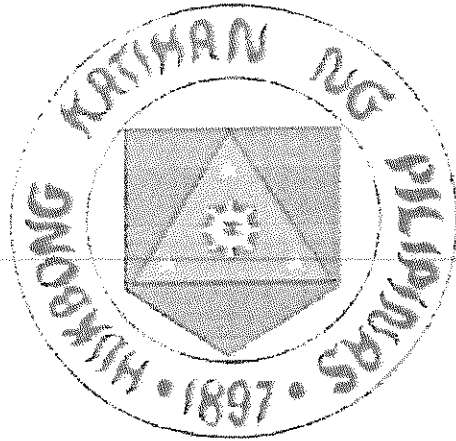


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**NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**15 October 2016**

**Saturday**

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# NEWS HEADLINES

## 15 October 2016

### INT'L COURT WARNS PH ON KILLINGS

President Duterte's war on drugs, which has left more than 3,000 suspects dead, drew the attention of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, which warned against extrajudicial killings.

The court said the president's war on drugs was "a clear violation of the constitution" and "a gross violation of the rights of the accused." It urged the president to "abandon the war on drugs" and "respect the rule of law."

### DUTERTE TELLS JUDGES: GOD MADE ME PRESIDENT

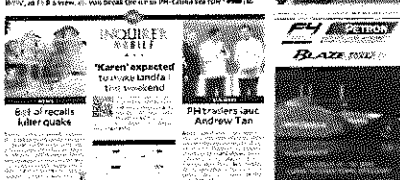
President Duterte told the Supreme Court that he was "God's chosen one" and that he was "not a politician." He said he was "not a politician" and that he was "not a politician."

He said he was "not a politician" and that he was "not a politician."

### INQUIRER



INQUIRE WITHIN  
What is the truth about the Duterte war on drugs? Is it a war on drugs or a war on the poor? Is it a war on the poor or a war on the poor?



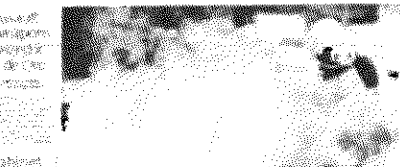
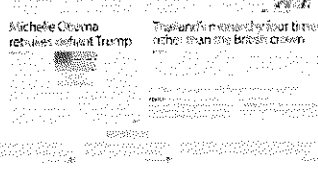
### The Manila Times

Duterte's war on drugs is a clear violation of the constitution and a gross violation of the rights of the accused.

### Global court warns govt over killings

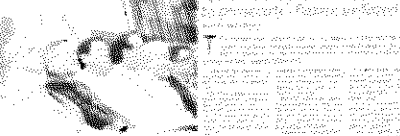


INQUIRE WITHIN  
What is the truth about the Duterte war on drugs? Is it a war on drugs or a war on the poor? Is it a war on the poor or a war on the poor?



### Killings alarm ICC

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has expressed concern over the Duterte war on drugs, which has left more than 3,000 suspects dead. The ICC said the war on drugs was "a clear violation of the constitution" and "a gross violation of the rights of the accused."



The ICC said the war on drugs was "a clear violation of the constitution" and "a gross violation of the rights of the accused."



### Business Insight

Senior VAT exemptions cost P10B



The Department of Finance (DOF) has estimated that the cost of senior VAT exemptions is P10 billion. The DOF said the cost of senior VAT exemptions is P10 billion.



The DOF said the cost of senior VAT exemptions is P10 billion.



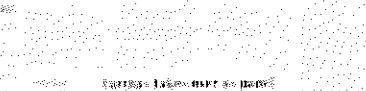
The DOF said the cost of senior VAT exemptions is P10 billion.

### Malaya



### Gordon absolves Duterte of involvement in EJK

The United States Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, has absolved President Duterte of involvement in the Duterte war on drugs, which has left more than 3,000 suspects dead. Sessions said the war on drugs was "a clear violation of the constitution" and "a gross violation of the rights of the accused."



Sessions said the war on drugs was "a clear violation of the constitution" and "a gross violation of the rights of the accused."



Sessions said the war on drugs was "a clear violation of the constitution" and "a gross violation of the rights of the accused."

