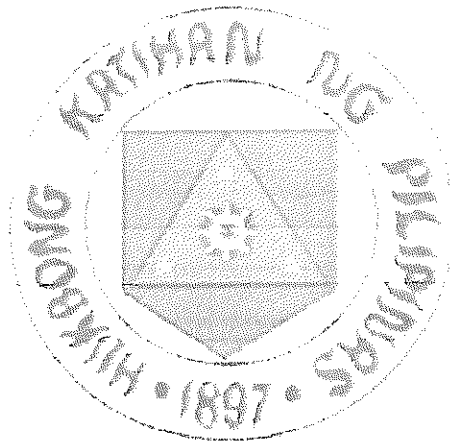


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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

01 September 2016

Thursday

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NEWS HEADLINES

01 SEPTEMBER 2016

Duterte to defend slays in Obama meet

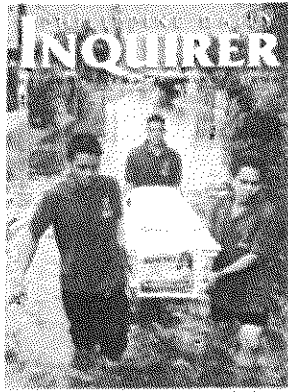
President: US leader must first see context

MANILA (AP) — President Duterte said he would defend the slayings of human rights activists and journalists during his meeting with US President Obama in Manila on Tuesday.

Duterte said he would not apologize for the slayings, but he would explain the context of the killings. He said the Philippines is a country that is still recovering from the violence of the Marcos era.

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5-yr-old fatality in drug war buried

MANILA (AP) — A 5-year-old boy who was killed in a drug war in the Philippines was buried on Tuesday.

The boy was found dead in a ditch in a village in the Philippines. His body was buried in a simple wooden coffin.

The boy's death was part of a series of killings in the Philippines that have been attributed to drug war.

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Cemeteries for fallen soldiers

MANILA (AP) — The Philippines is planning to build cemeteries for fallen soldiers.

The cemeteries will be built in various parts of the Philippines. They will be used to bury soldiers who have died in the line of duty.

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Duterte ready to face Obama

MANILA (AP) — President Duterte said he was ready to face US President Obama during their meeting in Manila on Tuesday.

Duterte said he was not afraid of Obama, and he was confident that he could defend the Philippines during their meeting.

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The Manila Times

Duterte to Misuari: Come out, let's talk

For peace after a long battle in Sulu

MANILA (AP) — President Duterte said he would like to see General Misuari come out of the Sulu archipelago.

Duterte said he wanted to talk to Misuari about the situation in Sulu. He said he wanted to see if there was a way to achieve peace in the region.

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Extra powers vs ASG nixed

Manila (AP) — The Philippines is planning to nix extra powers for the ASG.

The ASG is a group of people who are supposed to be in charge of the ASG. They are supposed to be in charge of the ASG.

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Duterte to ask Obama to hear him on rights

MANILA (AP) — President Duterte said he would ask US President Obama to hear him on human rights.

Duterte said he wanted to talk to Obama about the situation in the Philippines. He said he wanted to see if there was a way to achieve peace in the region.

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

01 September 2016



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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

5:00 AM - 5:30 AM
Mondays to Sundays

QR Code and Panahon TV logo

SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
5:44 AM	6:08 PM	5:24 AM	6:06 PM

LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
5:08 PM SEP 1	1:48 PM SEP 2

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST SEPTEMBER 01 2016 / THURSDAY

LOW PRESSURE AREA
120 KM EAST OF SOUTHEAST OF PASIG CITY, TAGAYTAY

SOUTHWEST MONSOON
AFFECTING WESTERN SECTION OF MINDANAO AND CENTRAL LUNEDON (August 30, 5:00 AM)

Location	Temp Range	Weather
LAOAG CITY	24 - 30 °C	Cloudy
TUGUEGARAO CITY	25 - 32 °C	Cloudy
BAGUIO CITY	17 - 19 °C	Cloudy
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 31 °C	Cloudy
METRO MANILA	25 - 31 °C	Cloudy
TAGAYTAY CITY	24 - 31 °C	Cloudy
LEGAZPI CITY	27 - 33 °C	Cloudy
PUERTO PRINCESA	26 - 32 °C	Cloudy
PUERTO PRINCESA	26 - 32 °C	Cloudy
ZAMBOANGA CITY	25 - 33 °C	Cloudy
DAVAO CITY	26 - 34 °C	Cloudy
CALAPAN DE ORO	25 - 33 °C	Cloudy
METRO DAVAO	26 - 34 °C	Cloudy

EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	SEP 2 FRI	SEP 3 SAT	SEP 4 SUN	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	SEP 2 FRI	SEP 3 SAT	SEP 4 SUN
METRO MANILA	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 30 °C	25 °C 31 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	27 °C 33 °C	27 °C 33 °C	26 °C 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	23 °C 32 °C	23 °C 32 °C	23 °C 32 °C	ILDIL/ BACOLOD	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 31 °C
LAOAG	23 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C	23 °C 31 °C	METRO CEBU	25 °C 33 °C	26 °C 33 °C	26 °C 34 °C
BAGUIO	16 °C 18 °C	16 °C 19 °C	16 °C 19 °C	TACLOBAN	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 31 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C
TAGAYTAY	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 31 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 °C 34 °C	26 °C 34 °C	26 °C 33 °C
LEGAZPI	26 °C 34 °C	26 °C 33 °C	27 °C 34 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

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Duterte to defend slays in Obama meet

President: US leader must first see context

By Leila B. Salaverria

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday said he was ready to defend his take-no-prisoners war on drugs in a discussion of the human rights situation in the Philippines with US President Barack Obama in Laos next week.

Mr. Duterte said he was willing to meet with Obama on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) meeting in Vientiane on Sept. 6, but he would demand that he be allowed to first explain the context of his merciless crackdown on the illegal drug trade before engaging the US leader in a discussion of the human rights situation in the Philippines.

The White House on Monday said that Obama planned to raise US concerns over the extrajudicial killings in Mr. Duterte's war on drugs when they meet in Laos.

The United States, United Nations and international organizations have expressed concern about the state of human rights in the Philippines as the body count mounts in Mr. Duterte's brutal campaign to stem the illegal

DUTERTE/A7

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drug trade.

More than 2,000 drug suspects have been killed, nearly half of them in police operations, since Mr Duterte took office on June 30 and immediately launched a drive to fulfill a campaign promise of killing tens of thousands of criminals and stamping out illegal drugs within six months of his presidency.

Asked yesterday if he was willing to discuss the rights situation with Obama, Mr Duterte said, "It depends at what degree."

'Listen to me first'

"They must understand the problem first before we talk about human rights," he told reporters at Ninoy Aquino International Airport, where he met 120 Filipino workers who had lost their jobs in Saudi Arabia.

"I would insist, 'Listen to me. This is what the problem is.' Then we can talk. No problem," the President said.

"Avoid drugs at all costs because it could cost your lives, too," he said to the laid-off migrant workers, adding that 3 million Filipinos are drug addicts.

Criticism by the US government, UN rights experts and human rights groups over the extrajudicial killings have provoked angry outbursts from Mr Duterte, who, at one point, threatened to pull the Philippines out of the United Nations.

In profanity-laced tirades, he said the United Nations had failed to prevent genocidal killings in Africa and the Middle East, and the United States had failed to stop the killings of African-Americans by white police.

The United States has urged

the Duterte administration to ensure that law enforcement efforts comply with human rights obligations in the crackdown on illegal drugs, which includes forcing the surrender of drug users and detaining them.

"We are concerned by these detentions, as well as the extrajudicial killings of individuals suspected to be involved in drug activity in the Philippines," US state department spokesperson Elizabeth Trudeau said.

"We strongly urge the Philippines to ensure its law enforcement efforts comply with its human rights obligations," she added.

The White House said Obama would also raise concerns about some of Mr Duterte's "recent statements" when they meet next week.

It was a reference to Mr Duterte's lashing out at US Ambassador Philip Goldberg, branding him a "gay son of a b*tch."

The White House said, however, that there were also important security issues for Obama and Mr Duterte to discuss, particularly tensions over freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

China has been incensed by a ruling against its claims to almost all of the South China Sea by an international arbitration court, in an action brought by the Philippines.

Similarities with Putin

Mr Duterte is also expected to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Laos.

"That I look forward to," he said. Asked why, he said he liked Putin more.

"We have a lot of similarities," he said.

Asked what similarities, he replied: "Maybe when it comes to girls."

With reports from AP and Reuters

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No state of emergency in Sulu, says Du30

By Leila B. Salaverria

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday rejected proposals for him to declare a state of emergency in Sulu province to rapidly crush the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

The bandits killed 15 soldiers in a clash at Patikul town in Sulu on Monday, as the Philippines observed National Heroes' Day.

It was the government's largest single-day combat loss

under Mr. Duterte, who last week ordered the military to destroy the Abu Sayyaf after the bandits beheaded an 18-year-old male captive whose family failed to pay them P1 million in ransom.

A massive military offensive followed the President's order, leading to the killing of 30 bandits, including an influential leader.

NO NEED / A4

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The Abu Sayyaf, however, struck back on Monday, killing 15 soldiers at a clash in Patikul and reportedly beheading three of them.

Asked if he would relent to a longstanding proposal by military officials to place Sulu under a state of emergency to allow government forces to arrest the bandits more easily and take tougher action against local officials conspiring with the Abu Sayyaf, Mr. Duterte said he would not.

