

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



ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

15 June 2016

Wednesday

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

HEADLINE NEWS

15 JUNE 2016

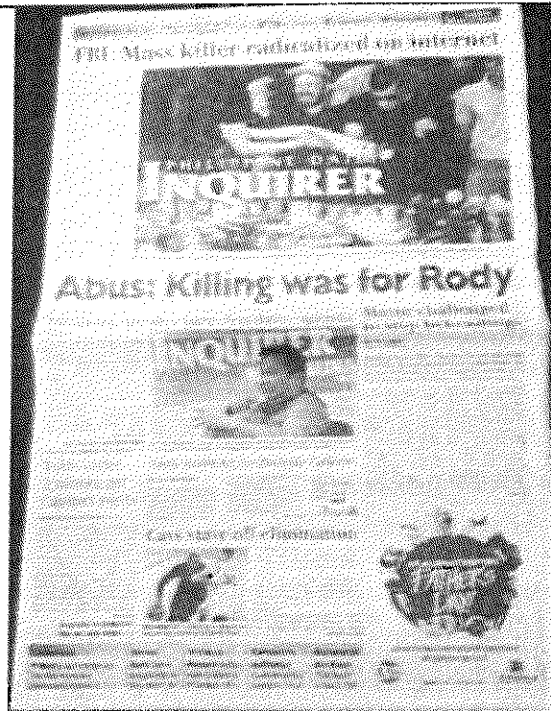
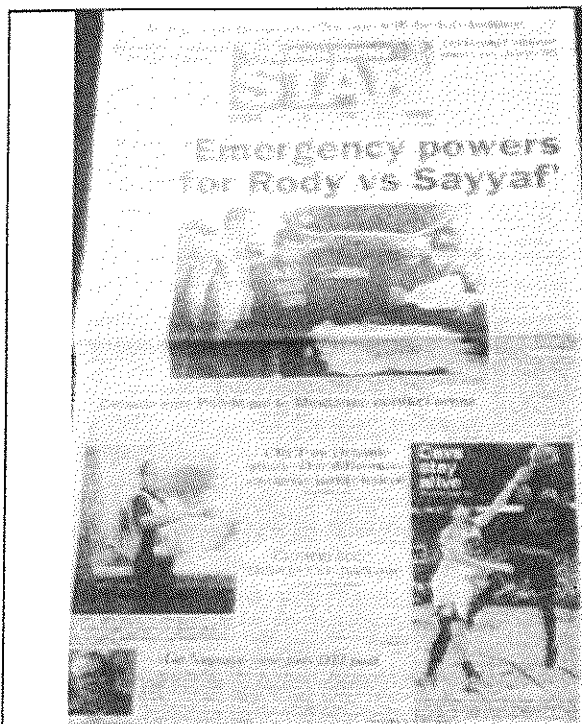


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















































































REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Science and Technology
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and
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Weather Division
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






24-Hour Weather Forecast and Extended Weather Outlook for Selected Cities:

ISSUED AT: 5:00 PM 14 JUNE 2015

VALID BEGINNING: 5:00 PM TODAY UNTIL 5:00 PM TOMORROW

CITIES	24-Hr Weather		Winds and Sea Condition Forecast from 5PM today until 5PM tomorrow	Extended Weather Outlook Duration: 5PM until 5PM, every 24 hours			
	14 JUN	15 JUN		15 JUN	16 JUN	17 JUN	18 JUN
Metro Manila	 25°C 24-26°C	Light to Moderate South-Southwest Manda Bay: Slight to Moderate	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C
Tuguegarao City	 25°C 24-26°C	Moderate Southwest	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C
Cagay City	 25°C 24-26°C	Moderate to Very Strong Southwest Coastal Waters: Mod to Occ. Rough	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C
Baguio City	 25°C 24-26°C	Moderate Southwest	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C
SBMA (Davao City) Clark Zone (Angeles City)	 25°C 24-26°C	Moderate Southwest Subs Bay: Moderate	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C
Tagaytay City	 25°C 24-26°C	Light to Moderate South-Southwest	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C
Lob City	 25°C 24-26°C	Light to Moderate South-Southwest	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C
Legaspi City	 25°C 24-26°C	Light to Moderate South Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C
Puerto Princesa City	 25°C 24-26°C	Light to Moderate Southwest Coastal Waters: Moderate	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C
Iloilo City, Bacolod City	 25°C 24-26°C	Light to Moderate South Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C
Metro Cebu	 25°C 24-26°C	Light to Moderate Southeast-South Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C
Tarlac City	 25°C 24-26°C	Light to Moderate Southeast Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C
Cagayan de Oro City	 25°C 24-26°C	Light to Moderate Southeast Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C
Valencia City	 25°C 24-26°C	Light to Moderate Southeast	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C
Metro Davao	 25°C 24-26°C	Light to Moderate Southeast Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C
Zamboanga City	 25°C 24-26°C	Light to Moderate Southeast-South Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C	 25°C 24-26°C

LEGEND:

	Clear Skies		Partly Cloudy with Rainshowers and/or Thunderstorms		Occasional Rain		Rain with Gale Winds
	Partly Cloudy Skies		Cloudy Skies with Rainshowers and/or Thunderstorms		Moderate Rain		Stormy
	Partly Cloudy to Almost Cloudy with Rainshowers		Light Rain				

END OF FORECAST

PREPARED BY: JGL

CHECKED BY: MPK

15 June 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: 41

Abus: Killing was for Rody

Mayor challenged to stop beheadings

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Abu Sayyaf beheaded Canadian hostage Robert Hall to embarrass incoming President Rodrigo Duterte, according to the spokesperson of the notorious bandit group.

"Para kay Duterte, ang bagong Presidente, ito ay alamin mo kung ano gagawin namin sa Canadian (This is for Duterte, the new President. This is for you to know what we will do to the Canadian)," Abu Raami, the spokesperson, said on Monday.

An hour after the phone interview with the **INQUIRER**, Raami announced that the Abu Sayyaf executed Hall because the P600 million it demanded as ransom for his release had not been delivered before the 3 p.m. deadline.

Another Canadian, John Ridsdel, was beheaded by the kidnappers on April 25 in Sulu province, where he, along with

Hall and his partner, Filipino Maritess Flor, and Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad were brought by armed men who raided an exclusive marina in the Island Garden City of Samal in Davao del Norte province on Sept. 21 last year.

Sekkingstad, Flor and Dutch Ewold Horn are among seven hostages still being held by the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

In Manila, President Aquino informed Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau about the latest killing in a late-night call on Monday, soon after the government verified Hall's death.

Mr. Aquino discussed how

ABU/A19

Abu Sayyaf: Killing was for President Rody

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government forces were dealing with the Abu Sayyaf bandits who have pledged allegiance to Islamic State, according to well-placed sources.

"We strongly condemn the brutal and senseless murder of Mr. Robert Hall, a Canadian national, after being held captive by the Abu Sayyaf group in Sulu for the past nine months," Mr. Aquino said in a statement.

Trudeau maintained that despite the deaths of two Canadian hostages, his government would not give in to demands of paying ransom to terrorist groups, like the Abu Sayyaf.

"I want to reiterate that terrorist hostage-takings only fuel more violence and instability. Canada will not give into their fear-mongering tactics and despicable attitude toward the

suffering of others," he said in a statement.

Head recovered

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesperson of the military's Western Mindanao Command, confirmed on Tuesday that a severed head found dumped beside Jolo Cathedral in Sulu was Hall's after comparing it to videos and photos of the hostage.

The head was placed inside a black trash bag left by two young men on board a motorcycle along Sanchez Street, 1.7 kilometers away from Camp Teodulfo Bautista, home of the 2nd Marine Brigade, in the vicinity of Plaza Rizal around 9:05 p.m. on Monday, according to Supt. Junpikar Sittin, Jolo police chief.

Raami said the beheading was intended for Duterte, the

tough-talking mayor of Davao City who is to formally assume the presidency in two weeks after winning in the May 9 elections.

"You promised [Trudeau] that you will get them (hostages) alive and that what happened to Ridsdel will not be repeated," he said in Filipino. "Let's see if you will not be embarrassed."

Duterte said in a press conference in May in Davao City that he had apologized to Trudeau for Ridsdel's death. "We will try our very best to see to it that nothing of this nature will happen again," he recalled telling the Canadian leader.

Media silence

The incoming President has not spoken to journalists for almost two weeks since his aides imposed a media policy that his

statements would only be coursed through government information networks.

"I think the concern about the Abu Sayyaf should be addressed to the present administration because he is not yet the President," Duterte's spokesperson, Salvador Panelo, told reporters at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City.

"What I know is President-elect Duterte will not tolerate or condone the illegality in this country. He will do everything in this power to stop all these ... That's his commitment, to stop all these cases of criminality," Panelo added.

The incoming national security adviser, Hermogenes Esperon, said in Manila that the Duterte administration would "take a stronger action against lawlessness in the South."

"We cannot allow this situa-

tion to continue, this should end once and for all," Esperon told Reuters.

Condolences

Malacañang extended its sympathy and condolences to Hall's family.

"We truly regret that our people's cherished tradition of extending gracious hospitality toward foreign nationals has been marred by a small band of criminals whose despicable actions have been abetted by the extortion of ransom from their previous victims," Presidential Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said in a text message.

Coloma thanked the Canadian government and people "for their steadfast support and understanding which has been extremely helpful in our determined efforts to end this

decades-old problem."

For the past two months, he said the military and police had been conducting operations that "degraded the capability of our enemies and limited their movements."

On Monday afternoon, the President met with his Cabinet security cluster to receive updates from Jolo, canceling his attendance at the launch of a call center facility in Pasay City.

The recovered head was flown to Manila on Tuesday and turned over to the Philippine National Police's crime laboratory for forensic examination.

Tan said efforts were ongoing to recover the body of the victim. *With reports from Nikko Dizon, Christine O. Avendaño, Jaymee T. Gamil, Julie M. Aurelio and Estrella Torres in Manila; Yuji Vincent Gonzales, Inquirer.net; AFP and Reuters*

15 June 2016

The Manila Times

Page: A1

PH, Canada condemn Sayyaf killing of Hall

Video confirms beheading

BY JOEL M. SY EGCO SENIOR REPORTER
FERNAN MARASIGAN REPORTER AND
AL JACINTO SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

THE Philippines and Canada have condemned the killing of Robert Hall, whose head was recovered in front of the Jolo Cathedral in Sulu late Monday.

An Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) video seen by *The Manila Times* showed the beheading of the Canadian hostage by a member of the militant group.

