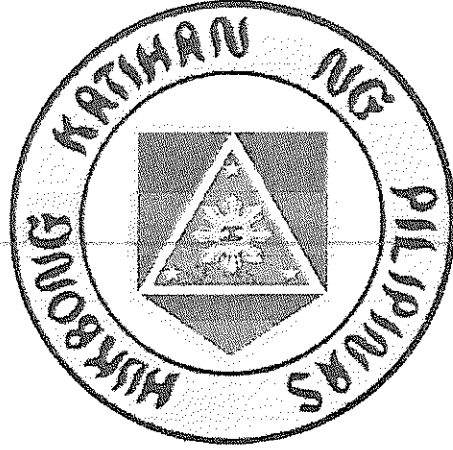


*Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride*



# **TEAM ARMY**

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**27 December 2017**

**Wednesday**

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

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www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | DECEMBER 27, 2017 | WEDNESDAY

TAIL-END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING THE EASTERN SECTION OF SOUTHERN LUZON AND NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON AS OF 5:00 PM - DECEMBER 26, 2017)

CHINA SEA

<b>SUNRISE</b> 6:19 AM	<b>SUNSET</b> 5:35 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b> 12:35 PM	<b>MOONSET</b> 12:12 AM
<b>NEW MOON</b> DEC 18 2:30 PM	<b>FIRST QUARTER</b> DEC 26 5:20 PM
<b>LOW TIDE</b> 10:49 AM 0.07 Meter	<b>HIGH TIDE</b> 2:45 AM 0.64 Meter

Partly cloudy in at times cloudy with rainshowers  
 Partly cloudy in at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms  
 Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms  
 Light rains

	DEC 28	DEC 29	DEC 28	DEC 29	DEC 28	DEC 29		
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	25-31°C	26-31°C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	19-27°C	19-27°C	<b>TACLOBAN</b>	24-30°C	25-30°C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	25-29°C	26-30°C	<b>LEGAZPI</b>	25-31°C	24-30°C	<b>GAGAYAN DE ORO</b>	23-32°C	23-32°C
<b>LAOAG</b>	26-33°C	25-33°C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	24-30°C	25-31°C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	24-32°C	25-33°C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	16-23°C	16-22°C	<b>ILILO/BAGOLOD</b>	26-31°C	26-32°C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	24-33°C	24-32°C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	26-32°C	25-32°C	<b>METRO CEBU</b>	25-32°C	25-32°C			

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11 AM & 5 PM

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

27 December 2017



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# VIOLATIONS OF MALL SAFETY RULES BARED

**By Frinston Lim, Allan Nawal,  
Lella B. Salaverria  
and Tina G. Santos**  
@Team Inquirer

DAVAO CITY—The militant  
Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) in  
Southern Mindanao on Tuesday

called for a thorough investiga-  
tion into the fire that tore  
through a shopping mall here  
on Christmas Eve, citing sur-  
vivors' complaints that pointed  
to violations of safety rules.

At least 37 people, all call  
center workers at the US market

research company Survey Sam-  
pling International (SSI) Davao,  
were killed in the 32-hour fire  
that destroyed the four-story  
New City Commercial Center in  
President Duterte's hometown.

The bodies of the victims  
have been recovered and Mr.

Duterte has promised the fami-  
lies that he will get to the truth  
about the fire.

"What I assured them is that  
the truth will out. That's what  
they want," Mr. Duterte told re-  
porters on Monday night after  
meeting with the families of

the victims at Southern Philip-  
pines Medical Center, where the  
bodies were being autopsied  
and identified.

Mr. Duterte told the families  
that he would order the Nation-  
al Bureau of Investigation,  
Philippine National Police and

Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP)  
to investigate the fire, which  
started at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday  
and was put out at 5:45 p.m.  
on Sunday.

The President said he could  
not confirm reports at-  
tributed to the city fire

**A6**

d



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## FROM A1

chief, Honeyfritz Alagano, that two other people, one of whom was a foreigner, remained missing.

The Inquirer tried to contact Alagano for comment but failed to reach her on Tuesday.

The departments of justice and labor have announced separate investigations into the fire.

Carl Anthony Olalo, the KMU regional head, said information on how the fire started and how the SSI workers were trapped in the burning building was incomplete.

"Information spread through social media by survivors and concerned netizens pointed out [that] fire alarms and sprinklers did not function during the [fire], and no evacuation system was made to bring the SSI employees to safety," Olalo said.

During the fire, he said, the call center employees could not call for help because their cell phones were held in one area of the office as part of SSI's policy.

A city resident said she had seen firefighters doing nothing while the building burned. She said they told her that they had run out of water.

### 'Sorry we failed'

But Senior Supt. Wilberto Rico Neil Kwan Tiu, the BFP regional chief, said the firefighters did everything they could to save the trapped call center employees. "I'm really very sorry that we failed," he said.

Kwan Tiu earlier described the building as "an enclosed space with no ventilation," though the authorities said they had yet to determine the cause of the blaze.

"We made holes, we looked for ways in, we used ladders

just to penetrate the locations as mentioned by colleagues, by employees who shared information that a group of people [was] in the rest room, near the elevator," he told relatives of the victims during a Mass for the dead in front of what remained of the shopping mall on Monday.