"No, it's just a punitive police action by the security forces of the government. The magnitude

of the trouble there does not warrant anything except the industry of the [Armed Forces of the Philippines] and the [Philippine National Police]," Mr. Duterte told reporters at Ninoy Aquino International Airport, where he met 120 Filipino migrant workers who lost their jobs in Saudi Arabia.

'Cannibalism'

After the deaths of 15 soldiers, Malacañang said there would be no letup in the military operation against the Abu Sayyaf.

The President, who visited the wake of the slain soldiers in

Zamboanga City yesterday, lashed out at the Abu Sayyaf for beheading some of the soldiers.

He said a warrior needed only one bullet to kill an enemy.

"Do you think Allah would be happy to see you do that? In the name of Allah, you kill and you unnecessarily mutilate the body of a human being?" he said.

Mr. Duterte said the Tausug—the indigenous people in Sulu—were known as warriors and not as people who would mutilate the bodies of their enemies.

"It has deteriorated into some kind of cannibalism," he said. There is no need to add to the

grief of the family by destroying the bodies of those who were killed, he later said. He would never allow the government to undertake such “brutality” and “cruelty,” he added.

He said he had told soldiers that if their enemy has fallen, there was no need to waste any more time or bullets on them. “Move on to fight another day,” he said.

AFP: No beheadings

The military, however, denied yesterday that some of the soldiers were beheaded.

In particular, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesperson for the AFP, denied that Pfc. Jison Falcasantos was beheaded. He said there was an attempt to cut Falcasantos’ head, but timely arrival by reinforcement troops prevented the beheading.

The military is sending five more battalions, or some 2,500



A VIGIL is held for 11 of the 15 fallen soldiers inside the Western Mindanao Command gymnasium.

JULIE S. ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

troops, to go after the bandits.

The Abu Sayyaf is believed to be holding 16 foreign and five Filipino hostages.

During his Zamboanga visit,

Mr. Duterte condoled with the families of the slain soldiers and promised them cash and livelihood assistance from the government.

“I am sorry this has to happen. I don’t want it to happen again,” he said.

He said he had directed the Department of the Interior and Local Government to accept the widows of slain soldiers as government employees.

They would be automatically included in the government’s conditional cash transfer program, which would entitle them to monthly cash assistance, he said. They would also get a rice allowance.

Mr. Duterte promised as well to take care of the schooling of the soldiers’ children, if they enroll in state colleges or public schools.

With reports from Cynthia D. Balana in Manila and Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
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Cemetery for heroes or soldiers' memorial?

By Vince F. Nonato

IS LIBINGAN ng mga Bayani a cemetery for heroes or a memorial for soldiers?

Justices zeroed in on this question on the first day of oral arguments yesterday in the Supreme Court on a petition by victims of martial law abuses opposing President Duterte's decision to allow the interment of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, frozen in a temperature-controlled crypt in his Ilocos Norte hometown, in Manila.

"I think the name Libingan ng mga Bayani is creating a lot of controversy," Justice Teresita J. Leonardo-de Castro said.

"It's very difficult to determine who are heroes, especially for this court, if there are no bodies entrusted to declare who are heroes," De Castro said.

"Actually, not all buried there are heroes and there's no system of evaluation to determine who are heroes and who are not," she added.

Mr. Duterte, fulfilling an election campaign promise, has authorized the interment of Marcos at Libingan. He said he was simply following the law, which allows former soldiers and Presidents to be buried there.

Marcos, who was ousted in the 1986 People Power Revolution, died in exile in Hawaii in 1989. His remains are displayed in a glass coffin in Batac since the body was returned to the country 23 years ago. His family wants him buried at Libingan.

On Aug. 23, the high court issued a

CEMETERY/A6

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status quo ante order suspending for 20 days preparations for the burial, planned for Sept. 18.

6-hour proceedings

Yesterday's six-hour proceedings heard lawyers for several petitioners, mainly victims of alleged abuses under martial law, clamped by Marcos in 1972 in the midst of a raging communist rebellion to overthrow the government.

The petitioners claimed the emergency was instituted to perpetuate Marcos in power and enable him to amass great wealth.

The court also heard testimony of abuses from martial law victims led by Etta Rosales, former chair of the Commission on Human Rights.

The next hearing was scheduled for Sept. 7 to hear the side of the government and the Marcos family.

Rep. Edcel Lagman, whose brother was a victim of involuntary disappearances, urged the court to prevent "a national tragedy" by prohibiting such a burial, saying it "would glorify a dictator, distort history and aggravate the injustices to human

rights violation victims."

Lagman noted that the Supreme Court had confirmed the Marcoses' plunder in previous cases, and that Switzerland had turned over \$356 million hidden by the Marcoses in Swiss banks.

He also pointed out that the US District Court of Hawaii validated the brutalities of martial law when it ruled in 1992 that Marcos was culpable of human rights violations against around 10,000 claimants and held the Marcos estate liable for damages.

Deal with Ramos

The Marcos family's agreement 23 years ago with then President Fidel Ramos' administration that his remains be flown directly to his northern hometown and be given a quick burial also remains binding and precludes a hero's burial, Lagman said.

Mr. Duterte claimed the Ramos deal with Marcos did not have a legal basis and that the "yellow forces" of the past Aquino administrations at the forefront of the opposition to Marcos' burial at Libingan, should have crafted legislation that prevented the interment.

Former Akbayan Rep. Ibarra Gutierrez said the President's discretion on the burial was not

absolute and was bound by several laws and numerous decisions of the Supreme Court.

"It is crystal clear that the burial of Marcos at (Libingan) does not serve any legitimate public purpose," Gutierrez said. "Most certainly, Marcos had no contribution to Philippine history and culture that is worthy of recognition."

War memorial

Drawing from the cemetery's historical background, De Castro pointed out that then President Ramon Magsaysay renamed what was originally called Republic Memorial Cemetery in order to reflect that those interred there were soldiers who died during the war and served the military establishment.

She said that people buried there mostly had military connections, and the interment of those without background was only allowed later.

The fact that it is not administered by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines also reinforces its military character, she said.

Justice Diosdado Peralta also said Republic Memorial Cemetery came first as it was built in 1947, a year before Republic

Act No. 289 was enacted in 1948.

This law forms the crux of the arguments of the petitioners contesting the "hero's burial" for Marcos, saying the cemetery is reserved for heroes worthy of "inspiration and emulation."

'Inspiration'

Former Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares said the heroes' cemetery was not meant to just be a war memorial.

He argued that the insertion of Presidents into the rules governing Libingan made it more than that.

"Let's not get lost in the word 'hero' but focus on the standard that he is worthy of 'inspiration and emulation,'" he said.

He argued that "the interment of one scoundrel does not justify adding one more scoundrel" in Libingan and stressed the importance of symbolism.

"The victims will long be forgotten, but their tormentor is now in a place where he is called worthy of esteem," he said.

Hallowed shrine

Justice Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa questioned the position of the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) that RA 289 did

not apply to Libingan.

The OSG said in its Aug. 22 comment that RA 289 applied to a National Pantheon that was supposed to be built along East Avenue, Quezon City, but did not push through.

Lagman said that even if the National Pantheon was not built in Quezon City, "the change in venue or the site will not abrogate the principal preamble of the law."

Caguioa, who served as justice secretary of then President Benigno Aquino III, pointed out that Presidential Proclamation No. 208, issued by Marcos himself in 1967, considered Libingan a "national shrine."

Lagman replied that the requirement of being worthy of inspiration and emulation would thus still apply to the cemetery.

Caguioa noted that Presidential Decree No. 105, which was also signed by Marcos in 1973, declared national shrines sacred and hallowed places and prohibited their desecration.

"This piece of legislation appears to be relevant, would you agree?" he asked Lagman, who concurred that burying Marcos at the Libingan "would desecrate the cemetery of heroes."

01 September 2016

The Manila Times

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Duterte consoles families of slain soldiers

BY AL JACINTO AND FERNAN MARASIGAN

ZAMBOANGA CITY: President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday consoled with the families of soldiers slain in fierce clashes with Abu Sayyaf militants in Sulu province, promising them aid and free education for their children.

Duterte, accompanied by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Philippine military chief General Ricardo Visaya, promised to provide jobs to the widows.

The military said 15 soldiers were killed and over a dozen more were wounded in the fighting.

The President said the widows of the slain soldiers will be automatically enrolled in the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or 4Ps, under which beneficiaries receive a monthly cash allowance.

"All widows will be given jobs in government and all your children will be enrolled in state colleges or schools," he added.

Duterte embraced the widows of the soldiers and even kissed a photograph of one of the slain Muslim soldiers and saluted at the

flag-draped coffins.

Duterte branded the Abu Sayyaf as a terrorist group after the bandits beheaded one of the soldiers.

"I am sorry that this has to happen. I do not want it to happen again," the President said.

"I ask you, even if we do not understand each other, don't mutilate a person's body," he added, obviously addressing the bandits.

The President was referring to the mutilation of PFC. Jison Falcasantos.

"There are people who refuse to give even a little hope for peace. I don't have any problem with Nur, we have agreed in principle that we will talk to resolve the conflict in Mindanao," he said, referring to Misuari, the chieftain of the Moro National Liberation Front, who he spoke with on the phone before

flying to Zamboanga.

"I don't have problems with the other groups, but I have a problem with the Abu Sayyaf because they are terrorists and they behead their victims in front of the whole world, civilian or soldier. You know I hate to say this, my grandmother was a Maranao, Moro, that is why every time there is a clash here, I feel pain," Duterte said.

He added that he is willing to offer Muslims a federal state if it will bring peace and stability in the region.

"Let's make the Philippines a country that everybody will love, no one will be shortchanged. If we get to talk and our Muslim brothers really want a federal system, why, it's okay. Why should we kill each other?" Duterte said.

