

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



TEAM ARMY

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NEWS CLIPPINGS

30 August 2017

Wednesday

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

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | AUGUST 30 2017 | WEDNESDAY

LOW PRESSURE AREA
690 KM EAST OF TUGUEGARAO CITY
(As of 4:00 PM - August 29, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:44 AM	6:09 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
12:44 PM	11:42 PM
FIRST QUARTER	FULL MOON
AUG 29 4:12 PM	SEP 6 3:03 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
2:02 PM	3:35 AM
0.35 Meter	0.03 Meter

Partly cloudy at times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms
Clearly sunny with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

	1:00 PM	5:00 PM	AUG 31	5:00 PM	1:00 PM	5:00 PM
METRO MANILA	23-30°C	24-32°C	21-28°C	22-28°C	25-32°C	25-32°C
TUGUEGARAO	25-30°C	24-31°C	23-31°C	24-33°C	24-33°C	24-33°C
LAOAG	25-30°C	25-29°C	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-33°C	25-33°C
BAGUIO	16-21°C	16-21°C	25-33°C	26-33°C	24-32°C	25-32°C
SBMA/CLARK	25-30°C	25-31°C	25-31°C	26-32°C		

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

SRGT NO. PADALA MDI

WEEKDAYS
6AM, 6:30 PM & 9PM
WEEKENDS
6AM

30 August 2017



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DU30 DEFENDS VISITS OF SON-IN-LAW TO BOC

STORY BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA AND CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO

Manases Carpio, the husband of the President's daughter, says he represents clients who have transactions with the Bureau of Customs, but this doesn't mean he's involved in smuggling.

AE

FROM A1

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Christine O. Avendaño
@Team_Inquirer

Responding to a senator's charge that smuggling at the Bureau of Customs (BOC) was a Duterte "family affair," President Duterte on Tuesday said it was "perfectly all right" for his son-in-law, Manases "Mans" Carpio, to "see anybody" in the bureau if it was related to his job as a lawyer.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV on Tuesday accused Carpio, husband of Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte, and the President's son, Davao City Vice Mayor Paolo Duterte, of being behind the "Davao Group" that facilitated smuggling in the BOC.

Vice Mayor Duterte and Carpio have separate rackets in the BOC, according to Trillanes.

The senator also said Carpio was getting a share from the BOC "tara" (payola) system.

In a speech in Malacañang, Mr. Duterte reiterated his promise to resign if any of his children were proven to be involved in corruption but added that he could not "control" other people.

"I will limit that to my children because I do not have control over other people ... Like for example my son-in-law who is a lawyer. It is perfectly all right for him to see anybody," the President said.

'Rumormonger'

In Davao City, Carpio called Trillanes "a desperate rumormonger who happens to be a senator."

As a lawyer, he represents clients who have transactions at the BOC but this does not mean he is into smuggling, Carpio said.

"It is my job as a lawyer to

appear before government agencies for and on behalf of my principals," he said in a statement.

Paolo remained mum, however. Earlier, the vice mayor said he would not dignify Trillanes by answering the senator's claims against him.

In February, Paolo called Trillanes "ugok" (fool) for claiming he had millions of pesos in a bank account, which he considered a "wild accusation."

Paolo pointed out that Trillanes had accused him of everything, including being a drug addict.

In the Senate, Trillanes yesterday said informants had told him that Vice Mayor Duterte visited the BOC twice and Carpio, five times, from late last year to early this year.

"They don't have the personality to be there. They don't have any business in the BOC except to fix things, exert influence and endorse people," he said.

The senator noted that the BOC was a sensitive agency. "If a member of an influential family, in this case they are the first family, you stay away from that area because people would only think that you are there to influence the entry and exit of shipments."

'Shabu' smuggling

Trillanes made the statement to reporters after he attended the fifth hearing of the Senate blue ribbon committee on the P6.4-billion "shabu" (crystal meth) shipment that passed through the BOC in May.

During the hearing, the senator was able to elicit information from a former BOC official who confirmed that Carpio had visited the office of outgoing Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon twice.

Neil Anthony Estrella, resigned head of the BOC Intelli-



President Duterte and his son-in-law, lawyer Manases Carpio, and grandson, Marko Digong. —MANS CARPIO'S FACEBOOK PAGE

gence and Investigation Service, told Trillanes that he saw Carpio once at the bureau.

"I was coming down from my office and chanced upon (Carpio) going out of the office of the commissioner," Estrella said.

He said, however, that he did not know why Carpio visited Faeldon.

"Anyway, I will be presenting witnesses to attest to the veracity of the information that Paolo Duterte and Mans Carpio went to the BOC," Trillanes told the committee.

The senator asked Gerardo Gambala, head of the BOC command center, to turn over to the committee closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage since a CCTV system had been installed at the command center.

Trillanes told reporters that

Estrella's testimony confirmed his information that not only Vice Mayor Duterte but also Carpio were playing a role in the operations at the BOC.

"So this is a family affair of the Duterte family," he said, adding that in due time he would present witnesses.

Trillanes said the information he got was that "Mans Carpio and Paolo Duterte were influencing the customs operations and they are part of the Davao Group or behind the Davao Group."

'No-look fee'

The two men were also engaged in technical smuggling in which shipments were undervalued and misdeclared so these could be easily released from the ports, the senator added.

"They have a special no-

look fee, which means that if [brokers] give them [this fee] their shipment would be placed on the express lane and that was why the illegal drugs were able to get past through [customs]," Trillanes said.

Last week, customs "fixer" Mark Taguba testified at a Senate hearing that he paid P5 million to Davao City Councilor Nilo "Small" Abellera Jr., who reportedly represented the vice mayor, to facilitate the release of his shipments.

After paying the "enrollment fee," Taguba said he paid P10,000 per container to the Davao Group.

Taguba helped smuggle into the country the P6.4 billion worth of shabu from China in May.

Understandable

In Malacañang, the President said that if Carpio made visits to the BOC in connection with the case of his client, and not because of graft and corruption, it was understandable.

"That was also my work before. We have to protect the interest of our client. That's our oath of office as lawyers," Mr. Duterte said.

"In this [issue about] Mans, I do not apologize for him because he's a lawyer. And every lawyer knows that. That's our job. The richer the client, the better. So you can die early—die early or retire early," he added.

Mr. Duterte said government officials should show his children the door if they came to visit to talk about something.

"Do not allow my son or daughter to enter into your office to talk about something. You can always stand up, open the door and say, 'Ma'am/Sir, Mr. Duterte, Mayor Duterte, the door is open. Kindly go out,'" he said. —WITH A REPORT FROM ALLAN NAWAL IN DAVAO CITY INQ

30 August 2017



Pahina. 6

Mag-utol inakalang NPA dinedo ng militar

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan - Nagsisigaw ngayon ng katarungan ang mga kaanak ng barangay kagawad at utol nito na napatay sa misencounter ng mga sundalo ng Phil. Army sa Sitio Lumalog, Brgy. Cadsalan sa bayan ng San Mariano, Isabela ka-makalawa.