The video also showed Hall being made to kneel by his captors before he was executed. Malacañang expressed out-

rage over the "brutal and senseless murder" of Hall and extended its deep sympathies to the family of the victim.

"We truly regret that our people's cherished tradition of extending gracious hospitality toward foreign nationals has been marred by a small

➤ **Condemn A2**

■ CONDEMN FROM A1

PH, Canada condemn

band of criminals whose despicable actions have been abetted by the extortion of ransom from their previous victims," Palace Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said.

Hall was the second Canadian beheaded by the bandits. John Ridsdel was the first to be killed by the Abu Sayyaf Group in April when its demand for a P300-million ransom was not met.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed outrage while maintaining that ransoms should not be paid.

"The vicious and brutal actions of the hostage-takers have led to a needless death. Canada holds the terrorist group who took him hostage fully responsible for this cold-blooded and senseless murder," Trudeau said.

The fates of the two other people abducted at the resort on Samal island late last year—Hall's Filipina girlfriend Marites Flor and Norwegian resort manager Kjartan Sekkingstad—were not known.

The ASG had asked for 300 million for each of the remaining three hostages—Hall, Sekkingstad and Flor.

Coloma said the brutality of the

group has compelled the military and police to step up its efforts to find them for the past two months.

"The AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] and the PNP [Philippine National Police] have waged continuing military and law enforcement operations that have degraded the capability of our enemies and limited their movements. This latest heinous crime serves to strengthen our government's resolve to put an end to this reign of terror and banditry," he added.

Found

Hall's severed head was found by residents of Jolo, Sulu, on Monday evening, hours after the ASG announced that it had killed the Canadian hostage.

The PNP conducted forensic tests to identify the victim.

Maj. Filemon Tan, spokesman for the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), said the head, placed in a plastic bag, was left by two motorcycle-riding men in front of the Jolo Cathedral at about 8:45 p.m.

It was not known why the police

and military failed to arrest those who dumped the head in Jolo despite the huge presence of security forces in the town.

Tan said a small military unit has been deployed to recover Hall's body.

The Abu Sayyaf had threatened to kill one of its hostages if its demand for a P600-million ransom was not paid by 3 p.m. on Monday.

Tan said the Westmincom intensified operations in hunting down the Abu Sayyaf terrorists and strengthened its intelligence gathering to pinpoint the exact location of the group's remaining hostages.

He described Sulu province as a virtual "marketplace" of soldiers because of the huge number of troops deployed to the area.

But despite the large number of government troops, Tan admitted that security forces are having a hard time tracking down the bandits.

"The vegetation in the area is dense. So we have to find ways where to pass where we could not be detected. On the mastery of terrain, even if you blindfold them they knew how many steps it would take to reach a certain area. Another factor is their relatives. They will hide their guns and just blend with the populace and that's it," Tan said.

Forensic tests

The PNP confirmed that forensic experts are conducting tests to identify the victim.

Chief Supt. Emmanuel Aranas, the director of the PNP Crime Laboratory Service, said the head was flown to Manila from Jolo early Tuesday.

"Our personnel took some specimen to be used for the necessary testing and examination. We are exhausting all means to identify the recovered severed head," Aranas told reporters.

He said experts will be able to establish the victim's identity through a DNA test.

The police official conceded that it will take time for them to establish the identity of the victim unless the torso is found.

"We are now communicating with the Canadian Embassy," Aranas said.

Tan, however, said that based on initial reports of their personnel on the ground, there is a strong possibility that the recovered head belongs to Hall.

"This has to be confirmed by the result of the examination to be conducted by the Crime Laboratory Service," he added.

Hall, John Ridsdel, Norwegian Selkingsstad and Flor, were abducted in September 2015 at the Ocean

View Samal Resort managed by Hall in Barangay Camudmud, Island Garden City of Samal and were brought to Sulu.

Ridsdel was beheaded in April when the Abu Sayyaf's demand for a P300-million ransom was not paid.

Vicious

In Canada, Trudeau praised Hall's family for their strength of character in their resilience in the face of what he described as a terrible situation.

"This is a grievous loss for them, and their country mourns with them," he said in a brief news conference in the foyer of the House of Commons, according to Canada's CBC News.

The Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said it is "deeply outraged" by the execution of another hostage of the bandit group.

It added that the killing was an attempt "to sow fear and terror" in the country.

In a statement, the DFA described the beheading as "inhuman and cruel."

"We strongly reiterate that the Philippine government does not tolerate, nor does it negotiate with, terrorists. We reiterate our utmost opposition to terrorism in all its forms," it said.

"The department extends its deep condolences to the family and

loved ones of Mr. Robert Hall, and joins the government and people of Canada in grieving his untimely passing," the DFA added.

Governor Mujiv Hataman of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao also denounced the killing.

"It has only been a week since Ramadan began, and it is appalling that this holy month we set aside for prayer and reflection has already been violated by extremists here and abroad, as they wage violence in the name of our faith," he said.

Hataman added that the extremists claim to follow the faith while they go against Islam's message of peace and humanity.

"Violence cannot and must not be so easily associated with one people, race or culture. Many try to distort the Islam we know by heart, and it is our responsibility to make the truth of Islam known to people. Those who tread the path of violence and claim to do it in the name of Islam are, without question, merely men of sin who distort a faith that stands for peace," he said.

Tan added that the ASG is still holding six other hostages - Dutch birdwatcher Ewold Horn and five Filipinos.

**WITH ANTHONY VARGA!
AND MICHAEL JOE T. DELIZI**

15 June 2016



Page: 1

Beheading still Noy's problem – Panelo

By Mario J. Maliari
and Ted Tuvera

The government confirmed yesterday the beheading of a second Canadian hostage by the Abu Sayaff group as the Palace came under increasing criticism for the Aquino administration's inability to save him despite months of pursuit.

The Abu Sayaff militants who specialize in kidnappings-for-ransom, killed Robert Hall after its demand for P300 million by Monday was not met.

President-elect Rodrigo Duterte's spokesman Salvador Panelo said the beheading of Hall, the second Canadian killed by the ASG

reportedly to taunt Duterte, should be addressed to the current Aquino administration because Duterte is not yet president.

Duterte, however, did promise Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in a phone call that he will



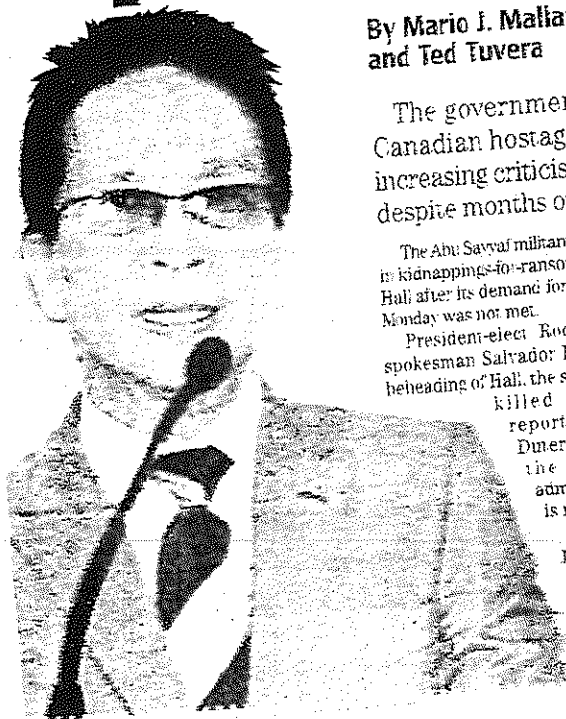
see to it that the ASG will not be able to kill another Canadian national following the previous killing on April 27.

Duterte had revealed during a press briefing some 40 days ago that he was able to converse with Trudeau who congratulated him in his successful bid for Manila.

"I said, 'Mr. Prime Minister, please accept my apology for the incident that happened which resulted in the killing of your national and we will try our very best to see to it that nothing of this nature will happen again,' Duterte said.

"And you can rest assured that when the time comes, we will be able to apprehend the

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PANELO

From page 1

criminals and bring them to justice. There will be a time when I say, 'surrender and release all hostages,' he added.

"If they do that during the administration of Duterte, then that could be a challenge to him but not now," he said.

Panelo said he has not discussed with Duterte his stand on Hall's beheading and if the incoming president is willing to help to save the remaining hostages in view of the recent appeal from the family of Hall's girlfriend Marites Flor. Hall was beheaded after the deadline to pay the ransom demand of P300 million lapsed on Monday.

"We strongly condemn the brutal and senseless murder of Mr. Robert Hall, a Canadian national, after being held captive by the Abu Sayyaf group in Sulu for the past nine months," presidential spokesman Herminio Coloma said in a statement.

A military statement confirmed that a severed head, believed to be Hall's, was found near a cathedral on Jolo, the main island in the Sulu archipelago that is one of the Abu Sayyaf's strongholds.

In announcing on Monday night that he feared Hall had been killed, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed outrage while maintaining that ransoms should not be paid.

"The vicious and brutal actions of the hostagetakers have led to a needless death. Canada holds the terrorist group that took him hostage fully responsible for this cold-blooded and senseless murder," Trudeau said.

Hall, a retiree, was among four people abducted last September from aboard yachts at a tourist resort on Samal Island, about 500 kilometers to the west of Sulu.

Another Canadian kidnapped with him, John Ridsdel, was beheaded in April after a similar ransom demand of P300 million was not paid.

The fates of the two other persons abducted at the Samal resort, Hall's Filipina girlfriend Marites Flor and Norwegian resort manager Kjartan Sekkingstad were unknown but the Abu Sayyaf had also previously demanded ransoms for them.

Bato's bid junked

The suggestion of incoming Philippine

National Police Chief Supt. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa for President Rodrigo Duterte to declare Martial Law in Mindanao with the aim of demolishing the terrorist Abu Sayyaf was junked by lawmakers.

According to outgoing Speaker Feliciano Belmonte there is no need for Martial law just to fight the Abu Sayyaf Group in Mindanao.

"I believe the strong leadership of President-elect Rodrigo Duterte, particularly in his own part of the country, would suffice (in resolving the problem of the Abu Sayyaf)," Belmonte said.

Anak Mindanao party-list Rep. Makmod Mending, for his part, said that declaring Martial Law in Mindanao is premature.

Mending posited that the incoming police chief alone is capable of fighting the Abu Sayyaf which is allied with the Islamic State that has been terrorizing Arab and other Western countries.

"For all we know, it is the leadership of a General Bato that can solve this," said Mending.