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18	2 suspected MILF members nabbed		<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>

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15 October 2016


# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 15, 2016 | SATURDAY**

**SEVERE TROPICAL STORM "KAREN"**  
ESTIMATED AT 209 KM EAST OF VIRAC, CATANDUANES  
(As of 5:00 PM - October 14, 2016)



**PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)**

City	Temperature
LAOAG CITY	23 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO CITY	23 - 30 °C
BAGUIO CITY	14 - 19 °C
SBMA/CLARK	23 - 29 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY	27 °C
METRO MANILA	23 - 28 °C
LEGAZPI CITY	24 - 31 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY	25 - 31 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 31 °C
TACLOBAN CITY	25 - 31 °C
METRO CEBU	25 - 31 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 32 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY	24 - 32 °C
METRO DAVAO	24 - 33 °C

**SUNRISE**  
6:47 AM

**SUNSET**  
5:36 PM

**MOONRISE**  
5:02 PM

**MOONSET**  
4:35 AM

**FIRST QUARTER**  
OCT 9  
12:33 AM

**FULL MOON**  
OCT 16  
12:23 PM

**LOW TIDE**  
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR  
8:32 PM  
0.24 Meter

**HIGH TIDE**  
9:11 AM  
0.89 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms



Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Rains with gusty winds

Stormy

City	OCT 15	OCT 16	OCT 17
METRO MANILA	23 - 28 °C	23 - 30 °C	23 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO	23 - 31 °C	22 - 32 °C	22 - 32 °C
LAOAG	23 - 30 °C	23 - 31 °C	23 - 31 °C
BAGUIO	14 - 20 °C	15 - 21 °C	15 - 21 °C
SBMA/CLARK	23 - 30 °C	23 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C
TAGAYTAY	21 - 28 °C	22 - 28 °C	22 - 28 °C
LEGAZPI	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD	25 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
METRO CEBU	25 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
TACLOBAN	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
METRO DAVAO	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
ZAMBOANGA	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C

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People's Television  

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

15 October 2016

## INQUIRER

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# INT'L COURT WARNS PH ON KILLINGS

**President Duterte's war on drugs, which has left more than 3,700 suspects dead, draws the attention of The Hague-based court that tries people accused of crimes against humanity**

**By Nikko Dizon**  
@NikkoDizonINQ

The chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on Friday said her office would begin to closely follow developments in the Philippines, raising concern over alleged extrajudicial killings in President Duterte's brutal war on illegal drugs.

More than 3,700 people have been killed by police and suspected vigilantes since Mr. Duterte launched the campaign upon taking office on June 30.

"I am deeply concerned about these alleged killings and the fact that public statements from high officials of the Philippines seem to condone such killings," ICC Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said in a statement issued in The Hague.

Mr. Duterte, who won election in May on a promise to wipe out drugs and crime in six months, has been going around the country encouraging soldiers and police to shoot to kill drug suspects who would resist arrest.

He has been offering bounties to police who could kill drug lords and promising them protection from prosecution.

The United Nations, the United States, the European Union and international human rights groups have all raised concerns over the killings.

But the acid-tongued Mr. Duterte has rejected the allegations and called the campaign an internal affair of the Philippines.

He has called US President Barack Obama a "son of a bitch" and UN Sec-

retary General Ban Ki-moon a "fool" over their criticism.

Bensouda issued a warning: "Let me be clear: Any person in the Philippines who incites or engages in acts of mass violence including by ordering, requesting, encouraging or contributing, in any other manner, to the commission of crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC is potentially liable to prosecution before the court."

She added: "My office, in accordance with its mandate under the Rome Statute, will be

**A11**



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## FROM A1

closely following developments in the Philippines in the weeks to come and record any instance of incitement or resort to violence with a view to assessing whether a preliminary examination into the situation of the Philippines needs to be opened."

### Willing to be investigated

Malacañang said Mr. Duterte was open to investigation by the ICC.

In a statement, Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said the killings were not "state sanctioned" as "many of those who died were killed during legitimate police operations, which are currently undergoing investigation as directed by the President."

Andanar said the Senate committee on justice and human rights had conducted an inquiry into the killings and its chair, Sen. Richard Gordon, had found the allegations baseless.

"[Gordon] has been quoted as saying that 'there is no proof that the killings were state-sponsored,'" Andanar said.

### Systematic attack

"In any case, the President has articulated that he is willing to submit himself [to] an investigation [by] any body," he said.

The Philippines joined the ICC in November 2011. Bensouda said extrajudicial killings could be prosecuted if they were "committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack against a civilian population."

Last month, Mr. Duterte challenged the United Nations and international human rights experts to come to Manila, both

to investigate the killings and to face him in a public debate.

### UN probe

On Wednesday, Malacañang formally issued an invitation to UN special rapporteur on summary executions Agnes Callamard to investigate the killings.

The government had initially rebuffed Callamard when she announced plans to take up Mr. Duterte's challenge.

Callamard has since told Agence France-Presse she would discuss with Manila the date and scope of a fact-finding mission, state guarantees for

her freedom of movement and inquiry, and assurances about the safety of mission members and their interview subjects.

### Nothing illegal

Mr. Duterte has insisted that he and his police forces have done nothing illegal, and that law enforcers have been forced to shoot and kill after suspects put up a fight.

On Thursday night, Mr. Duterte again defended his scorched-earth policy on drugs in a speech to businessmen in Pasay City, saying "it is not a crime to threaten criminals with death."