He said firefighters drilled holes through the walls of the building to "ventilate thick, toxic smoke" so they could get inside.

Kwan Tiu said the firefighters had "unlimited water supply to put out the fire," but temperatures of up to 700 degrees Celsius prevented them from entering the building.

He said more than 30 firetrucks from different fire stations and volunteer fire-fighting brigades in the Davao region responded as the blaze reached general alarm.

Firefighters reached the rest

room mentioned by SSI employees on Sunday and found one body, identified later as that of Jeffrey Sismar.

The search for the other bodies was delayed for about three hours on Monday as the authorities assessed the integrity of the building to ensure the firefighters' safety.

### 36 bodies found

Toward noon, the firefighters found bodies, many of them charred beyond recognition, near the SSI lobby on the building's top floor.

"I personally counted them before I gave the information to [Mayor Sara Duterte] ... around 36 in number," Kwan Tiu said.

Owned and operated by Lim Tian Siu Trading, whose owners are reportedly close to the Duterte family, the shopping mall was inaugurated in 2003,

when Mr. Duterte was the mayor of Davao City.

But as indications of safety rules violations piled up on Tuesday, Mayor Duterte, a daughter of the President, declined to confirm that the mall owners were close to her family.

"About the alleged link between the Duterte family and the mall owners, I do not know what that means, exactly. So I do not think that deserves a reply," the mayor said in a statement.

SSI also came under fire from the moderate labor group, Associated Labor Unions Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP), over the deaths of the 37 call center workers.

Alan Tanjusay, spokesperson for the ALU-TUCP, said in a statement on Tuesday that SSI should be held liable, as its cost-

cutting measures endangered its employees' lives.

"If they complied with the labor standards on fire exits, sprinkler system, ventilation, lighting, noise, [ingress] and egress specifications and fire evacuation plan, possible harm could have been avoided," Tanjusay said.

According to Tanjusay, there is a trend among call centers in the Philippines to rent or lease space in shopping malls instead of constructing buildings specifically designed as round-the-clock workplaces.

"They do it to save cost and improve high margin of profit," Tanjusay said.

The ALU-TUCP, he said, is urging the Department of Labor and Employment to order the transfer of all call centers to independent buildings to prevent a repeat of the SSI tragedy.

—WITH A REPORT FROM AFP INQ

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# Air strike vs BIFF men launched anew; 4 slain

By JOHN UNSON and JAIME LAUDE

**MAGUINDANAO** – Four members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) were killed on Monday as the military launched another air strike on the suspected lair of the bandits.

The fatalities have yet to be identified even as BIFF spokesman Abu Misry Mama confirmed that they suffered casualties and vowed to avenge the death of their comrades.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, 6th Infantry Division (HD) spokesman, clarified earlier reports that 13 BIFF bandits were killed in the air strike.

Personnel of the 6th ID and the Air Force's Tactical Operations Group 12 launched the operations in Sitio Makon, Barangay Iginampong, Datu Unsay in this province at around 9:40 p.m.

Army soldiers in nearby towns also fired cannons on the positions of the bandits from Datu Saudi and Datu

Hoffer towns who tried to reinforce their comrades.

Senior Superintendent Agustin Tello, Maguindanao police director, said the offensive followed a gunfight that lasted for an hour when the bandits fired at a detachment of the 57th Infantry Battalion in Barangay Maitemaig.

Five BIFF men identified by village leaders as Abunawas, Khong Salik, Usman Sumablaog, Andang Sanged and Mudiri Alemansa were wounded in the encounter.

Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega of the Army's 6th ID said the bandits also set on fire

the houses of ethnic Teduray villagers.

No one was hurt as the villagers evacuated to Sitio Bagong before the bandits arrived.

Teduray and Moro peasants in areas have been complaining that BIFF men are collecting so-called protection money from them.

Last week, five BIFF men were killed in a military air strike in Barangay Tonganon, Carmen, North Cotabato.

The air strike targeted the hideout of Esmael Abdulmalik, one of the leaders of the BIFF.

27 December 2017

The Manila Times

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# 4 BIFF bandits killed after airstrike in Maguindanao

BY DEMPSEY REYES

**FOUR** members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) were killed and five others injured after the military launched an airstrike at Datu Unsay, Maguindanao, on Monday night.

The area was attacked by the BIFF bandits an hour or so earlier.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokesman for the Philippine Army's 6th Infantry Division, said community members in Datu Unsay reported

to the military the attack conducted by the BIFF at 9:40 p.m. on Monday, Christmas Day.

He added that the airstrike was launched an hour or so after the attack by the BIFF terrorists, who

burned two houses made from light materials in a Teduray community at Sitio Makon, Barangay Iginamong, Datu Unsay.

"Civilian residents of the community fled to Sitio Bagong of the village for safety and reported the incident to the nearest Army detachment," Encinas told reporters in a text message on Tuesday.

Based on intelligence reports collected from the ground, he said the response of the military resulted in the deaths of four BIFF members and five others.

In a phone interview, Encinas assured that there were no civilian casualties during the airstrike since most of them were evacuated from the area where the bandits attacked.

"Yes, they were all rescued from the houses and we responded more or less than an hour after the attack was reported to us by our communities," Encinas also told *The Manila Times*.

"[The four dead] was the only report we got from our ground troops. That was also based on what they have monitored on the ground," he said.