Buhay party-list Rep. Lito Atienza, however, said that he is open to the proposal of Dela Rosa. Atienza said that the ASG has been inflicting violence in Mindanao and that the possibility of a Martial Law that could put an end to these group should be looked into.

The ASG on Monday was reported to have beheaded one of its foreign hostages. It was believed that the victim as one Robert Hall of Canada.

Atienza said that the Executive Department would have to explain fully on the need for the declaration of Martial Law in order to get the support of the legislature.

This developed as incoming Speaker, Davao Del Norte Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez, doused allegations that the Duterte government would end up in a dictatorship.

Former Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello has alleged that Duterte is the most powerful president since strongman Ferdinand Marcos who has ruled the country for 21 years.

Major Filemon Tan, spokesman of the military's Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom), defended their performance and highlighted difficulties such as support for the group from the impoverished Muslim residents on Jolo island.

"They have relatives in the community.

They are the ones that give them a warning when there are soldiers in the area," Tan told radio station DZMM.

He also said the island's forested, hilly terrain, a broad coastline that allows for swift movement by boat and the kidnappers' tactic of breaking up into smaller groups, were all hindering pursuit.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) also vowed intensive military and law enforcement operations are underway to neutralize those behind the beheading of Canadian Robert Hall.

Chief Supt. Wilben Mayor, PNP spokesman, said that the 150,000-strong PNP condemned the senseless killing of the foreigner, whose head was found Monday night beside the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Jolo.

"On behalf of the Philippine National Police, we condemn in the strongest terms the beheading of Caucasian looking male believed to be that of Canadian kidnap victim," Mayor said.

Mayor assured that the PNP, in close coordination with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), will do its best to give justice to the family of Hall.

"The PNP and AFP assure that its officers are doing its best to eliminate such evil doing through intensive military and law enforcement operations that are underway to neutralize these lawless elements and thwart further threats to peace and security," Mayor said.

"This type of execution by evil groups on innocent people is very unfortunate and deserves the condemnation of civil society and every peace-loving citizens," he added.

At the same time, Mayor appealed to the media not to highlight the terrorism being peddled by the Abu Sayyaf group through kidnapping for ransom and beheading of its victims.

Beheading 'un-Islamic' - AFP

The military yesterday branded as "un-Islamic" the beheading of Hall.

Tan said that a head of a "Caucasian looking male" was found at around 8:45 p.m.

"The head of what seems to belong to a Caucasian looking male believed to be that of Canadian kidnap victim Robert Hall was found at the vicinity of the Jolo Cathedral by civilians in the area," said Tan.

It was subsequently brought by the local police to Camp General Teodulfo Bautista also in Jolo.

Hall's beheading came only hours after the 8 p.m. deadline for the payment of P600 million ransom expired Monday.

Tan said the military condemned in the highest term the beheading of Hall, the second Canadian killed by the terrorist Abu Sayyaf group in more than two months.

"The brutal murder and inhuman execution of the victim by these evil terrorists shows their true color," said Tan.

"What they have done is clearly un-Islamic and a violation of the teachings of Mohammad," he added.

The beheading also came despite the promise of Duterte to Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau that he will do his best to prevent the killing of Canadians here.

It was also done amid the intensified focused military operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu and Basilan.

Tan said that the Abu Sayyaf also disregarded the holy month of Ramadan in beheading Hall.

"They do not in any way represent our peaceful Muslim brothers who are true believers of Islam. Their criminal act disregarded even the sacred period of Ramadan. This group showed us their true nature and the evil they truly are," said Tan.

According to Tan, the military will continue running after the terrorists.

"The AFP will work relentlessly with our police counterparts to continue to find, neutralize or arrest and hold these criminals accountable for their crimes," vowed Tan.

Still not in our watch—Panelo

The camp of Duterte said the beheading incident still does not fall within the Davao City Mayor's administration.

Panelo told reporters yesterday that measures with regard to the latest hostage casualty caused by the Islamic bandits still rests on the outgoing administration's shoulders.

"I think in this case, the concern should be addressed to the present administration because Duterte is not president yet," Panelo said in an ambush interview at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City.

"He hasn't said anything yet, we talked

last night. It was not discussed," the new presidential mouthpiece added.

Meanwhile, Panelo said that once Duterte's term becomes official, then will take apparent measures to deal with the ASG.

"All I know is that President-elect Duterte will not tolerate or condone the illegality in this country. He will do everything in his power to stop all these... That's his commitment, to stop all this criminality," Panelo said.

"I'm not aware of the efforts but I will not be surprised (because) President Duterte always helps those who are in need. I just don't know how exactly," Panelo said.

"We haven't talked about it all I know is his style when he was still mayor, that when there's a kidnapping he has backdoor negotiations then suddenly the captives are released," he added.

Lacson wants tit for tat

A tit for tat, that's what Senator-elect Panfilo Lacson suggested as the Duterte administration's approach in crushing the notorious ASG.

"There's no better time to address the ASG problem than under President Duterte. Kidnap them back or kill them. It may need good intel (intelligence) work," Lacson said in his twitter account.

He reiterated the same position in a text message to reporters, adding that government should ensure a thorough intelligence work to enable authorities in pinpointing accurate targets if it's bent on annihilating the group.

"If there's a better time to engage the ASG in a 'tit for tat' it's under President Duterte's administration," he said.

Based on pronouncements issued so far by Duterte, Lacson expressed belief that the problem created by the ASG can finally be resolved under the coming administration, saying that all the elements needed in wiping out the group could be provided by the new government.

But former chief of the PNP stressed that a lot of technical aspect in intelligence work is also needed to complement human intelligence efforts.

"There should be no room for mistaken identified for obvious reasons," he said.

Gerry Baldo, Angie M. Rosales

15 June 2016

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'Emergency powers for Rody vs Sayyaf'

Ping: Kidnap them back or kill them

By MARVIN SY
and ALEXIS ROMERO

With the nation still in shock after the beheading by the Abu Sayyaf of one more of its foreign hostages, incoming senator Panfilo Lacson said granting emergency powers to president-elect Rodrigo Duterte would help his administration neutralize the terror group once and for all.

A human head believed to have belonged to Canadian Robert Hall was found outside the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Jolo, Sulu hours after the deadline for delivery of the ransom for his release expired last Monday.

On his Twitter account, Lacson – a former national police chief – said Congress should grant Duterte emergency powers so he can deal more effectively with the terror menace as well as with the other serious problems besetting the country like illegal drugs and heavy traffic. He said authorities should match the Abu Sayyaf's brazenness and brutality with severe countermeasures.

Emergency From Page 1

"No better time to address the Abu Sayyaf problem than under President Duterte. Kidnap them back or kill them. It may need very good intel work though," Lacson said.

Then president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared a state of emergency in Maguindanao following the massacre in November 2009 of 58 people allegedly on orders from then governor Andal Ampatuan Sr.

Hall, fellow Canadian John Ridsdel, Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and Filipina Maritess Flor were snatched from a Samal Island resort by the terrorists in September last year. Ridsdel was beheaded last April 25 after the P300-million ransom demanded for his release was not delivered.

A Duterte spokesman expressed confidence he would undertake measures to stop beheadings, kidnappings and other criminal acts, especially those perpetrated by terror groups.

"Since the president is a very strategic thinker, I'm sure he will be able to do something or a series of actions that will drastically reduce similar activities," Ernesto Abella, one of the spokesmen for Duterte, said.

Abella said Filipinos can look forward to a "more peaceful nation" under the next administration. Securing the land.

"Kidnappings and beheadings are always gruesome and brutal things that should not be ensued," he added.

Another Duterte spokesman Salvador Panelo reiterated that the next president is bent on suppressing crime.

"I'm sure president-elect Duterte will solve that kind of problem. He has solved other problems of equal magnitude."

I don't see any problem of him doing that," Panelo said.

"I'm sure he will respond to the situation... Since he is against all forms of criminality and illegality, he would be outraged by that (beheading)."

Martial law

For the next chief of the Philippine National Police, placing certain areas in Mindanao under martial law might do the trick. "If it (martial law) would solve the problem, then we better do it," Chief Superintendent Ronald dela Rosa said in Filipino. Dela Rosa is Duterte's personal choice to replace PNP chief Director General Ricardo Marquez.

Incoming AFP chief, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya has submitted a report to Duterte detailing his plans on how he intends to run the affairs of the military in troubled areas, including placing Sulu under martial rule.

"It's about time! If you want solution to this security problem, that's the best action," said one of the senior officers favoring a limited military rule.

Placing Sulu under martial law, they said, would effectively cut the lines between the Abu Sayyaf bandits and their civilian contacts as the military would be directly taking control of provincial and local governments in the province.

One officer even suggested that in the entire duration of military rule, civilian travels in and out of the province must be restricted.

"Nobody should be allowed to just leave the island province without prior clearance from the military's designated authorities," he said.

Another officer complained that soldiers pursuing the bandits

could not penetrate communities where the terrorists and their families live.

"They just hide their weapons and mingled in civilian communities. These civilians, mostly relatives, have been providing Abu Sayyaf members sanctuaries and are even helping them in keeping and hiding the hostages," he said.

In one incident, troops witnessed the payment of ransom right inside the residence of a political warlord in the province.

"All our efforts were merely confined to monitoring the activities of the political warlord because the very strict government restrictions prevented us from taking direct action due to the presence of civilians at the place," he said.

But putting any region under martial law should be in accordance with the conditions set by law, according to the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

CHR chairman Chito Gascon said they are prepared to monitor the situation in areas where it would be implemented.

"The security forces – military and police – are mandated to protect the country and its people from all threats to their safety and security," Gascon told **The STAR** yesterday.

"In order to be able to effectively perform this, they can employ all means and methods that they are lawfully entitled to do," he added.

Gascon said the Constitution provides for conditions before the country or any part of it is placed under martial law.

"All needs to be done is these be complied with," he said, referring to the conditions set by the law. "The CHR is prepared to monitor."

Lawmakers in the House of Representatives, meanwhile, were cool to the proposal.

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said he is against the imposition of martial law even if it would be limited to Abu Sayyaf-infested parts of Mindanao.

"I believe the strong leadership of president-elect Duterte, particularly in his own part of the country, would suffice (in addressing the Abu Sayyaf)," Belmonte said.

Anak Mindanao party-list Rep. Makmod Mending described the proposal as premature, saying Dela Rosa should try countering the Abu Sayyaf with the current powers and resources of the PNP.

"For all we know, it is the leadership of a General Bato that can solve this," Mending said, referring to Dela Rosa's moniker.

