

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

02 February 2017

Thursday

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

NEWS HEADLINES

02 FEBRUARY 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
CRIMINALS NOT HUMAN, SAYS AGUIRRE

'PNP PAID KILLERS P5,000/DRUG USER'

An inquiry expressed its indignation that police officers were paid to kill drug users and dealers, saying that such actions are tantamount to state terrorism.

NEWS 1:30 ITALIAN TROOPS GROW WEED
NEWS 2:00 REDS TO END CEASEFIRE
NEWS 2:30 MANCAO SURRENDERS

WHY should every citizen become a trust officer? **PROB** many games will Adamson outfit for the UAAP? **WHAT** P3 plan food impressed guests in Madoff's opulent?

Panelists sent to Seoul to apologize for slay
Executives sued for concert deaths
Caraga flooding displaces 61,000
P3 plan food impressed guests in Madoff's opulent

Smart Cars
The Department of Transportation (DOTr) is set to launch a pilot program for Smart Cars in Metro Manila.

NPA ends unilateral ceasefire, still eyes talks

PM skips his regular breakfast to sink in his thoughts.

Anti-drug cops paid per kill - AI report

A report by Amnesty International (AI) says that police officers in the Philippines are being paid to kill drug users and dealers.

PNP chief to ARMY: Talk, but no more traps
UNHCR chief wants to regulate internet sharing

Smart Cars
The Department of Transportation (DOTr) is set to launch a pilot program for Smart Cars in Metro Manila.

Daily Tribune
WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR

Reds call off truce, blame Duterte

ONE CAMP: NPA EXTORTION DIDN'T STOP

Duterte summons 5 cops, 8 others in new probe of Jee slay case

Fugitive Mancao surrenders to PNP

Palace asked to issue written order on military's role in drug war

Disident US diplomats defy Trump on travel ban

Al accuses Rody's police of crimes against humanity

Nigman with kidneys dies aged 65

The Manila Times

TRUSTED SINCE 1858

Reds to resume war

Jeep-jeep killing: The straw that broke the back of the drug war?

'Killers paid per head' - Amnesty International

Rogue police get tongue-lashing from Bato

'Asean to benefit from Duterte, Trump chemistry'

Trump's executive order on immigration: Is it legal?

Long-term fallout from Aquino's Laguna Lake embarrassment

TABLE OF CONTENTS

02 FEBRUARY 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1-2	Weather Forecast		www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph
NATIONAL NEWS			
3-6	'PNP paid killers P5,000/Drug users	Dona Pazzibugan	PDI p.A1
7-8	Anti-drug cops paid per kill- AI report	Elizabeth Marcelino & Edu Punay	Phil Star p.1
ARMY NEWS			
9	Photo Release- Oath-taking of PA Generals	KJ Rosales	Ngayon p.5
10	Army Officers killed in NPA ambush	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B1
11	5 sa Sayyaf todas, 7 sugatan sa Sulu encounter	Fer Taboy	Balita p.5
12	5 Abu bulagta sa bakbakan	Rhoderick Beñes	Ngayon p.5
13	BIFF bandits attack Army detachment	-	Phil Star p.A7
14	Kampo ng military sinalakay ng BIFF sa Cotabato	-	Police Files p.3
15-17	NPA terminates truce but talks continue	Rocky Nazareno	Mla Bulletin p.1
18	Gov't says rebels violating own truce	Cynthia Balana, etc	PDI p.A2
19-20	Reds gear up for hostilities	John Bencito & Florante Solmerin	Mla Standard Today p.A1
AFP RELATED NEWS			
21	Reds to end ceasefire	Kralos Manlupig & others	PDI p.A1
22-23	Palace: NPA ceasefire end won't hamper Rody's peace efforts	Christina Mendez	Phil Star p.6
24-25	NPA ends unilateral ceasefire, still eyes talks	Edith Regalado	Phil Star p.6
26-28	Reds call off truce, blame Duterte	Mario Mallari & Ted Tuvera	Tribune p.1
29-30	Reds to resume war	Catherine Valente	Mla Times p.A1
31-32	Communist rebels terminates ceasefire	Victor Reyes & Jocelyn Montemayor	Malaya p.B1
33	Just have 3 kids, President tells soldiers	Genalyn Kabling	Mla Bulletin p.1
34	'Jihadists invade Mindanao'	John Bencito & Florante Solmerin	Mla Standard Today p.A1
35	'Wag pahuli ng buhay sa ISIS'	Rudy Andal	Ngayon p.2
36	U.S. military delivers counterterrorism equipment to AFP, Marine Corps	-	People's Tonight p.10
37-38	Palace asked to issue written order on military's role in drug war	Mario Mallari & Angie Rosales	Tribune p.1
39	Enlisting military for anti-drug operations 'very dangerous'-Ping	Hannah Torregoza	Mla Bulletin p.1
40	Only AFP, PDEA can conduct anti-drug operations	Alexis Romero	Phil Star p.6