Sa ulat na nakarating kay P/Senior Supt. Reynaldo Garcia, Isabela provincial police

director, narekober na ng mga kaanak sa isang punerarya ang mga katawan nina Kagawad Rogelio Mendoza, 61, at Rolito Mendoza, 41, mga nakatira sa Barangay Baiyao sa bayan ng Benito Soliven kahapon.

Matatandaan na ini-report ng 86th Army Battalion kay 5th Army Division Commander Maj. Gen. Paul Atal ang pagkamatay ng mag-utol bilang

mga rebeldeng NPA sa naganap na enkwentro noong Lunes ng madaling araw.

Narekober ng militar ang airgun rifle at sumpak sa mag-utol na napatay kasama ang 13 pang rebelde, ayon sa naunang ulat.

Samantala, itinanggi naman ni Rodelia Perez na NPA ang mga tiyuhin niyang biktima na sa katotohanan ay nagbabantay lamang ng kanilang plantasyon ng kamoteng kahoy sa encounter site.

Sinabi ni Perez, nakaugalian ng mag-utol na mangaso ng baboyramo sa kanilang plantasyon na nasa paanan ng bundok Sierra Madre kaya sila napagkamalang rebelde.

Sinabi rin ni Kagawad Solita Orlanda na hindi mahahalal na opisyal ng barangay si Rogelio kung ito man ay isang rebeldeng nagtatago sa batas.

Tumanggi naman magbigay ng pahayag ang pamunuan ng 86th Infantry Battalion ng Phil. Army kaugnay sa naganap na kapalpakan ng mga sundalo ***Raymund Catindig***

Samantala, inatasan din ng Ombudsman ang Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) na ipatupad ang kautusan. ***Joy Cantos***

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Sayyaf men clash with Moro clan; 7 dead

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Seven persons were killed in a firefight between Abu Sayyaf bandits and the clan of a certain Jul Hamidi in Talipao, Sulu yesterday.

Al Arod, son of Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Arod Wahing, a

certain Kiram, an alias Awa and a man who has yet to be identified were among those killed.

Also killed were Hamidi and his relatives Kaidal Sayyan and a certain Juddama. Two other members of Hamidi's

clan, one of them identified as Hatib Jamih, was wounded.

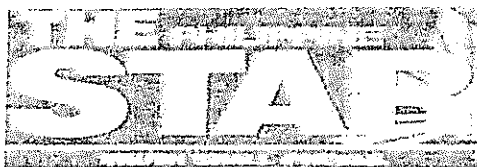
Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Joint Task Force Sulu commander, said the firefight erupted at about 12:45 p.m. in Sitio Kan Hassan, Barangay Bud Bunga.

Sobejana said the Abu Sayyaf left their dead comrades, but carried some of those wounded as they escaped.

Troops from the 21st Infantry Battalion launched pursuit operations for the bandits.

– Roel Pareño

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Guns, ammo seized from rebels in Agusan

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – Assorted firearms and ammunition were recovered from New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas following an encounter in Agusan del Norte on Monday.

There was no reported casualty from the government side.

Soldiers of the Army's 29th Infantry Battalion (IB) were responding to the reported presence of armed men in Barangay San Roque in Kitcharao town at around 4 p.m. when the firefight erupted.

Lt. Col. Glen Aynera, 29th IB commanding officer said they recovered four AK47, an M16 and M4 rifles, bullets, explosives, handheld radios, subversive documents and medical supplies from the communist insurgents, believed to be members of the NPA's Front 16.

Clashes between government troops and NPA guerrillas have continued since the suspension of peace negotiations with the communists in May.

– **Gerry Lee Gorit, Ben Serrano**

30 August 2017



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CIDG takes over probe of cops in Zambo Sur soldier's slay

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The two policemen tagged in the Aug. 23 killing of a soldier on break from the fighting in Marawi City had been disarmed and placed under the Zamboanga del Sur police's restrictive custody. According to Chief Supt. Billy Beltran, Western Mindanao regional police director, PO2 Ronald Zeros and PO1 Michael Bullanday of the Aurora town police will be held by the provincial police while the investigation on the killing of Pfc. Rodilo Bartolome is ongoing. Beltran said the military and the police also agreed to turn over the investigation to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG). Bartolome, 33, was on his way home to Midsalip town when Zeros and Bullanday shot and killed him in Barangay Monte Alegre in Aurora town. A police report said the policemen responded to a report about the presence of a suspicious man in the area. Bartolome had at least 11 bullet wounds. —JULIE ALIPALA

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INQUIRER

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TERRORIST LEADERS HOLED UP IN 500-SQUARE-METER POCKET OF MARAWI, SAYS AFP

By Nikko Dizon
@NikkoDizonINQ

Brothers Omarkhayam and Abdullah Maute, along with Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, the “emir” of their Islamic State-inspired terrorist group, are trapped in a 500-square-meter pocket of Marawi as government forces prepare for a final assault that will end the three-month siege of the city, Gen. Eduardo Año, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said on Tuesday.

“Our main goal is no way out, no way in for them... They said they wanted to go to heaven. So we will give them the chance to go to heaven,” Año told reporters, referring to the

terrorists’ claim that their attack on Marawi was part of their commitment to their faith.

Tuesday was the 99th day of fierce fighting between government security forces and the terrorists, who seized parts of Marawi on May 23 to establish an enclave of the Middle East-based Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in Southeast Asia.

Año offered no timetable for the retaking of Marawi, but he cited recent “developments and progress” in the campaign that indicated the end was near for the terrorists holed up in the city.

“Deliberately we are taking their strongholds, especially the Grand Islamic Mosque. We are happy to say that we were able to preserve it and we didn’t

bomb it. We didn’t let soldiers go inside. In fact, services are now being conducted there. Our Muslim soldiers and policemen are able to offer prayers at the mosque,” Año said.

He also noted that on Monday, government forces intercepted terrorist reinforcements who tried to sneak into the battle zone through Lake Lanao.

Ten terrorists were killed in the fighting, and their boats sank in the lake.

Año said the military expected the terrorists to make a “last stand” so the troops were preparing for a big, final battle.

“We want to show (them) that anywhere they go, if they will attempt to reinforce or they will escape, we are ready to get

them,” he said.

Nearly 800 people have been killed in the fighting that erupted on May 23, including 614 terrorists, 133 soldiers and police, and 45 civilians, according to the latest military count.

On Tuesday, Australia offered to help train the Philippine military to tackle IS-inspired terrorists.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said she recently spoke to President Duterte, who wanted to bolster resources for his troops.

“We would be ready to support the Philippines in the same way we are supporting Iraq in advising, assisting and training,” Bishop said.

On Tuesday morning, Año

led the send-off ceremonies for a 100-strong all-woman joint Armed Forces of the Philippines-Philippine National Police Civil Relations Company (CRC), which was deployed to Marawi to assist in the rehabilitation and recovery efforts for evacuees, particularly the children.

The ceremonies were held at Villamor Air Base, headquarters of the Philippine Air Force, in Pasay City.

In his remarks at the ceremonies, Año said female soldiers and police officers had always been effective in civil relations.