Buhay party-list Rep. Lito Atienza said he would support the imposition of limited martial law as long as the executive branch can justify it before Congress.

But even before the release of official findings confirming Hall's execution, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has issued a statement condemning the "inhuman and cruel act" of the Abu Sayyaf.

"We are deeply outraged by their continued attempts to sow fear and terror in our country," the DFA said.

"This inhuman and cruel act, carried out by the Abu Sayyaf group, reveals that their criminal activities are driven purely by financial motives," it added.

The DFA also extended its condolences to Hall's family and loved ones.

"We strongly reiterate that the Philippine government does not tolerate, nor does it negotiate with, terrorists. We reiterate our utmost opposition to terrorism in all its forms," the DFA said. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said it was "likely" Hall

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had been killed.

In a statement, Trudeau said that Canada “will not give into their fear mongering tactics and despicable attitude toward the suffering of others.”

Catholic prelates also condemned Hall’s execution but stressed the government should stick to its policy of not paying ransom. Marbel South Cotabato Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez said Hall’s death should not be reason for authorities to give in to the demands of terrorists. “It will just encourage criminals,” he said, referring to paying of ransom.

He added the beheading of Hall is “against love, God and human dignity” and that it tramples on the rights of civilized society.

He urged the people to pray and work toward preventing another atrocity.

The South Cotabato prelate also said the government should help in securing the lives of its citizens.

He proposed that travel to certain parts of the country be restricted. “No ransom, no hostage-taking. No visitor, no hostage,” he said.

Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco, for his part, admitted getting furious on hearing news of Hall’s execution. “But as Christians we pray for those who were responsible for this horrendous act. Love will melt and destroy evil,” he said.

No findings yet

PNP spokesman Chief Superintendent Wilben Mayor said a decapitated head believed to be that of Hall’s was turned over to Trauma Station Hospital, Kampo Heneral Teodoro Bautista (KHTB) for proper identification.

Mayor said the PNP has also expressed condolences to the family of the slain kidnap victim.

“Further, may I appeal to the members of the media to respect the mourning of the family and let us not highlight such kind of unlawful activity that might add to the sorrow of the bereaved family and his countrymen,” Mayor added.

He said the brutality of the terrorists usually directed at innocent people deserves the condemnation of all peace-loving people.

The spokesman said the PNP – in cooperation with the Armed Forces of the Philippines – is doing its best to eliminate the terror group and thwart further threats to peace and security.

Chief Superintendent Emmanuel Aranas, director of the PNP-Crime Laboratory, said elements of the Special Action Force – in coordination with the Explosives Ordnance Division (EOD) of the Army’s 35th Infantry Brigade (IB) – retrieved the head inside a plastic bag dumped outside Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

“The decapitated head was transported to Zamboanga City via Huey PAF helicopter mid-night of June 13, arrived at 1 a.m. About 2:30 a.m. on June 14, the PAF C-130 carrying the decapitated head reached the Villamor Airbase at 4:30 p.m.,” he added.

He added a SOCO team from Camp Crame examined the remains, took samples, and documented the procedure.

As of press time, the Crime Lab chief said it was still premature to conclude the head belonged to Hall.

“It would be better to establish the identity of the victim, because this is a beheading, we do not treat this case as an ordinary one, so we need to stick to procedures to identify it,” he said. – Cecille Suerte Felipe, Paolo Romero, Jaime Laude, Pia Lee-Brago, Janvic Mateo, Evelyn Macairan

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The Standard

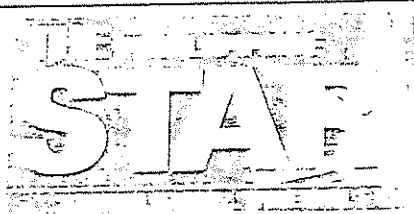
DEFINING THE NEWS

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Sulu patrol. Soldiers patrol a highway during a search for the body of beheaded Canadian hostage Robert Hall in Indanan town, Sulu on Tuesday. The Abu Sayyaf bandit group said it had beheaded its second Canadian hostage. AFP

15 June 2016



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Hostage execution confirmed, condemned

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Authorities confirmed yesterday that the Abu Sayyaf had beheaded another hostage after they recovered the severed head of Canadian Robert Hall near a church in Jolo.

"We strongly condemn the brutal and senseless murder of Mr. Robert Hall, a Canadian national, after being held captive by the Abu Sayyaf group in Sulu for the past nine months," Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma said in a statement.

"We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to his bereaved family," he said.

The military confirmed the head recovered near the Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Monday was that of Hall.

"The discovery confirms the brutal beheading by the evil criminal Abu Sayyaf group of a kidnap victim," Western Mindanao Command (Wescom) spokesman Maj. Filemon Tan said.

He said witnesses saw two men on a motorcycle dumping the plastic bag near the church.

"When they checked the content, they immediately reported this to the authorities," he said.

Tan said the severed head

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Hostage From Page 1

was transported to Manila for forensic examination. He said the head has a "glaring similarity" to the file photo of Hall.

Chief Superintendent Emmanuel Aranas, director of the police Crime Laboratory, said the initial results showed the beheading occurred at around 3 p.m. or 3:10 p.m. on Monday.

Hall was abducted from Samal island resort last September along with another Canadian, a Norwegian and a Filipino.

The other Canadian, former

mining executive John Ridsdel, was beheaded in April after a ransom demand of P300 million was not paid.

The fates of the two other people abducted at the Samal resort – Hall's Filipina girlfriend Marites Flor and Norwegian resort manager Kjartan Sekkingstad – were not known.

An Abu Sayyaf deadline for the payment of a large ransom lapsed Monday and police later found a severed head of a Caucasian man outside a

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cathedral in Jolo.

Tan said the beheading probably took place five hours after the deadline lapsed.

A militant video obtained by police officials showed Hall in an orange shirt and kneeling in front of a black Islamic State-style flag before he was killed in a jungle area.

The beheadings have taken place despite the heavy deployment of military and police forces to locate them in the jungles of Jolo.

Tan said the kidnappers were evading military pursuers with the help of some

residents of the island.

"They have relatives in the community. They are the ones that give a warning when there are soldiers in the area. They have mastery of the terrain, not to mention the vast coastlines left and right and the residents out there who are mostly their (relatives). These are variables that are making our anti-terror operations very difficult," Tan said.

Tan pointed out the island's forested, hilly terrain, a broad coastline that allows for swift movement by boat and the kidnappers' tactic of breaking up into

smaller groups, hinder pursuit.

"But we are studying this deeply and I can say we are adjusting and it will be a matter of time that we will also hit them," he added.

Tan stressed Hall's beheading will not stop the military from its operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

He said the Wescom is strengthening further its intelligence collections in the province while the police Special Action Force and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have deployed six Army and three Marine battalions in the province.

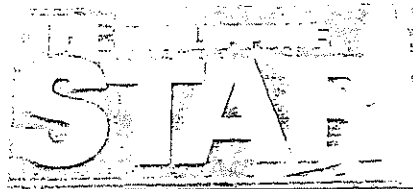
Coloma added the AFP and the Philippine National Police have waged continuing military and law enforcement operations that degraded the capability of "our enemies and limited their movements."

In Ottawa, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau earlier said there was "compelling reason to believe" that Hall had been killed by his captors, and that the Canadian government was working with Philippine authorities to confirm his death. – With Aurea Calica, Jaime Laude, John Unson, Cecille Suerte Felipe, AFP, AP

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

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Canada sets P43-M aid to Mindanao conflict areas

Canada has announced it is providing additional Cad\$1.25 million (roughly P43 million) in humanitarian assistance to support those living in conflict

areas in Mindanao.

The Canadian embassy said the funding would be coursed through the Action

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

Against Hunger (ACF) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and would be used largely for im-

proving food security, health, living conditions, livelihood and emergency-preparedness in Zamboanga and Maguin-

danauo. The funding forms part of the Canadian government's commitment of Cad\$ 331.5

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Canada From Page 1

million in humanitarian support for the world's most vulnerable, as recently announced by Canada's Minister of International Development Marie-Claude Bibeau at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey.

"Canada's support will help meet immediate life-saving needs and address

unprecedented humanitarian challenges including those in the Philippines," Canadian Ambassador Neil Reeder said.

The new funding will help the most vulnerable in more than 32 countries, including the Philippines. Support will be provided to 25 humanitarian partners, including a variety of United Nations hu-

manitarian agencies, the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations, as well as Canadian organizations that are addressing complex humanitarian situations.

"Given the size of current humanitarian needs, Canada is committed to working with all partners – including those at the local level – to combine our strengths and maximize the impact we have on humanitarian crises. We are especially

concerned with women and girls, who are often the most vulnerable in crises. That is why they are at the heart of Canada's humanitarian response," Reeder added.

Of the funds, Cad\$ 500,000 will be provided to the ACF to improve food security for more than 3,000 people displaced by conflict in Zamboanga and Maguindanao. The assistance will include the provision of unconditional

cash grants to meet the basic needs of those displaced, focusing on assisting pregnant and lactating women and households with children aged 6-23 months, as well as quick impact livelihood support through cash transfers and appropriate training.

"This is another significant step in lifesaving and humanitarian assistance with the support of the government of Canada especially to conflict-

affected people in Zamboanga and Maguindanao. This makes Canada's support very unique and strategic in such a critical situation," ACF International country director Javad Amoozegar said.

The Cad\$ 750,000 in assistance to the ICRC will provide medical care and physical rehabilitation to detainees and weapon-wounded patients through six ICRC-trained/ supported health facilities.

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Canada calls for better protection for foreign tourists in PH

By **SAMUEL P. MEDENILLA,**
ELENA ABEN,
HANNAH L. TORREGOZA, and AP

As Canada mourns the death of its second national in the hands of the Abu Sayaff, it called on the Philippine government to give better protection for foreign tourists visiting Philippines.

"We would like to see more foreign tourists to choose the Philippines as a destination of choice. And obviously security and safety for foreign tourists and community is very, very ►4

Canada calls for better...

◀1

important. I cannot emphasize this enough that a safe and secure environment for foreigners who are visiting is necessary," Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines Neil Reeder stressed during a press briefing of the Department of Tourism (DOT) in Makati City yesterday.

Reeder issued the statement after authorities confirmed that Canadian national Robert Hall of Calgary, Canada was beheaded by the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf shortly after 3 p.m Monday after the group failed to received their ransom demand of ₱300 million (\$6.5 million).

The same group beheaded Hall's compatriot, John Ridsdel, a former mining executive last April after the bandits failed to get the same amount of ransom demand.

