrough. It is also of crucial importance that the whole of the communist movement National Democratic Front of the Philippines is now represented here in Oslo," said Minister of Foreign Affairs Børge Brende.

"I would like to congratulate the parties, who have shown considerable flexibility and the desire to achieve this important joint declaration. The intentions behind the declaration, combined with the constructive negotiation climate, will form the basis for further peace talks," he added.

The AFP also lauded the decision of the National Democratic Front to extend indefinitely its week-long ceasefire in view of its peace talks with the government.

"The AFP have noted with elation and optimism this breakthrough in the peace negotiations," AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

"It is a laudable move on the part of the CPP-NPA-NDF to respond positively to President Duterte's declaration of the reimposition of the ceasefire 'for as long as necessary to attain lasting peace in the land,' Arevalo said.

He said, "The nation can rely on every soldier, sailor, marine and airman to help provide an environment conducive to peace so that negotiators from both panels can work under the climate of trust and [push for] prospect of reconciliation." **With PNA**

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26 August 2016

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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**PRESIDENT Duterte questions Chief Insp. Arnold Ongachen and PO1 Michael Grande (at right) following their release from communist hands at the Eastern Mindanao Command in Davao City on Friday.**

MALACANANG PHOTO

# Reds free police captives

**SURIGAO CITY**—Communist guerrillas in Mindanao released their remaining captives as promised Saturday in a goodwill gesture following the successful end of initial peace talks that wrapped up the day before in Oslo, Norway.

About 5,000 people from different towns of Surigao del Norte came to witness the release of PO2 Caleb Sinaca, PO3 Jayroll Bagayas, SPO3 Santiago Lamanilao and civilian police employee Rodrigo Angub, who were turned over to their relatives in a day-long event in a mountainous area overlooking the city.

The four were tearfully reunited with their families, more than a month after they were seized by New People's Army (NPA) rebels for their alleged involvement in illegal drugs and gambling. Doctors examined the freed captives, who were declared to be in good health.

The NPA said it decided to call off its investigations as a "gesture of goodwill" after the talks wrapped up in Norway Friday, with both sides agreeing to extend a truce indefinitely and explore the possibility the government would free more detained guerrillas.

"We were never maltreated and in fact we were attended well," Lamanilao said, as he expressed his gratitude to the NPA custodial force led by Ka Lucas.

On Friday, the NPA released three police offi-

cers, led by Chief Insp. Arnold Ongachen who was seized on May 29 and accused of involvement in the illegal drugs trade in his town.

Maj. Gen. Rafael Valencia, commanding officer of the 10th Infantry Division, welcomed Saturday's releases and said he hoped the peace talks would finally end the over four-decades long communist insurgency in the country.

"We [also] welcomed the declaration of the ceasefire," Valencia said, "We're supporting the peace initiatives of President Duterte. We are hoping the ceasefire would hold just like we experienced in the talks with the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) when the ceasefire contributed to the success of the talks."

Troops have been ordered restricted to camps except for those engaged in outreach programs, Valencia said.

Rigoberto Sanchez, spokesperson of the NPA's Southern Mindanao Command, said the releases were a "gesture of goodwill on the part of the revolutionary movement," expressing their optimism for the resumption of the peace talks.

However, he pressed for the further release of some 500 "political prisoners" still languishing in jail.

**Chris Panganiban, with a report from Germelina Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao**

14 August 2016

The  
**Standard**  
DEFINING THE NEWS

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## 15 Abu killed in Sulu battles

By Florante S. Solmerin

A TOTAL 15 Abu Sayyaf members were killed while 17 soldiers were wounded in two separate clashes places Friday in Patikul, Sulu, the military said.

But based on the official report of the Army's Special Operation Command, only six Abu Sayyaf bodies were recovered although a separate media report said the ASG claimed they suffered only 12 casualties.

Earlier, Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) spokesman Jamor Felimon Tan Jr. said the six casualties included an ASG sub-leader from an encounter that started at sunrise in Sitio Makaita, Barangay Bunkaong.

But in the SOCOM report, the two separate encounters happened in Sitio Tubig Magkawas

*Next page*

in Barangay Langhub and Sitio Pangi in Barangay Bunkaong where the 15 Abu Sayyaf casualties were recorded.

It said the bodies of the six ASG casualties were recovered from the encounter sites, while nine bodies were hauled away by the fleeing bandits.

It also confirmed the death of Mohammad Said, an ASB sub-leader, who was involved in the abduction in September 2015 of John Ridsdel and Robert Hall, both Canadians, Kjartan Sekkingstad, a Norwegian; and Hall's Filipina girlfriend Mari-tes Flor from a resort in the Island Garden City of Samal.

The ASG beheaded Hall and Ridsdel after their families failed to deliver a P300-million ransom for each victim. Flor was freed later while Sekkingstad was still in custody.

This week, the ASG beheaded another kidnap victim, Jhames Almodavar, after his family failed to produce P1 million ransom.

President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to eliminate the ASG menace in Basilan and Sulu.



26 August 2016



Pahina. 2

## 1,000 Army troops idineploy vs Abu Sayyaf

Upang mapabilis ang paglipol sa nalalabi pang mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), dalawang batalyon pa o isanglibong tropa ng mga sundalo ang isinabak sa lalawigan ng Sulu at Basilan.

Sinabi ni AFP Western

Mindanao Command Major Felimon Tan, ang karagdagang mga sundalo ay idineploy sa naturang mga lalawigan kaugnay ng utos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na pulbusin na sa lalong madalang panahon ang puwersa ng mga bandido.

"Our objective is clear to destroy the Abu Sayyaf. Now, our troops can cover more areas, they can block the places use by the enemies to evade military operations," pahayag ni Tan kung saan kabilang sa idineploy na puwersa ay galing sa baluarte ni Duterte sa Davao Region na ipinull-out sa communist rebels area.

Sa kasalukuyan, sa pag-sabak ng karagdagang tropa

ng militar, umaabot na sa 5,000 ang puwersa ng mga sundalo sa Sulu at nasa 3,000 naman sa Basilan na tumatugis sa mga bandido upang masagip ang nalalabi pang mga hostages.

Ayon sa opisyal, determined silang malipol ang puwersa ng mga bandido alinsunod sa kautusan ng punong ehekutibo na tuluyang napundi sa pamumugot ng ulo karnakailan ng Abu Sayyaf sa hostage victim na si Patrick Almodovar, 18 anyos.