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Page.   A1  

## 10 BIFF members killed in military air strikes

AT LEAST 10 members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters were killed in the airstrikes in Maguindanao that started on Christmas Day, the Armed Forces of the Philippines said Tuesday.

The military said it started the strikes after the BIFF attacked the Kato Detachment of the Army's 57th Infantry Battalion in Datu Unsay town around 10 p.m. It said it immediately sent two attack helicopters that used

105mm howitzer cannons to bomb the BIFF's positions.

The strikes lasted four hours or until 2 a.m. on Tuesday.

The leaders of the Tedurays in Maitumaig village

*Next page*

## 10 BIFF...

*From A1*

confirmed that at least 10 BIFF bandits were killed in the airstrikes, and that several others were hurt.

The military said it was able to warn and evacuate the villagers even before the BIFF attacked its Kato Detachment. It

said the bandits burned at least three houses during the attack, but it was now conducting clearing operations in the area.

Army spokesman Captain Arvin Encinas said the members of the BIFF attacked Datu Unsay town around 9:40 p.m. on Monday, and that initial reports said four of them were killed while five others were wounded

Encinas said the airstrikes started after the bandits burned two houses in a Teduray Community in Sitio Makon, Barangay Iginampong in Datu Unsay, Maguindanao.

"The residents of the community fled to Sitio Bagong for safety and reported the incident to the nearest army detachment," he said.



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Page: 1

# Firecracker injuries rise; boy loses finger

By SHEILA CRISOSTOMO

Fifteen more individuals were injured from firecracker blasts, including a 12-year-old boy from Talisay City, Negros Occidental who lost a finger due to a whistle bomb, a Department of Health (DOH) report showed yesterday.

The boy was an active user of firecrackers and was brought to the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital for treatment, according to the DOH.

A 62-year-old man from Quezon City also had a finger amputated after a whistle bomb exploded on his right hand. He was brought to the East Avenue Medical Center.

Based on a report prepared by the DOH-Epidemiology Bureau, the 15 new cases brought to 29 the total number of firecracker-related injuries documented in 50 sentinel sites nationwide since Dec. 21, the start of the monitoring period for such injuries.

The DOH said the figure is still 59 percent or 42 cases lower than the same period in 2016. It noted

Turn to Page 8

that 19 of the cases were due to *piccolo*, a seemingly harmless firecracker designed for children, while 22 injuries occurred on the street.

## Business as usual

While the number of firecracker-related injuries increased, a vendor of firecrackers and pyrotechnics in Binang, First in Bocaue, Bulacan, told The STAR it was "business as usual" for them despite the firecracker ban being imposed by the government.

"We don't feel (the ban) because many customers are still coming to buy firecrackers," Jana, 25, who has been selling firecrackers for five years now, claimed.

She added that they expect customers to flock in as the New Year approaches.

Under Executive Order No. 28, the use of firecrackers is limited only to community

displays.

Ronnie of Baesa, Quezon City, thought the demand for firecrackers would wane because of this prohibition but he was wrong.

"There are still many orders from my customers. I thought I would not sell much this year but my customers are still looking for firecrackers," he maintained.

Ronnie went to Bocaue, the country's firecracker capital, to buy firecrackers in bulk and then resell them to some stores and his individual customers.

## Army trooper among hurt in CAR

In the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), a Philippine Army trooper and two nine-year-old pupils were among those hurt by firecrackers during Christmas revelries.

Private First Class Ian

Canapang, 26, from Poblacion, Tanudan, Kalinga blistered his right thumb when he lit a *pla-pla* on Christmas Eve.

Canapang went to the Kalinga Provincial Hospital in Tabuk City on Christmas Day.

Also in Tabuk, Ranier Lumpio Gamongan from Purok 6, Bulanao, was brought to the hospital by his relatives after accidentally exploding an improvised toy gun loaded with firecracker powder on Christmas Eve.

The victim sustained superficial burn on his left palm.

Three days before Christmas Day, grade 3 pupil Wilmer Ollier Elardo from Purok 3, Busilac in Alfonso Lista, Ifugao was rushed to hospital after he lit a *piccolo* which immediately exploded in his right hand.

- With Artemio Dumlao

25 December 2017

**POLICE FILES**

Page. 2

## 13 BIFF patay sa airstrike ng AFP sa Mindanao

**COTABATO CITY** – Agad gumanti ang mga otoridad sa pagsalakay ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF-ISIS Inspired Group) sa Kato Detachment ng 57th Infantry Philippine Army sa Sifo Makun, Barangay Maitumang, Datu Unsay Maguindanao bandang 10:00 Lunes ng gabi. Tumulong ang dalawang Agusta 109 attack helicopters ng Philippine Air Force at binomba ang BIFF.

Nagpakawala rin ng mga bala ng 105 mm howitzers cannon ang

ground force ng militar sa lugar na nagtatago ang mga terorista.

Natapos ang airstrike alas-2:00 ng madaling araw kahapon, nang umatras ang mga rebelde.

Bago pa man umatake ang BIFF ay natunogan na sila ng mga sundalo at lumikas na ang mga sibilyan sa karamihan ay Teduray.

Sinunog din ng mga terorista ang tatlong bahay ng mga sibilyan na gagawin sanang pananggalang (humanshield), ngunit una nang lumikas.