He said he had written to Obama, Ban, US Secretary of State John Kerry, the United Nations, the UN Human Rights Commission and the European Union to explain that it was not a crime to threaten criminals.

### Not brighter than he

He said "they cannot be brighter" than he, and that he could outsmart them if they came to the Philippines to investigate the killings.

"I will toy with you in public. I will ask five questions that will humiliate you and 10 questions where you will agree with me,"

Mr. Duterte said.

### Just about to start

Speaking in Batanes on Friday, Mr. Duterte denied the government was involved in the killings.

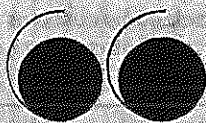
"Who did we kill? We in the government? No one yet. We are just about to start. We are not yet involved in the 3,000," he said.

Mr. Duterte said there was no proof that he ordered the killings, insisting that it was not a crime to threaten criminals with death.

"There is nothing wrong in

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**Any person in the Philippines who incites or engages in acts of mass violence including by ordering, requesting, encouraging or contributing, in any other manner, to the commission of crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC is potentially liable to prosecution**

**Fatou Bensouda**  
ICC Chief Prosecutor

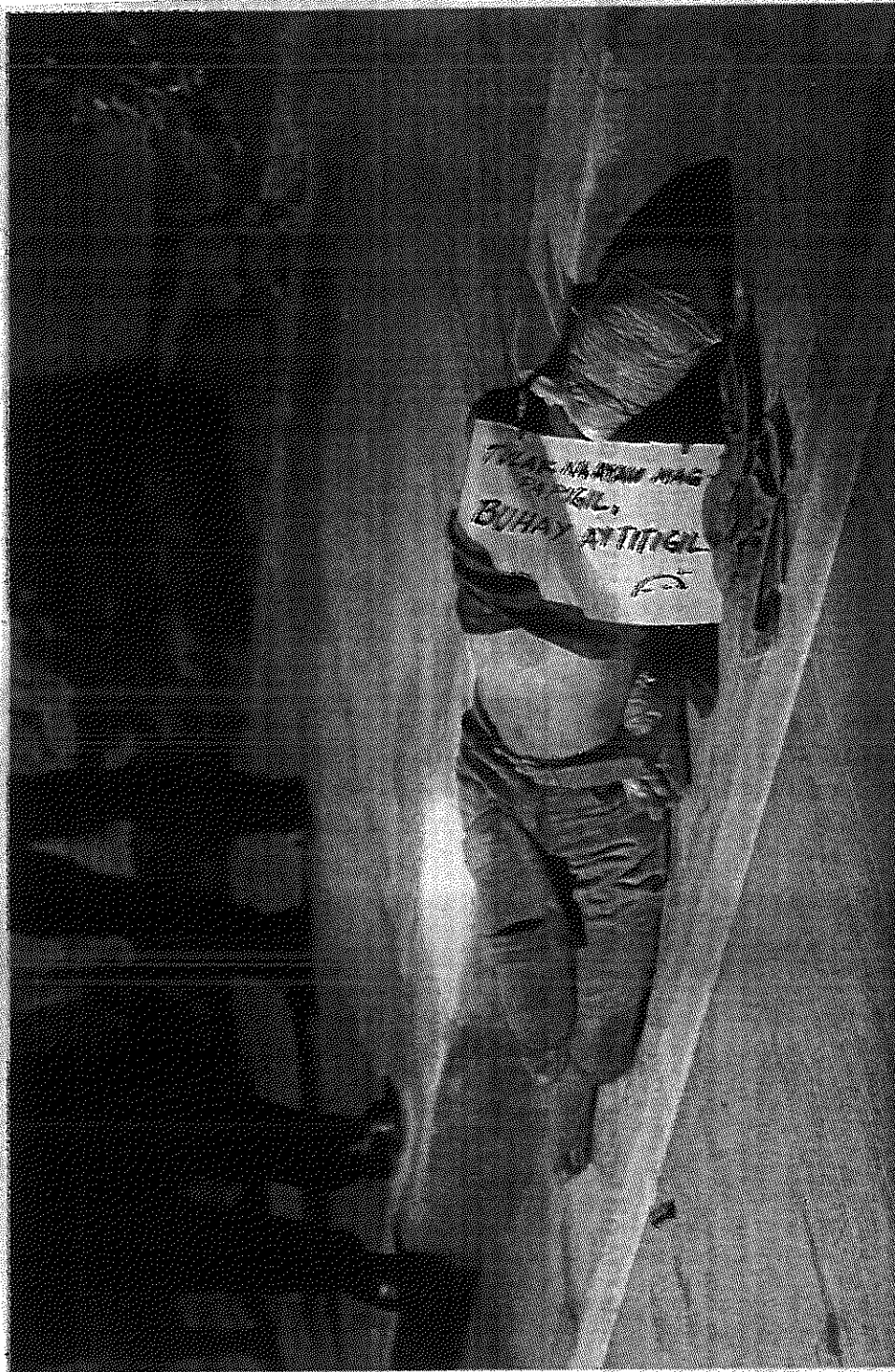
threatening criminals with death. By that statement alone: 'You criminals, I will kill you. Do not fool around.' It is a perfect statement," he said.