Security officials later briefed the President on the progress of the military operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu but details of the closed-door meeting were not released to the media.

No spills

While the Abu Sayyaf is being relentlessly pursued in Mindanao, the military said the group is not likely to stage attacks in other cities

including Metro Manila, a military official said Wednesday.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman, played down the possibility of a spill over of the "war" in Sulu to Metro Manila, Cebu or Davao but he gave assurances that security forces have adequate preparations for such eventuality.

"This is also the reason why we appeal to the public [that] while we are conducting these intensive military operations in these areas to be alert, to be vigilant and to be observant of their surroundings and report suspicious looking personnel as well as unattended items to the authorities so that accordingly they can act on such information immediately," Padilla said.

Talks on diversionary tactics surfaced as the jihadists are pressured by massive combat operations launched against them in their strongholds in Sulu and Basilan.

"They are being pinned down. Yesterday and last Monday, the military encountered the group of Radullan Sahiron. You cannot just engage Sahiron because he is at the core. So because we encountered his unit, that means we are almost at the main group," Padilla explained.

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You are the hero of heroes, blind soldier tells President Duterte

By PHILIPPINES NEW AGENCY

Like a father of a family who provides guidance and inspiration to his children, President Duterte continues to inspire soldiers and policemen as he visits various military camps as well as the wounded and the families of those who died while performing their duties.

"Kung bayani kami, ikaw bayani ng mga bayani," 2Lieutenant Jerome J. Jacuba told the President during the Chief Executive's dinner with some 63 other soldiers who were wounded in

separate military and peace and order operations.

Jacuba related that his resurrection from the dead came when the President visited V. Luna Medical Center in August. "Four months na nagmumuknok lang ako sa kwarto nag-iisip ang hirap ng dinanas ko na nawalan ng paningin. It was the lowest moments in my life."

But with the President's visit, his life changed as blessings started to come.

Relating his story, he said "inisa-sa kaming kausapin ni Presidente. First

time ko sanang makita ng harapan ang Presidente ng Pilipinas. First time ko sanang makita ang viral video ng pagdalaw niya, pero bulag na ako."

Even if he did not see President Duterte, Jacuba said he felt him. In V. Luna, Jacuba hugged the President as he approached him on his bedside. Inside Malacañang's Heroes Hall, they again hugged each other tightly like father and son, with President Duterte giving him a pat on the back, to reassure him that he will be all right.

When Jacuba spoke before his fellow soldiers and some families, he said,

"Salamat po kasi nire-recognize mo ako kahit san ka mapunta. Ikaw ang naging buhay at nagtaas ng moral ng mga sundalo."

He described the President's act of visiting the ground troops as a sincere gesture from a leader. "Isa kang lider na sinsero," and they are willing to give the last drop of their blood, to serve and die for the country.

President Duterte, in turn, said "there is life after the accident. I will reinvent you."

"I am not a soldier, I don't know kung saan ako papunta, pero ganito iyan. Lahat naman tayo, eh, lahat tayo may sinusunod. Whether you like it or not, there is always a day for you. So kayong medyo lumusot, it means to say, fight again. But this I can assure you, my presidency will take care of you. Wala kayong dapat alalahanin."

He encourages Jacuba to learn braille and he hopes to send him to law school, talk to San Beda to come up with a program on law for blind people.

He gave the blind soldier a braille laptop, an electric wheelchair, and promised to give a Glock 30 firearm. This is apart from the promise to the law enforcers that they will start to receive a salary double the amount of what they are getting before the end of the year.

In his many visits to the living heroes of the country, Duterte is the first to salute, not the other way around, and retains his hand on the forehead until the soldier acknowledges, an uncommon gesture from a high ranking official, the AFP's Commander-in-Chief, a gesture expressing that he (Duterte) recognizes the importance, respect, and honor to a soldier regardless of his rank.

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S. Korea augments AFP efforts in Mindanao

BUTUAN CITY – To strengthen the fighting capability of the field units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Army's Northeastern and Northern Mindanao 4th Infantry Division received war earth-moving equipments on Tuesday.

The command group of the 4th ID, along with field unit commanders received from the higher headquarters of the AFP a total of 43 KM450 1 ¼ Ton Troop Carrier Trucks and Ten KM 451 Ambulance.

The deployment of these war earth-moving equipment is part of the continuing mobility enhancement program of the Army and is a product of a Government-to-Government procurement between the Republic of the Philippines and South Korea.

These brand new vehicles will

be deployed to various field units of the 4th ID's advance command post (ACP) based at Camp Bancasi, Butuan City and Camp Edilberto Evangelista, Cagayan de Oro City.

These vehicles can withstand the terrain and weather in the 4th ID areas of responsibility (AOR), Caraga and Northern Mindanao regions, where troops are being deployed in the hinterlands and mountainous area for the "Bayanihan" Team Activities (BTA) and rescue and relief operations.

Prior to its distribution to the end users, a technical inspection has been made to ensure the completeness of parts and accessories to ensure that all are functioning and will not compromise the safety of our troops and the success of every mission, he said.

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Aid coming for families of slain, wounded soldiers

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

BUTUAN CITY — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said Wednesday that it has already begun to act on the instructions of President Duterte to provide counterpart assistance for the families of four soldiers killed-in-action (KIA) and 95 others who were wounded (WIA) in different encounters against lawless elements here.

Malacanang has instructed the DSWD along with the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to provide assistance to the families and widows of the KIA and WIA.

In a press statement released by DSWD-Caraga Region 13, Undersecretary for Institutional Development Group (IDG) Mae Fe Ancheta-Templa said that the DSWD's Protective Services Fund Management Office (PSFMO), under Director Pacita Sarino, has already forwarded the list of the KIA and WIA soldiers, including information on their dependents, to the DSWD field offices where the soldiers' families live.

The status of the families will be subjected to assessment and eligibility for the various programs of the DSWD, not necessarily only the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), it said.

"We have an existing system to deliver the most apt and suitable services for the dependents of the KIA/WIA soldiers, and this system is implemented through the swift coordination between the DSWD central office and field of-

fices," Ancheta-Templa said.

She added that "DSWD field social workers in the regions where the soldiers' dependents live will conduct home visits to determine their needs and assess what services and interventions can be provided to them."

"At the onset, the assistance that we can immediately provide are educational, livelihood, and employment opportunities through skills training for the dependents. If the soldiers have senior citizen parents, we can enroll them in the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens," she said.

Ancheta-Templa disclosed that the families of the four slain soldiers have already been assessed as 4Ps members, and will also receive sack of rice monthly.

In the same statement, the official also said that the DSWD will provide Malacanang through the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) updates on the status of the assistance the DSWD and its Field Offices will provide the dependents of the KIA/WIA soldiers.

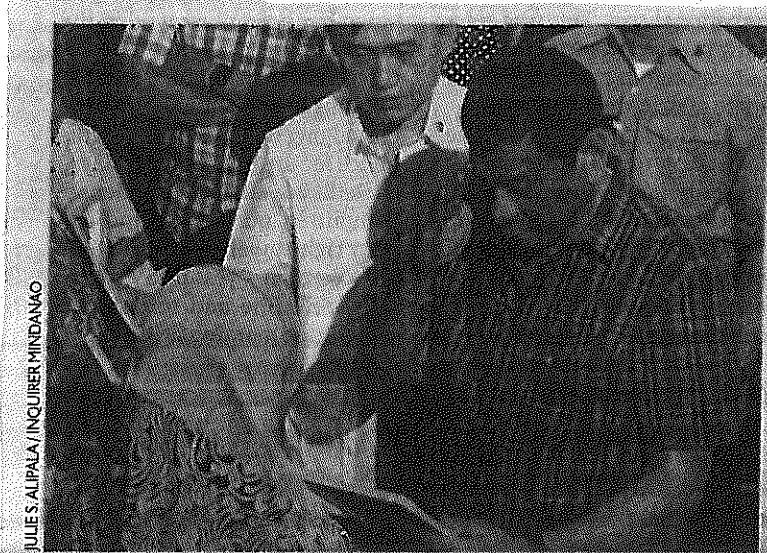
Meanwhile, DSWD Secretary Judy M. Taguiwalo said the agency will be intensify the monitoring of evacuees in various areas in Mindanao after hearing that a two-year-old Manobo child died of pneumonia last week.

In a statement, Taguiwalo said that she will instruct all regional directors of the department's field offices (FOs) all over the country to monitor more closely the situation faced by Filipinos taking refuge in evacuation areas because of natural disasters and/or man-made calamities.