Kinompirma ng mga

lider ng katutubong Teduray na mahigit 10 ang nasawi sa BIFF at marami ang nasugatan.

Ngunit ayon kay BIFF Spokesman Abu Misry Mama, may nasawi at nasugatan din sa mga sundalo.

Pero tinawaran lamang ito ng militar at sinabing nanaginap lamang ang tagapagsalita ng mga terorista.

Sa ngayon ay nagpatuloy ang combat clearing operation ng AFP laban sa BIFF sa Maguindanao. - (Mula sa Bombo Radyo)

8

27 December 2017



Pahina. 3

## 10 BIFF patay sa airstrike

**HINDI** bababa sa sampung hinihinalang miyembro ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) ang napatay sa magdamagang airstrike ng Armed Forces of the Philippines sa Maguindanao.

Nagsimula ang pagpapaulan ng bomba noong Disyembre 25 ng gabi matapos umatake ang mga bandido sa Kato detachment ng 57th Infantry

Battalion ng Philippine Army sa Sitio Makun, Brgy. Maitumalig, bayan ng Datu Unsay.

Agad na nagpadala ng dalawang attack helicopter ang AFP at binomba ang mga pinaniniwalaang postisyon ng BIFF. Nagpaulan ng 105mm Howitzer cannon ang militar laban sa mga bandido.

Turnagal ng apat na oras ang labanan o hanggang alas-2 ng madaling araw kahapon.

Kinumpirma ng mga lider ng Teduray sa Barangay Maitumalig ang pagkamalay ng hindi bababa sa 10 BIFF members habang marami rin ang sinasabing sugatan.

Bago pa ang pagresbak ng AFP ay naabisuhan na ang mga residente na magsilikas mula sa lugar. Nagpapatuloy ang clearing operations ng militar sa pinangyarihan ng labanan. **JEFF GALLOS**



27 December 2017



Pahina. 5

### 13 BIFF patay sa Maguindanao encounter

Nasa 13 kasapi ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) ang nasawi sa ganting airstrike ng militar matapos lusingin ang Kato Detachment ng 57th Infantry Philippine Army sa Sitio Makun, Barangay Maitumaig, Datu Unsay Maguindanao kamakalawa ng gabi.

Bandang alas-10:00 ng gabi nang umatake ang grupo ng BIFF na naging dahilan para

gumanti ang dalawang Agusta 109 attack helicopters ng Philippine Air Force (PAF) at binomba ang mga terorista bukod pa sa pagpakawala ng mga bala ng 105mm howitzers cannon ng ground force ng militar sa lugar.

Sinabi naman ni BIFF Spokesman Abu Mistry Mama, may nasawi at nasugatan din sa mga sundalo pero hindi matukoy ang bilang. **(Betchai Julian)**

27 December 2017



Pahina. 2

#### 4 BIFF TODAS SA AIR STRIKE

Nasawi sa inilunsad na air strike operation ng tropa ng pamahalaan ang apat na miyembro ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) sa pinagkukutaan ng mga ito sa Brgy. Iginampong, Datu Unsay, Maguindanao.

Sinabi ni Captain Arvin Encinas, Spokesman ng Army's 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (ID) na taliwas sa

unang napaulat na aabot sa sampu hanggang 13 ang napaslang na BIFF ay apat lamang ang inulat ng kanilang mga field commanders at lima naman ang sugatang nakatakas.

Nag-ugat ang air strike matapos na umatake dakong alas 9:40 ng gabi nitong Pasko ang BIFF na nanunog ng dalawang kabahayan sa Teduray community sa Sitio Ma-

kon, Brgy. Iginampong, Datu Unsay ng lalawigan.

Agad nagpadala ng combat plane ang militar na nagsagawa ng air strike sa kuta ng mga kalaban na tumagal hanggang pasado alas 2:00 ng madaling araw kahapon.

Napilitan ang mga residente na magsilikas sa takot na maipit sa bakbakan ng BIFF at ng tropa ng militar. - Joy Cantos-

27 December 2017

Page. 12

## 4 BIFF killed, 5 hurt in air strike

By Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca

FOUR members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) were killed while five others were wounded in an air operation conducted by the military Monday night in Maguindanao.

Identities of the slain BIFF and those wounded were not yet available as of press time.

Reports reaching Camp Agunallho said the incident occurred at around 9:40 p.m. at Sitio Makon, Bgy. Iginampong, Datu Unsay, Maguindanao.

The troops launched air strike operation after a reported burning of two houses made of light materials at a Peduray Community in Sitio Makon, Bgy. Iginampong, by the BIFF.

The incident forced civilian residents in the community to flee to Sitio Bagong for their safety and reported the incident to the nearest Army detachment.

Government troops immediately conducted an air strike operation that resulted in the killing of four bandits and the wounding of five others.



27 December 2017

The Manila Times

Page:   A1  

## Military goes 'full alert' on CPP anniversary

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) went on full alert on Tuesday for possible attacks coming from the New People's Army (NPA), with its umbrella organization, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), celebrating its 49th founding anniversary amid a Christmas ceasefire declared by both sides last week.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP spokesman, said the celebration of CPP's anniversary was "usually accompanied" by armed attacks against government forces, which he described as to something that reflects "the CPP-NPA's true color" as a criminal organization void of any ideology.