Si Almodovar ang kauna-unahang hostage na napugutan ng ulo ng mga bandido sa ilalim ng administrasyong Duterte - *Joy Cantos* -

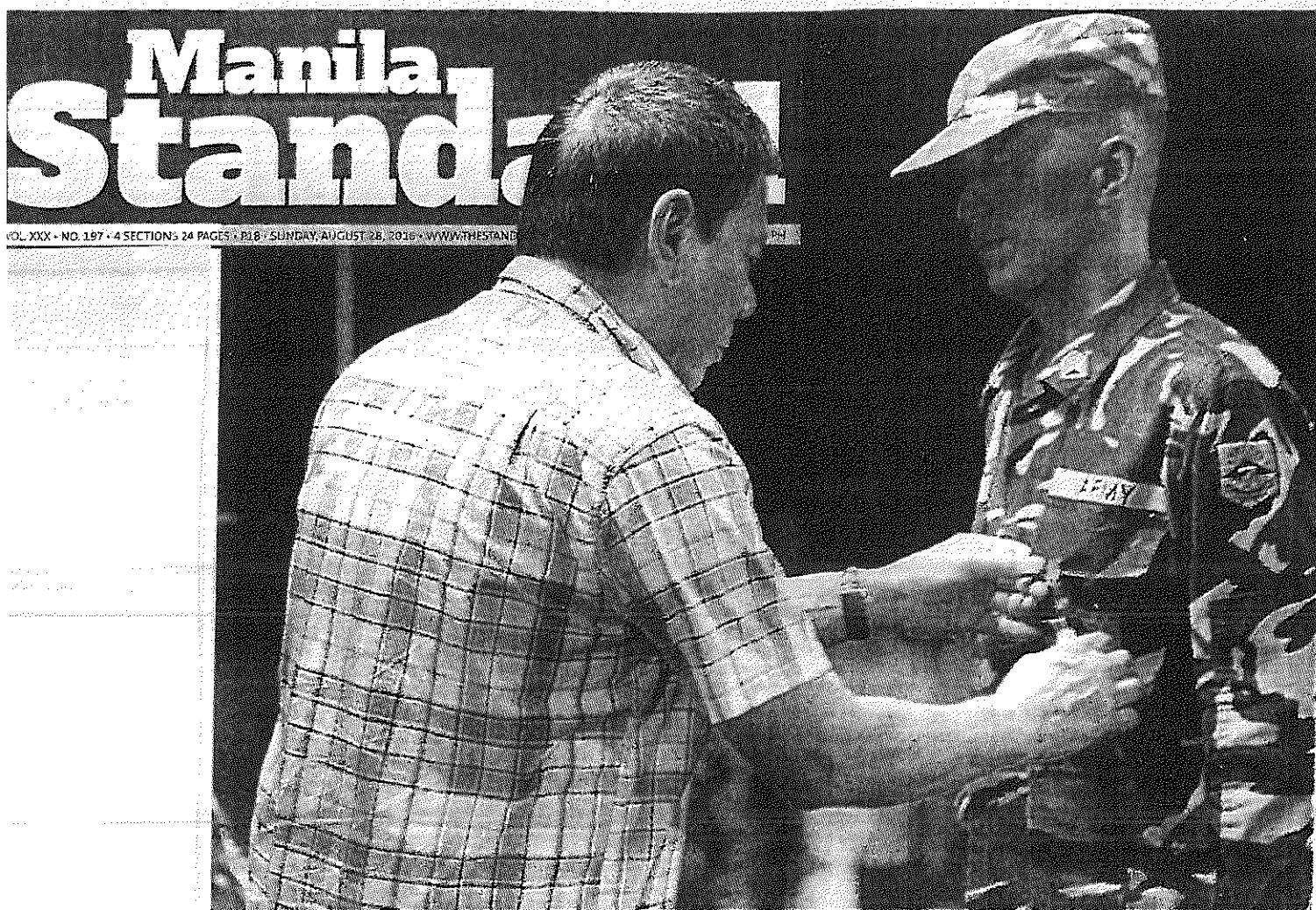
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FROM A GRATEFUL NATION, President Rodrigo Duterte pins a medal on a government trooper during the 10th anniversary celebration of the Eastern Mindanao Command held at the Naval Station Felix Apolinario in Davao City.

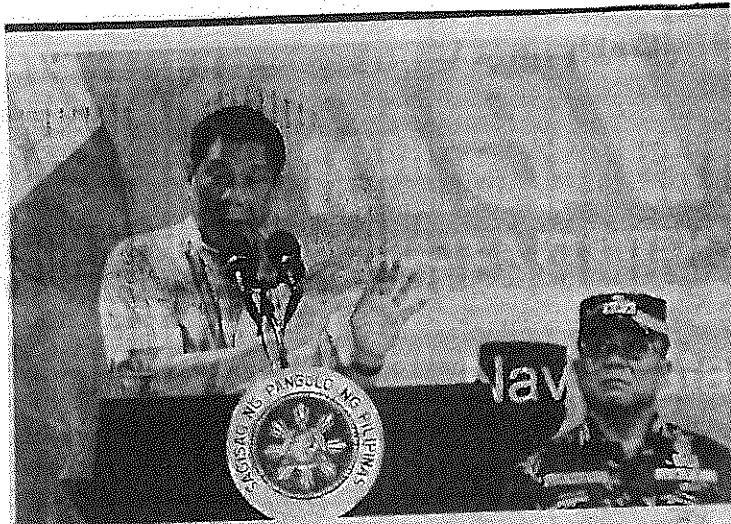
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14 August 2016