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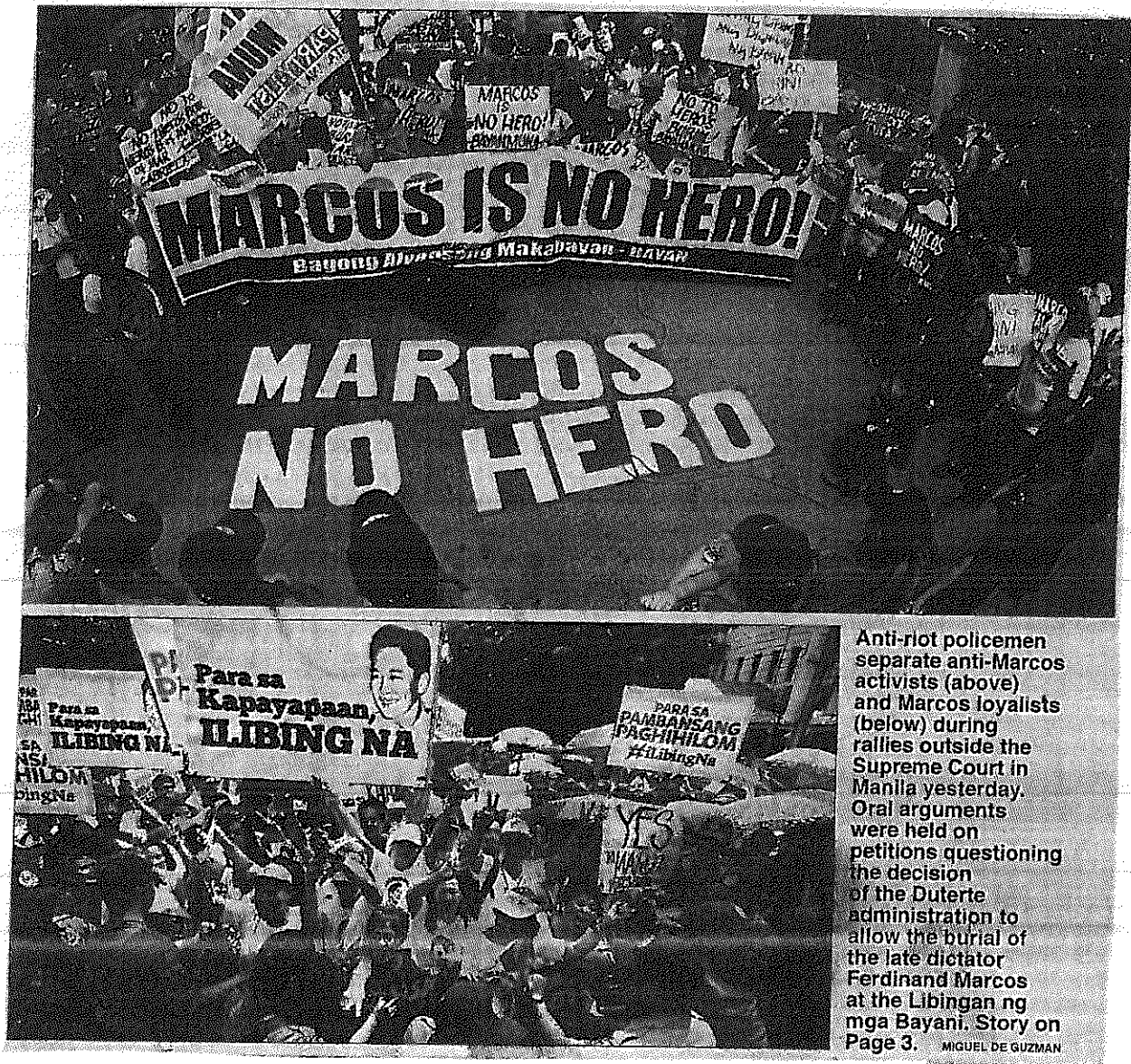
JULIE S. ALIPALA / INQUIRER MINDANAO

GESTURE OF SYMPATHY President Duterte salutes the photo of Cpl. Omar Raddulan, one of 15 soldiers killed by Abu Sayyaf bandits.

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Anti-riot policemen separate anti-Marcos activists (above) and Marcos loyalists (below) during rallies outside the Supreme Court in Manila yesterday. Oral arguments were held on petitions questioning the decision of the Duterte administration to allow the burial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. Story on Page 3. MIGUEL DE GUZMAN

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Rody: Don't arrest Misuari

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

President Duterte has ordered the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines not to arrest Moro National Liberation Front chairman Nur Misuari so the government can discuss peace talks anew with the MNLF leader.

"There's a warrant for his arrest, but I won't implement it because he might die for whatever reason when he is placed under the custody of the police and we will be compromised," Duterte said yesterday.

The President said he was able to talk with Misuari on Tuesday night and the MNLF leader showed interest in discussing peace with the administration.

Misuari is facing charges for the Zamboanga siege in September 2013. He had since gone into hiding and a warrant for his arrest was issued.

Duterte regarded Misuari as "the only known leader who has influence and stature in Mindanao."

"Nobody else stands there. While on the other side, there is Murad and Jaafar, and a central committee of the Bangsamoro," he said referring to Moro Islamic Liberation Front leader Al Haj Murad and vice chairman Ghazali Jaafar.

As part of the administration's roadmap to peace and development in Mindanao, Duterte said he needed to talk with every group to assure them of the government's sincerity in reconciliation.

"I told him, 'Nur, I have no intention of detaining you or placing you under the custody of the government. You can simply walk out there, ask any soldier and police to escort you and we'll talk wherever I may

be," Duterte said.

He said Misuari is amenable to coming out of hiding, provided the talks should be conducted in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia with members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and some of his people in attendance.

To avoid further loss of lives in the conflict in Mindanao, the President said he is ready to discuss issues about federalism.

Under the federal system, Duterte said he could give in to some of Misuari's demands in order to attain peace.

Displaced lumads assured of aid

Lumad families displaced by armed conflict in Mindanao are being prioritized in the ongoing relief distribution, the Department of Social Welfare and Development said yesterday.

DSWD Secretary Judy Taguinaldo ordered the agency's field offices in Mindanao to monitor the situation of lumad families in evacuation centers.

Social welfare personnel should ensure that prompt and genuine services are provided for these families, she said.

The DSWD chief said she would coordinate with other government agencies mandated to provide support to civilians affected by armed conflict.

– With Ranier Allan Ronda

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Marcos lost entitlement to Libingan burial – Carpio

When the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos was ousted in the 1986 people power revolt, he was dishonorably discharged as commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and therefore lost his right to be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio made this point during oral arguments at the Supreme Court yesterday on six petitions questioning the decision of the Duterte administration allowing the interment of the dictator at the heroes' cemetery in Taguig City.

The oral arguments centered on the issue of whether or not Marcos was a hero worthy of interment at the Libingan.

"President Marcos was dishonorably separated from the people in 1986... When president Marcos was ousted, he was removed as a president and was also removed as commander-in-chief," Carpio stressed during interpellation of former Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares, one of the petitioners.

Citing AFP regulations covering the interment, Carpio said Marcos may have forfeited his entitlement to be buried at the heroes' cemetery, which is considered a national shrine by the National Historical Commission.

The AFP interment policy grants space for soldiers, presidents and other dignitaries, but it also prohibits interment of those who were "dishonorably separated or reverted or discharged from service" and on the grounds of moral turpitude.

Carpio pointed out that the people power revolt was a "sovereign act of the people" which, he explained, was higher than the "act of a military tribunal or civilian administrative tribunal."

"The revolution was a successful revolution. Acts of rebels in removing the head of state is legitimate, valid, final and binding," he stressed.

Carpio also stressed that the use of the heroes' cemetery under the law should only be for public purposes and for the people's "general welfare."

"But if a person has been dishonorably discharged from service and you bury him there in a government property, that is for a private purpose, to extol honor for the family or the person, not for the public. There is no public good there," he explained.

Associate Justices Teresita Leonardo-de Castro and Jose Perez admitted that the issue of whether or not Marcos was a hero worthy of interment at the heroes' cemetery would be hard for the high court to resolve.

"A lot of controversy arises from the term 'Libingan ng mga Bayani' when

By EDU PUNAY

not all buried there are heroes. Who decides who is a *bayani* (hero)?" De Castro asked.

The magistrate stressed that there is actually "no system of determination who are heroes and who are not."

She then put on the petitioners the burden to prove that only heroes must be buried at the national shrine when its basic purpose is to honor "those who served the country in war and in peace time."

Perez agreed with this point, saying "there is no established body or agency who can determine who is a hero or not – not the Supreme Court, the legislative or the president."

Perez believes that President Duterte's decision to allow the burial is an election issue that had the approval of the 16 million who voted for him last May.

"Can we not say that the electorate allowed the burial of Ferdinand Marcos?" Perez pointed out, referring to the argument of the government that

the issue involves a political decision of the President that is beyond the review power of the judiciary.

But Colmenares argued that their peti-

tions raised justiciable issues that the high court cannot just ignore.

– With Ghio Ong

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The Manila Times

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Who is a hero? Justices challenge anti-Marcos petitioners

TWO JUSTICES of the Supreme Court on Wednesday challenged the petitioners seeking to stop the burial of former President Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, pointing out there are no clear rules on who should be buried in the military-owned cemetery.

Even wives of former secretaries of Defense are buried at the Libingan, contrary to the position of the anti-Marcos petitioners that only "heroes" should be buried there. Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro said during oral arguments on six consolidated petitions

against the internment

"[S]pouses of Secretaries of National Defense are allowed to be buried there. Are they heroes? Can we say there are guidelines? There's not even a body which will determine who are heroes, who should avail [themselves] of this privilege to be

buried in the Libingan ng mga Bayani. Is the Court the one to determine, in the absence of any guidelines [on] who are the *bayani* (heroes)?" de Castro said.

She was questioning defeated senatorial candidate Neri Colmen-

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

ares, one of the human rights victims during the Marcos regime questioning the Duterte administration's approval of the burial of the late strongman at the Libingan in Taguig.

"You have to explain what is meant by *'bayani'*... based on existing rules, laws and regulations pertaining to this cemetery in Fort McKinley, now Fort Bonifacio, because there seems to be no established guidelines as to who are heroes, as to who are disqualified [to be buried in that cemetery]," de Castro said.

She also challenged the petitioners to prove their argument that the Libingan is the same as the "National Pantheon for Presidents of the Philippines, National Heroes and Patriots of the Country" ordered built by Republic Act (RA) 289.

"[O]r is it just a war memorial for which it was originally created?" she asked.