Año said another company might be activated depending on the progress of the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in Marawi.

All members of the contingent wore white hijabs as part of the cultural sensitivity of the mission, but the Catholic members of the company were also given rosaries by the military and police leadership.

“As you set foot in Marawi City may your white hijab with your uniform speak of solidarity and love for every Maranao, for every Muslim, for every Mindanaoan in the areas that you will be serving,” Rohaniza Sumndad-Uzman, founder of the Teach Peace, Build Peace Movement said in her address to the contingent.

The group trained in the AFP Civil Military Operations School for five days before being deployed to Marawi. —WITH A REPORT FROM AFP INQ

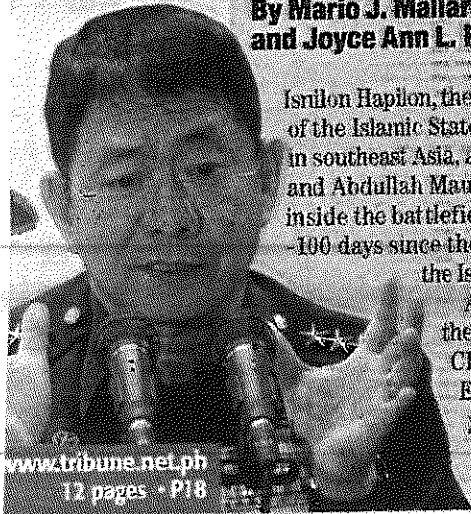
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AFP: Hapilon, Maute brothers still in Marawi

By **Mario J. Mallari**
and **Joyce Ann L. Rocamora**



Isnilon Hapilon, the designated leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria in southeast Asia, and brothers Omar and Abdullah Maute have remained inside the battlefield in Marawi City - 100 days since they led the siege in the Islamic city last May.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año yesterday confirmed that two Maute

brothers are still in the war zone, apparently leading their supporters.

"As far as we know, Abdullah and Omar are still there," Año told reporters.

"He is still there," he added when asked about Hapilon.

There were previous reports stating that the three could have either slipped out of Marawi City or were killed during military air strikes.

According to Año, the IS-inspired terrorists are now confined within 500-square meter area where military clearing operations are now focused.

"We will expect fierce confrontation with the Maute-ISIS as they make their last stand," said Año. **Turn to page 3**

www.tribune.net.ph
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The AFP chief cited Monday's clash between government troops and 10 terrorists who attempted to sneak into the main battle area apparently to reinforce their comrades.

The 10 terrorists, aboard two pump boats, were killed in the clash.

Año vowed that all those who will try to aid the terrorists will suffer the same fate.

"Anywhere they go, if they will attempt to reinforce or they will escape, we are ready to get them," said Año.

"Our main goal -no way out, no way in. If they want to join, they want to go to heaven as they claim, we will give them the chance to go to heaven," he added.

As of Monday night, a total of the 614 terrorists were killed while some 666 firearms, mostly high-powered, were seized since the conflict erupted last May 23.

On the other hand, three more troops were added to the growing list of government fatalities which stood at 133.

Yesterday, an all-female joint police and military unit was sent off to Marawi City to signal the rehabilitation work at the war-torn Islamic city.

Composed of four officers, 55 police non-commissioned officers and 40 enlisted women, the joint PNP-AFP Civil Military Relations team will serve as the "nucleus" of the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in Marawi City.

Año noted that the all-female unit was trained for its deployment to the war-torn city.

"Upon the start of the reconstruction and rehabilitation and until the situation normalizes that will be the time their mission will be completed. They will stay there until necessary," said Año, who led the send off ceremony at the Villamor Air Base.

Meanwhile, Australia has offered to help train the Philippines military to tackle Islamic militants terrorizing parts of the country, calling the threat "deeply concerning".

Philippine forces have been besieging militants in Marawi City for almost 100 days. But the gunmen, flying the Islamic State group's black flag, have defied military assaults including airstrikes and artillery barrages.

Australia, which has an extensive defence cooperation program with Manila, has already deployed two high-tech AP-3C Orion aircraft for surveillance, and is keen to provide further help.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said she recently spoke with President Duterte who wanted to bolster resources for his armed forces.

"We would be ready to support the Philippines in the same way we are supporting Iraq in advising, assisting and training," she said.

"We indicated what we have been doing in Iraq. I went through with the president in some detail the support we have given in Iraq, that does not include troops on the ground. That is advising and assisting," she added.

"We offered to provide what support they need and they haven't identified what it is," said Bishop.

"So Australia is already providing surveillance, we're providing intelligence and information, and we've offered to assist in any way that might add to the likelihood of defeating this scourge in the Philippines. It is in our region," she added.

Australia is part of the coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria, with 780 defense personnel based in the Middle East.

Bishop said it was "deeply concerning" for the entire Asian region that Islamic State had a presence in the southern Philippines, with the United States, Malaysia and Indonesia also offering support.

Duterte declared martial law across Mindanao island, home to 20 million people, on May 23 immediately after fighters flying the IS flag rampaged through Marawi.

Their assault on the city ignited an unprecedented urban war, which Duterte has warned is part of an IS campaign to establish a base in Mindanao.

Meanwhile, UNICEF Philippines Representative Lotta Sylwander said that their organization has been working with government and non-government organizations with support from Japan and the United Nations' Central Emergency Response Fund to address critical needs of displaced children and their families, providing water kits, hygiene kits and temporary sanitation facilities.

In a statement, she noted this ensures that children can drink clean water and practice good hygiene during emergencies.

According to UNICEF statistics, there are significant regional disparities in the Philippines when it comes to accessing safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, with the conflict-affected Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) having the lowest coverage nationwide.

al pride

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30 August 2017



Pahina. 6

Maute brothers, Hapilon sukol na ng militar

NI GEMMA GARCIA

Hindi na makatatakas at makokorner na ng mga sundalo ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang teroristang Maute brothers at si Isnilon Hapilon.

Sa pahayag ni AFP Chief of Staff Eduardo Año, nasa loob na lamang ng 500 square meter area sa war

zone ang mga terorista. Naniniwala rin ang opisyal na ang magkapatid na Omar at Abdullah Maute gayundin si Hapilon ay patuloy na nagtatago sa maliit na mosque sa nasabing lugar.

Tiniyak ni Año na wala nang makatatakas pang terorista mula sa war zone at kung nais man nilang

pumasok ay di-na aabot pa sa war area dahil may mga militar na masusing nagbantay.

Ang layunin umano ngayon ng militar ay no-in no-out sa battle area at kung gusto ng mga terorista

na magtungo sa langit ay ibibigay nila ang tsansa na makapunta sila doon.

Wala namang binigay na time table si Año kung kailan matatapos ang giyera sa Marawi. **Trainee Engrid Genova**

30 August 2017



Pahina. 2

MAUTE BROS, HAPILON WALA NANG KAWALA

Inibayag ng pamunuan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na wala nang takas ang teroristang Maute brothers at Isnilon Hapilon at kanilang kasama dahil sa

nakomer na ng tropa ang lugar ng mga ito.