**Tempo**

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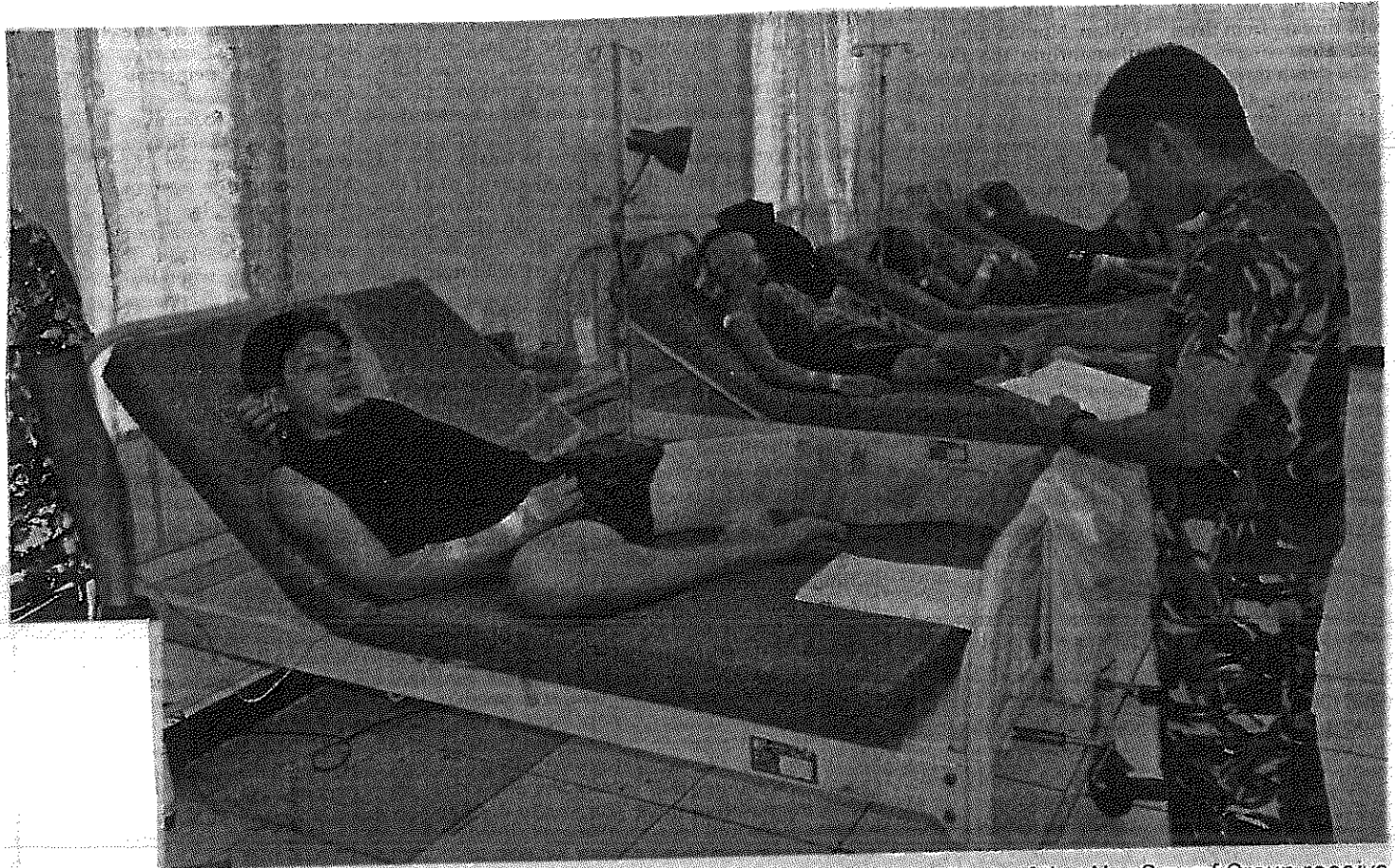


**PRESIDENT Duterte gestures as he speaks before soldiers during the 10th founding anniversary of the Armed Forces Eastern Mindanao Command in Davao City Friday. (Keith Bacongco)**

14 August 2016



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**DESTROY THE ASG.** Soldiers wounded in an encounter with members of the Abu Sayyaf Group receive treatment at a military hospital in Jolo, Sulu. President Duterte has repeated his order to destroy the bandits notorious for beheading hostages whose ransoms are not paid. (Story on p.3) AFP



7<sup>th</sup> August 2016



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**TUMIMBUWANG** ang 11 bandidong Abu Sayyaf sa isinagawang opensiba ng militar sa Patikul, Sulu noong Biyernes. Kabilang sa mga napatay ang bandidong kumidnap at nagpugot sa ulo ng dalawang Canadian kamakailan, ayon kay military spokesman Maj. Filemon Tan. **AFP**

24 August 2016

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

# NPAs free 4 more hostages

MIKE U. CRISMUNDO and ROCKY NAZARENO

**T**hree more policemen and a non-uniformed personnel (NUP), who have been held captive for the past 34 days by

the New People's Army (NPA), were released yesterday in Sitio Brazil, Barangay Mat-i, Surigao City.

The communist rebels released

Senior Police Officer 3 (SPO3) Santiago B. Lamanilao of Surigao City Police Station; Police Officer 3 (PO3) Jayroll H. Bagayas, and PO2 Caleb C. Sinaca, both assigned to the Malimono Municipal Police Station (MPS); and NUP Rodrigo

T. Angob, who works in the same police station, a day after they freed three other policemen.

The custodial force of the NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NMRC) turned over ▶

the three abducted policemen and the NUP to the third-party facilitators, led by Surigao del Norte Vice Gov. Arturo Egay Jr., Surigao City Vice Mayor Alfonso Casurra and members from the religious sectors, yesterday.

It was observed that no uniformed personnel were seen in the release area.

The immediate kin of the released policemen and NUP were in jubilant mood after seeing their respective love ones in good health.

"Salamat sa Gino-o, wala jud kami nila (Abductors) pasakiti ug ila jud gisunod ang protocols of war" (Thank God, they (abductors) did not harm us and they really followed the protocols of war)," the only words SPO3 Lamanilao could utter.

Like Lamanilao, the two other released policemen and the NUP also expressed their gratitude to their abductors for not harming them during their 34-day in captivity somewhere in the jungles of Malimono and other areas in Surigao del Norte.

The release of the 3 policemen and NUP was a reaffirmation of showing goodwill to the resumption of peace talks, said "Ka Uto" of guerrilla-Front Committee 16 of the CPP-NPA.

Vice Gov. Egay said the resumption of peace talks between the government

and the National Democratic Front (NDF) was a big factor in this development.

"Their release is a big advancement in our continuing quest for peace and the peace talks between the Philippine government and CPP-NPA-NDF is a key factor for development," the vice governor said.

The three policemen and the NUP were on their way to a friend's house for lunch at Barangay Cagtinae in Malimono, Surigao del Norte when the NPAs abducted them at 2:15 p.m. on July 24, 2016.

Last Friday, the NPAs freed Chief Inspector Arnold Ongachen, chief of police of Gov. Generoso Police Station; Police Officer 1 Michael Grande of the Banaybanay Police Station, both in Davao Oriental; and Police Officer 1 Richard V Yu Jr. of Carmen Police Station in Surigao del Sur.

#### **NDF panel to Utrecht**

As this developed, the NDF panel, together with consultants and other staff, was set to proceed to Utrecht, The Netherlands, yesterday for a series of consultations, following the signing with the government of the joint statement, anchored on an indefinite unilateral ceasefire.