PRO-BURIAL Loyalists of former President Ferdinand Marcos troop to the Supreme Court on the first day of oral arguments on petitions seeking to block the former strongman's burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. PHOTO BY RUSSELL PALMA

Will of the people

Associate Justice Jose Perez likewise pointed out that RA 289 does not provide guidelines on who are "worthy of public emulation and inspiration."

Petitioners, he noted, seem to want the high tribunal to bear the responsibility of proclaiming Marcos as not deserving of national esteem and therefore not worthy of burial at the Libingan, rather than leave it to the people.

Perez said President Rodrigo Duterte's 16 million votes during the polls implies ratification or public approval, which empowers him to decide on the burial of Marcos.

During the campaign, Duterte, whose father served as a Cabinet official under Marcos, repeatedly said he would bury the late strongman at the military cemetery.

"Is that not a decision of the sovereign people themselves? And what the electorate voted in favor of, we will now nullify? Can you not say that it was the electorate, the sovereign people, who favor the burial [at the Libingan]?" Perez asked.

'Not worthy'

The petitioners, mostly Martial Law victims, focused on the argument that Marcos should not be given honors because he is considered a dictator.

"A dictator responsible for countless human rights violations does not deserve a place in the pantheon. The dishonored cannot join the honored; Marcos is not worthy of emulation and inspiration," Colmenares said.

The former party-list congressman said Marcos should never be buried on publicly owned land.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, whose brother Hermon disappeared during Martial Law and was never found, said "far from being a hero, former President Ferdinand Marcos was a despot, an oppressor of the Filipino people, during the dark era of Martial Law."

"A Marcos hero's burial would glorify a dictator, distort history, aggravate the injustice to human rights violation victims and their families and mock the heroism of *desaparecidos* (dis-

appeared) and other victims of Marcos' atrocities," Lagman added.

Bound by statutes

Barry Gutierrez, who represented Martial Law victims like former Commission on Human Rights (CHR) chairwoman Loretta Ann Rosales, said Duterte was constitutionally bound by statutes that recognize the Marcos regime's atrocities, such as Republic Act 10368 that gave reparations to human rights victims.

Rosales and other victims, including Nilda Lagman-Sevilla, Ma. Cristina Rodriguez, Fe Mangahas, Hilda Narciso and Ma. Cristina Bawagan, took turns telling their stories.

CHR Chairman Jose Luis Martin Gascon said domestic and international laws impose upon the government the obligation of "non-repetition," and Marcos' burial at the Libingan would expose victims to "re-traumatization."

Penciled by Imelda

Close to the end of the oral argu-

ments, former Interior secretary Rafael Alunan was summoned to read the agreement he had reached; on behalf of the Ramos administration, with the Marcoses on the return of the former President's remains from Hawaii in 1993.

Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo had said the agreement, in which Marcos was to be buried in his home province of Ilocos Norte, was no longer binding.

Alunan said the fourth paragraph of the memorandum of agreement was controversial because former first lady Imelda Marcos penciled the words "temporarily interred" on the document to replace "buried on the 9th of Sept."

Alunan said Mrs. Marcos countersigned it but he did not.

Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno ordered the Solicitor General to request an original of the agreement from former President Fidel Ramos.

Sereno adjourned the oral arguments and called for another session at 10 a.m. on September 7.

JOMAR CANLAS

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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'Sea control' ordered in Sulu as soldiers pursue Abu Sayyaf

BY VICTOR REYES

ARMED Forces chief Gen. Ricardo Visaya has ordered the Navy to enforce "sea control" in Sulu to prevent the escape of Abu Sayyaf members who are subject of "search and destroy" operations by government forces.

The move is also meant to prevent reinforcement for the

Abu Sayyaf which President Duterte wants destroyed, said Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP public affairs office.

"The task given to them by the chief of staff is to ensure that no (Abu Sayyaf) reinforcement will reach Sulu and no one leaves Sulu," said Arevalo, referring to the Navy under Vice Adm. Caesar Taccad.

Arevalo said "naval blockade" should not be used to describe the Navy effort, saying "it gives a false expectation na napa-paikutan or nahaharangan." He said the move is better described as "sea control."

Around 30 Abu Sayyaf men have been killed in skirmishes

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SEA CONTROL

in Sulu since Thursday last week, including sub-leader Mohammad Said who is blamed for the kidnapping of three foreigners and a Filipina from Davao del Norte in September last year. Two of the foreigners were beheaded.

On the government side, 15 soldiers died Monday in clashes with about 120 Abu Sayyaf men in Patikul town.

President Duterte, at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 before leaving for Zamboanga City to visit the wake of the soldiers at the Western Mindanao Command, said the recent development, despite the high number of casualties, still does not warrant a declaration of a state of emergency in the area.

He said the Abu Sayyaf problem can be addressed at the police and military levels.

Military estimates place the strength of the Abu Sayyaf at around 480 men, mostly operating in Sulu. The group is holding about 20 foreign and Filipino kidnap victims in the province.

Duterte, addressing soldiers' families at the wake, said: "I am sorry that this has to happen. I do not want it to happen again, kung maari lang."

Duterte met with each of the families of the 15 killed soldiers and gave them financial assistance. He saluted in front of each of the 11 coffins and kissed the pictures of four others. Four of the soldiers

have been buried in keeping with Muslim tradition.

Duterte directed the interior department to help ensure that the widows or a member of their families are provided employment in any government office. He also said the families of the slain soldiers would be enrolled in the conditional cash transfer program to ensure they get regular monthly cash assistance and one to two sacks of rice.

He said the slain soldiers' children will receive free education from kindergarten up to college in any of the public schools and state colleges and universities.

Arevalo said there are enough troops in Sulu to destroy the Abu Sayyaf "but for operational security, we cannot say the exact number."

Officials earlier said there are around 5,000 troops operating in Sulu and 2,500 in Basilan. Last week, the military said a sizeable number of soldiers are being deployed to augment the forces in the two provinces.

"If there's a need to add (more troops), we are not ruling that out in our plans... President Rodrigo Duterte has already given the order to search and destroy the members of the Abu Sayyaf," said Arevalo.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the military is bracing for possible diversionary attacks by the Abu Sayyaf in Metro Manila

and major cities because of the intensified campaign against the bandit group.

"There is no specific threat but these are possible scenarios which we are ready to respond to... It's possible but not likely. But we are prepared for any eventuality," he said.

Padilla said the AFP is looking into such scenarios because troops have already caught up with the group of Abu Sayyaf leader Radullan Sahiron in Patikul, Sulu. Soldiers have engaged Sahiron's group in two major encounters twice, last Thursday and Monday.

"The enemy is already pressured, they are being cornered... hindi mo basta basta mababanga itong si Sahiron kasi siya yung nasa loob, so dahil nabangga na natin, malapit na yan, yung main group," said Padilla.

"These (diversionary attacks) are possibility, there is a possibility of their happening but these are worst case scenarios we are preparing for," he said.

Padilla belied reports that one of the slain soldiers, Pfc. Jison Falcasantos, was beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf.

"May attempt daw pero hindi naman naputol daw. He was not actually beheaded," said Padilla of the 28-year-old Falcasantos, citing a report from the military's Joint Task Force Sulu.

"Na-hack pero hindi natapos yung gustong gawin," he said.

- With Jocelyn Montemayor

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De Castro:

No rule LNMB allows only hero's burial

By Benjamin B. Pulta



Contrary to arguments of anti-Marcos groups, a Supreme Court justice indicated yesterday during the oral arguments on a petition to bar the government's plan in allowing the burial of former President Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB) that there are no hard and fast

rules on who can be interred at the cemetery.

The Marcos burial at the LNMB is being opposed on the argument that Marcos, who ruled the country for 21 years, cannot be classified a hero.

"There is no established body or agency that can determine who is a hero or who is not...not the Supreme Court, the legislative or

the President," Associate Justice Jose Perez said.

There is no system of evaluation to determine who are qualified to be interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro added.

"I would like to find out if the Libingan ng mga Bayani is really a pantheon. Because it seems that

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From page 1

it was intended only to be a war memorial and not really for heroes. I think it is the name creates controversy," De Castro said.

She said most of the people interred at the LNMB are mostly those with military connections.

"Even the spouses of secretaries of National Defense are allowed to be buried there. Are they heroes?" she asked.

Justice Presbitero Velasco said the law is no longer a law, since there has never been funds for it, and was never established as a pantheon.

The Supreme Court (SC) last week handed down a 20 day status quo order (SQA) stopping the implementation of a memorandum of the Department of National Defense (DND) for the burial of Marcos at the LNMB.

The SQA was issued following the plea of several groups and individuals to enjoin the orders of the Department of National Defense and Armed Forces of the Philippines on Marcos' interment at the LNMB.

The order was directed to DND Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya.

"If you will look at the persons or the deceased persons who can be interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, it is mostly those who has connection with military establishments," De Castro said.

"And it is only later on that persons with no military background were buried there, like national artists and statesmen," she added.

During her turn to interpellate Bayan Muna Rep. Nen Colmenares, who was among those opposing the Marcos burial, Justice de Castro said based on the previous proclamations of late former Presidents, Ramon Magsaysay,

Carlos P. Garcia and Marcos, it was declared that the LNMB is for soldiers who died or rendered service for the country.

"So it would seem, that this Libingan ng mga Bayani is simply a cemetery for those who died during the war or those who rendered service in the military establishment," de Castro said.

She added the LNMB is in fact under the administration of the Department of National Defense (DND) and not the National Historical Commission (NHC).

"In fact, it is the commander in chief of the military (the President) and the DND (Department of National Defense) who have the final say if they can be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani," de Castro said.