Ayon kay AFP chief of Staff Eduardo Ano, nasa loob na lamang ng 500 square meter area ang mga terorista at paniwala nila na

Ni GEMMA GARCIA

nandoon pa ang magkapatid na Omar at Abdullah Maute gayundin si Hapilon na nagtatago sa maliit na mosque sa nasabing lugar.

Tiniyak ni Ano na wala nang makakatakas pang terorista sa lugar

at kung nais man nilang pumasok ay di na aabot pa sa war area dahil matatambangan na agad sila ng militar.

Ang layunin umano ngayon ng militar ay "no in no out" sa battle area at kung gusto ng mga terorista na magtungo sa langit ay

ibigay nila ang tsansa na makapunta sila doon.

Wala namang binigay na timetable si Ano kung kailan matatapos ang giyera sa Marawi na lialos mahigit ng tatlong buwan na kung saan ay nasa 700 katao na ang namamatay na karamihan ay mga terorista.



Nasa mahigit 100 babaeng sundalo na Kristiyano at Muslim ang sakay ng C-130 plane para ipadala kahapon sa Marawi City upang tumulong sa mga sundalo at residente doon na apektado ng giyera. -Rudy Santos-

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Visiting Marawi kids want Du30 to end war

**By Leila B. Salaverria
and Divina M. Suson**
@Team_Inquirer

New sights and the thrill of traveling to Manila pleased the children from Marawi, but the conflict that had forced them to flee their city was never far from their minds during their visit to the country's capital on Tuesday.

Thirty-five displaced children joined the Tabak Educational Tour to Manila sponsored by the military.

They flew from Laguindingan Airport in Misamis Oriental province for a five-day tour of Manila that would include a visit to Malacañang and a meeting with President Duterte.

End to war, martial law

Several of the children told reporters that they wanted to ask Mr. Duterte to end the war in Marawi and lift martial law in Mindanao.

The children said they wanted to continue their schooling and for the government to provide jobs for their parents.

Fighting between government forces and Islamic State-inspired terrorists who seized parts of Marawi on May 23 has sent more than 400,000 people fleeing the city and surrounding areas.

Six percent of the displaced are in shelters and the rest are staying with relatives and friends in Iligan City and surrounding communities.

The children met with the President in Malacañang in the afternoon, and he promised them that he would return Marawi to its former splendor and would even improve upon it.

"I would do my best to return Marawi to you, more beautiful and free of conflict," Mr. Duterte told the children.

He also called on them not to allow extremists to enter the city.

The Armed Forces chief of



MANILA-BOUND Children flash big smiles as they leave war-torn Marawi City for Laguindingan Airport on a five-day field trip to Manila, including a visit to Malacañang for a meeting with President Duterte. —DIVINA M. SUSON

staff, Gen. Eduardo Año, said on Tuesday that the leaders of the terrorists were trapped in a 500-square-meter pocket of the city and that government forces were preparing for a final assault to end the conflict.

The children, aged 7 to 13, were also scheduled to visit Manila Ocean Park, Mall of Asia, the Mind Museum and the Philippine Army headquarters for a "peace building session" that includes peace games and interaction with other children.

Positive perspective

Lt. Col. Jo-ar Herrera said the children, who were living in evacuation centers, were asked to participate in the educational tour so that they could see a peaceful environment and get a positive perspective while learning about another culture.

The tour is part of peace-building and psychosocial support for the children, Herrera said.

"With this opportunity, they will be given a better perspective in order to be part of a peaceful society," Herrera told reporters.

"The objective of this activity is to increase understanding and awareness about a peaceful environment," he added.

In Marawi, Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, spokesperson for the Joint Task Force Marawi and the military's Western Mindanao Command, said it was the first time for the children to travel to Manila.

"They were identified as among those vulnerable and susceptible to violent extremism," she said.

Amina Manonggiring, whose 11-year-old daughter Morliya was among the participants, said she was happy that her daughter was chosen.

Manonggiring said she asked Morliya to relay her wish to Mr. Duterte.

New house, livelihood

"I told her to tell the President to give us a new house and a livelihood because our house in Moncado Colony was burned," she said.

In Malacañang, one of the children, Hania Macabalang, told reporters before the meeting with the President that she hoped martial law in Mindanao would be lifted.

Macabalang said she also hoped she and her siblings would be able to continue their education.

The daughter of a carpenter and a housewife, Macabalang said the eldest of her six sib-

lings dropped out of school to work and help their parents.

Letter to the President

Another child, Almerah Usman, wrote a letter to the President in which she said she was grateful to the soldiers for fighting the terrorists, but expressed her longing to go home to Marawi and for an end to the war.

In her letter to "Tatay Digong," Usman said she was thankful that she was brought to Manila, despite the flight leaving her a bit dizzy.

"But we are not happy because we left our home in Marawi," Usman wrote.

Her family was not rich, and the war has made them poorer, she said.

It was not easy living in evacuation centers, Usman said, but she was still happy because she was with her loved ones.

Angry with terrorists

She also said she was angry with the terrorists for starting the war. She hoped for an end to the conflict after recounting the hardship that she and her family went through as they escaped the fighting.

Like the other children, Usman wanted to be able to continue her studies and hoped she would be made a scholar. She vowed to study well.

Herrera said the children did not bring up martial law during their meeting with the President.

Instead, Usman, chosen as speaker for the group, spoke about her experience in Marawi and her joy in traveling to Manila. She also expressed gratitude to the soldiers for helping them, Herrera said.

She also spoke about her wish to become a scholar to ensure the continuation of her studies.

Mr. Duterte granted her wish and promised scholarships to all the 35 children, Herrera said. INQ

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No way out for Maute

Año: Tight security ring will prevent any reinforcement from sneaking into Marawi

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

There's no longer any way out for the Maute Group still holed up in Marawi City. Armed Forces of the Philip-

pines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año said Tuesday as he revealed that a tight security ring has been set up around the besieged city.

The government forces tightly guarding the perimeters of the ▶ 4

No way out for Maute

◀ 1

city will also make sure that sympathizers won't be able to sneak in to reinforce the Maute terrorists in the main battle area (MBA).

"That's our main goal. (There's) no way out, no way in (for them). If they want to join, they want to go to heaven sabi nila, so we will give them the chance to go to heaven," Año told reporters during the send-off ceremony for the 105-strong, all-female Civil Relations Company (CRC) to Marawi City at the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City on Tuesday.

Among those stilled holed up in Marawi City, according to Año, are Maute Group leaders Abdullah and Omar Maute and Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon.

Despite the presence of the key Maute leaders in the main battle area, Año said they don't expect the battle to last very long since the area which the terrorists still control is getting smaller each day.

"Mahirap kasing magbigay ng time, pero sabi ko nga kahapon we have seen the developments and our campaign. Deliberately we are getting their stongholds especially the Grand Islamic Mosque, and we are happy to say that we have preserve it and we didn't bomb it," Año said.