This was bared by NDF Peace Panel

Chairman Luis Jalandoni after the signing of the joint statement Friday.

"Lahat kami dito pupunta sa (All of us will proceed to) Amsterdam tomorrow, and we will have consultations in our office in Utrecht. Yung iba would be (some will be) there up to September 2, mayroong (some) September 1," Jalandoni said.

The communist leader explained that they would need the "next four or five days together" to decide on the composition of the NDF's working committees, which will thresh out the 10 agreements agreed upon in the recent talks with GRP counterparts.

"We will discuss kung sino ba and pwede sa ceasefire committee, kung sino ba ang sa committee on socio-economic reform, political and constitutional reform, at iba pa," he told the Manila Bulletin.

Among those who were set to travel to Utrecht were Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, former chairman and secretary general, respectively, of the CPP and its armed wing the New People's Army (NPA).

The high-profile couple had previously said that they would immediately return to the Philippines after the August 21 to 26 talks.

But Jalandoni explained that there was nothing wrong that Tiamzons would have extend their trip to Utrecht since this was still part of the peace process.

"Kasama dun sa pagpapalaya nila ang provision about pre-talks and post-talks consultations. Very natural yan dito because we need three to four days of consultations to prepare (for the committee work in Manila in the next two months)," he said.

According to the joint statement of the government and the NDF, there will be Reciprocal Working Committees (RWCs) on socio-economic reforms, political and constitutional reforms, end of hostilities and disposition of forces and a Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC).

In the next two months in the Philippines, these RWCs and JMC will regularly convene to deal with the nitty gritty of a more comprehensive agreement that would be tackled in Round 2 of the talks on October 8 to 12, also in this city.

"Kasi nga, marami na ngayon ang consultants namin (This is so because we now have many consultants). That's why we have to consult on the composition of these committees," Jalandoni pointed out.

Meanwhile, the Royal Norwegian Government (RNG) tendered a farewell dinner for both the GRP and NDF contingents Friday night at Alex Sushi, a six-star Japanese sushi restaurant in downtown Oslo which is co-owned by Filipino Executive Chef Alex Cabiao.

After dinner, members of the RNG facilitation staff pitted their singing prowess against their Filipino visitors, particularly Sison who obliged and surprised not a few with his mastery of both progressive Filipino songs and classic Spanish ditties.

#### **Soldiers told to observe truce**

Meanwhile, President Duterte on Friday ordered soldiers to observe the indefinite ceasefire agreement between the government and the communist rebels to facilitate the peace talks aimed at ending one of Asia's longest running insurgencies.

Speaking at the 10th anniversary of the Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) in Panacan, Davao City on Friday, the Commander-in-Chief told soldiers: "We have declared a ceasefire, just observe it please so they can talk there without the ruckus and everything."

He likewise called on the soldiers to take advantage of the "windows that are already open" and concentrate on the fight against drugs and extremism.

"We are in a best position now, there's a window. It is not really very big but may window ngayon for us to take stock of everything," said Duterte. (With a report from Elena L. Aben)



21 August 2016

## MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

### Destroy Abu Sayyaf, Duterte orders gov't security forces

Infuriated by the Abu Sayyaf Group's (ASG) indiscriminate killing activities, President Duterte on Friday directed government security forces to destroy the bandit group now.

The Abu Sayyaf is "out of control" and there is only one way to deal with them: For the government security forces to crush them, Duterte ►8

### Destroy Abu Sayyaf, Duterte... ◀1

told soldiers at the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Eastern Mindanao Command (AFP-Eastmincom) in Panacan, Davao City, last Friday.

"So my orders to the Armed Forces and to the police: Destroy them. Destroy them because they are criminals," the President said.

"We'll never have peace in that area there... even if you grant them autonomy, and they maintain to be bandits. We will never have peace in that land," he continued.

With an indefinite truce with communist rebels, and the Muslim separatist

groups – Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) – having also expressed their desire to talk, Duterte said that the government is now in the best position to confront the Abu Sayyaf threat.

"So we have this time to concentrate on the front, sa drugs and extremism. So we have only two and they are just a few. Kaya natin yan pulbusin sa totoo lang," Duterte told the soldiers.

"I think this is one dividend we would like to see – for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to have its undivided attention on Abu Sayyaf," Senate Minor-

ity Leader Ralph Recto said.

"If we unleash really the firepower of the Armed Forces, ang problema lang it will also inflame passion there of the women and children. But kung talagang todasin natin yan, matapos ng isang linggo yan, to the last man," he added.

Recto said some AFP units tied up in checking New People's Army (NPA) activities could now be redeployed to areas where the Abu Sayyaf has grassroots support or within the reach of "Abu Sayyaf's long arm of terror."

During the senatorial campaign trail last summer, Recto called the "wiping out of the Abu Sayyaf" as the "Artikulo Uno" (Article One) of the urgent things the next president should do.

"Tuldukan na niya (Put an end to it) If he is drawing up a list of criminals who must be neutralized, then without doubt the Abu Sayyaf occupies the No. 1 spot," Recto said.

"If they're (ASG) listening now... nawala ang bilib ko sa inyo. Ako may respeto noon, you are fighting for freedom. Tama kayo, there was this historical injustice, committed against the Moro people," Duterte said.

"But when you began to slaughter people in front of the camera and then now you kill an innocent boy, nawala ang respeto ko sa inyo," he continued.

The President was referring to the latest kidnap victim beheaded by the ASG – 18-year-old Patrick Almodovar

whose decapitated head was recovered by the police at KM2, Barangay Kajatian, Indanan, Sulu, last Thursday.

The ASG murdered Almodovar after the victim's family failed to heed the bandit group's ransom demand.

According to Duterte, there's a segment of society such as the Tausug who want peace. "And here you are slaughtering people as if they are chickens in front of the public. Nawala ang respeto ko, nawala ang bilib ko sa inyo," said Duterte.

"Kaya I would not hesitate to order the Armed Forces of the Philippines, kill them. Destroy them. Destroy," he added. (Elena L. Aben with a report from Mario B. Casayuran)

24 August 2016



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## Next gov't-NDF talks to be held in October

The peace panels of the Philippine government and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) will resume their second round of formal talks in Norway

commitment to resume the negotiations in order to resolve the armed conflict by addressing its root causes.

They agreed to meet again in Oslo on Oct. 8-12 this year.