Describing his critics as "fools," Mr. Duterte vowed his war on narcotics would continue until there were no more illegal drugs in the Philippines.

"I will not stop, be sure of it. You can cast it in whatever stone. I will not stop until the last pusher, until the last drug lord is taken away," he said.

—WITH REPORTS FROM GIL CABACUNGAN; NESTOR CORRALES, INQUIRER.NET; AFP AND REUTERS INQ

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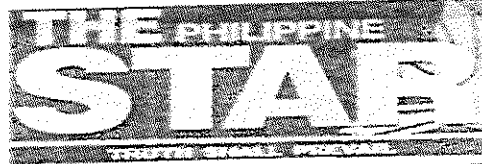
DRUG WAR STATISTIC: A man with his face wrapped in packaging tape and with a sign branding him a drug pusher lies dead on Florentino Street, Sampaloc, Manila. --RAFFY LERMA

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15 October 2016



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# Rody on killings: Don't look at me

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

With the International Criminal Court (ICC)'s chief prosecutor warning that anyone involved in extrajudicial killings in the Philippines would be held accountable, President Duterte yesterday washed his hands of the deaths.

Responding to the warning of the ICC's Fatou Bensouda, Duterte explained that he has openly encouraged police to go after drug suspects and kill them only if they resist arrest.

"Now they say there are already 3,000 people who were killed. Three thousand? Who killed them? I don't know, but why are they pointing at me, blaming me for those deaths?" the President said in a speech in Basco, Batanes where he visited the victims of a recent typhoon.

Duterte has been up in arms over criticisms raised by the United Nations, United States and the European Union over his bloody campaign against illegal drugs.

The President and his officials have said he cannot be prosecuted before an international court for crimes against humanity in connection with the drug deaths, amid reports that certain groups are pushing for his prosecution.

More than 3,000 suspected drug offenders and users have been killed since Duterte's June 30 inauguration. Critics

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Army Core Purpo

Turn to Page 8

ng the land.

## Rody From Page 1

are alarmed at the sheer number of deaths attributed to vigilantes, and the President's apparent support for the killings.

Feeling insulted, the President berated UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, US President Barack Obama and the EU for meddling in local affairs.

"Now, who were those kind of people who were killed? Were they from the government? No, not yet 3,000, we haven't even reached that far... this is only just the beginning," Duterte said, referring to the number of killings attributed to his war on drugs.

Duterte added human rights advocates should look at the situation and compare the fatalities to the victims of rape and other brutal crimes committed by drug-crazed individuals.

### **A multibillion industry**

Duterte stressed illegal

drugs in the country are a multibillion-peso industry that he is seeking to destroy.

Computing the P200 per hit of shabu, multiplied by the estimated number of users, Duterte said the shabu industry is a P216-billion industry a year – victimizing families and breaking relationships.

"I'll give you a simple computation. At P200 per hit for one day, that is P6,000 a month per person times (3 million)... that is P18 billion a month. Times 12, that is P216 billion a year," he said.

Duterte, however, stopped short of lambasting the United States and the EU anew over the extrajudicial killings.

"Now, they will say that I am threatening the European Union. They are using that 'this politician is threatening the criminals to death.' There is nothing wrong in threatening criminals to death," said Duterte, a former prosecutor

and mayor.

"By that statement alone, when you said 'I will kill criminals so stop fooling around' – it is a perfect statement then they want to implicate me for that statement," he said.

Duterte said he cannot be tried for a supposed violation which is not classified as a crime in the Philippines.

"That's why I am angry, and I keep on cursing them," he said.

Malacañang yesterday maintained there are no state-sanctioned killings of suspected drug offenders.

"Drug-related killings, including vigilante killings, are not state-sanctioned. Many of those who died were killed during legitimate police operations, which are currently undergoing investigation as directed by the President," Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said.

He said that even congressional leaders, in conducting an inquiry into the killings, saw no proof that the killings

were state-sponsored.

"In any case, the President has articulated that he is willing to submit himself to an investigation before any body," Andanar added.

The ICC has warned Duterte that he could face prosecution over extrajudicial killings in his deadly crackdown on drugs that has left more than 3,000 Filipinos dead since July 1.

Bensouda said she was deeply concerned over reports of thousands of alleged killings in the Philippines and statements by government officials who she said "seemed to condone such killings."