Hall, Ridsdel, Norwegian resort manager Kjartan Sekkingstad and Hall's girlfriend Filipina Maritess Flor were abducted by armed men from an island resort in Samal, Davao del Norte in September last year and brought to Sulu by boat.

Jolo residents told police two motorcycle-riding men abandoned a striped plastic bag in front of the Jolo cathedral shortly before 9 p.m. Monday.

When police opened the bag, it contained the decapitated head of Hall, who according to sources was beheaded in Barangay Bud Bunga by the followers of ASG leader Hatib Hajan Sawadjaan. Yesterday, the decapitated head was flown to Camp Crame for forensic examination.

A militant video obtained by police officials and seen by The Associated Press showed Hall in an orange shirt and kneeling in front of a black Islamic State-style flag before he was killed in a jungle area.

No ransom policy

In Ottawa, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said there was "compelling reason to believe" that Hall had been killed by his captors upon receiving information. "We have every reason to believe that the reports are unfortunately true," Trudeau said.

He said he was "horrified" by the killings and reaffirmed Canada's refusal to pay ransoms.

"The government of Canada will not and cannot pay ransoms for hostages to terrorist groups, as doing so would endanger the lives of more Canadians," Trudeau said in a statement. (With a report from Nonoy Lacson)

15 June 2016



Pahina. 2

Pugot na ulo ng Canadian itinapon sa simbahan

Sa tabi ng Mt. Carmel Cathedral itinapon ng mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) ang ulo ng isa pang Canadian hostage na kanilang pinugutan sa isang lugar sa lalawigan ng Sulu.

Ang karumaldumal na pamumugot ng ulo sa Canadian hostage na si Robert Hall ay ipinakalat pa ng Abu Sayyaf Group sa social networking site kung saan kitang kita pa ang pagmamakaawa nito sa kaniyang mga abductors.

Makikita sa video na si Hall ay payat na payat sanhi ng matinding gutom at mahina ang kawatungan bunga ng sakit nito.

Bandang alas-8:45 ng gabi nang matagpuan ng mga sibilyan ang pugot na ulo ni Hall sa tabi ng Mt. Carmel Cathedral sa Sanchez St., Brgy. Walled City, Jolo, Sulu na



nakasilid sa plastic bag.

Una nang nagbigay ng ultimatum na hanggang alas-3 ng hapon nitong

Hunyo 13 ang mga bandido para ibigay sa kanila ang hinihinging P600 M ransom at kung hindi ay itutuloy ang pagpugot ng ulo kay Hall.

Una nang pinugutan ng ulo ng mga bandido ang kasamahang Canadian ni Hall na si John Ridsdel na nabigo namang maibigay ang P300 M ransom.

Ang mga kidnappers ay una nang humingi ng tig P1bilyon ransom sa bawat isang Samal hos-

tages na naibaba sa P300 M bawat isa pero muling itinaas sa tig P600 M.

Sa kasalukuyan ay bihag parin ng mga bandido ang mga kasamahan ng mga itong sina Kjartan Sekkingstad, isang Norwegian at ang Pinay na si Maritess Flor. Ang apat na hostages ay dinukot ng mga bandido noong Setyembre 21, 2015 sa Island Garden City of Samal sa Davao del Norte. *-Joy Cantos-*

15 June 2016



Pahina. 2

Martial law sa Mindanao aprub kay Bato... ABU SAYYAF KIDNAPIN AT PATAYIN DIN

Kung kayang gawin ng mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf Group na mangidnap at pumatay ay dapat ay gawin din ito ng pamahalaan.

Ito ang nais ni Senator Panfilo "Ping" Lacson kung siya lang ang masusunod.

Sa kanyang Twitter

account, sinabi ni Lacson na sa ilalim ng administrasyon ni President-elect Rodrigo Duterte ang tamang panahon para kidnapin rin at patayin ang mga Abu Sayyaf na muling namugot ng kanilang bihag na Canadian citizen matapos hindi maibigay ang hinihinging ransom.

Subalit, inamin ni

Nina MALOU ESCUDERO at JOY CANTOS

Lacson na kinakailangan ng mahusay na intelligence para matukoy ang kinaroroonan ng mga Abu Sayyaf.

Iginiit rin ni Lacson na maaaring bigyan ng emergency powers ng Kongreso si Duterte para maresolba hindi lamang ang problema sa trapiko

kung hindi maging ang problema sa illegal na droga at Abu Sayyaf.

Hindi rin aniya dapat "masunog" o mabulilyaso ang anumang hakbang laban sa Abu Sayyaf na may natitira pang mga bihag.

Naniniwala rin si Lacson na sa panahon ng pa-

nunungkulan ni Duterte niya nakikitang masusugpo ang bandidong grupo.

Samantala, sinuportahan ni incoming Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief P/Chief Supt. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa ang panukalang pagpapatupad ng martial law sa ilang bahagi ng

rehiyon ng Mindanao upang tuldukan na ang lumalalang problema ng pamahalaan sa mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf Group.

Anyang isang mabisang paraan ang martial law para masugpo ang mga marahas na aktibidades ng Abu Sayyaf na may ugnayan sa Jemaah Is-

lamiyah, ang Southeast Asian terror network na naitatag ni Osama bin Laden ng Al Qaeda.

Una nang sinabi ni incoming President Rodrigo Duterte na pina-plano niyang magpatupad ng Martial Law upang matugunan ang terorismo na kinasasangkutan ng Abu Sayyaf.

15 June 2016



Pahina 2

Abu Sayyaf kidnarin, patayin! – Lacson

Dahil sa matinding galit matapos na pugutan ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) ang isa pa nilang bihag na Canadian national, nais ni Senator Panfilo "Ping" Lacson na kidnarin din at pagpapatayin ng gobyerno ang lahat ng mga miyembro ng ASG na naghahasik ng terorismo sa bansa.

Sa post sa kanyang Twitter account, sinabi ni Lacson na sa ilalim ng administrasyon ni President-elect Rodrigo Duterte ang tamang panahon para dukutin at patayin ang mga Abu Sayyaf matapos pu-

gutan ng ulo ang Canadian na si Robert Hall nang hindi maibigay ang hinihinging P600 milyong ransom.

"No better time to address the ASG problem than under Pres. Duterte: kidnap them back or kill them," matapang na pahayag ni Lacson.

Gayunman, aminado si Lacson na kailangan ng isang mahusay na intelligence network para matukoy ang kinaroroonan ng ASG.

"If there's a better time to engage the ASG 'tit for tat', it's under Pres.

Duterte's administration. Kailangan lang muna ang isang mahusay at matiyagang intelligence work para pinpoint accuracy ika nga sa mga targets. There should be no room for mistaken identities for obvious reasons," ani Lacson.

Samantala, maaaring mabigyan ng "emergency powers" ng Kongreso si Duterte para maresolba hindi lamang ang problema sa trapiko kundi maging sa ilegal na droga at paglipol sa ASG.

"Congress should grant the next president emer-

gency powers to solve the traffic problem. Maybe, against illegal drugs and Abu Sayyaf as well," ani Lacson.

Hindi rin aniya dapat "masunog" o mabulilyaso ang anumang hakbang laban sa Abu Sayyaf na may natitira pang mga bihag.

"Kung ibabase ko sa mahabang karanasan at mga pronouncements na rin ni Mayor Duterte, sa kanyang admin ko nakikita ang lahat ng element para maubos nang tuluyan ang Abu Sayyaf," ani Lacson. (Malou Escudero)

15 June 2016



Pahina. 2

Kamara tutol sa 'batas militar'

Malamig ang mga mambabatas sa Mababang Kapulungan ng Kongreso sa panukalang magpatupad ng batas militar sa Mindanao.

Sinabi ni House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. na kontra siya sa pagpapataw ng batas militar kahit na limitado lamang ito laban sa mga kasapi ng Abu Sayaff Group (ASG) sa ilang bahagi ng Mindanao. Kasunod na rin ito sa serye ng pagdukot ng ASG at pagpugot sa ulo ng kanilang mga bihag.

"Naniniwala ako na ang malakas na pamumuno ni President-elect Duterte, ay sapat na sa pagtugis sa mga miyembro ng Abu Sayaff," pahayag ni Belmonte.

Samantala, naniniwala si Anak Mindanao party-list Rep. Makmod Mending na kailangan munang pag-aralan ng malalim ng mga awtoridad kung paano susugpuin ang mga miyembro ng ASG na naghahasik ng lagim sa ilang bahagi ng Mindanao.

"I will support the imposition of limited martial law as long as the executive branch can justify it before Congress," ani Buhay party-list Rep. Lito Atienza. (Butch Quejada)

15 June 2016

ARMY JOURNAL

Pahina. 2

Ulo ng Canadian itinapon sa simbahan!

Natagpuan na ang ulo ng isang Canadian hostage na pinagutan ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) sa tabi ng Mt. Carmel Cathedral sa Jolo, Sulu matapos na mabigong bayaran ang P600 milyong ransom na hinihingi ng mga bandido.

Sa isang pulong-balitaan sa Camp Crame kahapon, sinabi ni Philip-

pine National Police (PNP) Spokesman Chief Supt. Wilben Mayorna bandang alas-8:45 ng gabi nitong Lunes nang matagpuan ng mga sibilyan ang pugot na ulo ng Canadian hostage na si Robert Hall na nakasilid sa isang plastic bag sa tabi ng Mt. Carmel Cathedral sa Sanchez St., Brgy. Walled City sa Jolo.



Ang narekober na pugot na ulo ng Canadian national na si Robert Hall.

Nina JOY CANTOS at RUDY ANDAL

Nagresponde ang mga awtoridad sa lugar dakong alas-9 ng umaga kahapon at narekober ang pugot na ulo saka agad na dinala sa Manila para sa masusing pagsusuri.

Tinataya na pinugutan si Hall ng mga bandido sa pagitan ng alas-3:00-3:15 ng hapon noong Lunes bago ang pagtatapos ng ibinigay na taling, dahil na rin sa medyo matigas pa nang marekober ang ulo.

Naipasa na ng pamahalaan ang ulo ni Hall sa

kustodya ng Canadian Embassy para sa posibleng DNA testing.

Ang karumal-dumal na pagpugot sa ulo ni Hall ay ipinakalat pa ng ASG sa social networking site kung saan kitang kita ang pagmamakaawa nito sa kanyang mga abductors bago pugutan.

Makikita sa video na si Hall ay payat na payat sanhi ng matinding gutom at mahina ang katawan bunga ng sakit nito habang tinubuan nang mahabang

balbas.