By JOSE RODEL CLAPANO

this October

In an eight-page joint statement concluding the first round of formal peace talks held from Aug. 22-26 in Oslo, Norway, the two panels expressed their

The most significant result of the first round of formal talks was their agreement to immediately recommend to President Duterte the granting of amnesty to the rebels.

Turn to Page 9

### Next From Page 1

The panels also agreed to implement an "indefinite unilateral ceasefire," which became effective yesterday.

In a joint statement, the panels said the joint ceasefire agreement came about in response to President Duterte's declaration of a unilateral ceasefire that took effect from Aug. 21.

"The negotiating panels agreed to work through their respective ceasefire committees to reconcile and develop their separate orders into a single unified bilateral document within 60 days date of this Joint Statement. Said document shall be subject to the approval of their respective principals," the joint statement read.

The panels also discussed the prospective adoption of the annexes to the bilateral ceasefire agreement and the prospective role of a third party in ceasefire monitoring and mediation in relation to the implementation of

the ceasefire, and the handling of complaints and alleged violations of the ceasefire agreement.

The NDF panel expressed its appreciation and acknowledged the Philippine government and the efforts of President Duterte in ordering the release of its consultants under the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) signed on Feb. 24, 1995.

Lawmakers hailed the joint panels in declaring the indefinite ceasefire.

However, some concerns were raised about some of the details of the agreement.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the ceasefire declared by the CPP-NPA-NDF "is the most welcome development so far achieved by the Duterte administration that could hopefully put an end to our decades-old insurgency problem."

"The list of demands apart from the release and the grant of general amnesty to all political prisoners and how the government will respond bear watching though because that

will be the focal point and in fact, the success or collapse of the peace talks will depend on (it)," Lacson said.

Sen. Grace Poe said the declaration of an indefinite ceasefire on the side of the CPP-NPA-NDF "is a positive development to at least ensure that there is no further loss of lives among our countrymen as both panels negotiate for that much elusive peace settlement."

"I join our people in looking forward to finally settle this decades long insurgency this time around," she said.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, a member of the Liberal Party, said the Duterte administration should be commended for its efforts to attain peace, not only with communist insurgents, but also with Muslim secessionists.

Pangilinan said he is supportive of the proposed grant of general amnesty, which would have to go through Congress for approval if this is endorsed by the executive branch.

For his part, Sen. Vicente

Sotto III said he was not comfortable with the mention of a coalition government by the CPP-NPA-NDF, which was previously rejected by President Duterte.

Ifugao Rep. Teodoro Baguilat said the government should institute mechanisms to monitor the ceasefire at the local level.

Baguilat said that despite the ceasefire agreement, there had been skirmishes between government troops and NPA rebels in several provinces in Northern Luzon.

Senate Minority Leader Ralph Recto said the government forces could focus on putting an end to the Abu Sayyaf now that an indefinite ceasefire has been forged with the communist insurgents.

The military, for its part, lauded the CPP-NPA-NDF's move to reciprocate the indefinite ceasefire declared by President Duterte.

"It is a laudable move on the part of the CPP-NPA-NDF to respond positively to President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration

of reimposition of the ceasefire 'for as long as necessary' to attain lasting peace in the land," AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

Arevalo pointed out that the AFP will continue to uphold the letter and spirit of the government's unilateral ceasefire declaration.

### **Window for peace**

With the ceasefire on both sides, President Duterte said the country is in the best position for peace.

"We are in the best position now. There is a window now and we have to take stock of everything," he said.

Duterte said the country has been given the window for peace because of the ceasefire agreement with the communists.

"There is the window for peace. We are not fighting the communists. And by the grace of Allah, MI (Moro Islamic Liberation Front), MN (Moro National Liberation Front) have expressed their

desire to talk. MI, I salute you guys – they even surrendered the drug addicts under their custody," Duterte addressed the troops during the 10th anniversary celebration of the Armed Forces Eastern Mindanao Command in Davao City on Friday.

Duterte said he wants the window to remain open.

Duterte told the troops to abide by the unilateral ceasefire he initially declared with the communist rebels.

"We just talked about peaceful things, they are doing well. We have declared the ceasefire – just observe it please so they can talk there without a ruckus and everything," he said.

Duterte said the communist rebels are also sincere in their desire for peace.

"I sensed that they are also tired of fighting. Because you know why? They have allowed the Left to join my government," he said. – **With Christina Mendez, Marvin Sy, Edith Regalado, Jaime Laude, Artemio Dumlao**



August 2016



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## ‘Bilateral talks with China must be based on arbitral ruling’

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

An international court's ruling against China's expansive claim in the South China Sea and West Philippine Sea should be the basis of any bilateral talks on the issue, President Duterte claimed having told Beijing's ambassador during a meeting in Davao City on Thursday.

The President told soldiers gathered for the 10th anniversary celebration of the East Mindanao Command in Davao on Friday that he made clear his position to Chinese Ambassa-

sador Zhao Jianhua after a long drawn out meeting.

"We avoid trouble with them. *Hindi pa natin kaya* (We can't do it yet) *Sinabi ko* Mr Ambassador, I will not talk about it but when we are in front of each other in a bilateral talk, just the two of us, then I would state my case. I have this arbitral judgment. We will not go out of the four corners of this paper, then let us talk," the President said.

But he stressed such talks can wait.

"Not now, it's not the right time to talk about it. There are so many conferences going on," he said.

He stressed the two countries should focus more on what unites them. But he acknowledged the need for the Philippines to beef up its defense capability in case things get out of hand.

"The Philippines is going to experience another spasm. When? I do not know, but that's

for sure. So be prepared, even with limited talent and capacity," he pointed out.

Even without advanced weapons like missiles, Duterte said Filipinos can give their enemies a good fight.

"Win or lose, we don't care as long as we fight. It will come, maybe sooner than later but we have to prepare," the President said.

He declared he is ready to lead the armed forces – and

even don camouflage military uniform – in the event of armed hostilities.

"We also have to end our small wars here," he said, referring to the communist and Muslim rebellions.

He added he is ready to shell out funds for the recruitment of more soldiers. "I can give you 10,000 more soldiers," he said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzo is requesting for 20,000 more recruits.

"There is always the standing

army to protect us. Never mind how many even if it causes imbalance in the budget. It is always good to have men there, ready to fight and die rather than not having them at all and just surrender just like a meek lamb. That cannot be," he said.

"So we prepare. It is up to you guys to make the projections on how to deal with it, and in the meantime, we take advantage of these windows that are open to us now," he added.