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41	Senators caution gov't on AFP hunt for rogue cops	Paolo Romero	Phil Star p.6
42	PNP suing NPA over drug-related death in Davao	Karlos Manlupig	PDI p.A12
	Navy ship joins antipiracy patrol in kindano	Julie Alipala	PDI p.A12
43	Mancao surrenders 3 years after escape	Jerome Aning & Christine Avendaño	PDI p.A1
44	Ex- soldier goes berserk, kills 4 in Ilocos Sur	Freddie Lazaro, amjr Supinad	Mla Bulletin p.6
45	Sundalo ipinatapat sa police scalawags	-	Police Files p.2

COMMENTARY/EDITORIAL

46-47	Breakthrough- The end of democracy	Efren Cruz	Phil Star p.9
48-49	Notes from the UE Delegation- A new momentum for peace	Franz Jessen	Phil Star p.9
50-51	Shooting Straight- NPA's: How to jeopardize the peace talks	Bobit Avila	Phil Star p.9
52-53	Why the Reds need peace	Jojo Robles	Mla Standard Today p.A4

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

ISSUED AT : 5:00 AM 02 FEBRUARY 2017
 VALID BEGINNING : 5:00 AM TODAY UNTIL 5:00 AM TOMORROW

CITIES	24-Hr Weather, Winds and Sea Condition Forecast <i>from 5 AM today until 5 AM tomorrow</i>		Extended Weather Outlook <i>Duration: 5 AM until 5 AM of the following day</i>			
	02 FEB		3 FEB	4 FEB	5 FEB	6 FEB
Metro Manila	24 °C 31 °C	Moderate: East to Northeast Mobile Bay: Moderate	23 °C 30 °C	22 °C 31 °C	22 °C 30 °C	22 °C 30 °C
Tuguegarao City	22 °C 27 °C	Moderate to Strong: Northeast	21 °C 25 °C	20 °C 26 °C	20 °C 26 °C	21 °C 26 °C
Laoag City	24 °C 31 °C	Moderate to Strong: Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	21 °C 31 °C	21 °C 31 °C	20 °C 32 °C	22 °C 31 °C
Baguio City	15 °C 23 °C	Mod to Occ. Strong: Northeast	14 °C 23 °C	13 °C 22 °C	13 °C 22 °C	13 °C 21 °C
SBMA(Olongapo) / Clark Zone (Angeles City)	24 °C 31 °C	Moderate: East to Northeast Subic Bay: Moderate	24 °C 29 °C	23 °C 30 °C	23 °C 30 °C	23 °C 31 °C
Tagaytay City	22 °C 29 °C	Moderate: East to Northeast	21 °C 28 °C	22 °C 29 °C	23 °C 30 °C	22 °C 28 °C
Lipa City	24 °C 32 °C	Moderate: East to Northeast	23 °C 30 °C	23 °C 31 °C	22 °C 31 °C	23 °C 30 °C
Legaspi City	25 °C 30 °C	Moderate: East Coastal Waters: Moderate	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 30 °C	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C
Puerto Princesa City	25 °C 31 °C	Moderate: Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 31 °C	24 °C 31 °C
Iloilo City / Bacolod City	25 °C 30 °C	Moderate: East to Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate	25 °C 29 °C	25 °C 29 °C	25 °C 30 °C	25 °C 31 °C
Metro Cebu	25 °C 30 °C	Light to Moderate: East Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 30 °C	25 °C 31 °C	24 °C 31 °C
Tacloban City	24 °C 30 °C	Light to Moderate: East Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 30 °C	23 °C 29 °C	23 °C 30 °C
Cagayan de Oro City	23 °C 29 °C	Moderate: East Coastal Waters: Moderate	23 °C 30 °C	23 °C 29 °C	23 °C 30 °C	23 °C 31 °C
Valencia City	19 °C 29 °C	Moderate: East to Northeast	18 °C 30 °C	18 °C 29 °C	19 °C 29 °C	19 °C 30 °C
Metro Davao	25 °C 31 °C	Moderate: Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate	25 °C 31 °C	24 °C 30 °C	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 31 °C
Zamboanga City	24 °C 33 °C	Moderate: Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate	25 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C