"The CPP-NPA-NDF (National Democratic Front) lost its ideological mooring and all its actions reflect a terrorist organization rather than what they claim to be," Arevalo said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The AFP is on full alert and vigilant for possible CPP-NPA attacks on our people and vulnerable communities," he added.

Arevalo called on anew on the Left to "take a good look" at their respective organizations, reflect deeply, return to the fold of the law and become "productive citizens."

Last week, President Rodrigo Duterte declared a unilateral truce with the communist fighters for the holiday season. The NPA reciprocated and declared its own ceasefire.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana did not recommend any ceasefire to the Chief Executive, arguing that attacks had been ordered by higher-ups of the NPA to their cadres in different areas in the country.

However, he said the AFP would abide by Duterte's suspension of military operations (SOMO).

Arevalo reiterated Lorenzana's stance.

"The AFP will abide by the government's SOMO and will maintain active defense posture nationwide to thwart any atrocity, deception, and sabotage that the

CPP-NPA is planning to stage," Arevalo said.

Lorenzana, in a text message to reporters, said he was not aware of the CPP's activities.

"I do not know of their plans. They also declared their ceasefire. If they will violate it, our troops are ready," the Defense chief said.

**DEMPSEY REYES**

December 2017

MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 2

## Gov't lawyers set to file petition seeking terrorist tag for CPP, NPA

By JEFFREY G. DANICOG

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II expects state lawyers to file before the regional trial court (RTC) within the week the petition seeking to declare as terrorists the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing the New People's Army (NPA).

"Kasi (Because) we have to prepare very carefully the petition," explained Aguirre. It has been almost a month since President Rodrigo Roa Duterte declared the CPP-NPA as terrorists.

As part of the preparations, the Aguirre said Department of Justice (DOJ) prosecutors have sought the help of the intelligence community.

"Our DOJ prosecutors led by the head of task force, prosecutor Peter Ong, has been meeting with the intelligence people katulad ng (like) NICA (National Intelligence Coordinating Agency), ISAFP (Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines) and other intelligence agencies of the government," he said.

Last December 6, the DOJ Secretary issued Department Order (DO) No. 779 which directed the Office of the Prosecutor General (OPG) "to file the necessary application or petition organization with the appropriate court for the proscription or declaration of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army as a terrorist organization pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 9372, otherwise known as the Human Security Act of 2007."

"The OPG is also directed to request assistance from the concerned agencies to submit regular reports of the actions taken in the implemen-

tation of this Order," Aguirre also stated in his order.

"This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until further orders," he added.

Aguirre gave the directive after the President, last December 5, issued a proclamation classifying the CPP and NPA as "terrorist groups."

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque had explained that the proclamation declaring the CPP and the NPA "as a designated, identified terrorist organization" falls under the Human Security Act.

Under the Human Security Act, Roque explained that any person or entity designated or identified as a terrorist finances terrorism, or terrorist organization or group under the applicable United Nations Security Council Resolution or by another jurisdiction or supranational jurisdiction.

However, Roque clarified that the proclamation to declare the CPP-NPA as terrorist groups has to go through a legal process before it could even officially take effect.

Because of this, Roque said the DOJ has to file the necessary application for the proscription or the declaration of the CPP-NPA as a terrorist organization with the appropriate RTC.

"So because of the proclamation, the Secretary was directed by the Executive Secretary to file a petition in the RTC because it is not automatic that just because the executive has classified the group as a terrorist organization it will be considered as a terrorist organization under the domestic law and under relevant security council resolutions," he explained.

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# Manila Standard

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## Court plea set to declare Reds terrorists; AFP on alert status

By Rey E. Requejo and Francisco Tuyay

THE Justice Department will file a petition before a lower court this week to declare the Communist Party of the Philippines a terrorist group as the Armed Forces of the Philippines raised the

security alert level across the nation to brace against attacks on the group's 49th anniversary.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said a team of prosecutors took almost a month to prepare the petition to be filed before a regional trial court.

He said the Justice Department team also coordinated with the intelligence community in preparing the petition to declare the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, as terrorist groups.

"Our task force has been

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### Court...

From A1

meeting with the intelligence people from NICA [National Intelligence Coordinating Agency], ISAFP [Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines] and other intelligence agencies of the government," Aguirre said.

He said he was optimistic the court would grant the petition.

"We are including in the petition numerous supporting pieces of evidence showing that the CPP and NPA are committing terroristic activities despite numerous initiatives of President Duterte to reach out to them," Aguirre said.

The DoJ chief earlier created the team to draft the petition following President Duterte's decision to issue a proclamation naming the CPP as a terrorist group.

Section 17 of Republic Act No. 9372 (Human Security Act of 2007) requires the DoJ to first

seek clearance from a court before an organization, association or group of persons can be declared as terrorists.

Last month, the DoJ moved to arrest of key leaders of the CPP and the National Democratic Front, who had been granted provisional bail for their participation in the botched peace talks.

Prosecutors filed a motion before the Manila regional trial court Branch 32 seeking cancellation of bail for 20 NDF consultants led by spouses Benito and Wilma Tiamzon.

The DoJ made the move after President Duterte canceled the peace talks and publicly branded the CPP as a terrorist group.