– With AP

AP

26 August 2016



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**PEOPLES JOURNALS** Sunday, August 28, 2016 **7**

# **Bishop condemns ASG for beheading of teen hostage**

**By  
Lee  
Ann P.  
Ducusin**

A CATHOLIC bishop has condemned the Abu Sayyaf Group for beheading an 18-year-old male hostage, calling them a terror group that must be destroyed. "My heart bleeds upon learning of the beheading of the boy," Basilan Bishop Martin Jumoad said. "Destroy means dismantle them and apprehend them. If they fight, then the military must protect their lives too," the bishop said.

The prelate made the statement a day after authorities confirmed the beheading of the hostage in Indanan, Sulu because the bandits failed to get P1 million ransom from the boy's family.

President Rodrigo Duterte earlier ordered soldiers to eliminate the Abu Sayyaf, a group notorious for ransom kidnapping and other atrocities.

Last Friday, Duterte has ordered the deployment of more troops to pursue the bandit group.

"Since 1990 until now, the government has not eliminated the Abu Sayyaf," the prelate said.

"The bandits are just laughing at the order of the president. I hope the order of President Duterte will be executed by the military," he said.

14 August 2016



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## Postscript

By FEDERICO D. PASCUAL Jr.

### Ceasefire: NPA keeps territory?

WE SUPPORT the peace process ongoing between the Duterte administration and the Communist rebels and welcome their agreement for an indefinite ceasefire forged this week in Oslo, Norway, but because of the paucity of details published we have some questions.



- When the ceasefire took effect yesterday, will the opposing forces on the ground stay as is—where is? Does the ceasefire allow the New People's Army to hold its "territory" indefinitely without facing challenge from government troops?

- Will the Duterte administration allow the Communist rebels to continue collecting "revolutionary" taxes as if it were another government?

We posed the question yesterday on Twitter and Teddy Locsin Jr., one of several reactors, replied: "No. It will be part of the government. No need and the revolution will be over."

The NPA pretends to be some kind of *de facto* government by, among other acts, collecting taxes and dispensing its own brand of swift justice to show up, by contrast, the slow due process in the regular courts.

- When the parties presented their credentials in Oslo, who was the principal of the panel led by Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III? Was it President Rodrigo Duterte, or the administration, or the government? Somebody is bound to ask what the difference is. A lot.

- By what process and upon whose order – the Executive or the Judiciary – were the National Democratic Front consultants released from detention/prison so they could participate in Oslo?

• Why is the NPA no longer referring to soldiers and policemen that they capture, and soon will release, as "prisoners of war"? Is this part of a mutually agreed de-escalation of revolutionary rhetoric? The dropping of the term brings down the dialogue to reality.

Calling the captives "prisoners of war" is a sly way of saying that the NPA is locked in a people's war against an equal and opposite government. What is going on is not really such a war, but simply insurgents' sowing mayhem for leverage and to make their presence felt.

In the rebel panel led by NDF chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni were Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison and his wife Julie, NDF spokesperson Fidel Agcaoili, panel member Coni Ledesma, NDF Representative to the Nordic countries Asterio Palma, NDF consultants Benito and Wilma Iamzon, CPP chair Tirzo Alcantara, and CPP secretary-general Alan Jazmines. Also present were NDF co-founder and former Bayan Muna Party-List Rep. Satur Ocampo, Vicente Ladlad, Rafael Baylosis and Randall Echanis.

We said in our *Postscript* last Aug. 2 that there is no more reason for the rebels to continue fighting since a sympathetic "Duterte, a confessed socialist, has broken into the inner sanctum of the despised Establishment and captured it from inside and from the top. xxx With him as a populist president, change for the long-suffering Filipino is at hand."

The rebel leaders are smart in taking advantage of the Duterte phenomenon with alacrity. Unless the President works out his holdover, like by rewriting the Constitution, it would be long after his term that they would see a more favorable time to rejoin the mainstream, before old age overtakes them.

#### • Will ceasefire hold on the ground?

A CRITICAL test of the peace process is ensuring that the ceasefire holds. If NPA fighters violate it, the infraction would show that the ageing CPP and NDF seniors running the rebellion by remote control from Europe may have lost touch with their foot soldiers.

Incidentally, the NPA is on the US state department list of foreign terrorist groups, together with the Abu Sayyaf, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Boko Haram in Nigeria, Hamas in Palestine, and Jemaah Islamiyah in Indonesia. The movements of its members and its funds are presumably monitored by the US government.

Despite the NPA's being on the terrorist list, the Netherlands has given its associated group NDF a political refugee status, among other privileges, enabling them to pursue a rebellion against the Philippine government with which the Dutch are supposed to be friendly.

At the end of the Oslo talks, Bello announced that both parties agreed on six contentious issues. Aside from the ceasefire, the panels re-affirmed commitment to previously signed agreements, such as The Hague Joint Declaration in 1992, Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) in 1996, and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) in 1998.

Both sides also agreed to reconstitute the so-called JASIG list that has the pictures and identities of NDF consultants still in hiding but who are granted immunity from arrest during the negotiations. They include 54 "publicly known" NDF consultants and 87 guerilla leaders known only by their assumed names.

The negotiators also agreed to recommend that President Duterte issue an Amnesty Proclamation, subject to concurrence of Congress, for NDF members who have been arrested, imprisoned or charged.

Hoping that the mutual trust so far generated will last, both sides have expressed optimism that a comprehensive peace agreement can be signed within a year. A follow-up meeting is set Oct. 8 to 12 in Oslo to discuss socioeconomic reforms and arrive at a consensus in six months.

The Duterte administration is not saying it, but it appears that the communist-inspired insurgency rooted in poverty, discontent and misgovernment is easier to tackle than the secessionist Moro problem abetted by a neighboring country.

It helps that the nation is now led by a straight-talking Duterte who is not identified with the ruling elite that is largely blamed for the socio-political inequities fueling grievances.

\* \* \*

**ADVISORY:** To access *Postscript* archives, go to [www.manilamail.com](http://www.manilamail.com) (if necessary, copy / paste the url on your browser's address bar). Follow us on Twitter as @FDPascual. Email feedback to [fap333@yahoo.com](mailto:fap333@yahoo.com)

★



24 August 2016



Pahina. 3

### Editorial

## Huwag nang tantanan ang Abu Sayyaf!

**M**ARAMI nang pinatay o pinugutan ang Abu Sayyaf kaya ang 11 miyembro nila na napatay ng mga sundalo noong Huwebes sa Patikul, Sulu ay kulang pa. Hindi pa makasasapat sa mga ginawa nilang kasalanan sa mamamayan.