LEGEND:

	Clear Skies		Partly Cloudy to at times Cloudy with Rainshower and/ or Thunderstorms		Occasional Rains		Rains with Gusty Winds
	Partly Cloudy Skies		Cloudy Skies with Rainshower and/ or Thunderstorms		Monsoon Rains / Rains		Storm
	Partly Cloudy to at times Cloudy with Rainshower		Light Rains				

END OF FORECAST

PREPARED BY: MM
 "Tracking the sky... Helping the country"
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CHECKED BY: GMA

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Department of Science and Technology
 Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and
 Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
 Weather Division
 ISO 9001:2008 Certified
 Registry No. 01 100 1534769

24-HOUR PUBLIC WEATHER FORECAST

ISSUED AT: 5:00 AM 02 FEBRUARY 2017

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

SYNOPSIS: NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN LUZON. TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE AREA (LPA) AFFECTING MINDANAO.

FORECAST: CLOUDY SKIES WITH LIGHT TO MODERATE RAINS AND ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS WILL BE EXPERIENCED OVER MINDANAO, THE REGIONS OF BICOL, EASTERN VISAYAS AND THE PROVINCES OF CAGAYAN, ISABELA, AURORA AND QUEZON. CLOUDY SKIES WITH LIGHT RAINS WILL PREVAIL OVER REGIONS OF ILOCOS, CORDILLERA AND THE REST OF CAGAYAN VALLEY. PARTLY CLOUDY TO CLOUDY SKIES WITH ISOLATED RAINSHOWERS OR THUNDERSTORMS WILL BE EXPERIENCED OVER METRO MANILA AND THE REST OF THE COUNTRY.

MODERATE TO STRONG WINDS BLOWING FROM THE NORTHEAST WILL PREVAIL OVER NORTHERN LUZON AND ITS COASTAL WATERS WILL BE MODERATE TO ROUGH. ELSEWHERE, WINDS WILL BE LIGHT TO MODERATE COMING FROM THE EAST TO NORTHEAST WITH SLIGHT TO MODERATE SEAS.



PAGTAYA: MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY MAHINA HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMANG MGA PAG-ULAN AT PULU-PULONG PAGKIDI AT PAGKULOG ANG MARARANASAN SA MINDANAO. SA MGA REHIYON NG KABIKULAN, SILANGANG KABISAYAAN AT MGA LALAWIGAN NG CAGAYAN, ISABELA, AURORA AT QUEZON. MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY MAHINANG MGA PAG-ULAN ANG IIRAL SA MGA REHIYON NG ILOCOS, CORDILLERA AT NALALABING BAHAGI NG CAGAYAN VALLEY. BAHAGYANG MAULAP HANGGANG SA MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY PULU-PULONG MGA PAG-ULAN O PAGKIDLAT PAGKULOG ANG MARARANASAN SA KAMAYNILAAN AT SA NALALABING BAHAGI NG BANSA.

KATAMTAMAN HANGGANG SA MALAKAS NA HANGIN MULA SA HILAGANG-SILANGAN ANG IIRAL SA HILAGANG LUZON AT ANG MGA BAYBAYING-DAGAT SA MGA LUGAR NA ITO AY MAGIGING KATAMTAMAN HANGGANG SA MAALON. SA IBANG DAKO, ANG HANGIN AY MAGIGING MAHINA HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMAN MULA SA SILANGAN HANGGANG SA HILAGANG-SILANGAN NA MAY BANAYAD HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMANG PAG-ALON NG KARAGATAN.

EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY FOR THE 24-HR PERIOD ENDING AT 8:00 PM YESTERDAY AND RECORDED AT PAGASA WEATHER STATION, SCIENCE GARDEN, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY:

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE: 12:00 PM YESTERDAY 30.0 °C		MAXIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY: 6:00 AM YESTERDAY 95 %	
MINIMUM TEMPERATURE: 6:00 AM YESTERDAY 24.0 °C		MINIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY: 11:00 AM YESTERDAY 68 %	
TIDAL PREDICTION ALONG MANILA BAY (COURTESY OF NAMRIA)		ASTRONOMICAL INFORMATION OVER METRO MANILA	
LOW TIDE TODAY: 8:18 AM 0.07 METER		SUNSET/SUNRISE	MOONRISE/MOONSET & ILLUMINATION
HIGH TIDE TODAY: 2:37 PM 0.53 METER		SUNRISE TODAY: 6:24 AM	MOONRISE TODAY: 10:09 AM
LOW TIDE TODAY: 7:20 PM 0.31 METER		SUNSET TODAY: 5:55 PM	MOONSET TODAY: 10:42 PM
HIGH TIDE TOMORROW: 1:49 AM 0.73 METER			ILLUMINATION TODAY: 23%

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND QUERIES, PLEASE CALL AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 927-1335 OR LOG ON TO WWW.PAGASA.DOST.GOV.PH.

PREPARED BY: MLM

CHECKED BY: GMD

"Tracking the sky, helping the country"

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07 February 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Page: A1

'PNP PAID KILLERS P5,000/DRUG USER'

STORY BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

An Amnesty International investigation found the police and hit men behind the extrajudicial killings in President Duterte's war on drugs, it said, are profiting from the informal economy of death.

ROM A1

by Dona Z. Pazzibugan
dpazzibugan@INQ

An international human rights watchdog has accused the Philippine National Police of paying officers and assassins to kill alleged drug offenders, planting evidence and even setting up a racket with funeral homes in what it called an "informal economy of death" under President Duterte's war on drugs.

London-based Amnesty International released on Wednesday its report on its investigation of the spate of drug-related killings, concluding that a majority of the killings appears to be "systematic, planned and organized" by authorities and could constitute crimes against humanity.

"Acting on orders from the very top, policemen and unknown killers have been targeting anybody remotely suspected of using or selling drugs," said Rawya Rageh, a senior crisis adviser for Amnesty.

PNP breaking laws

Tirana Hassan, Amnesty's crisis response director, said that under Mr. Duterte's rule, "the national police are breaking laws they are supposed to uphold while profiting from the murder of impoverished people."

"The same streets Duterte vowed to rid of crime are now filled with bodies of people illegally killed by his own police," she added.

Amnesty said the investigation was carried out mainly last November and December and was completed in January.

The group said it interviewed 110 people and the report included witness accounts of victims being shot dead despite having shouted they would surrender.

Amnesty said it also found "strong evidence" of links between the authorities and unknown gunmen, as well as connections between cursory and speculative drugs "watch lists" created by local officials and the people killed by police.

The release of the report came amid uncertainty after the government suspended the anti-narcotics campaign on Monday due to rampant corruption.

The Philippine Drugs Enforcement Agency has now been given the lead role in the campaign.

Other police crimes

The Amnesty report outlined what the rights watchdog said were other widespread police crimes aside from extrajudicial killings in a "murderous war on the poor."

Among a litany of alleged crimes, Amnesty accused police of shooting dead defenseless people, fabricating evidence, paying assassins to murder drug addicts and stealing from

those they killed or the victims' relatives.

It also said police were being paid by their superiors to kill, and documented victims as young as 8 years old.

"The police are behaving like the criminal underworld that they are supposed to be enforcing the law against," it said.

The Amnesty report said Mr. Duterte had incited the police to carry out a murderous war on the poor, and warned that the International Criminal Court would need to start investigating if Philippine authorities did not stop it soon.

"The police killings are driven by pressures from the top, including an order to 'neutralize' alleged drug offenders, as well as financial incentives. They have created an informal economy of death," the report said.

The latest police data shows 7,669 people have been killed since Mr. Duterte unleashed his war on drugs seven months ago, 2,555 in police operations, which the PNP says were all in self-defense.

The other deaths are classified as investigated or under investigation.

Human rights groups believe most of those are drug-related, carried out by vigilantes or hit men.

Police paid to kill

The Amnesty report confirmed rumors that the police were behind the extrajudicial killings and were paid to kill targets in a campaign aimed to clean up the police at the foot.