"In view of the cancellation of the peace talks, there is no more legal ground for the continuous provisional liberty of the accused. Thus, the immediate recommitment and cancellation of bail of all the accused should logically follow," the Justice Department said in its pleading.

The NDF leaders were grant-

ed bail upon initiative of the government last year for their participation in the peace process between the communist rebels and the government.

The Supreme Court, in its resolution in August last year, granted bail to the communist leaders for their participation in the peace talks in Norway under specific conditions. The ruling was adopted by the RTC.

One of the conditions was that once their participation ceases or the peace negotiations are terminated, the bail bonds shall be "deemed automatically canceled."

Meanwhile, Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP spokesman, said alert levels were up because the usual anniversary of the communist movement is accompanied by attacks on government forces.

"The CPP-NPA-NDF [National Democratic Front] lost its ideological mooring and all its actions reflect a terrorist organization rather than what they claim to be," Arevalo said in a statement on Tuesday.

With John Paolo Bencito

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## Petition vs CPP-NPA expected this week

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II expects state lawyers to file before the regional trial court (RTC) within the week a petition seeking to declare as terrorists the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing the New People's Army (NPA).

"Kasi we have to prepare very carefully the petition," explained Aguirre considering it's been almost a month since President Duterte declared the CPP-NPA as terrorists.

As part of the preparations, the secretary said Department of

Justice (DoJ) prosecutors have sought the help of the intelligence community.

"Our DoJ prosecutors led by the head of task force, Prosecutor Peter Ong, has been meeting with the intelligence people katulad ng ng NICA (National Intelligence Coordinating Agency), ISAFP (Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines) and other intelligence agencies of the government," pahayag ni Aguirre.

Last December 6, the secretary directed the Office of the Prosecutor General (OPG) "to file the necessary

application or petition organization with the appropriate court for the proscription or declaration of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army as a terrorist organization pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 9372, otherwise known as the 'Human Security Act of 2007'."

"The OPG is also directed to request assistance from concerned agencies to submit regular reports of the actions taken in the implementation of this Order," Aguirre said in his order. **(Jeffrey Damicog)**

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## DoJ to court: CPP, NPA terrorist groups

By Hector Lawas

JUSTICE Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II yesterday said the government will petition the court to declare the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing the New People's Army (NPA) terrorist groups.

Aguirre expressed confidence that the petition would be filed before the end of the week.

Aguirre directed the Office of the Prosecutor General to file the necessary application or petition with the appropriate court for the proscription or declaration of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army as a terrorist organization pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 9372, otherwise known as the Human Security Act of 2007.

Aguirre issued the directive after President Duterte

recently issued a proclamation classifying the CPP and NPA as "terrorist groups."

Earlier, a motion was filed at the Manila Regional Trial Court several weeks ago seeking the cancellation of bail bonds and recommitment of National Democratic Front consultants who took part in the failed peace talks.

"We have to prepare the petition carefully," Aguirre said.

Government prosecutors are now coordinating with the intelligence community in putting the finishing touches to the petition.

"Our DoJ prosecutors led by the head of task force, Prosecutor Peter Ong, has been meeting with the intelligence people katulad ng NICA (National Intelligence Coordinating Agency), ISAFP (Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines) and other intelligence agencies of the government," he said.

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# AFP GOES ON FULL ALERT

**By Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca**

**THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) placed all forces on full alert for possible attacks by the New People's Army (NPA) as part of the celebration of their 49th anniversary yesterday.**

AFP spokesperson Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo said it has been a practice of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New Peoples Army (CPP-NPA) to launch massive offensives in celebration of their founding anniversary.

"The AFP is on full alert and vigilant for possible CPP-NPA attacks on our people and vulnerable communities," Arevalo said.

"Their celebration is usually accompanied by armed attacks against the people that reflect the CPP-NPA's true color as a criminal organization void of any ideology," he added.

Arevalo reiterated that the CPP-NPA-NDF has already lost its ideological mooring and all its actions reflect a terrorist organization rather than what they claim to be.

In line with this the AFP called on the dissidents to take a good look at their organization and

reflect deeply so that they may be able to decide to come back to the fold of the law, be with their families, and become productive citizens of the community.

Arevalo said the AFP will abide by the government's SOMO and will maintain active defense posture nationwide to thwart any atrocity, deception, and sabotage that the CPP-NPA is planning to stage.

Arevalo, meanwhile, said that the AFP will remain in an active defense posture even though President Rodrigo Duterte has declared a holiday ceasefire.

On the other hand, the Philippine National Police (PNP) had also said it has placed all its units on alert against possible hostilities by the communists.

According to PNP's Directorate for Operation Director Camilo Pancreatius Cascolan, all police units should initiate countermeasures against the possible NPA attacks before the CPP anniversary.

He said it is better for the PNP to take offense rather than defense.

The CPP has also declared a holiday ceasefire, from 6:00 p.m. of December 23 to 6:00 p.m. of December 26 and from 6 p.m.

December 30 to 6 p.m. of Jan. 2, 2018.

The government's declared holiday ceasefire from 6 p.m. of December 23 to 11:59 p.m. of December 26 to 6 p.m. of December 30 to 11:59 p.m. of Jan. 2, 2018.

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## Abu Sayyaf member tiklo sa Zambo

Inaresto ng mga tropa ng gobyerno nitong Linggo ang hinihinalang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) sa Zamboanga City.