Agad na kinondena ni Pangulong Benigno Aquino III ang karumal-dumal na pagpatay kay Hall.

"We strongly condemn the brutal and senseless murder of Mr. Robert Hall, a Canadian national, after being held captive by the Abu Sayyaf group in Sulu for the past nine months.

We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to his bereaved family. We thank the Canadian government and people

for their steadfast support and understanding which has been extremely helpful in our determined efforts to end this decades-old problem," ayon kay PCOO Sec. Herminio Coloma Jr.

Tutungo ngayong umaga ang Pangulo sa Jolo upang alamin ang ginagawang military at police operations laban sa ASG.

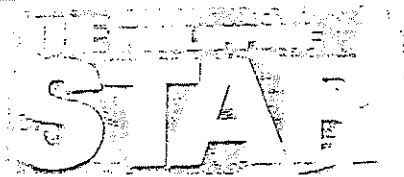
Ayon naman kay Major Felimon Tan, spokesman ng AFP-Western Mindanao Command, hindi makatao at patunay lamang na pagiging mala-

demonyong aktibidad ng mga teroristang Abu Sayyaf ang pagpugot kay Hall.

Sa ngayon, may pito pang bihag ang Abu Sayyaf kabilang na ang dalawang nalalabing kasamahan ni Hall na dinukot sa Island Garden of Samal sa Davao del Norte noong Setyembre 21, 2015 na sina Kjartan Sekkingstad, isang Norwegian at Pinay na si Maritess Flor.

Una nang pinugutan ng ASG noong Abril 25 ang kanilang kasamahan na si John Ridsel, isa ring Canadian national dahil sa kabiguang magbayad ng P300 milyong ransom.

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MILF: Pass BBL first before shifting to federalism

By ALEXIS ROMERO

DAVAO CITY – The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) wants the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) to be enacted first before the incoming administration pursues efforts to change the type of government from unitary to federal.

MILF vice chairman for political affairs Ghadzali Jaafar said it may take time before their peace agreement with the government is implemented if the establishment of the Bangsamoro government is subsumed by the planned shift to federalism.

"What we want, as far as we're concerned, is to implement the Bangsamoro government first before federalism," Jaafar said.

"We believe it would be better if the Bangsamoro government is implemented first. The implementation of a federal government, in case it is approved by the Bangsamoro people, will take longer because the Congress of the Philippines still has to work it out," he added.

Jaafar also believes the BBL should be a legislation separate from that which would establish federalism.

"Naturally, the BBL should become a law. The Bangsamoro (government) cannot be implemented without a law," he said.

Jaafar, nevertheless, remains optimistic that the BBL would be enacted under the presidency of Duterte, the first chief executive from Mindanao.

The proposed BBL seeks to form a new Bangsamoro region with enhanced economic and political pow-

ers. The legislation would implement the final peace agreement signed by the government and the MILF in 2014. The measure was bypassed by the 16th Congress despite being a priority of the Aquino administration.

Duterte, on the other hand, is pushing for a federal type of government that would possibly include the Bangsamoro government.

Federalism involves the sharing of powers between the central government and local state governments, a setup that its supporters believe would promote development outside Metro Manila.

The system would allow local state governments to levy taxes, implement business regulations, build infrastructure and establish courts, among other powers.

Last month, Davao del Norte representative-elect Pantaleon Alvarez said the incoming Congress would not tackle the BBL because it would be subsumed by

the plan to change the form of government to federalism, one of the priorities of the Duterte administration.

Alvarez, Duterte's choice for speaker of the House of Representatives, said the BBL would have to give way to federalism "because they are the same concept."

Jaafar believes Alvarez's statements are personal and do not reflect the official stand of the Duterte administration. He said the delay in implementation of the Bangsamoro government could yield negative reactions.

"You know, Bangsamoro people have been waiting

for so long. Many of them are frustrated because the resolution of the Bangsamoro issue is taking so long despite the agreement," Jaafar said.

The MILF official believes the recent violent incidents may have been borne out of the frustration of some groups who are waiting for the peaceful resolution of the Bangsamoro issue.

When asked if he thinks violence would erupt if the BBL is not passed, Jaafar said: "I'm not saying that. But I believe that it is one of the motivations of some people who are sowing violence."

Jaafar admitted the Bangsamoro people are disappointed with the non-passage of the BBL under the Aquino administration.

Reaching out to MNLF

Jaafar also revealed that his group is talking to the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to come up with a unified

stand on the Bangsamoro government.

"I am very optimistic that eventually, we can come out with a common approach in order to address the Bangsamoro issue," he said.

Jaafar said the MILF and the MNLF would look into the provisions of the final peace agreement, including the territories to be covered by the Bangsamoro political entity.

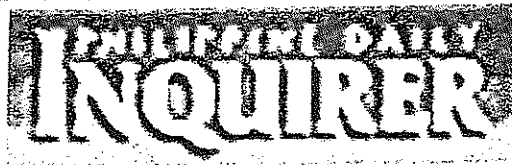
He noted that under the Tripoli Agreement, which paved the way for a peace deal between the government and the MNLF in 1996, the entity covers 13 provinces. The Comprehensive Agreement on

the Bangsamoro signed by the government and the MILF, meanwhile, involves only five provinces.

"We can come up with a solution to this issue. There are other issues which I don't want to take up in public," Jaafar said.

Jaafar said their efforts would also involve the improvement of the proposed BBL.

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Oslo talks a reunion of friends — Joma

LUCENA CITY—The preliminary talks that should lead to the resumption of peace negotiations between the government and the communists will be a happy reunion of old friends.

"I am sure the atmosphere will be cordial. We are old friends who worked [together] productively in the past," Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison said in an on-line interview from his base in Utrecht, the Netherlands, on Tuesday.

He said the three-day talks, set to begin on Thursday in Oslo, Norway, will be a "happy occasion."

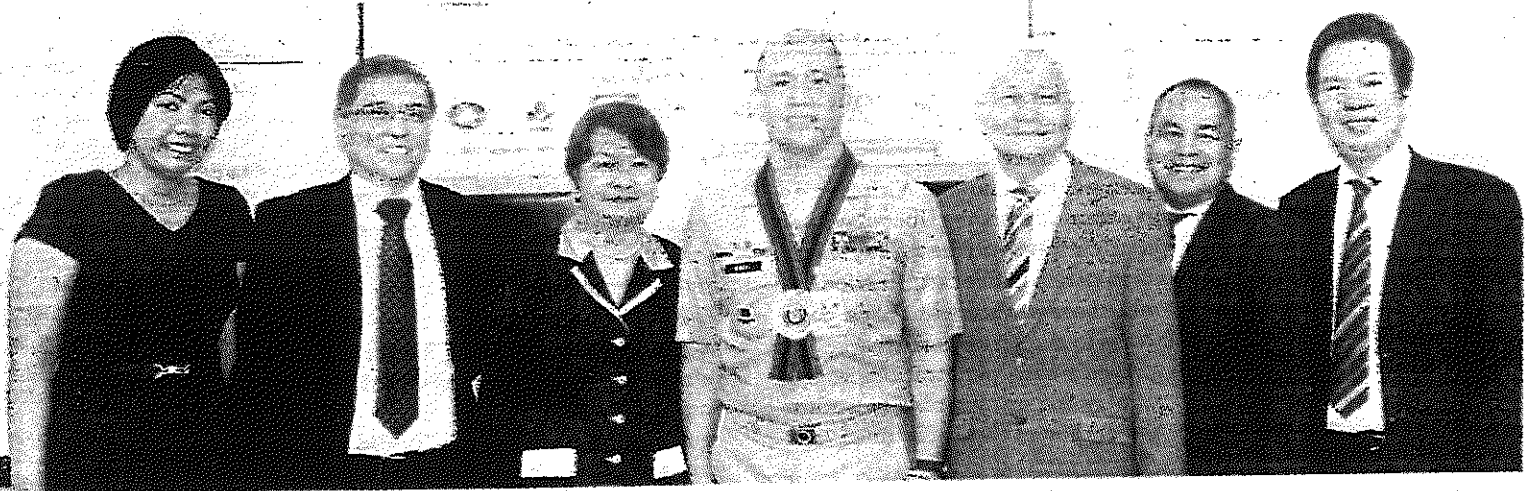
The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) negotiating panel composed of Sison, panel head Luis Jalandoni and four other rebel leaders flew to Oslo on Tuesday. The government representatives in the Scandinavian city are incoming Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III and peace negotiator Jesus Dureza.

Bello led the government panel in the peace negotiations with the NDFP between 1992 and 1998, while Dureza served as presidential peace adviser in the Ramos and Arroyo administrations.

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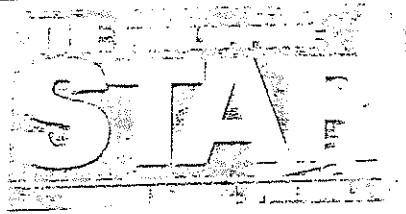
BusinessMirror

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ETERNAL PLANS, FORTUNE LIFE ACCREDITED WITH AFP Eternal Plans Inc. and Fortune Life Insurance Co. signed a memorandum of agreement with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) accrediting the two companies as financial institutions authorized to offer their services to AFP personnel, payable through salary deductions. The formal signing ceremony was held on June 6 at the AFP Finance Center, General Headquarters, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, together with 10 other financial institutions. It was led by (third to fifth from left) Evelyn T. Carada, EVP and general manager of Fortune Life; Rear Adm. Allan B. Rosal, deputy chief of staff for Personnel II and chairman of the AFP Financial Institution Accreditation Board (AFPFIAB); and Elmer Loric, president and COO of Eternal Plans. Flanking them are (from left): Fortune Life's Floreda C. Constantino, executive assistant to the first vice president, marketing and sales; Virgilio S. Aquino, FVP marketing and sales; Eternal Plans's Rolando B. Bongalon, senior assistant vice president, sales and marketing; and Jerry D. Barrantes, training manager.

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Page. 2

Chinese, SEA foreign ministers meet amid sea tensions

YUXI (AP) - Continuing Beijing's push to ease concerns about its assertions of sovereignty over the South China Sea, China's foreign minister told his Southeast Asian counterparts Tuesday that both sides should take a "long-term perspective" as they try to solve their disputes.

Wang Yi's comments underscore China's desire to contain damage to its reputation over its assertive tactics in the highly strategic and resource-rich waterway. Four of the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have claims to South China Sea islands and reefs that overlap with China's own.