There are no clear guidelines, there is no body that determines who are entitled to be buried at the Libingan. Should the court be the one to decide? What is meant by heroes, who decides who are the *bayani*," she added.

De Castro said the conflict arises from the name of the cemetery itself.

"A lot of controversies arise from the term Libingan ng mga Bayani, when actually not all who are buried there are heroes," she added.

Duterte earlier ordered allowing Marcos, whose embalmed body has been on public display in a family mausoleum in Batac, Ilocos Norte since shortly after his remains were brought home from Hawaii in 1993, to be buried at the LNMB saying he is not only a former president but also a former soldier.

During his turn to respond to De Castro, Colmenares maintained that Marcos, though a former soldier and president, cannot be buried at the LNMB, since the former president was not worthy of emulation.

Colmenares said allowing the

late strongman a final resting place at the LNMB in Taguig is nothing short of a slap in the face of thousands of summary executions, abductions and human rights violations during Marcos' term.

"Their tormentor should not be in the place for people worthy of inspiration and emulation. The dishonorable cannot join the honorable," Colmenares said during oral arguments yesterday.

The OSG insisted that the Constitution as well as the Administrative Code give the President the power to order the interment of the remains of a former President and soldier at the LNMB.

It explained, President Duterte merely exercised his executive powers under the Administrative Code to set aside lands of the public domain for public use, and his power of control over the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO), the agency tasked to administer military shrines.

The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) also downplayed the claim of the petitioners that the impending interment of former President Marcos at the Libingan would affect the search for the latter's ill-gotten wealth.

It argued that petitioners' claims for compensation are "distinct and separate from, and cannot in any way be connected to, the intended burial" and petitioners cannot also insist that Marcos' burial at the Libingan would affect their search for his "ill-gotten wealth."

Calida further argued that the decision to allow Marcos' burial at the Libingan is not contrary to public policy, does not contravene the principles and policies enshrined in the Constitution and does not violate the country's obligations under international laws.

The solicitor general explained

that President Duterte is not bound by the 1993 agreement between then President Fidel Ramos and the Marcos family to have the remains of former President Marcos interred at Batac, Ilocos Norte, which was invoked by petitioners.

SC spokesman Theodore Te said the SC decided to move the oral arguments from August 24 to August 31 owing to the new petitions filed in connection with the issue.

The Court has accepted two more petitioners and ordered their consolidation with the four petitions earlier filed assailing Marcos' burial at the LNMB.

The latest petitions were filed by groups of martial law victims led by former Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman and former Commission on Human Rights chair Elita Rosales, a group led by former senator Heherson Alvarez, a group of University of the Philippines students, and former Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao human rights chair Algamar Laliph.

The petitioners say the planned burial of the late dictator is illegal and contrary to law, public policy, morals and justice."

They argued that allowing the burial of the former leader would violate Republic Act No. 289 (law regulating the Libingan ng mga Bayani) and R.A. 10968 (Human Rights Victims Reparation and Recognition Act) and argued that the burial would also violate constitutional provision on state policies.

The DND and AFP as well as Marcos family already answered the petitions last Tuesday and asked the high court to dismiss the petitions. Solicitor General Jose Calida insisted that burying Marcos' remains at the LNMB will promote national healing, which was President Duterte's battlecry during his campaign. **Gerry Baldo**

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Malaya

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Carpio: FM doesn't deserve burial at Libingan

BY ASHZEL HACHERO

SUPREME Court Justice Antonio Carpio yesterday said former President Ferdinand Marcos is undeserving of burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City because he was "dishonorably discharged" by

the people in 1986.

Carpio made the remarks while he was interpellating former Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares during oral arguments on the petitions assailing the plan of the government to allow Marcos' burial at the Libingan.

Carpio said "even a Medal

of Valor awardee will not be qualified because he was dishonorably discharged as commander-in-chief."

Colmenares is one of the petitioners consisting mostly of human rights victims during

See CARPIO ► Page B6

CARPIO

the Martial Law years who said that a Libingan burial for Marcos would distort history, foster division in the country and even glorify him.

Carpio said "government funds should be for the general welfare of public good," adding that President Duterte cannot use public funds and property for the burial of Marcos at the Libingan.

During his interpellation of Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, Carpio said the 1986 EDSA People Power uprising that toppled the Marcos dictatorship "was a successful revolution" and that "the acts of rebels in removing the head of state is legitimate, valid, final and binding."

Lagman's brother, lawyer Hermon Lagman was one of the many "desaparecidos" during the Martial Law years while another brother, Felimon "Ka Popoy" Lagman, became a high-ranking leader of the communist movement until he split with them over operational and tactical differences and was killed in 2001.

Other magistrates focused their questioning on who are heroes and who determines who are the heroes that qualify to be buried at the Libingan.

Associate Justice Jose Perez

pointed out that there is no established body or agency who can determine who is a hero or not.

Another magistrate, Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo De Castro, echoed her colleague's statement, saying there is no system of evaluation to determine who are qualified to be interred at the Libingan.

"Even the spouses of secretaries of National Defense are allowed to be buried there. Are they heroes?" De Castro said. "There isn't even a body to determine who can be buried (there). Should the Court decide? What is meant by 'hero,'" she added.

Associate Justice Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa asked lawyer Ephraim Cortez, one of the lawyers of the petitioners, why they have not exhausted remedies before the Office of President before elevating the case to the SC.

"There's remedy available under the Office of the President," Caguioa told Cortez, but the latter replied that the said remedies are not speedy enough since burial has been set.

Associate Justice Estela Perlas-Bernabe asked lawyer Ibarra Gutierrez III if Marcos's burial at the Libingan is tantamount to making him hero.

Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno asked Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales whether the proposed burial of Marcos at the Libingan would have any bearing on the pending civil and criminal cases against the late dictator's family and cronies.

In light of the fact that only Imelda Marcos is facing cases by the Office of the Ombudsman before the anti-graft court, I don't think it has any bearing in the proposed burial of former president Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani," said Morales, one of the resource persons invited by the court.

Morales said Marcos was not included as a co-conspirator in cases since criminal liability is extinguished with death.

Justice Bienvenido Reyes, a fraternity brother of Duterte at the San Beda College, inhibited himself from the case. Reyes and Duterte belong to the Lex Taliones Fraternity.

Another magistrate, Arturo Brion, is on leave.

Outside the SC, anti and pro-Marcos groups staged protest actions.

The anti-Marcos protesters greatly outnumbered the Marcos supporters.

The oral arguments will resume on Sept. 7. Target date of burial is Sept. 18.

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Duterte plans to meet Misuari

By EFREN MONTANO

No declaration of state of emergency in Jolo, Sulu.

This was the stance of President Rodrigo Duterte in his press briefing with reporters even as the government troops intensified operations against the Abu Sayyaf Group in the area.

"Hindi. It's just a punitive police action by the security forces of the government," Duterte said, when asked if he was considering declaring a state of emergency in Jolo.

"The magnitude of the trouble there does not warrant anything except the industry of the AFP [Armed Forces of Philippines] and PNP [Philippine National Police]," he said at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2.

Earlier, the President issued the marching order to the military to destroy the Abu Sayyaf after the bandits killed an 18-year-old hostage last week.

Also yesterday, Duterte bared that Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) founding chair Nur Misuari wants to meet with him in the Malaysian capital of

Kuala Lumpur

Duterte said he is interested to meet Misuari in his bid to end the decades-long conflict in Mindanao.

"Nur and I talked last night and he said he wants to meet me in Kuala Lumpur," Duterte said in his press briefing.

"He said let's do a signing in two days so we could end this fight," he added. Duterte said Misuari wants the Organization of Islamic Conference to mediate in the meeting.

The OIC helped broker the MNLF's final peace agreement with the government in 1996.

Asked if the government would implement the standing warrant of arrest for Misuari if he surfaces, Duterte ordered the police to lift it.

"Well, if there is a warrant of arrest, all I have to do is to not implement it against him because if you arrest Misuari, you place him under the custody of the police diyan sa (Camp) Crame and if he dies for whatever reason, kompromiso na tayo (we will be compromised)," he said.

"Ako man ang hepe ng pulis pati military, sabihin ko lang, huwag ninyong galawin (I will just tell the

chiefs of police and the military not to arrest him)," he added.

He said he wants to talk to Misuari rather than waste government money on fighting with the rebels.

"Kasi the most important thing really is that there is a dialogue going on kasi (because) it has saved us a lot of money," he said.

"Yung pera pang-away, ibili nalang natin ng, ibigay nalang natin sa tao pang-hanapbuhay (Instead of using the money for war, let's just use it for people's livelihood)," he added.

Misuari is currently in hiding for supposedly leading the Zamboanga City siege in 2013 that left about 200 people dead.

Thirty Abu Sayyaf members and 15 soldiers have been killed in the stepped up operations against the lawless armed group.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said that despite the losses, the government will continue until the Abu Sayyaf is terminated.

National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana also said that an additional five battalions or 2,500 soldiers will be deployed to Jolo to hunt down the Abu Sayyaf.

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No military solution to sea dispute, says Kerry

NEW DELHI—US Secretary of State John Kerry called on Wednesday on China and the Philippines to abide by an international tribunal's decision on the disputed South China Sea and said there was no military solution to the problem.

Kerry's remarks, made in a visit to India, came ahead of a G20 summit in China on Sunday and Monday that could be overshadowed by arguments over everything from territorial disputes to protectionism by China, diplomats say.

An arbitration court in The Hague ruled in July that China did not have historic rights to the South China Sea. China dismissed the case lodged by the Philippines and rejected the ruling.