"Any person in the Philippines who incites or engages in acts of mass violence including ordering, requesting, encouraging or contributing, in any manner, to the commission of crimes within the jurisdiction of the [court] is potentially liable to prosecution before the court," Bensouda said.

The Philippines is a member-state of the ICC in The

Hague, which has the authority to prosecute individuals for crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Duterte then tossed the blame to allies of former president Benigno Aquino III, accusing them of launching a black propaganda campaign against him ahead of the May elections.

He also recalled how his opponents, including Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, "threw garbage" at him, referring to supposed exposés on his alleged huge bank accounts.

"The yellows started it all, then they rode on the issue. Remember that it was not an issue against me. It was only (used) after I keep hitting the (high) ratings. Then the garbage of Trillanes surfaced," Duterte said.

### **Rody: Don't threaten me with rally**

Talk of ousting Duterte also persists in the country, particularly in Metro Manila,

barely four months into his six-year term.

A group of Filipino businessmen in New York was reportedly hatching a plan to oust Duterte early next year.

In response, Duterte yesterday told Manila residents not to threaten him with a rally.

He said that if he gets ousted in a year or two, he would accept it as part of God's plan for him or as part of his destiny.

"*Huwag ninyo akong takutin 'yang mga taga Manila na mag rally kayo next year paalisin ninyo 'yan. Kasi pag napaalis ako, that is part of my destiny (People of Manila, don't threaten me with a rally to oust me next year. If I would be ousted, that is part of my destiny),*" he said in Batanes.

"*Hindi ko (alam) bakit ako nanalo (I do not know how I won) without the money and effective machinery. And I would say 'it's the Lord. God gave (presidency) to me,'*" he added.

– With Giovanni Nilles

15 October 2016



Page: 1

## NDF: Uncertainties haunt peace process

By DING CERVANTES

CLARK FREEPORT – The third round of peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front is slated in the third week of January, but the NDF said "many uncertainties would haunt the peace process."

In a statement yesterday, the NDF said while the second round of peace talks held in Oslo, Norway ended with some progress, uncertainties "serve to dampen the initial optimism of NDF negotiators and consultants."

The NDF cited the delay in the release of all political

prisoners; continuous military operations in communities; military men telling civilians the ceasefire has ended; political assassinations of leaders of people's organizations; and perennial problems like rural landlessness, poverty caused by feudalism and the absence of national industrialization.

The NDF counts more than 400 political prisoners still languishing in jails.

"There is now a growing uneasiness and impatience among the NDF delegation over the snail's pace in the steps being taken to effect

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## NDF From Page 1

the release of the remaining political prisoners despite repeated promises and assurances coming from the government panel," the NDF said.

"The issue of their continued detention came up early in the talks as the new NDF panel chair Fidel Agcaoili cited the pledge made by President Duterte himself last May to issue an amnesty proclamation to speed up their release. So far, the government has released only 22 political prisoners, most of them NDF consultants. There have been no other releases since August," it added.

Government panel chairman Silvestre Bello III appealed to the NDF to be patient.

In response, Agcaoili said that "if the government could effect the speedy release of the 22 NDF consultants, why the seemingly excruciating difficulty in releasing the rest of the political prisoners?"

The 22 NDF consultants released by the government are protected by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees signed by the NDF and the government in the Netherlands in 1995.

JASIG provides safety and immunity guarantees to protect the rights of NDF negotiators, consultants, staffers, security and other personnel who participate

in peace negotiations. "Under pressure from the consistent pressing of the NDF on this issue, the government panel once again promised 'to do their best.' But cynicism is now growing among some of the NDF negotiators and consultants as well as among the remaining political prisoners on account of so many unfulfilled promises," the NDF lamented.

### Continuous military operations

The NDF also said they received reports from the field about continuous military operations in the territory of the New People's Army (NPA).

"According to NPA commands from various regions, the reason why there has been no firefights so far is mainly because NPA forces have been maneuvering to avoid armed encounters. But tensions are rising because the military operations appear more and more to be taking the form of base-denial operations targeting the mass base of the NPA," the NDF said. NPA national spokesman Jorge Madlos reported that units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) also tell civilians that the ceasefire is no longer in effect to justify their operations and presence in the communities.

Madlos cited the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion.

"The NPA's Agustin Bagnalen

Command based in Abra said the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion have been telling civilians in Salapadan town that the ceasefire has ended," he said.

"The AFP has yet to observe the advice of President Duterte to be friendly to the NPA. The AFP continues to conduct hostile operations against the NPA, even using the drug campaign as pretext to conduct anti-NPA operations," he added.

The NDF stressed that to have a stable ceasefire, AFP forces must return to barracks at the level of the battalion headquarters.

### Political assassinations

The NDF also lamented political assassinations and attempted assassinations of leaders of people's organizations.