Ayon sa mga report mula sa Joint Task Force Zamboanga, Central Police

Station/Police Station 11 (PS11) ng Zamboanga City Police Office, at Naval Forces Western Mindanao, sa pamamagitan ng Naval Intelligence and Security Group-Western Mindanao, kirulala ang naaresto na si Bensar, alyas "Pandak Duma",

umano'y miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf. Dinakip si Bensar sa Talungon Drive sa Barangay San Roque, Zamboanga City, at may nakabimbing arrest warrant sa kidnapping at serious illegal detention.

**Francis T. Wakefield**

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**NGAYON**  
Diyaryong opisyal ng Armi ng Pilipinas

Pahina. 6

## 4 BIFF terrorists utas, 5 sugatan sa airstrike

### Nina JOY CANTOS at RHODERICK BENEZ

Apat nateroristang Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) ang napatay habang lima pa ang nasugatan sa inilunsad na airstrike operation ng militar sa pinagkukutaan ng mga kalaban sa Barangay Iginampong, bayan ng Datu Unsay, Maguindanao noong Lunes ng gabi.

Ayon kay Captain Arvin Encinas, spokesman ng Army's 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, taliwas sa unang napaulat na aabot sa 10 hanggang 13 ang napaslang na BIFF ay apat lamang ang inilulat ng kanilang mga field commanders at lima naman ang

sugatang nakatakas.

"This is based on intelligence report that we got from the field," ani Encinas na sinabi pang alinsugod sa tradisyon ng mga Muslim ay inilbing na sa loob ng 24 oras ang mga bangkay ng BIFF.

Ayon kay Encinas, nagugat ang airstrike matapos na umatake ang grupo ng BIFF noong Lunes ng gabi kung saan nanunog ng

dalawang bahay sa Teduray community sa Sitio Makon, Barangay Maitemaig, Datu Unsay.

Agad namang nagpadala ang Phil. Air Force ng dalawang Agusto 109 attack helicopter na nagsagawa ng airstrike laban sa kuta ng mga kalaban na tumagal hanggang alas-2 ng mada-ling araw kahapon.

Nagpakawala rin ng mga

bala ng 105mm howitzers cannon ang ground force ng militar kung saan nagkukuta ang pangkat ng BIFF.

Samantala, napilitan naman ang mga residente na magsilkas sa takot na maipit sa bakbakan ng BIFF at ng tropa ng militar.

Nagpapatuloy naman ang isinasagawang clearing operations ng mga sundalo sa nasabing lugar.

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Pahina. 2

# AFP AT PNP

# ALERTO SA ATAKE

**N**aka-full alert status ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at Philippine National Police (PNP) kaugnay nang pagdiriwang kahapon ng ika-49 taong anibersaryo nang pagkakatatag ng Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Ayon kay Col. Edgard Arevalo, spokesman ng AFP, inatasan na nila ang kanilang mga units sa buong bansa na maging banda sa lahat ng oras dahil sa inaasahang patraydor na pag-atake ng New People's Army, ang armed wing ng CPP. Batay sa kanilang tala

na karaniwan-nang naglulunsad ng serye ng mga pag-atake ang mga teroristang NPA sa tawing magdaraos ng anibersaryo kung saan ang paghahasik ng terorismo ng mga ito ay karaniwan ng tumatagal ng isang linggo o higit pa.

Inalerto na rin ni PNP Chief P/Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa ang kapulisan sa posibleng mga pag-atake na ilunsad ng NPA terrorists partikular na sa mga kanayunan.

Inatasang paingtingin pa ang mahigpit na pagbabantay at maging alerto upang supulin ang mga

pag-atake ng natitirang grupo kaugnay ng anibersaryo ng CPP. Magagamita na nag-

## Ni JOY CANTOS

deklara ng ceasefire ang pamahalaan sa CPP.

NPA terrorists ngayong Kapaskuhan mula alas 6:00 ng gabi ng Disyembre 23 hanggang alas-

11:59 ng gabi, Disyembre 26 mula alas 6:00 ng gabi ng Disyembre 30 ng alas 11:59 ng gabi naman

hanggang Enero 2, 2018 na unigon naman ng CPP-NPA na nagdeklara rin ng panandaliang tugil putukan.

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# ONLINE NEWS

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www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

### **1 rebel killed as Army battles 20 NPAs**

From Tempo (Dec 26): 1 rebel killed as Army battles 20 NPAs

Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM) reported here that a local terrorist was killed and several high-powered firearms were recovered, two days before Christmas by Alfa Company of 2nd Infantry Battalion (2IB) in an encounter with 20 New People's Army (NPA) at Barangay Obongon Diot, Baleno, Masbate.

Colonel Teody Toribio, acting chief of command's Public Information Office said the rebel was killed after a 45-minute firefight with the rebels then withdrew toward different directions bringing with them their wounded comrades as traces of bloodstain were visible along their route of withdrawal. Though, there was no reported casualty on the military forces around 7:15 a.m

Lieutenant Colonel John Oliver Gabun, commanding officer of the 2nd Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army said, "the encounter happened when the platoon of Captain Lucas, while conducting combat operation received an information from a civilian tipster about the presence of the NPAs in the area who were conducting extortion activities and threatening the people to support violent armed struggle.