"We should review our relationship with strategic height and long-term perspective," Wang told the foreign ministers gathered in the southern city of Yuxi in China's Yunnan province, which borders on ASEAN members Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam.

"We should keep on expanding our consensus and cooperation and properly handle and control our differences," Wang said. "We should jointly lead and push forward the China-ASEAN relationship toward a healthy and stable development."

Among ASEAN members, Vietnam has strongly protested China's placing of an exploratory oil and gas drilling rig in disputed waters, while the Philippines has brought a case before a UN arbitration panel challenging China's claim to virtually the entire South China Sea, including artificial islands it has constructed from coral reefs. ASEAN members Brunei and Malaysia also claim territory there, while Indonesia's exclusive economic zone overlaps with Chinese maritime claims.

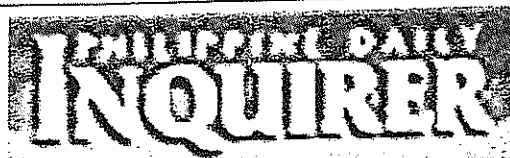
Fishing craft and law-enforcement ships from all sides have clashed on occasion, although China has taken

pains to avoid escalating such conflicts by intervening with its powerful navy.

Moreover, China has refused to cooperate with the UN arbitration panel and says it will ignore any ruling it makes. However, Chinese and foreign analysts say Beijing's desire to be regarded as a trusted member of the rules-based international community will likely suffer as a result.

In remarks Monday night at a welcoming banquet ahead of Tuesday's meeting, Wang said that a quarter-century after establishing their dialogue partnership, China and ASEAN should "cherish the peace in this region that was not easily obtained and not allow any force to disturb the tranquility of our common home," the Foreign Ministry said on its website.

15 June 2016



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China hits Pinoy youths' trip to Scarborough Shoal

By Estrella Torres

CHINA has called "an affront to its sovereignty" the recent attempt by 15 Filipino youth activists to plant a Philippine flag on Scarborough Shoal off the province of Zambales to mark Independence Day on June 12.

The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), however, saw nothing wrong with the nationalistic attempt by members of Kalayaan Atin Ito (Freedom This Is Ours) movement to reclaim, albeit symbolically, what is part of Philippine territory.

"The features that they (protesters) planned to go to, all of them are part of our (territory). We have sovereign rights and jurisdictions over those features," DFA spokesperson Charles Jose said in a news briefing on Monday.

But he stressed the government's main concern was the safety of the young Filipinos. "They didn't have to unnecessarily risk their lives," he said.

In China, foreign ministry

spokesperson Lu Kang reiterated his country's sovereignty over "Huangyan Dao," saying it was China's "inherent territory."

'Provocative actions'

Huangyan Dao is what China calls Scarborough Shoal, which is also known to Filipinos as Bajo de Masinloc and Panatag Shoal.

"We urge the Philippines to respect China's territorial sovereignty and not take any provocative actions," Lu said in a press briefing in Beijing on June 13, a transcript of which was posted on the Chinese foreign ministry website.

The attempt to plant a flag on the shoal to assert the Philippines' ownership was thwarted by the Chinese Coast Guard on June 12, which was also the eve of a two-day emergency meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and China in Kunming to find ways to lower tensions in the disputed portions of the South China Sea.

15 June 2016



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RP's 'provocative actions' in SCS warned

By Joyce Ann L. Racamora

China has once again reiterated its insistence on ownership of the disputed area in South China Sea after a group of Filipino youth and an American volunteer sailed to Panatag Shoal last Sunday to place the country's flag in view of the Philippine Independence Day.

In a press conference, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Lu Kang made his strong stand clear on China's sovereignty over the disputed sea.

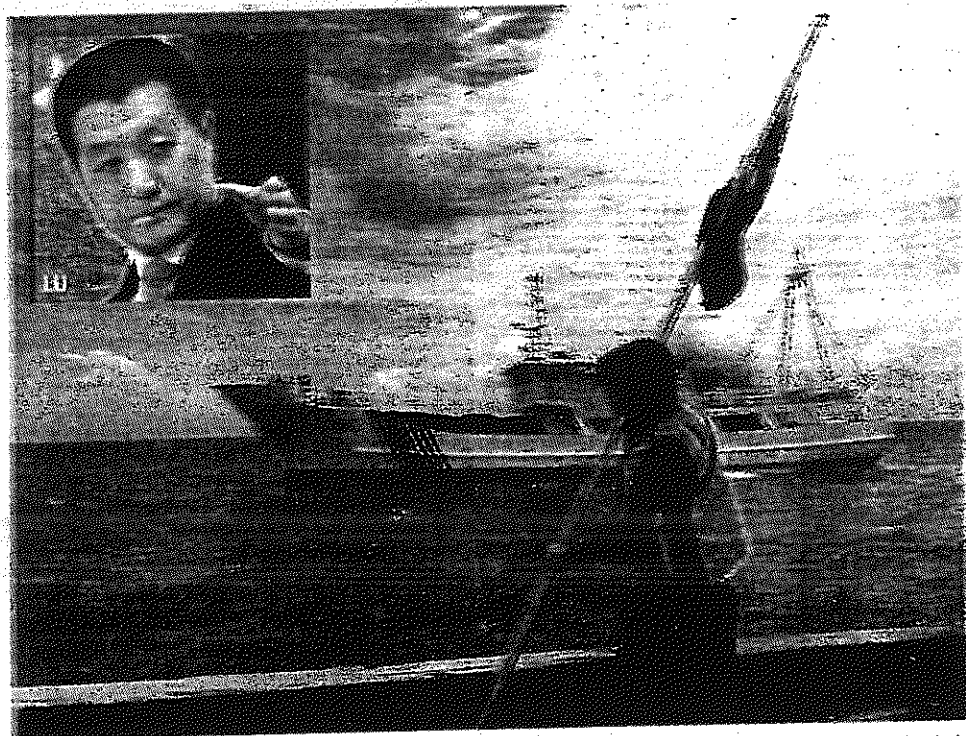
Lu Kang dismissed the youths' actions as provocative, saying "we have repeatedly stated that Huangyan Dao (Panatag Shoal) is China's inherent territory.

"We urge the Philippines to respect China's territorial sovereignty and not take any provocative actions," he said.

The incident happened on Sunday adjacent to the Special China-Asean before the Foreign Ministers' Meeting held yesterday, June 14 marking the 25th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and Asean in which the Philippines is a member country.

The 10-country union Asean which has

Turn to page 2



Ain't funny - A Filipino activist holds a Philippine flag while a Chinese coast guard ship sails close by their boat at the Scarborough Shoal, just 230 kilometres off Luzon, in the West Philippine Sea. Filipino protesters claimed that China's coast guard blocked and sprayed them with water as their small group sailed to the shoal to mark Philippine Independence day.

AFP

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Cold-blooded murder

ANOTHER GRIM Monday deadline, another hapless hostage dead. On Monday, June 13, the Abu Sayyaf Group beheaded Canadian hostage Robert Hall somewhere in Sulu, after the lapse of the 3 p.m. ransom payment deadline. Hours later, the victim's severed head was found near a church in Jolo, Sulu—delivered as proof of death by the bandit group. In Ottawa, Canadian Prime Minister Justin

EDITORIAL Trudeau issued a pained but resolute statement. "The vicious and brutal actions of the hostage-takers have led to a needless death. Canada holds the terrorist group who took him hostage fully responsible for this cold-blooded and senseless murder."

Hall was the second Canadian hostage executed by the Abu Sayyaf bandit group in two months.

On another Monday, last April 25, after the deadline for paying another exorbitant ransom passed, John Ridsdel—with Hall, part of the group that was abducted from Samal Island in September last year—was beheaded, and proof of death was also delivered. Trudeau condemned Ridsdel's killing as "an act of cold-blooded murder."

Two more hostages from that Samal Island group remain in captivity: the Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and the Filipino Maritess Flor. More hostages, both foreign and Filipino, languish in other Abu Sayyaf camps. It is true that several Indonesian hostages have been released; this must mean that ransom was paid, because the Abu Sayyaf is nothing but a brutal business. It understands only two motivations: violence and money.

The unfortunate Canadians were beheaded while their companions remain hostages for a business reason. The bandit group demanded a steep price for their freedom, about P300 million each. The Indonesians were released because the ransom was a much more "reasonable" figure; about P50 million for the first 10 sailors was reportedly paid. The hostages who remain in humiliating captivity are either perceived by the bandit group as too rich or are in fact too poor to pay for their way out.

When the money did not materialize, the brutal gang did the only other thing it knows to do: unleash violence.

The National Ulama Conference of the Philippines (NUCP) condemned Hall's beheading. "We from NUCP strongly condemn this terrorism. This is un-Islamic, inhuman, and condemnable," said Alih Aiyub, national secretary general of the NUCP.

From Malacañang, Secretary Herminio Coloma issued a pledge on behalf of President Aquino: "This latest heinous crime serves to strengthen our government's resolve to put an end to this reign of terror and banditry."

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But in truth, and despite the deployment of hundreds of soldiers and the use of sophisticated technology in those parts of Sulu believed to be Abu Sayyaf strongholds, the Aquino administration is running out of time. In two weeks, the Abu Sayyaf problem—largely dormant during President Aquino's term, but now active again—will become the burden of the Duterte presidency.

What can be done to uproot Abu Sayyaf banditry completely?

The first task is the most difficult one: To convince concerned parties not to pay ransom at all, because while it may buy the victims' freedom, it will also ensure that a better-equipped, better-supplied, better-supported bandit group will abduct more victims in the future. Trudeau has called on his colleagues in the so-called Group of 7, the richest nations, to avoid paying ransom altogether. "The government of Canada will not and cannot pay ransoms for hostages to terrorist groups, as doing so would endanger the lives of more Canadians," he said.

The second step is complicated but for very different reasons. The ulama of the Philippines pointed to the problem. Aiyub told the INQUIRER: "We are saddened, too, by the insensitivity of the government, especially the LGUs from regional to provincial to municipal to barangay, and their lack of cooperation with the PNP and the AFP to eliminate this terrorist group."

The porousness of boundaries, the melting away of traditional roles, have always been part of the reality of the bandit group. Its numbers swell when ransom is paid, because there is money to spread. Its numbers stay steady during lean times, because clan and family ties help support the bandits. When the ulama speak of a "lack of cooperation," this is part of what they mean.

The third challenge is economic. If the Abu Sayyaf is a criminal enterprise, it thrives when poverty meets ideology or indoctrination. A lasting solution to the problem must therefore include the dramatic reduction of poverty in some of the country's poorest areas.