"Wala tayong pinapasok dito, and in fact nakapag-conduct na nga ng service or rights doon iyung ating mga Muslim na sundalo at kapulisan Nakapag-offer na ng prayer doon at nakapag samba na sila dun sa mosque (We are not letting anybody in, and in fact our Muslim brothers who are soldiers and policemen have already held their service or rights. Prayers were offered and they already went to the mosque to worship)."

"Small area na lang ito, less than square, about 500 square meters but sabi ko nga we will expect fierce conflict with the Maute," he added.

"We will attempt to reinforce

Maute Group fighters still holed up in Marawi was foiled when alert troops killed 10 terrorists following a three-hour clash in Lanao Lake, Lanao del Sur.

The 10 suspected terrorists were trying to sneak into the main battle area when soldiers from a task group monitoring Lake Lanao chanced upon them on board two motorized pump boats at about 2:30 a.m. Monday.

"So gusto lang natin ipakita dito na (We just want to show here) anywhere they go, if they will attempt to reinforce or they will escape, we are ready to get them)," Año said.

Meanwhile, the Philippine National Police (PNP) is now preparing for the rehabilitation of the Marawi City Police Station which the Maute Group occupied when they attacked the city on May 23.

PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said that after it was retaken by government forces a few weeks ago, they have long planned on how to carry out the renovation of the Marawi City Police Station.

"We will replace it after the war there. We cannot just deploy carpenters there because the firefight is ongoing," said Dela Rosa. (With a report from Aaron B. Recuenco)

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AFP: No way out, no way in for Maute terrorists

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff General Eduardo Año yesterday said that Daesh inspired Maute Group terrorists has no way of getting in or escaping out of Marawi City.

Año assured that they won't let sympathizers succeed in any attempt to reinforce their troubled comrades now trapped inside the main battle area in the city.

"That's our main goal. (There's) no way out, no way in (for them). If they want to join, they want to go to heaven sabi nila, so we will give them the chance to go to heaven," said Año during an event at the Vil-

amor Airbase in Pasay City.

Año, at the same time, said that as far as they know, Maute leaders Abdullah and Omar Maute and Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon are still inside the main battle area.

He also said that they don't expect the battle to last very long as the area where the terrorists still has control is getting smaller each day.

"Mahirap kasing magbigay ng time, pero sabi ko nga kahapon we have seen the developments and the progress of our campaign. Deliberately, nakukuha na natin iyung mga strongholds nila lalo na yung Grand Islamic Mosque," said Año.

On Monday, the attempt to reinforce Maute Group fighters still holed up in Marawi was foiled when alert troops killed 10 terrorists following a three-hour clash in Lanao Lake, Lanao del Sur.

The 10 suspected terrorists were trying to sneak into the main battle area in Marawi City when soldiers from a task group monitoring Lake Lanao chanced upon them on board two motorized pump boats at about 2:30 a.m. Monday.

"So gusto lang natin ipakita dito na anywhere they go, if they will attempt to reinforce or they will escape, we are ready to get them," Año said.

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THE GUIDING LIGHT

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Año on Maute remnants: No way out of Marawi

BY VICTOR REYES

ARMED Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año yesterday said remnants of the Maute Group in Marawi City have no way out of the main battle area which he said has been reduced to a 500-square meter area.

There is also no way for the terrorist group to bring in reinforcements, he said.

“That’s our main goal: No way out (escape), no way in (reinforcement). If they want to go to heaven as they declared, we will give them the chance to go to heaven,” said Año.

On Monday, government forces killed 10 Maute members in a gun battle in Lanao Lake in Lanao del Sur whose capital is Marawi City. Officials earlier said Maute reinforcements are on their way to the main battle area.

“What we want to show here is anywhere they go, if they will attempt to reinforce or they will escape, we are ready to get them,” Año said as he sent off about 100

female soldiers and policemen to Marawi City to help attend to the psycho-social needs of the residents.

The fighting, which broke out last May 23, has so far resulted in the death of 614 Maute members, 133 soldiers and policemen, and 45 civilians. Military officials said there are about 50 Maute members left in the city.

Año said the fighting is already confined in a 500-square meter area. Officials have been saying over the past weeks that the main battle area is less than a kilometer in size, with about 400 structures still up for clearing.

Año said Maute leaders Abdullah and Omar Maute are still in the main battle area together with Isnilon Hapilon, senior leader of the Abu Sayyaf who has reportedly been named by the Islamic State as its leader for Southeast Asia. The Maute has pledged allegiance

See AÑO > Page B6

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Security tightened in Mindanao after death of Maute patriarch

By JOHN UNSON

LANAO DEL SUR – Authorities are on high alert against possible retaliatory attacks following the death of Cayamora Maute, patriarch of the brothers leading the terrorist group that laid siege to Marawi City.

Relatives said the Maute clan became emotional on learning about the death of Cayamora.

"The leaders of the Maute group are hooked on shabu so naturally their reasoning ability and comprehension are so bad. They do not believe he died of a natural death," said a cousin of Farhana, mother of the Maute siblings Omar and Abdullah.

The elder Maute died of kidney failure on Sunday while detained in Manila on rebellion charges. He was arrested in June and is suspected of having assisted his sons, leaders of the Maute group, in attacking Marawi City.

Cousins of Cayamora in Marantao town warned of possible attacks on non-military targets by Maute followers.

Western Mindanao Command Lt. chief Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. said all military units in the province and in other parts of central Mindanao had been alerted.

"We are not taking chances. These are terrorists and the only language they speak is terrorism," he said.

Chief Supt. Reuben Theodore Sindac, police director of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said municipal police offices in Lanao del Sur and in Maguindanao are also on full alert since Sunday night, following news of Cayamora's death.

The military said that so far, 603 militants, 45 civilians and 130 soldiers have been killed in the fighting, which has left the once thriving city of Marawi looking like war-torn Aleppo or Mosul.

The Maute group, named after the brothers who pledged allegiance to Islamic State (IS), has recently been driven out of strategic areas like the main mosque and a cathedral, and reduced to a small band occupying less than a square kilometer of the city.

But their use of improvised explosives and booby traps as well as the difficulty of urban combat has slowed down the military's progress.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Eduardo Año said the remaining militants were "consolidating" and preparing for the military's final assault.

Año said the troops are expecting the terrorists "to fight it out up to their last breath."

He said they are ready to give what is expected of them.

"That's our main goal. No way out. No way in. If they want to join... they want to go to heaven, we will give them the chance to go to heaven, he said.

On the other hand, Col. Juvymax Uy, commander of Joint Task Force Basilan (JTFB), said the troops are on the lookout for Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon who might flee Marawi for his Basilan base.

Hapilon, designated emir of IS in Southeast Asia, had planned the attack in Marawi.

The military believes Hapilon is still stuck in Marawi, fighting alongside the remaining terrorist gunmen.

Meanwhile, the AFP has deployed an all-female contingent of troops under the Civil Relations Company (CRC) to assist in the rehabilitation and relief of thousands of evacuees of Marawi City.