They cited the case of the secretary general of the Compostela Valley Farmers Association (CFA), Jimmy Saipan, who was killed in cold blood by two motorcycle riding gunmen last Oct. 10.

"Saipan was a lumad anti-mining activist opposing the exploration by the Agusan Petroleum Mineral Corp. in 12,000 hectares of lumad lands. The CFA has also been conducting dialogue with the 66th IB for the latter to stop occupying their community. The AFP has falsely accused the CFA as a communist front organization," the NDF said.

15 October 2016

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

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## Ammo seized in CDO could be for Maute group

By CAMCER ORDONEZ INAM

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – Authorities are digging deeper into reports that the thousands of live ammunition that were intercepted at a bus terminal, here were supposed to be delivered to the notorious Maute terrorist group in Lanao del Sur province, police said Friday.

More than 6,000 rounds of 7.62 60mm light machine gun bullets and four M203 grenades, estimated to be worth P372,000, were confiscated by combined police and military personnel at the integrated bus terminal in Agora complex, Barangay Lapasan, Thursday morning.

Supt. Surki Sereñas, police regional spokesperson, said it was possible that the seized cache of ammunition was intended for the Maute group, considered by law enforcers as a terror group based in Butig, Lanao del Sur.

"There are indicators that point to Butig (town) as possible destination," said Sereñas, adding that they are also looking at other angles.

"Since these items were brought in as contraband and without appropriate permits, it is very likely that these are intended for nefarious activities or illegitimate purposes," he said.

Investigators are looking at some sources of the ammunition, like the black market, which are then smuggled in through the country's ports or acquired through online.

Chief Insp. Melgar Devaras, deputy regional chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Cagayan de Oro, said law enforcers were able to arrest Amer Macarangal and Jabar Mangadag, both residing in Marawi City, but natives of Butig.

The suspects, Devaras said, claimed that the boxes of ammunition, which were bound for Marawi, were auto spare parts.

The CIDG said the suspects will be facing charges of violation of RA 10591 or the Comprehensive Law on Firearms and Ammunition.

The Cagayan de Oro City Police Office and Agora police station, the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Military Intelligence Battalion assisted the CIDG in conducting the operation.

October 2016

The Manila Times

Page: A3

## US donates anti-terror equipment to PH Marines

DESPITE President Rodrigo Duterte's continued attacks against the United States, even threatening to revoke an agreement that allows American forces to conduct activities in agreed locations inside Philippine military bases, the country's long-time ally recently donated counter-terrorism equipment to the Philippine Marines.

Three days before the conclusion of the 33rd joint military drill Philippines Amphibious Landing Exercise (Phiblex) on Tuesday, representatives from the US Embassy in the Philippines' Joint US Military Assistance Group (Jusmag) delivered 24 pallets of new military equipment to the Philippine Marine Special Operations Group (Marsog) at Clark Air Base, Pampanga.

The military equipment was turned over by US Army Maj. Anthony Nelson of Jusmag as part of a US government grant program aimed at assisting security forces conducting counter-terrorism operations.

The equipment, for use in counter-terrorism and fast-boat operations, included tactical Harris radios, ballistic helmets and diving gear.

"This equipment will help enhance the communications, situational awareness and protection of Philippine security forces actively engaged in counter-terrorism operations in southern Philippines. The Philippine Marines will also receive radio training as a part of the US grant program," a statement from the US Embassy said.

Besides the Marsog, the Philippine Coast Guard and the Philippine National Police-Special Action Force also received six pallets of the new communications equipment from the US

government.

Duterte had warned that Phiblex 33 would be the last in his six-year term even as he threatened to scrap the Philippines-US Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement or EDCA that was implemented by his predecessor.

On Wednesday, the President stood firm on his decision to end the annual joint war games between the Philippines and the United States.

In his speech during the 115th anniversary of the Philippine Coast Guard, he said he had told Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana "not to prepare anymore" for next year's military exercises with the US.

A major drill between the two long-standing allies is the "Balikatan" (shoulder-to-shoulder), which has been the cornerstone of Philippine-US military relations since the US bases in the Philippines were shut down more than two decades ago.

Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio said only the US can stop China's grip on the disputed South China Sea (West Philippine Sea).

During the closing ceremony for Phiblex 33, Carpio said the Philippines should continue joint patrols with the US to protect its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) as mandated by the 1987 Constitution.

"There is only one power on earth that can stop the Chinese from poaching in our EEZ. That is the US," he added.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the country would not be able to survive external threats without the US, disputing a statement made by Lorenzana that the country could do without Washington's military support.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF

Army

15 October 2016



Pahina. 3

## **Armas pandigma kaloob ng US military sa Phil. Marines**

Nagdonasyon ng mga armas pandigma na panlaban sa terorismo ang mga kinatawan ng Joint United States Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) sa Philippine Marine Special Operations Group (MARSOG) sa Clark Air Base, Pampanga.