Toribio said operating troops recovered an M14 rifle, two M16 rifles, an M79 grenade launcher, ICOM radio, laptop computer, an improvised explosive device (IED), bandoleer with four magazines for M14, five rounds of ammunition for 40MM grenade launcher, 353 rounds ammunition for M60 machine gun, two long magazines for M16, cell phone and voluminous subversive documents of high intelligence value.

<http://tempo.com.ph/2017/12/26/1-rebel-killed-as-army-battles-20-npas>

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

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

## **Reds in Southern Mindanao ready to face Duterte's 'full-scale war'**

From the Philippine Daily Inquirer (Dec 26): Reds in Southern Mindanao ready to face Duterte's 'full-scale war'



FILE – Communist rebels, in this 2011 photo, gather somewhere in Southern Mindanao to pay their last respects to New People's Army spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal. —KARLOS MANLUPIG

**Communist rebels in Southern Mindanao said they were ready to face "the full-scale war" that the Duterte administration would be unleashing on them next year.**

**In a statement issued for the founding anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines on Tuesday, Ka Joaquin Jacinto, the National Democratic Front (NDF) spokesperson in the region, also said the New People's Army (NPA) would continue to exist to oppose the government's abuses.**

**"Despite the use of airstrikes, armed drones and prolonged focus operations, not one single NPA unit in Mindanao was wiped out. The number of platoons and companies has in fact increased this year,"** he said.

Jacinto said NPA members were "ever willing to sacrifice their lives for the revolution and the people than be servile to the fascist dictatorship of the US-Duterte regime."

**"In spite of the constant black propaganda, bogus peace caravans and the incessant parade of fake or recycled surrenderees, NPA Red commanders and fighters never faltered,"** he added.

He said 2017 spelled victory to the NPA in Southern Mindanao, where it launched more than 300 attacks.

"There were a few well-chosen and well-executed head blows as well as numerous attritive actions against operating enemy troops, military camps and police outposts, making them suffer a casualty rate of more than a battalion," he said.

Jacinto said in total, NPA units in Mindanao confiscated high-powered firearms enough to arm a battalion of rebels – including those who recently finished training.



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

“Given these resounding achievements of the revolutionary movement under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the NDFP-Mindanao calls upon all revolutionary forces and the struggling masses to redouble efforts in undertaking our basic ideological, political and organizational tasks to advance the people’s democratic revolution until complete victory,” he added.

Jacinto also called on the NPA “to launch more and more tactical offensives, combining multiple attritive actions with well-chosen and well-planned annihilative blows against the fascist AFP/PNP/paramilitary troops” as the Duterte government intensified its counter-revolutionary moves.

“The NPA must be determined to bring the people’s war to new heights,” he added.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/955375/reds-in-southern-mindanao-ready-to-face-dutertes-full-scale-war>

ww.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

## **Jihadists attack tribal village in Philippines**

From the Mindanao Examiner (Dec 26): **Jihadists attack tribal village in Philippines**

**Armed jihadists attacked a village and torched 2 houses in the restive province of Maguindanao in the Muslim autonomous region in southern Philippines, officials said Tuesday.**

**Officials blamed the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters for the Christmas day attack on a remote village of Iqinampong in Datu Unsay town, home to a minority tribe called Teduray.**

**Villagers were forced to flee their homes when jihadists started firing and then burned the houses before fleeing to the hills where military planes pursued and attacked them with rockets.**

**There was no report of civilian casualties, although the 6th Infantry Division – quoting unconfirmed intelligence information – insisted that the airstrike had killed 4 jihadists and wounded five others. Soldiers recovered not a single body at the area.**

**Other reports claimed that a group of BIFF also attacked an army detachment in Maitumaig village in the same town. The target of the offensive was the 57th Infantry Battalion. The 6th Infantry Division did not release any information on the attack.**

<http://mindanaoexaminer.com/jihadists-attack-tribal-village-in-philippines/>

www.pna.gov.ph

## 10 rebel returnees in Palawan get livelihood aid

From the Philippine News Agency (Dec 26): 10 rebel returnees in Palawan get livelihood aid



The 10 rebel returnees with Governor Jose Alvarez (7th from left) of Palawan, Col. Robert Velasco (8th from left) of WESCOM, and Gail Abaña of PSWDO (1st from right) on December 21 at the Provincial Capitol Building. (Photo courtesy of WESCOM)

**PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, Palawan -- Ten members of the New People's Army (NPA), who surrendered in Palawan, received PHP25,000 each in livelihood assistance under the provincial government's Local Social Integration Program (LSIP).**

Governor Jose Alvarez and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Western Command (WESCOM) awarded the assistance to the surrenderers in a simple ceremony at the Governor's Office at the capitol last Dec. 21, said Capt. Cherry Tindog, WESCOM spokesperson on Tuesday.

**Of the 10 beneficiaries, three were women. Most of the former rebels surrendered last September, following the conduct of focused civil and military operations, particularly in southern Palawan.**

"I left the revolutionary movement for quite some time now. I surrendered as I want to clear my name because I was told I am in the military's order of battle. Without surrendering, I still feel I am not free to roam around. I constantly worry about my safety," said Rico Libuta, a former NPA fighter who surrendered last July 28.

**A total of 26 more rebel returnees are being processed by the WESCOM and the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office and will receive livelihood assistance, Tindog added.**

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1019856>