"The all female CRC will be deployed to Marawi to form part of the inter-agency team that shall assist in the implementation of rehabilitation and recovery program for evacuees in the battle affected city," AFP spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said. – With Roel Pareño, Jaime Laude, Cecille Suerte Felipe, Rudy Santos

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AFP, PNP deploy all-female contingent to Marawi City

By **FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD**
and **ARIEL FERNANDEZ**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) officially deployed the 105-strong, all-female Civil Relations Company (CRC) to assist in the implementation of rehabilitation and recovery programs for Internally-Displaced Persons (IDPs) in battle-stricken Marawi City.

AFP chief of staff General Eduardo Año led the send-off ceremony yesterday at the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City.

AFP Public Affairs Office chief Marine Colonel Edgardo Arevalo said the 100 personnel, 60 of which are from the Philippine Army and 40 non-commissioned police officers, will be led by four female officers from the Army and another officer from the PNP. Their mission is to assist in the implementation of programs that will help IDPs who have been traumatized by their experience in the ongoing rebellion in the city.

Of the number, 30 came from Luzon, 16 from the Visayas, and 59 from Mindanao.

“The CRC may also serve as a mother or elder sister figure to the evacuees, especially the youth, to help alleviate their conditions in various evacuation centers,” Colonel Arevalo added.

Prior to their send-off, the CRC com-

pleted the required pre-deployment training organized by the AFP Civil-Military Operations School, and Teach Peace, Build Peace Movement from August 21-25, 2017.

The CRC will be under the operational control of the Western Mindanao Command. They will be positioned in evacuation centers as well as in communities that significantly need rehabilitation.

The deployment of the all-female CRC is one of the efforts of the Joint AFP-PNP Civil Relations Committee (JAPCRC). It seeks to promote and enable the coordination and synchronization of AFP Civil-Military Operations and PNP Police Community Relations on matters relating to national security and development.

“The AFP and PNP recognize the need to address the substantial psychological stress experienced by the residents of Marawi City. With this, we commit our forces to not only liberate Marawi from the terrorists but to help the city get back up on its feet again, and ensure the protection of its citizens,” General Año said during the send-off ceremony.

Año, at the same time, said that the all female CRC will be in Marawi City for more than a month.

Of the 105 personnel to be deployed, 34 are Muslims while the remaining are mostly Christians and other denomina-

tion.

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SIXTY female soldiers and 40 policewomen were yesterday deployed to Marawi to assist traumatized internally-displaced persons (IDPs) who were affected by the continuous fighting between government forces and the ISIS-linked Maute terror group in the city.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff General Eduardo Año yesterday led the simple send-off ceremony of the 100 female soldiers and policewomen at Villamor Airbase

According to AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Col. Edgard Arevalo, the 100 female soldiers and policewomen will be part of the inter-agency team that will conduct rehabilitation and recovery programs for affected residents of the battle-stricken city.

The 60 enlisted personnel from the Philippine Army and 40 non-commissioned police officers will be led by four female officers from the Army. Their mission is to assist in the implementation of programs that will help traumatized IDPs.

Año said the group may also serve as a mother

100 female soldiers, policewomen sent to Marawi

or elder sister figure to the evacuees, especially the youth, to help alleviate their conditions in various evacuation centers.

MAUTE BROTHERS, HAPILON STILL IN BATTLE-STRICKEN CITY

Maute brothers Abdullah and Omar and Isnilon Hapilon are still in Marawi City, Año said.

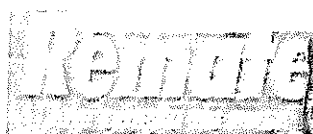
"As far as we know, Abdulla and Omar are still there," the official said

He said the terror group were confined to less than 500 square meter area in Marawi City.

Año said the AFP expects fiercer confrontation and there will be no way out or no way in for the enemy.

"That's our main goal, no way out, no way in. If they want to join, they want to go to heaven sabi rula, so we will give them the chance to go to heaven," Año said. **Zaida de los Reyes-Palanca**

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Pahina. 4

TASK FORCE BANGON MARAWI, TODO TRABAHO

DOBLE kayod ngayon ang Task Forced Bangon Marawi upang maibalik sa kaayusan ang Marawi City at mabigyan ng katahimikan ang buong lungsod na ilang buwan na ring binulabog ng mga miyembro ng rebeldeng Maute Group

Abalang-abala ngayon ang iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno na naatasan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na magbalik ng kaayusan at katahimikan sa Marawi City upang mabigyan ng mapayapang pamumuhay ang mga residente

Kabilang sa mga departamentong naatasan ng Pangulo ay ang Office of Civil Defense, Department of Public Works and Highways, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Department of Education, Department of Budget Management, Department of Energy, Department of Health, Department of Information and Communication Technology, Department of the Interior and Local Government at Department of Science and Technology

Sa pamamagitan ng pagtutulong-tulong ng mga nabanggit na tanggapan ay mas mabilis na maibabalik sa dati ang buhay ng mga residenteng labis na naapektuhan ng kaguluhan sa Marawi City at iba pang karatig na lugar

Matatandaan na noong May 23 ng kasalukuyang taon nang lusubin ng mga miyembro ng Maute Group ang Marawi City na naging dahilan upang ideklara ni Pangulong Duterte ng martial law sa buong Mindanao

Dahil din sa kaguluhan ay maraming buhay na ang nawala kabilang na ang mga rebelde, sundalo, pulis at inosenteng sibilyan, kasama ang mga ginagawang human shield ng mga rebelde

Bilyong halaga na rin ng ari-arian ang nawasak ng digmaan kaya abala ngayon ang gobyerno sa pagsasagawa ng plano kung paano mas mabilis na maibabalik sa dating kaayusan ang mga nasira sa labanan

Bagama't nakatakda na ring simulan ang pagsasaayos at paggawa ng plano upang maibalik ang kaayusan sa Marawi City, hindi pa rin pinapayagan ang mga residente na makabalik sa kanilang mga bahay dahil na rin sa posibleng naitanim na bomba ng mga terorista

Nais kasi ng military na siguraduhin munang malinis ang mga iniwang bomba ng mga rebelde nang sa gayon ay mas maging tiyak ang kaligtasan ng mga residenteng gustong magsibalik sa kanilang mga nasirang bahay

Sa ngayon, nais ni Duterte na mapadali ang pagsasaayos ng mga nasira sa digmaan nang sa gayon ay bumalik sa normal ang pamumuhay ng mga residente na ilang buwan na ring nahihirapan sa mga evacuation center

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Pahina. 11

TROPANG MILITAR NG PILIPINAS, ITE-TRAIN NG AUSTRALIA PARA LABANAN ANG ISIS

NAGPRISINTA ang pamahalaan ng Australia na magbigay ng tulong sa Philippine Army para masugpo ang ilang militante sa loob ng bansa.

Batid ng karamihan ang pamamalagi ng ilang tropang militar sa Marawi kung saan nagaganap ang malaking kaguluhan at hindi rin nagpapatnag ang mga terorista mula sa mga ginagawang air strike at artillery barrage.