Ito ang iniulat kahapon ng US Embassy matapos naman ang katatapos na Philippine Amphibious Assault Landing Exercises sa pagitan ng PH at US troops na idinaos sa bansa.

Gayundin sa matibay na alyansa ng PH at US

troops simula pa noong 1951 o nasa mahigit 70 taon na.

Ang nasabing donasyon ay sa kabila ng maanghang na patutsada ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, laban kay US President Barack Obama, European Union at maging sa United Nations na kinuwestiyon ang paglabag sa karapatang pantao sa anti-drug war ng pamahalaan.

The equipment, for use in counterterrorism and fast boat operations, included tactical Harris radios, ballistic helmets, and diving gear, among

other items. The military equipment was transferred under a U.S. grant program aimed at assisting security forces conducting counterterrorism operations", pahayag ng US Embassy sa isang press statement na ipinadala sa Defense Press Corps.

Samantalang tumanggap rin ang MARSOG, Philippine Coast Guard at ang PNP-Special Action Force ng anim na pallets ng mga bagong communications equipment mula sa pamahalaan ng Estados Unidos. (Joy Cantos)



## ONLINE NEWS

15 OCTOBER 2016

### **AFP reports significant gains during Pres. Duterte's first 100 days**

From the Philippine Information Agency (Oct 14): AFP reports significant gains during Pres. Duterte's first 100 days

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has reported the significant gains in its counter-terrorism and illegal drug operations during President Rodrigo Duterte's first 100 days in office.

AFP Chief-of-Staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya said the military has also gained headway in support of the Chief Executive's quest for just and lasting peace in the country.

This includes a unilateral ceasefire and the institution of conditions conducive to the holding of peace talks between the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF), he said.

"The AFP has ensured that all the orders, instructions, and guidance of the Commander-in-Chief reach all AFP units forthwith and by all means possible," Visaya further said.

The AFP's initiatives, he said, have paved the way for the 21 visits made by President Duterte to the military's major services, Unified Commands, and Division headquarters throughout the archipelago, a feat unparalleled and never before made possible and undertaken by a chief executive.

In all those visits, the President was given full capability and situation briefs by the respective commanders and provided the opportunity for face-to-face interactions with soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen and civilian employees of the AFP, Visaya said, adding that the AFP has cascaded and localized the message of the President.

On neutralizing the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), Visaya reported that the AFP has embarked on 579 massive focused military operations, 426 of which were meant to end the atrocity and notoriety of the bandits and allied terrorist groups.

The operations, he said, led to 54 armed engagements, resulting in the neutralization of 94 ASG bandits, either killed, wounded, apprehended or surrendered. Of the figure, 56 were killed, 21 surrendered, and 17 were captured.

Key ASG leaders Nelson Muktadil and Braun Muktadil, and sub-leader Mohammad Said were among the terrorists killed and their bodies were recovered in intense combat and ensuing search and retrieval operations, he said.

At least three other ASG leaders were also killed but were not identified by name because their bodies were taken by their fleeing comrades, Visaya said, adding that according to reliable informants however, the bodies were buried in known locations following the customary practice of the Moros.

The AFP chief said that sustained combat and non-combat military operations backed by the Police, government officials, and local residents have led to the release or escape of 14 kidnap victims, leaving only 12.

The AFP has launched a similar crackdown against terrorist groups in Central Mindanao, he said. Some 44 combat operations against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and other foreign and local terrorists, particularly the Maute Group, resulted in the neutralization of 50 personalities and the confiscation of a large cache of high-powered firearms, ammunition, and other materials and equipment for making improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

The incessant drive to ferret out and bring to the bar of justice the perpetrators of the bomb attack in the Davao City Night Market last Sept. 2 yielded breakthrough results, Visaya said.

Last Oct. 4 — or 32 days after the incident — three of its members were arrested.

TJ Tagaya Macabalang, Wendel Apostol Facturan, and Musali Mustapha were collared in a checkpoint operation in Cotabato City.

At 2 a.m. of Oct. 4, Teng Mustafa, father of Musali, was arrested by combined military and police operatives serving a search warrant. Confiscated from the possession of the elder Mustapha were high-powered firearms and IED materials.

With the declaration of a state of national emergency on account of lawless violence, the AFP has committed a substantial number of soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen as principal and reserve components doing mobile checkpoints, visibility patrols, and other activities to ensure suppression of lawless violence and preventing it from spreading in key cities of Davao, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos, Zamboanga, and cities in Metro Manila and other parts of the country, Visaya said.

Meanwhile, a tripartite agreement among Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines was forged to address maritime security concerns, such as kidnapping, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, and other transnational crimes in southern Philippines.

The waters around, between and connecting the islands of Zamboanga, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Sulu are vital sea lines of communication.