Ipag-utos ni President Rodrigo Duterte sa mga sundalo na durugin ang mga bandido. Nagalit ang Presidente ng malaman na pinugutan ng Abu Sayyaf ang 18-anyos na si Patrick Almodovar, anak ng isang court stenographer sa Jolo, Sulu. Kinidnap si Almodovar noong Hulyo habang nasa harapan ng kanilang bahay. Hindi umano naibigay ang hinihinging P1-milyong ransom. Natagpuan ang ulo ng tinedyer



sa Patikul dakong 7:30 ng gabi noong Miyerkules. Nakabalot ito sa isang plastic bag at iniwan sa lugar ng tatlong lalaking nakamotorsiklo.

Nananatiling nasa kamay ng Abu Sayyaf ang Norwegian na si Kjartan Sekkingstad sa kabila na nagbayad na ang pamilya nito ng P50-milyon. Ang dalawang kasama ni Sekkingstad na sina John Ridsdel at Robert Hall, mga Canadians, ay pinugutan ng ulo noong Mayo samantalang pinalaya ang Pilipinang si Marites Flor.

Narapat nang wakasan ang Abu Sayyaf. Kung si Duterte ay labis ang galit sa drug traffickers at mga criminal, ganito rin siya dapat kabagsik sa Abu Sayyaf na walang awang pumapatay sa mga inosenteng mamamayan at mga dayuhan. Kabilang sa pinugutan ng mga bandido ang Amerikanong si Guillermo Sobero makaraang hindi makapagbigay ng ransom noong 2001. Pati mga gurong kinidnap ay hindi nila pinatatawad. Pinugutan nila ang dalawang gurong lalaki noong 2001 at ikinalat ang ulo sa isang palengke sa Sulu.

Huwag nang tantanan ang Abu Sayyaf at pagibayuhin pa ang paglipol sa mga ito. Tapusin sila para matapos na ang problema sa Sulu at iba pang lugar sa Mindanao. Huwag titigil sa opensiba para hindi na makapag-recruit ng miyembro.

24



28 August 2016



Pahina. 3



### AFP, dapat nang tapusin ang mga Sayyaf!

pulis. Ito ang hikayat ni Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo sa mga kamag-anak ng mga napatay ng abusadong pulis sa mga operasyon kontra ilegal na droga.

May mga insidenteng lumulutang kung saan tila pinatay ang mga suspek kahit hindi naman lumaban o nagtangkang tumakas.

Sa Antipolo, pinatay ang mag-asawang "asset" ng mga pulis. Nahaharap na sa mga kasong murder ang mga pulis. Pero, sino ang sasampahan ng kaso ng mga magulang ni Danica May Garcia, na napatay ng "di kilalang tao"?

Ang target ay ang kanyang lolo na nagprisinta sa pulis ilang araw bago ang pamamaril dahil nasa listahan daw ang kanyang pangalan.

Sa panahon ngayon, kapag nalagay ka sa listahan ng pulisya o nadikitan ang pangalan mo ng salitang "droga," nalalagay na sa peligro ang buhay mo.

Tulad ng nangyari kay Maximo Garcia na naging target matapos magprisinta sa pulis. Nakaligtas siya sa pamamaril, pero ang napatay ay ang kanyang apo na siguro naman ay wala sa anumang listahan.

Nasaan ang galit mula sa mamamayan sa pagpatay kay Danica May? Pasensiyahan na lang at dulot din 'yan ng digmaan sa droga?

Hindi naman kasalanan ng mga pulis? Hinahanap ba ng mga pulis ang bumari? May imbestigasyon ba o dahil sangkot umano ang tolo ng bata kaya sorry na lang?

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

## ONLINE NEWS 28 AUGUST 2016

[www.inquirer.net](http://www.inquirer.net)

### AFP vows to cooperate in truce

By: Nestor Corrales

@NCorralesINQ

06:01 PM August 27th, 2016



#### WINNING MOMENT

Members of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (from left) Fidel Agcaoili, Coni Ledesma, Jose Maria Sison, Luis Jalandoni, Juliet de Lima and Asterio Palima raise their fists and hold an NDFP flag to mark the end of the first round of peace talks with the government panel in Oslo, Norway. EDRE

#### OLALIA/CONTRIBUTOR

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Saturday lauded and vowed to abide by the indefinite ceasefire agreement between the Philippine government and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

"It is a laudable move on the part of the CPP-NPA (New People's Army)-NDF (National Democratic Front) to respond positively to President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration of reimposition of the ceasefire 'for as long as necessary' to attain lasting peace in the land," Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP Public Affairs Office chief, said in a statement.

"The AFP [notes] with elation and optimism this breakthrough in the peace negotiations," Arevalo added. On Friday, the Duterte administration and communist rebels agreed to extend a unilateral ceasefire indefinitely at the end of the five-day peace talks in Oslo, Norway.

#### READ: Gov't, Reds OK signing of indefinite ceasefire

"The AFP under the leadership of Gen. Ricardo Visaya will continue to uphold the letter and spirit of the ceasefire declaration of the commander-in-chief," Arevalo said.

"The nation can rely on every soldier, sailor, marines, and airmen to help provide an environment conducive to peace so that the negotiators from both panels can work under the climate of trust and the prospect of reconciliation," he added.

It can be recalled that Duterte called off the truce he declared during his first State of the Nation Address after NPA guerillas ambushed a militiaman and the communists did not immediately respond to his declaration. IDL

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

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

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## UN condemns 4 North Korean ballistic missile launches

[www.inquirer.net](http://www.inquirer.net)

Associated Press

11:23 AM August 27th, 2016

UNITED NATIONS — The UN Security Council strongly condemned four North Korean ballistic missile launches in July and August on Friday night, calling them "grave violations" of a ban on all ballistic missile activity.

A press statement approved by all 15 members deplored the fact that the North's ballistic missile activities are contributing to its development of nuclear weapon delivery systems and increasing tensions.

The council expressed "serious concern" that North Korea carried out the launches after six ballistic missile firings between April and June "in flagrant disregard" of its repeated statements to halt such launches as well as nuclear tests which violate council resolutions.

It urged all UN member states "to redouble their efforts" to implement sanctions against Pyongyang, including the toughest measures in two decades imposed by the council in March. Those sanctions reflected growing anger at Pyongyang's nuclear test in January and a subsequent rocket launch.