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ONLINE NEWS

15 JUNE 2016

PINOY PRIDE | Lady trooper wins silver in Thai marathon



FORT BONIFACIO, Metro Manila – A female private first class from the Philippine Army won the silver medal and a trophy in the 11th edition of the Laguna Phuket International Marathon held at Phuket, Thailand last June 5, 2016.

Pfc. Jho-An Banayag of the Special Service Center, Philippine Army placed second in the 21-km half-marathon and placed third in the overall female categories.

Banayag, who was among the 6,000 local and foreign marathoners from 56 different countries, completed the challenging 21-km run in just one hour and 29 minutes passing through local villages, pineapple and rubber plantations in Laguna Phuket.

Laguna Phuket International Marathon is a yearly running competition being organized by the Go Adventure Asia. The running event is composed of 2-km, 5-km, 10.5-km, 21-km half-marathon and 42-km marathon races.

The event was designed to be a fun and family oriented affair in conjunction with the Laguna Phuket Foundation, which supports educational and social development of local communities, marine and natural environmental conservation.

The Philippine Army, on the other hand, takes pride in its soldier-athletes that possess world-class skills.

“These recent victories continue to bring honor and pride to the Philippine Army,” said Col. Kiram Azgar Grajo, the SSC Director. “It is also a clear manifestation that Army soldiers do not only excel in combat, but are also world-class athletes.”

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Intel efforts being intensified to locate ASG lairs, Samal hostages in Sulu

From the Philippine News Agency (Jun 14):

The Western Mindanao Command (WESMINCOM) on Tuesday announced that it has intensified efforts to track the exact locations of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) bandits and the two remaining Samal Island hostages in Sulu.

This in wake of the bandit group's brutal beheading of Canadian Robert Hall on Monday and subsequent discovery and recovery of the victim's head in front of the Jolo Cathedral at 8:45 p.m. of the same day.

"What we are strengthening right now is the intelligence collection to determine once and for all, where they are hiding and the location of their hostages," WESMINCOM spokesperson Major Filemon Tan said when asked on what counter-actions the military is planning against the ASG.

He added that heavy vegetation, difficulties in making undetected approaches, and the bandits' mastery of the Sulu terrain, ability to blend with the civilian population due to kinship, and refusal of the ASG to fight, are the reasons why the military, despite the deployment of around 10 battalions in the province, is having a difficult time in tracking the brigands.

Aside from Samal Island captives Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and Filipina Marites Flor, Hall's girlfriend, another five hostages are in the hands of the ASG in Sulu.

These include Dutch birdwatcher Ewold Horn and four Filipinos.

Hall was beheaded after both the Philippine and Canadian governments ignored the 3:00 p.m., June 13 deadline of the ASG which stipulated that they will execute one of the hostages if the Php600 million was not paid.

Hall, Sekkingstad and Flor and Canadian John Ridsel were snatched by the ASG at a posh resort in Samal Island last Sept. 21.

The ASG beheaded Ridsel last April 25 after the Philippine and Canadian governments refused to pay his PHP300 million ransom.

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

Palace 'strongly' condemns beheading of Canadian hostage

From the Philippine News Agency (Jun 14):

Malacanang on Tuesday strongly condemned the beheading of the last Canadian hostage Robert Hall held captive by the Abu Sayyaf Group in Sulu for the past nine months.

"We strongly condemn the brutal and senseless murder of Mr. Robert Hall," Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said in a press statement.

The Palace also extended its deepest sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family of Hall.

The Western Mindanao Command on Tuesday confirmed that the ASG bandits have beheaded Hall after his family reportedly failed to pay the PHP600 million ransom.

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Last April 25, the ASG beheaded the first Canadian hostage John Ridsel after the Philippine and Canadian governments refused to pay PHP300 million ransom.

"We thank the Canadian government and people for their steadfast support and understanding which has been extremely helpful in our determined efforts to end this decades-old problem," Coloma said.

Hall and Ridsel along with Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and Filipina companion Marites Flor were snatched by the ASG in an exclusive resort in Samal Island on Sept. 21 last year.

"We truly regret that our people's cherished tradition of extending gracious hospitality toward foreign nationals has been marred by a small band of criminals whose despicable actions have been abetted by the extortion of ransom from their previous victims," Coloma said.

He said for the past two months, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police have waged continuing military and law enforcement operations "that have degraded the capability of our enemies and limited their movements."

"This latest heinous crime serves to strengthen our government's resolve to put an end to this reign of terror and banditry," Coloma said.

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

Trudeau slams ASG execution of Canadian; villagers hinder AFP pursuit

From InterAksyon (Jun 14):

The Philippine government confirmed on Tuesday the execution of a Canadian who had been held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf Islamist militant group in Jolo island with three other people since September 2015. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that it appeared the second execution of a Canadian hostage by Abu Sayyaf in recent months had taken place, and denounced the ASG.

Meanwhile, the Philippine military operations to pursue the Abu Sayyaf were being hindered by a reported moves of local villagers to cover up for the kidnappers, many of whom are related to them in extended clans. Nonetheless, the operations continue unabated, according to a News5 report (VIDEO BELOW).

"We strongly condemn the brutal and senseless murder of Mr. Robert Hall, a Canadian national, after being held captive by the Abu Sayyaf group in Sulu for the past nine months," outgoing Philippines President Benigno Aquino had said in a statement.

A Philippine military spokesman said earlier a severed head had been found near a Catholic cathedral on a remote southern island late on Monday. No identification had been made yet.

Hall was taken captive by the militants with three others from an upscale resort on Samal Island, hundreds of miles east of Jolo.

Another Canadian who was held captive, former mining executive John Ridsdel, was executed by the group in April.

A Norwegian man and a Filipina are still being held.

Trudeau told reporters that "Canada holds the terrorist group who took Mr. Hall hostage fully responsible for this

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cold-blooded and senseless murder".

He said Sunday's attack on a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, and the killing of Hall "serve as devastating reminders for all of us, the vicious acts of hatred and violence cannot be tolerated in any form".

Abu Sayyaf, based in the south of the mainly Roman Catholic Philippines, is known for kidnapping, beheadings and extortion.

Security is precarious in the southern Philippines despite a 2014 peace pact between the government and the largest Muslim rebel group that ended 45 years of conflict.

In Manila, President-elect Rodrigo Duterte's national security adviser said Duterte's new government, which takes charge on June 30, would "take a stronger action against lawlessness in the south".

"We cannot allow this situation to continue, this should end once and for all," Duterte's adviser Hermogenes Esperon told Reuters.

Abu Sayyaf had initially demanded one billion pesos (\$21.7 million) each for the detainees, but it lowered the ransom to PhP 300 million each early this year.

Preliminary intelligence reports in the Philippines indicated Hall had been beheaded 10 minutes after a 3 p.m. deadline lapsed in the mountains outside the town of Patikul on Jolo Island.

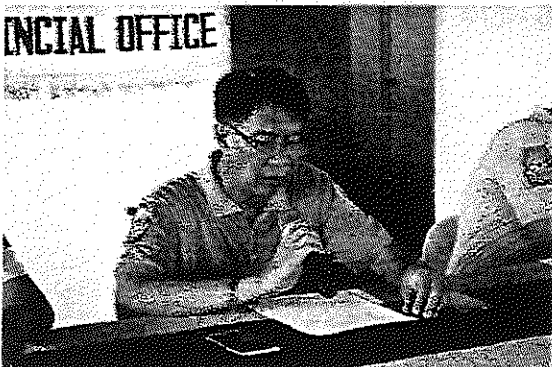
Philippine media had already quoted Abu Raami, a spokesman for Abu Sayyaf, confirming the execution.

<http://interaksyon.com>

Abu Sayyaf 'outsourcing' kidnap operations – police

From Rappler (Jun 14):

The Abu Sayyaf has reportedly hired other criminal groups and outsiders to do the intelligence gathering and heavy lifting in connection with its kidnap-for-ransom activities



OUTSOURCED CRIME. Police Senior Superintendent Edwin Buenaventura C. Wagan, Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Police Director, fields questions at a press conference in Camp Hamac, Dipolog City, on June 14, 2016. Photo by Gualberto Laput/Rappler

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, Philippines – The Abu Sayyaf group is reportedly "outsourcing" its kidnap-for-

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ransom operations, police here said on Tuesday, June 14.

Police Senior Superintendent Edwin Buenaventura C. Wagan, Zamboanga del Norte Police Provincial Director, confirmed this two days after authorities nabbed an alleged accomplice of the Abu Sayyaf in at least two kidnapping cases, **Abner Gumandol**.

Wagan said the Abu Sayyaf's "outsourcing" operations include hiring local criminal groups to do the "tracing" or identifying and intelligence gathering on potential kidnap victims.

He said the Abu Sayyaf also hires another criminal group to do the actual abduction as well as transporting the victim to Abu Sayyaf's hideout in Jolo or Basilan where they will be held as hostages pending ransom payment.

Another group or person is then tapped to negotiate on behalf of the Abu Sayyaf for ransom payment, Wagan said.

Authorities nabbed Gumandol, also known as "Sehar Mulok" and "Red Eye," in Barangay Kaliantana, Naga in Zamboanga Sibugay at dawn on Monday, June 12. He faces kidnapping charges for his alleged involvement in the 2015 abduction of former Italian missionary Rolando del Torchio and Mayor Jeffrey Lim of Salug, Zamboanga del Norte, in 2012.

Both were released after allegedly paying ransom.

Wagan described Gumandol – who is said to have more than 20 followers in Salug – as the Abu Sayyaf's "spotter" in the case of Del Torchio.

'Businessman, MILF commander'

Gumandol refused to talk to journalists, but his sister, Nur Anna, and wife Shariffavehemently denied the allegation.

"My brother is a businessman. I know him. All the allegations they made against him are all lies," said Nur Anna as she blocked journalists from asking questions or taking photos of Gumandol in his jail cell.

Shariffa also denied that her husband is maintaining a criminal group in Salug.

"My husband is not connected with Abu Sayyaf, he is an active brigade commander of the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) based in Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay," she said.

On Tuesday, the Abu Sayyaf confirmed that it had killed another Canadian hostage after the deadline on its ransom payment demand lapsed. Robert Hall was part of the group of 4 who were abducted in a resort in Samal Island in Davao del Norte in September 2015.

In April, the Abu Sayyaf killed John Ridsdel, a Canadian hostage who was part of the Samal group, after no ransom payment was made.

The Philippine government has condemned both incidents, as it vowed to end the Abu Sayyaf's "reign of terror and banditry."

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