Visaya further reported that armed confrontation between the AFP and the NPA finally ceased after President Duterte restored the declaration of ceasefire on Aug. 21, after lifting it due to violations made by the rebel group.

The Chief Executive's gesture in restoring the erstwhile unilateral ceasefire declaration effectively reimposed the suspension of military operations earlier issued by Visaya to all field commanders.

Furthermore, peace-building efforts were exerted to ensure that line units were aware of the advocacy of the President, including the dissemination of the proposed reconstituted JASIG list and the release of detained alleged political prisoners, Visaya said.

The original JASIG list was meant to identify communist members who will join the peace negotiations with the NDF and will aid in the implementation of the ceasefire with the rebels.

On the other hand, the AFP attended the workshop of the combined Secretariat of the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Davao City on August 28.

The workshop reviewed the signed agreements/guidelines of the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities that will aid fresh talks with the MILF as well as the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to come up with a more inclusive peace plan.

Visaya meanwhile said the AFP's anti-illegal drug campaign was propelled by the signing of the Joint Letter of Instruction on Aug. 24, prescribing the mission, concept, and tasks of the AFP and the Philippine National Police in the war on drugs.

It also activated on July 24 with the PNP, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), National Bureau of Investigation, and other law enforcement agencies Task Force Noah on intelligence and counterintelligence operations.

These inter-agency efforts enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of the steps taken to implement President Duterte's order to end the proliferation and use of illegal drugs in the country, Visaya said.

To manifest its adherence to the campaign, the AFP conducted random drug tests within its ranks.

Through Task Groups Jacob, Midas, Joshua, and Salamander, the AFP conducted random drug tests on 19,163 military and civilian personnel, leading to the identification of 44 individuals who tested positive for the use of certain illegal drugs.

To establish a drug-free country leading towards a peaceful and secure environment conducive to sustainable development, the AFP also supported the implementation of Oplan Tokhang of the PNP through the conduct of 169 anti-illegal drugs operations, resulting in the arrest of 191, surrender of 689, and killing of eight drug suspects, Visaya said.

Three AFP personnel offered their lives in this campaign while five others were wounded during the joint operations with PDEA against the group of Moks Masgal in Barangay Nabalawag, Midsayap, North Cotabato on August 14, Visaya said.

The AFP also opened its camps to host the rehabilitation facilities for drug dependents.

The Philippine Army committed areas in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija; Camp Melchor dela Cruz in Gamu, Isabela; Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal; Camp Alfredo Santos in Calauag, Quezon; Camp Peralta in Jamindan, Capiz; Camp Kibaritan in Kalilangan, Bukidnon; Camp Lucero in Carmen, North Cotabato; Camp Paulino Santos in Alamada, North Cotabato; and the 401st Brigade Headquarters in Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur.

The construction of the drug rehabilitation facility in Fort Ramon Magsaysay on a 10-hectare land in Nueva Ecija is nearing completion.

The project, a joint venture of the Department of Health and the Army Real Estate Office, is expected to accommodate 1,200 individuals.

The AFP also received its third Del Pilar class frigate on July 21.

Named and commissioned as BRP Andres Bonifacio (FF-17), the new weather high endurance cutter is currently being prepared for its voyage to the country from the US.

Its crew is undergoing training and preparations prior to its departure from California in November. The second strategic sealift vessel BRP Davao del Sur was also launched on Sept. 29 and is meant to add to the amphibious warfare capability of the AFP, as well as an alternative disaster response platform.

Five pilots and nine airmen from the Philippine Air Force also flew to the US on Sept. 30 to inspect the newly acquired C-130T Hercules transferred to expand the AFPs airlift capabilities.

The Philippine Army received additional 32 engineering equipment last August 30.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=931329>



## **2 suspected MILF members nabbed**

From the Philippine Information Agency (Oct 14): 2 suspected MILF members nabbed

The Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) and the military have arrested two suspected members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in an entrapment operation Thursday at the Agora Terminal, in Barangay Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro City.

Seized from the suspects were thousands of ammunitions of M60 caliber and four M203 grenade launchers.

The arrested suspects were identified as Amer Macarungal and Jabar Mangadag.

Supt. Tom Tuzon, PNP-CIDG Region 10 chief, said the arrest of the suspects was based on the intelligence report received by the Intelligence Office of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) that the two alleged MILF members will deliver firearms and ammunitions from Metro Manila to Cagayan de Oro City on board a Philtranco bus via roll-on/roll-off (RORO).

Initial probe showed that the firearms and ammunitions were supposed to be delivered to a gun shop in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur.

Macarungal and Mangadag are now facing cases of violation of Republic Act No. 10591, or "The Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act," and RA 9516, or illegal possession of explosives.

Authorities are now looking for the connection or contact of the two suspects.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=931321>