Amnesty said it found confirmation from a Metro Manila-based police antinarcotics officer who had served on the force for 13 years.

The policeman, who was not named in the report, said his colleagues from other police units received incentives for killing alleged offenders.

Amnesty said it spoke to two

hired killers, a man and a woman, who claimed they were regularly paid by an active-duty policeman P5,000 to kill an alleged drug user and P10,000 to P15,000 to kill an alleged drug pusher.

The officer said that in addition to payments by police headquarters, some local governments in Metro Manila give additional benefits for every kill.

Paid by encounter

"We always get paid by the encounter. That's the word we use, 'encounter.' The amount ranges from P8,000 (\$161) to P15,000 (\$302)," the officer said.

"The one we really go after are pushers. There are categories (of pushers)—different levels based on their notoriety. Higher levels are paid more," he said.

"The PNP incentive isn't announced. We're paid in cash, secretly, by headquarters. The payment is (split by) the unit. There's no incentive for arresting. We're not paid anything (for arrests)," he said.

Racket with funeral homes

At a news conference where the Amnesty report was released on Wednesday, Amnesty Philippines trustee Sister Maria Vida Cordero said Amnesty researchers were unable to determine where the money for the cash incentives came from.

The officer also said some policemen had established a racket with funeral homes, who paid them for each body brought in.

Families are expected to pay funeral costs for those killed in law enforcement operations.

"Sometimes if I'm the investigator, I'll bring the body to the biggest and most expensive [funeral home] because they give the biggest cuts," the officer said.

He said police asked for P10,000 per body, driving up costs.

Amnesty said the informa-

tion given by the policeman was corroborated independently, and the report included complaints from relatives of victims who said the bodies were taken to expensive funeral homes even if there were cheaper options nearby.

'Job order'

The two hired killers told Amnesty that the "job order" comes through the police officer but the order must have come from a higher-up.

The two said their group had other members, including former policemen.

Demand for their services, they said, has become "rampant" since Mr. Duterte came to office, averaging three to four hits a week.

They said that they were paid up-front when they received an order for a "riding-in-tandem" hit.

They said they would be given an envelope containing the target's name, picture, address and profile.

Planted evidence

The woman said the rate was P5,000 for a target identified as a drug user and P10,000 to P15,000 for a target named as drug pusher.

"Usually we don't have multiple targets per project, but (when we do), we're paid per head," she said.

Amnesty said policemen and hired killers often planted evidence to link the target to drugs.

Both hired killers said they could not refuse a job even if they occasionally felt pity when the target was with young children, justifying their killing by saying they were "helping the government take out the trash of society."

Amnesty said it had documented several instances when witnesses and relatives of the victims had reason to believe policemen disguised them-

selves as the killers or at least supported the killers.

The officer who talked to Amnesty said the policemen did not need to cover up the rights violations. "We don't really need to. There aren't investigations."

The two hired killers said they believed the entire police force was complicit, since they and other hired killers had not been arrested.

In a number of cases, witnesses to killings or victims' relatives told Amnesty that the person shot dead was unarmed and had not resisted arrest.

Police also planted drugs and weapons that they later "seized" as evidence, Amnesty said.

"I will surrender, I will surrender, sir," General Rondina, 38, told police after they broke into his home in Cebu City, a witness told Amnesty.

Rondina then knelt and raised his arms behind his head but police shot him dead, Amnesty said, citing the witness.

When family members were allowed into the house six hours after Rondina was shot, valuables including a laptop, watch and money were missing, according to Amnesty.

Police alleged Rondina had a gun and they acted in self-defense, and the method of killing as well as the justification was typical of the drug war, Amnesty said.

Flawed watch lists

Amnesty also warned that the lists of drug suspects that police were using to target people were deeply flawed.

This was partly because many people were placed on the lists simply after being reported by fellow community members, without any further investigation, according to Amnesty.

It said the vast majority of victims lived in the poorest urban neighborhoods, and the families were further pushed into economic hardship from the deaths of their breadwin-

fers, the police thievery and
light funeral expenses.

The drug-related killings also
left traumatized hundreds of chil-
dren who witnessed the murders
of members of their families.

Citing data from the Chil-
dren's Legal Rights and Develop-
ment Center, Amnesty said that
as of Dec. 25 last year, 27 children
had been killed as a result of po-
lice drug-related operations.