Nagbigay naman ng extensive defense cooperation program ang Australia sa Pilipinas kung saan nakapag-deploy na rin sila ng dalawang high-tech AP-3C Orion aircrafts para sa surveillance.

Ayon sa Foreign Ministry ng Australia, nais umano nilang tulungan ang Pilipinas sa paraang tinutulungan din nila ang Iraq.

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NO CHINA BAR

PAG-ASA ISLAND UPGRADE TO GO ON, SAYS AÑO

By **Nikko Dizon**
@NikkoDizonINQ

The rehabilitation and improvements on Pag-asa Island in Palawan will continue, despite China's apparent attempt to dissuade the government from embarking on the project, Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año said on Tuesday.

Año told reporters that the military campaign to liberate Marawi City from Islamic State-inspired terrorists had not distracted the government from its plan to improve facilities in the country's possessions in the West Philippine Sea, nearly 90 percent of which was claimed by China.

"We have enough forces in all the nine islands, reefs and atolls (in the Kalayaan Island Group, KIG) ... Our priority is to improve the conditions on Pag-asa Island, especially the refurbishing and renovation of the runway," Año said.

Pag-asa Island is the only inhabited island in the KIG, the part of the disputed South China Sea wherein the Philippines has modest military installations to mark its territory.

Año said the planned improvements in any of the KIG did not violate the Declaration of the Code of Conduct among the South China Sea claimants.

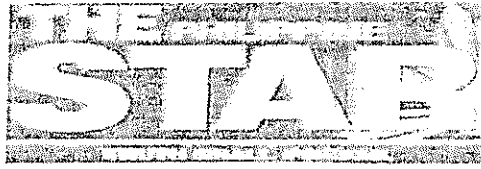
"Under the Code of Conduct (COC), you can improve the islands, reefs and shoals that you are presently occupying," Año said. "What the [COC] does not allow is the occupation of additional areas, islands or atolls."

Two weeks ago, Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano warned that a Chinese flotilla was spotted near Pag-asa Island, which is within the 200-nautical mile of the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

Alejano also slammed the Duterte administration, particularly Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano, for keeping a "policy of silence" on the South China Sea dispute.

President Duterte has been building friendly relations with China on all fronts. INQ

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Marker, not flag, removed from Spratlys sandbar — military

The military has removed what appeared to be a makeshift marker – not a Chinese flag – from a sandbar near Kota Island, an area occupied by Filipino soldiers in the disputed Spratlys.

The marker was a four-foot-high bamboo pole with a mesh bag full of empty plastic bottles.

“It was not a Chinese flag. It was just an indigenous pole with sort of plastics and sacks which to our assessment was put up to serve as a guide to seafarers,” Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Eduardo Año said.

Earlier, Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano said the Chinese had planted their flag in the area. It was not yet clear, however, who had placed the marker.

Año said he is confident the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has enough troops for the nine military outposts in the disputed region.

He added improvement plans for the outposts would push through, beginning

with Pag-asa Island.

Told that China might protest, Año said the AFP would only be making improvements in facilities and is definitely not occupying new land features.

Alejano earlier bared a swarming presence of Chinese vessels near the island municipality of Kalayaan, a fifth class town in the island province of Palawan.

The AFP and the Department of National Defense (DND) have downplayed warnings from Alejano and other individuals that Chinese presence in Philippine waters was tantamount to an invasion.

A senior security official, who asked not to be named, said the AFP is silently engaged in activities meant to protect the country’s sovereignty without stoking tensions in the region.

“There are scores of activities being done in the region by the soldiers that would serve the country good if it is not known publicly,” the official said.

– Jaime Laude

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An all-woman contingent of police and military personnel flew to Marawi yesterday to support the rehabilitation effort in the war-torn city. The 100 women, wearing the Muslim *hijab*, are shown heading toward transport planes following a send-off ceremony at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City. Inset shows a soldier saying goodbye to his girlfriend who was among those deployed.

EDD GUMBAN

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Standard**

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IN HIGH GEAR. An all-female contingent of 40 AFP enlisted personnel and 60 non-commissioned PNP officers poses for camera before deployment on Tuesday to Marawi City to help in the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts there. **Norman Cruz**

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Pahina. 3



BIYAHENG MARAWI-Emosyunal ang pamamaalam ng may isandaang babaeng sundalo at pulis sa kani-kanilang mga kaanak bago sumakay sa C130-military cargo plane na maghahatid sa kanila sa Marawi City sa isang send-off ceremony kahapon sa Villamor Air Base, Pasay City. JHUN MABANAG

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Stop bombing Marawi

COMMENTARY

MACABANGKIT B. LANTO

The United States bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki and brought Japan to its knees and ultimate surrender. For more than three months Marawi City has been incessantly bombed, but what we are seeing is the opposite—the jihadists unyielding and fighting ferociously. Of course, the analogy is “apples and oranges,” or fallacious. But it makes us wonder about the necessity of carpet-bombing.

I am a lawyer and by no means a military person. The 2-year ROTC course I grudgingly took in college would not qualify me as an authority on any military matter, much less war. But I have a bottomless supply of common-sense. I have no quarrel with the general's strategy of employing an aerial campaign to back an attack by ground troops; it is their call. But that does not make them, or the execution of their order, error-free.

Consider these facts: A few weeks after the start of the siege, an aerial bomb went wayward and hit a gymnasium in the municipality of Ditsaan-Ramain many kilometers away from Marawi; on June 1 a jet bomber missed the enemy and killed 10 soldiers instead; on July 12, two soldiers died in similar circumstances (whatever happened to the supposed inquiry into these deaths by friendly fire?).

The relentless bombing of Marawi is a moral issue. When the bombing was ordered, there were hundreds of civilians who refused to leave their homes and hostages still holed up in the city. The cries of protest from local

leaders and *ulama* were drowned out by the staccato of artillery fire and bombs. The military has statistics on the fatalities from the government and rebel sides, but none on civilians caught in the crossfire and/or killed in the bombings. Were the lives and houses of civilians even factored in the decision? Was area bombing preferred over precision bombing? Why were there always fires in the areas bombed?

Marawi residents have called it a form of state terrorism and vandalism from the air. It is a no-brainer that the damage caused by the bombardment should be commensurate to its goal. The *bakwit* claim that this is not so in their experience. Meanwhile, the generals excuse themselves, saying that in war everything is fair game and dead civilians are collateral victims.

I have not come across any law or treaty on air warfare or specific provisions of international law dealing with the issue. But we can invoke general provisions of the International Humanitarian Law (*jus in bello*) or the International Human Rights Law to protect civilians who are not participants in hostilities. There are general provisions of the 1907 The Hague Convention and Protocol I additional to the Geneva Conventions

that impliedly prevents excessiveness and flagrant abuse in the conduct of air strikes.

In an article titled “Aerial bombing against Isis is counterproductive” (Nov. 29, 2015, published by openDemocracy.net), the author, Daniele Archibugi, maintains that “bombing from the air is not only ineffective; it is counterproductive, especially against a nonterritorial entity such as Isis,” and that “air strikes do not manage to eliminate actual or potential terrorists or suicide bombers.” Some war historians say that even the so-called “precision bombing” resorted to by the Allied forces was found to be “ineffective because the technology did not allow for sufficient accuracy. They resorted to the so-called area bombardment [but it] brought about civilian casualties.”