"The United States continues to call on China and the Philippines to abide by the tribunal's recent decision which is final and legally binding on both parties," Kerry told a gathering of students in New Delhi.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion of trade moves annually. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam have rival claims.

China has vowed to take all measures needed to protect its sovereignty over the South China Sea and says its actions there, which have included land reclamation and construction of air fields and docks on reefs, are peaceful.

China has blamed the United States and its allies in the region, such as Japan and Australia, for stoking tension.

The United States and Japan have no territorial claims in the South China Sea and say their priority is freedom of navigation.

The Philippines welcomed the tribunal's ruling in July but it is keen not to anger China. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte says he will hold talks with China on the issue.

Mr. Duterte is attending a summit next week in Laos of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean), which both US President Barack Obama and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang are also going to. *Reuters*

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Marcos 'war medals' exposed, questioned (3)

Because of the outcry of tens of thousands of victims of the Marcos dictatorship over President Duterte's plan to bury in the Libingan ng mga Bayani the corpse of former president-dictator Ferdinand Marcos who died in Hawaii in 1989, I am serializing the piece "The Other Version of FM's War Exploits" by Bonifacio Gillego published in WE Forum in November 1982. It was written for a major US newspaper but publication was withheld because of Marcos state visit. The long piece caused the raid and closure of WE Forum and the arrest of editor Jose Burgos Jr. and staff. Gillego, a former soldier and member of the 1971 Constitutional Convention, was in exile in the United States and working with the Movement for a Free Philippines when he researched his piece. He became a congressman after 1986 People Power toppled the Marcos dictatorship. Gillego died in 2002. His name is etched on the Wall of Remembrance of the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City.

CAPT. Vicente L. Rivera, a lawyer who has also a master's degree in psychology from the University of Michigan, is now a respected leader of the Filipino-American community in Detroit. He served the 14th Infantry in various positions as S-1, S-2 and S-4, and subsequently as Executive Officer of the 2nd Battalion. When the USAFIP NL incorporated itself as a veterans organization to assist the widows and orphans of the members of the unit, he served as its National Adjutant (1961-1964). As chairman of the Awards and Decorations Committee of the USAFIP NL Inc., he said he had not come across any item or citation recommending Marcos for awards.

Captain Rivera, a recipient of American and Philippine awards truly deserved, has written his memoirs and from there he culled the events relevant to this writer's request regarding the Marcos awards.

On March 17, 1945, the day Marcos allegedly held at bay singlehandedly an enemy patrol that attacked the RCP for which he received a Distinguished Conduct Star (per G.O. No. 157, GHQ, AFP, December 20, 1963), Rivera was S-4 of the 14th Infantry. As S-4, he was also the commanding officer of Headquarters and Headquarters

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



Company, hence he was in charge of the security of regimental headquarters. There was no attack against the RCP on that day. What happened on that day as recorded in his memoirs was this:

Marcos was designated OD (Officer of the Day). Before he left for duty around the perimeter of the RCP, he asked for food. Sgt. Sofronio La Rosa killed a small chicken, roasted it and gave half to Marcos. At about three in the morning, they were awakened by bursts of fire obviously from a Thompson submachine gun. Personnel headquarters took cover in a nearby creek while Maj. Arturo Dingcong, Executive Officer of the 14th Infantry, was sent to investigate the firing. Upon his return, Dingcong reported that it was Marcos who did the firing. Marcos fired at the rustling leaves thinking that Japanese snipers were lurking behind them!

The only other incident, Rivera recalled, when Marcos fired his gun was when he was issued his Thompson submachine gun to test it. As S-4, Rivera received 300 guns from the Americans (Dec. 28, 1944 to Jan. 4, 1945) in Toyak, Mountain Province.

As to the Gold Cross Medal received by Marcos for allegedly sighting Japanese troops in well-camouflaged trucks a kilometer away from the RCP and engaging them in a firefight that forced them to withdraw, Rivera said that geography is the best evidence against this preposterous claim of Marcos. Panupdupan is very far from the road, he said. It takes half a day by foot to reach it.

As to the Silver Star Marcos received for the Battle of Hapud, Rivera said that Marcos never participated in this battle nor in any battle for that matter in Kiangang. In the first place, he said, the 14th In-

fantry did not have an engineering company which Marcos allegedly commanded together with a combat company that reinforced the beleaguered 2nd Battalion at the Hapid airfield. Rivera said that he should know because at that time he was already the Executive Officer of the 2nd Battalion under the command of Maj. Zosimo Paredes.

To his recollection, the Battle of Hapid lasted 11 days from March 25 to April 4, 1945. They had all together 268 officers and men who fought courageously against the Japanese forces driven from the Balite Pass by General Swift of the 25th Division of the US Army. The 2nd Battalion had to withdraw eventually for lack of food and ammunition after sustaining a number of casualties. Marcos was nowhere in the vicinity of Hapid all the days that he was supposed to have engaged the Japanese in hand-to-hand combat.

Neither was Marcos in or near the vicinity of Bessang Pass as the battle there was fought from May 22 to June 15, 1945. At that time Marcos was already in the relative safety of USAFIP NL headquarters in Camp Spencer, Luna, La Union. The companies of the 14th Infantry that participated in the Battle of Bessang Pass with other units of the USAFIP NL were Company E under Lt. Benito Miranda, Company I under Lt. Panfilo P. Fernandez and Company M under Lt. Teofilo Allas. Rivera remembered some of their casualties, among others: Ismael Reyes, Felix Solon and a certain Francisco.

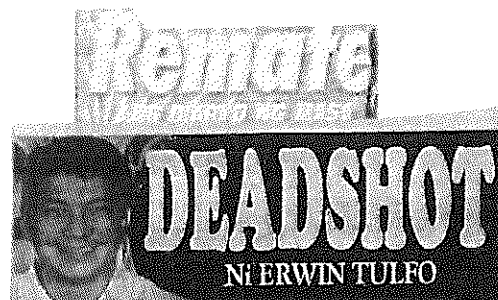
On the circumstances that led to Marcos joining the 14th infantry, Rivera had this to say:

They knew of the presence of Marcos in the vicinity of Burgos, Natividad, Pangasinan. With Narciso Ramos, who became Secretary of Foreign Affairs under Marcos, and former Congressman Cipriano S. Allas, Marcos organized his Maharlika unit with but a few members, not the 8,300 he claimed for backpay purposes. Marcos was on his way to La Union to inquire into circumstances surrounding the death of his father, Mariano Marcos. *(Concluded next week)*

Send feedback to cerespd@gmail.com

9/ September 2016

Pahina. 4



ABU SAYYAF, MAUTE LIPULIN!

SINASALUDUHAN at nagpupugay tayo sa 15 sundalo nag-buwis ng buhay sa pakikipaglaban sa mga teroristang Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) sa Patikul, Sulu.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the bereaved families of these slain heroes. Iyang panganib sa buhay ng bawat kawal ng pamahalaan ang kaakibat ng kanyang tungkulin ngunit nakahandang sinusuong para sa bayan.

Ngunit lalo lamang dapat pag-ibayuhin ng Armed Forces of the Philippines ang kampanya sa pagsasawata ng ASG. May araw rin ang mga demonyong 'yan!!!

Sa kabilang dako, tugisin dapat nang walang puknat ang kulto ng Maute na sumalakay at nagpatakas sa 23 bilanggo sa Lanao del Sur provincial jail sa Marawi City.

Panagutin din nang husto ang mga pabayang opisyal at guwardya sa naturang bilangguan na nilusob ng may 50 armado. Sampu sa pinatakas ang kasapi sa Maute terrorist group na sampalataya sa Islamic State (ISIS) at pulos hardened criminals ang iba pang umiskapo.

Mahigit isang linggo pa lang noong masabat sa isang military checkpoint ang sampu na natuklasan may dalang improvised explosive devices (IED).

Marahas at walang-awang pinatay ng kultong Maute ang ilang sundalo at di-mabilang na taong hinihinala nilang informer ng militar at pulisya.

'Di nakapagtataka at takot tumestigo ang mga lao laban sa grupong 'yan na binuo nina Abdullah at Omar Maute sa bayan ng Butig dalawang taon na ang nakararaan.

Mapanganib ang mga demonyong 'ito na armado ng AK-47 Kalashnikovs at M16 assault rifles kaya dapat na gamitan lamang ng buong pwersa ng batas.

Pulbusin ang mga demonyong 'yan!!!

'PEARL OF PARADISE' PROTEKTAHAN

Protektahan dapat kaagad ng mga kinauukulan ang marine sanctuary sa Palawan kung saan natagpuan ang tinaguriang "Pearl of Paradise," ang posibleng pinakamalaking perlas na nadiskubre ng tao.

Bagama't sumasailalim pa sa pagsusuri at authentication ng mga gemologists ang 34-pound heavy "pearl" na natagpuan sa "World's Best Island," nararapat lamang na protektahan ang Palawan sea territory.

Sa nasebing karagatan din natagpuan noong 1930's ang 14.2 pound "Pearl of Lao Tzu" na siyang kinikilalang pinakamalaking perlas na natagpuan sa buong mundo.

Tiyak na mainit sa mata ng mga treasure hunters ngayon ang Palawan kaya nararapat lang na maging mapagbantay ang mga awtoridad.

Baka mabulaga na naman ng mga kamag-anak ni Lao Tzu!!!

Welcome po ang inyong mga reaksiyon, opinyon at rek-lamo. I-email lamang po sa etulfo2011@yahoo.com o bisitahin n'yo kami sa Erwin Tulfo Action Center sa 2nd Floor, Quedsa Plaza, Quezon Ave. cor EDSA, Quezon City. 9am-4pm Monday-Friday.