North Korea has repeatedly flouted Security Council resolutions demanding an end to its nuclear and ballistic missile activities and has continued to launch missiles, escalating tensions on the Korean peninsula and in the region.

The latest submarine launch of a ballistic missile on Wednesday came days after the US and South Korea began military exercises, prompting North Korean threats of retaliation for the military drills, which it views as a rehearsal for invasion by the US and other adversaries.

South Korean officials said the submarine-launched missile flew about 500 kilometers (310 miles), the longest distance achieved by the North for such a weapon. That means all of South Korea, and possibly parts of Japan, are within its striking distance.

The Security Council statement condemned the Aug. 23 launch as well as the North's ballistic missile launches on Aug. 2 and July 18 and the firing of a submarine-launched ballistic missile on July 9.

China, a neighbor and ally of North Korea, had either blocked attempts by the United States and other council members to condemn the three previous attacks when they happened, or insisted on unacceptable language.

The council's agreement on Friday's statement, just two days after the latest North Korean test, reflects growing anger and concern at the North's continuing defiance of the council, including by China.

In Pyongyang, North Korean Foreign Ministry official Jon Min Dok told Associated Press Television News in an interview that the US-led discussions at the UN were a "terrible provocation" and that the country is developing nuclear weapons because of "outrageous nuclear intimidation" by the United States.

Jon spoke just before the Security Council concluded the discussions with a statement.

He said that the latest submarine-launched missile didn't cause any harm to the security of neighboring countries. He said it showed North Korea's "great power and inexhaustible strength in the face of the trials of history and the challenges of our enemies."

"The best way for the US to escape a deadly strike from us is by refraining from insulting our dignity and threatening our security, by exercising prudence and self-control," Jon said.

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North Korea already has a variety of land-based missiles that can hit South Korea and Japan, including US military bases in those countries. Its development of reliable submarine-launched missiles would add a weapon that is harder to detect before launch.

Wednesday's launch was the latest in a series of missile, rocket and other weapon tests this year by North Korea, which is openly pushing to acquire a wider range of nuclear weapons, including those capable of striking targets as far away as mainland United States.

In Friday's statement, the Security Council "reiterated the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in northeast Asia at large."

Members also expressed "their commitment to a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution to the situation" and stressed "the importance of working to reduce tensions in the Korean peninsula and beyond."

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## 17 soldiers wounded, 6 Abus killed in Sulu

By Frances Manosing

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(Updated) Seventeen soldiers were wounded while six members of the Abu Sayyaf were reportedly killed in clashes in Sulu on Friday morning.

Troops from the 4th Scout Ranger Battalion figured with about 100 members of the Abu Sayyaf in Sitio Makaita, Brgy. (village) Bungkaong in Patikul town past 6 a.m., Western Mindanao Command spokesperson Major Filemon Tan said.

The Abu Sayyaf casualties include sub-leader Mohammad Said, a.k.a Ama Maas, who has five standing warrants of arrest for murder, Tan said.

Said was involved in the abduction of the Samal kidnap victims where two Canadians were beheaded. Filipina Maritess Flor was released while Norwegian Kjartan remained with the terror group

Pursuit operations continue against the bandits.

Wounded soldiers were given medical care in a hospital in Sulu and would be later brought to Zamboanga City.

Other soldiers who sustained minor wounds opted to stay and continue fighting the Abu Sayyaf.

"Our troops are extremely motivated; they know that this fight against terrorism is greater than themselves. Sa totoo lang, 17 ang sugatan natin pero 10 dun ay slightly wounded lang, nagpalwan sila para sumama uli sa operation at ipagpatuloy ang laban. Ganyan katindi ang pagtingin namin sa misyon na ito laio na sa utos ng ating Commander in Chief. He gave a specific order. The mission is clear. Seek and destroy the ASG. By all means that's what we are doing and we will not stop until it's done." Wesmincom commander Lt. Gen. Mayoralgo dela Cruz was quoted as saying.

(Our troops are extremely motivated; they know that this fight against terrorism is greater than themselves. The truth is, of the 17 who are hurt, 10 are only slightly wounded, they wanted to be left behind to join the operation and continue the fight. That's how important we consider this mission is, especially upon the order of our Commander in Chief. He gave a specific order. The mission is clear. Seek and destroy the ASG. By all means that's what we are doing and we will not stop until it's done.) CDG/rga

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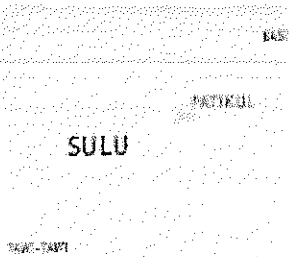
## NEUTRALIZED | Samal Kidnapping ASG Leader killed in Sulu



**CAMP NAVARRO, Calarian, Zamboanga City (DWDD)** – Six (6) members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) were neutralized amid the intensified conduct of focused military operations in Patikul, Sulu.

Operating troops of the Joint Task Force Sulu engaged in a 45-minute armed confrontation with more or less 100 Abu Sayyaf members in Sitio Makaita, Barangay Bunkaong, Patikul, Sulu this morning, yielding to the deaths of six (6) Abu Sayyaf members based on the body counts recovered by troops and undetermined number of wounded ASG members.

Among those killed was Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Mohammad Said, a.k.a Ama Maas, who has five (5) standing warrants of arrest for murder. Subject is involved in the abduction of the Samal kidnap victims where two (2) Canadians were beheaded. Along with that group, Maritess Flor was released and Norwegian Kjartan Sikkengstad is still with the ASG.



Meanwhile, soldiers who were wounded in action are currently undergoing medical treatment in Sulu and will later be transported to Zamboanga City for further medication. Other slightly wounded opted to stay and continue the pursuit operations.

Troops continue to conduct pursuit and are currently engaged in a running gun battle.

Lieutenant General Mayoralgo M. Dela Cruz, Commander, Western Mindanao Command, said: "Our troops are extremely motivated, they know that this fight against terrorism is greater than themselves. Sa totoo lang, 17 ang sugatan natin pero 10 dun ay slightly wounded lang. nagpaiwan sila para sumama uli sa operation at ipagpatuloy ang laban. Ganyan katindi ang pagtingin namin sa misyon na ito laio na sa utos ng ating Commander in Chief. He gave a specific order. The mission is clear. Seek and destroy the ASG. By all means that's what we are doing and we will not stop until it's done." PIO WESTMINCOM / MCAG / Photos courtesy of Ben Hajan, European Pressphoto Agency

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