Perhaps our treaty ally, the United States, should support us with its most modern technology in air warfare, like laser-guided bombs and sensor or thermal imagers employed in the Gulf War, and train our military pilots.

This call may be too late in the day as the war is winding down. But it might serve as a lesson for a future siege. The threat of the IS menace is here to stay.

Macabangkit B. Lanto (amb_mac_lanto@yahoo.com), UP Law 1967, was a Fulbright Fellow in New York University for his postgraduate studies. He has served the government as congressman, ambassador, and undersecretary, among other positions.

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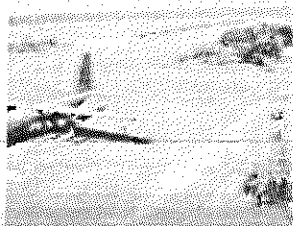
SECURED | AFP in control of territories in the WPS

Published by Alvin Santiago

COL JESUS VILLAMOR AIR BASE, Pasay City (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has troops securing all nine (9) island, reefs, and atolls in the Kalayaan Island Group.

According to AFP Chief of Staff Gen Eduardo Ano, despite the events transpiring in Marawi, the AFP is still fulfilling its mandate of protecting our territory, especially in the West Philippine Sea.

Recently, Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano alleged that a Chinese flag was seen planted on a sandy cay, seven nautical miles off Kota Island. A sign, he said, that China's incursion into our territory continues despite warmer relations between the two countries.



Gen Ano explained that the "alleged Chinese flag" was just an indigenous pole with a plastic / sack attached to it and was probably placed there as a guide for seafarers. He also made it clear that it was not the Philippines who placed it there, but they were the one who removed it.

Currently, the priority of the government is to refurbish and renovate our facilities on Pagasa Island and other territories we currently occupying in the KIG, which is well within the Declaration of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea. What is not allowed by the code is the occupation of additional island or atolls, Ano added. AES / ALS

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

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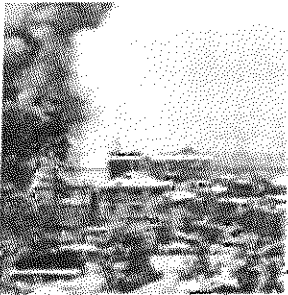
HELPING HAND | All Female CRT to normalize lives in Marawi

Written by [Alvin Santiago](#)

COL JESUS VILLAMOR AIR BASE, Pasay City (DWDD) – The all-female AFP-PNP Civil Relations Company (CRC) will be playing a big role in the rehabilitation of Marawi City.

According to AFP Chief of Staff Gen Eduardo Ano, the teams mission will commence with the start of Marawi's rehabilitation and reconstruction or until the situation has normalized.

This composite company serves as the "nucleus" for this endeavour and the possibility of activating more companies in the future would depend on the situation or on the progress of the reconstruction and rehabilitation.



The AFP and PNP saw the need to field an all-female CRC to Marawi, mostly volunteers, to help normalize the lives of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) by serving as a mother or elder sister figure to the evacuees, especially the youth, to help alleviate their conditions in various evacuation centers.

The CRC is composed of four (4) officers, fifty-five (55) PNP non-commissioned officers and forty (40) enlisted personnel from the AFP. **AES / ALS**

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

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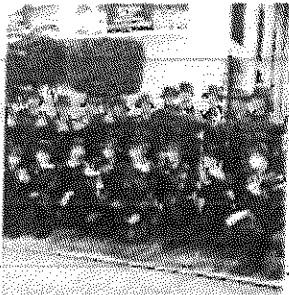
ALL FEMALE | Women Soldiers, Police to Assist IDPs in Marawi

Reported by [Alvin Santiago](#)

COL JESUS VILLAMOR AIR BASE, Pasay City (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) officially deployed the 100-strong, all-female Civil Relations Company (CRC) to Marawi, this morning in a simple send-off ceremony at Col Jesus Villamor Airbase in Pasay City.

“The all-female CRC will be deployed to Marawi to form part of an inter-agency team that shall assist in the implementation of rehabilitation and recovery programs for Internally-Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the battle-stricken city,” Colonel Edgard Arevalo, AFP Public Affairs Chief said.

General Eduardo Año, AFP Chief of Staff and Police Director General Ronald Dela Rosa, PNP Chief led the ceremony.



The 60 enlisted personnel from the Philippine Army and 40 non-commissioned police officers is led by four female officers from the Army. Their mission is to assist in the implementation of programs that will help IDPs who have been traumatized by their experience in the ongoing rebellion in the city.

“The CRC may also serve as a mother or elder sister figure to the evacuees, especially the youth, to help alleviate their conditions in various evacuation centers.” Colonel Arevalo added.

Prior to their send-off, the CRC completed the required pre-deployment training organized by the AFP Civil-Military Operations School, and Teach Peace, Build Peace Movement from 21 to 25 August 2017.

The CRC will be under the operational control of Western Mindanao Command. They will be positioned in evacuation centers as well as in communities that significantly need rehabilitation.

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

The deployment of the all-female CRC is one of the efforts of the Joint AFP-PNP Civil Relations Committee (JAPCRC). It seeks to promote and enable the coordination and synchronization of AFP Civil-Military Operations and PNP Police Community Relations on matters relating to national security and development.

"The AFP and PNP recognize the need to address the substantial psychological stress experienced by the residents of Marawi City. With this, we commit our forces to not only liberate Marawi from the terrorists but to help the city get back up on its feet again, and ensure the protection of its citizens," General Año said. **PAO AFP / MCAG**

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ENCOUNTER | 6 Rifles recovered from NPA in Agusan Norte

Reported by [Avin Santiago](#)

CAMP EDILBERTO EVANGELISTA, Patag, Cagayan de Oro City (DWDD) – Troops of the 29th Infantry Battalion encountered members of the New People's Army – Guerrilla Front 16 at Brgy San Roque, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte at around 4pm yesterday, August 28, 2017

The soldiers recovered four (4) AK47, one (1) M16 and one (1) M4 rifle.

"The NPA presence was earlier reported by the residents of the Brgy which prompted us to track them", said Ltc Glen Aynera of the 29th IB.

Col Franco Nemesio Gacal, 402nd Infantry Brigade Commander directed the 29th IB to pursue the NPAs who run away with their wounded to different directions during the firefight.

MGen Ronald Villanueva, the newly installed 4ID Commander lauded the troops and exhorted the Brigade to continue pursuing the NPAs. He also thanked the community for giving a timely information that resulted to this successful operation.

"I congratulate the troops for successfully addressing this armed group that is terrorizing the people in that peaceful community. The villagers are already fed-up with the deceptions and terrorist activities of this group. There will be no let up on our operation."

Also recovered were landmines, assorted ammunition, handheld radios, subversive documents, medical supplies, and foodstuffs left by the NPAs in the encounter site. **4DPAO / MCAG**