01 September 2016



Pahina. 8

Editorial

Lipulin!

NANG matanggap ni Mila Falcasantos na napatay ang kanyang anak na si Pfc. Jison Falcasantos sa pakikipagsagupa sa mga Abu Sayyaf sa Patikul, Sulu noong Lunes ng hapon, parang nagunaw na ang mundo. Si Jison ang inaasahan niya sa pagtataguyod ng iba pa nitong kapatid.

Bago ang pagkakumpirma sa pagkamatay ng kanyang anak, nagtext pa siya kay Jison ng araw na iyon at kinukumusta niya ang kalagayan nito. Gabi nang may mag-reply sa kanya. Galing ang reply sa cell phone mismo ni Jison na nagsasabing pinugutan na nila ito ng ulo. Sa galit ni Mila, sinagot niya ang message, at sinabihang walang konsensiya ang mga pumugot sa anak. Sagot daw sa kanya, "Talagang wala kaming konsensiya. Pati ikaw pupugutan din namin." Tuluyan nang nawalan ng malay si Mila.

Si Pfc. Falcasantos ay isa sa 15 sundalo na napatay ng may 70 Abu Sayyaf na pinamumunuan ni Radulan Sahiron. Nagsagawa ng opensiba ang mga sundalo sa mga bandido bilang pagtalima sa utos ni President Rodrigo Duterte na pulbusin na ang mga ito. Ayon sa report, 21 Abu Sayyaf na ang napatay ng military mula nang lutos ang opensiba.

Kahapon, dinalaw ni Duterte ang mga nakaburul na sundalo at nangako ng tulong sa mga biyuda. Bibigyan ng trabaho ang mga biyuda at pag-aaralin ang mga anak. Sasagutin umano ni Duterte ang pagpapaaral sa mga anak ng napatay na sundalo.

Sinaluduhan ni Duterte ang mga napatay na sundalo at sinabing sila ang mga tunay na bayani. Nagbuwis sila ng buhay para magkaroon ng kapayapaan. Hindi sila natakot na harapin ang mga naghahasik ng kaguluhan.

Sa kabila na may mga napatay na namang sundalo, determinado ang Presidente na wakasan na pamamayagpag ng mga bandido. Kamakalawa, 2,500 troops ang pinadala sa Sulu. Wala nang atrasan ito, ayon sa Presidente. Tuluy-tuloy na ang paglipol sa Abu Sayyaf sa kabila na maaaring magkaroon pa ng casualties.

Naniniwala kami na matatalo ng mabuti ang masasama.

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

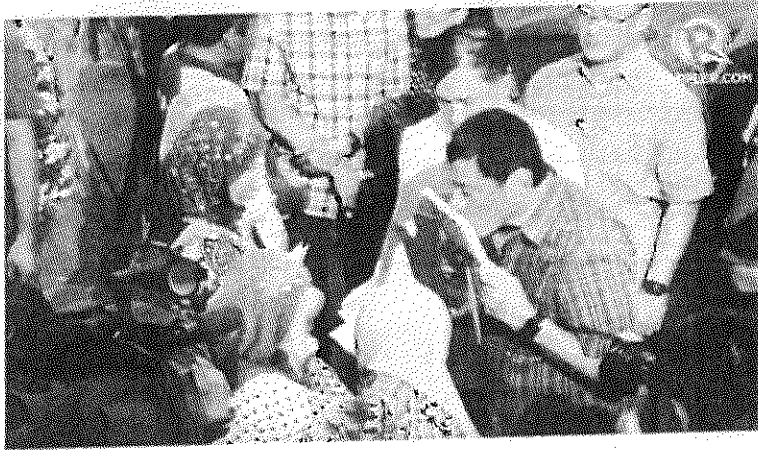
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Duterte to Abu Sayyaf: How can you kill in Allah's name?

From Rappler (Aug 31): Duterte to Abu Sayyaf: How can you kill in Allah's name?

President Duterte visits the wake of soldiers killed in a recent encounter with the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu



LOVE FOR SOLDIERS. President Rodrigo Duterte kisses the photograph of a slain soldier in Western Mindanao Command as he visits the wake of fallen soldiers. Photo by Richard Falcatan/Rappler

While visiting the wake of soldiers killed in an encounter with the Abu Sayyaf, President Rodrigo Duterte slammed the terrorist group for killing and mutilating in the name of Allah.

"You think Allah would be happy to see you do like that? In the name of Allah, you kill then, unnecessarily, you mutilate the body of the human being?" Duterte said in Zamboanga City on Wednesday, August 31.

Duterte flew in that afternoon to visit the graves of 11 out of 15 soldiers killed in a recent encounter with the Abu Sayyaf Group in Barangay Maligay, Patikul, Sulu.

Philippine flags draped the coffins of the soldiers at the Western Mindanao Command gymnasium. The bodies of the other 4 soldiers were already buried before Duterte's arrival.

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

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



SALUTE. President Duterte salutes the body of a fallen soldier who died during an encounter with the Abu Sayyaf in Zamboanga City. Photo by Richard Falcatan/Rappler

Duterte said that while he is ready to pursue peace talks with Moro separatist groups, he has a problem dealing with the Abu Sayyaf.

"May problema ako sa Abu Sayyaf because they are terrorists and the killing – pugutan ng ulo sa harap ng mundo, civilian, o sundalo (I have a problem with the Abu Sayyaf because they are terrorists and killing – beheading civilians or soldiers in front of the world)," he said.

He implied he thought Abu Sayyaf members are less than warriors because they resort to gruesome methods of killing.

"In the olden times, 'yung kuwento ng aming mga ninuno, the Tausug warrior is an honorable man. Eh bakit ba 'yan – putulan ng ulo 'yung mga hostage niya? Hindi trabaho ito ng totoong Tausug," said Duterte. (In the olden times, as the stories of our forebears go, the Tausug warrior is an honorable man. So why behead hostages? This is not the work of a true Tausug.)

The President was present as some of the fallen soldiers were buried. He extended words of comfort to the family of those killed.

He offered to help them after the death of their family member, who in most cases was likely the breadwinner.

"Now, itong mga naiwan na pamilya ng mga sundalo. I'd like you to know na automatic member kayo sa 4Ps, so may konting pera diyan buwan-buwan, saka may isang sako ng bigas," said the President. (Now, these families left behind by the soldiers, I'd like you to know that you are automatic members of 4Ps, so there is some money there monthly and you will have one sack of rice.)

After ordering the military to "destroy" the Abu Sayyaf, the Duterte administration has ramped up its efforts against the group.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said 5 battalions composed of 2,500 soldiers are being deployed to Sulu, stomping ground of the Abu Sayyaf.

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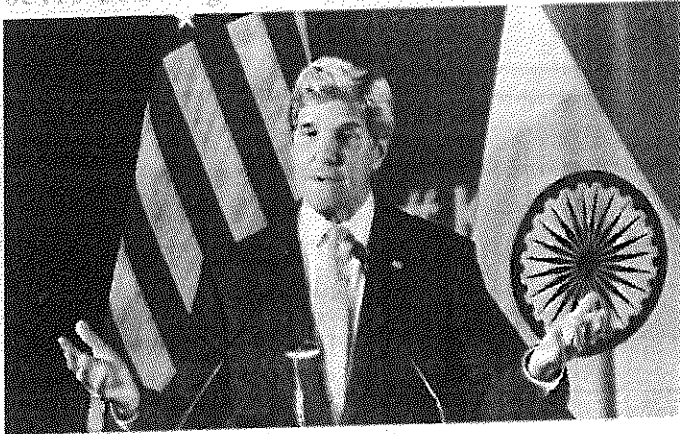
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US one with allies in upholding rights over South China Sea—Kerry

[@inquirerdotnet](#)

Agence France-Presse

05:19 PM August 31st, 2016



US Secretary of State John F. Kerry gestures as he addresses a gathering at The Indian Institute of Technology in New Delhi on August 31, 2016. Secretary of State John Kerry said that the US was united with its allies in upholding freedom of navigation rights in the South China Sea following a tribunal's decision on the contested waters. AFP

The United States is united with its allies in upholding freedom of navigation rights in the South China Sea following a tribunal's decision on the contested waters, Secretary of State John Kerry said Wednesday.

Speaking on a visit to New Delhi, Kerry called on China and the Philippines to abide by the arbitration tribunal's recent decision, saying "there is no military solution" to the dispute.

Kerry said the United States itself had no claim over the waters, that are crucial to international shipping, but would stand up for freedom of navigation rights.

"We have made it clear that we will stand up for our rights and we will stand with our allies," he said, referring to navigation and the rule of law.

"US and other countries are united in an alliance that respects freedom of navigation, the norms and standards of the laws of sea and rule of law with respect to access to the high seas," he said while speaking to engineering students at a college in Delhi.

Beijing claims almost all of the South China Sea despite partial counter-claims from the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Taiwan. In recent months it has built massive structures including radar systems and an airstrip over reefs and outcrops.

But the UN-backed tribunal, ruling on a case brought by the Philippines, found last month there was no legal basis for China's claims.

The US has said it will continue naval patrols near reefs and outcrops claimed by China to assert the principle of freedom of navigation, a move which has angered Beijing.

"The US continues to call upon China and Philippines to abide by the tribunal's decision. It's final and legally binding on both parties," Kerry said.

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

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

The comments come ahead of the G20 leaders' meeting in China starting on Sunday that could see tensions over territorial disputes.

Kerry is due to hold talks later Wednesday with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the two nations forge closer trade and security ties, in part to check concerns over China's growing assertiveness in the region.

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

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