Two were reportedly actual
targets while the rest were
killed by "mistake," it said.

Recommendations

Amnesty recommended to
Mr. Duterte to "immediately or-
der an end to all police opera-
tions involving unnecessary or
excessive use of force," espe-
cially lethal force.

It said the PNP should sus-
pend officers suspected of un-
lawful killings, planting evi-
dence or involvement with hit
men, and thoroughly investi-
gate paid killings. —WITH REPORTS
FROM AP, AFP AND REUTERS INQ

BY THE NUMBERS

7,025 — Total drug-related
killings (July 1, 2016 to Jan 21, 2017)

34 — Average number of killings
per day

2,500 — Killed drug offenders
during police "shootouts"

35 — Police officers killed during
"shootouts"

83 — Policemen wounded during
operations

4,100 — Drug-related killings
by unknown armed persons

20 — Average number killed,
by unknown armed persons

3 to 4 per week — Number
of "jobs" of hired killers

P5,000 (\$100) — Rate to kill
a user

P10,000 to P15,000 — Rate
to kill a pusher

33 — Number of drug-related
killings documented by Amnesty

5 — Number of fundamental
human rights violated by drug
operations: absolute prohibition
on torture and other cruel,
inhuman or degrading treatment
or punishment; right to liberty and
security of person; right to
nondiscrimination; right to
recognition and equality before
the law; and the best interests of
the child principle.

Compiled by Inquirer Research

SOURCE: "If you are poor, you are killed":

Extrajudicial Executions in the Philippines

"War on Drugs" By Amnesty International

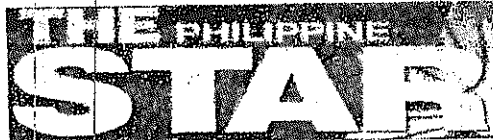
Jan. 31, 2017



RT ON DRUG KILLINGS - Amnesty International Philippines campaigner Wilnor Papa, board trustee Sister Maria Vidaero and London-based researcher Rachel Choa-Howard present their group's report on extrajudicial killings triggered by the government's campaign against illegal drugs. They say the killings may constitute crimes against humanity. --GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

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

02 February 2017



Page: 1

Anti-drug cops paid per kill - AI report

By ELIZABETH MARCELO and EDU PUNAY

Anti-drug From Page 1

Philippine police, "acting on instructions from the very top of government," gunned down and enlisted others to kill thousands of alleged drug offenders in a wave of extrajudicial executions that may amount to crimes against humanity, Amnesty International (AI) said in a report released yesterday.

AI's investigation - "If you are poor you are killed": Extrajudicial Executions in the Philippines' "War on Drugs" - details how police "have systematically targeted mostly poor and defenseless people" across the country while planting "evidence," recruiting paid killers, stealing from the people they kill and fabricating official incident reports.

Quoting a police officer involved in the war on drugs, AI reported that police received from P8,000 to P15,000 as incentive for every drug personality they killed.

This was denied by officials of the Philippine National Police

Turn to Page 4

(PNP). President Duterte and other government officials have also consistently denied condoning extrajudicial killings, insisting that all the drug suspects killed in legitimate law enforcement operations had resisted arrest or fought it out - *namlaban*.

AI Philippines called on the Senate to reopen its investigation into extrajudicial killings following the group's findings.

The Senate committees that conducted the investigation last year said there was no evidence to prove that extrajudicial killings in the course of the drug war were state-sponsored.

For its part, the Archdiocese of Manila said it was pursuing its campaign against extrajudicial killings in the country despite the suspension of the PNP's anti-drug campaign.

Ft. Atiliano Fajardo, head of the archdiocese's public affairs ministry, revealed that they would hold the "Huwag Kang Magnakaw ng Buhay" (Do Not Steal Life) movement as part of the Church's stance against killings of drug suspects and the proposed restoration of the death penalty.

In a press conference in Quezon City yesterday, AI Philippines trustee Sister Maria Vida Cordero and AI Philippines campaigner Wilnor Papa presented to the media the AI's

66-page report, stating that "this is not a war on drugs, but a war on the poor."

"Often on the flimsiest of evidence, people accused of using or selling drugs are being killed for cash in an economy of murder," said Tirana Hassan, AI's Crisis Response director.

What is happening in the Philippines is a crisis the entire world should be alarmed about, Hassan said, as AI called on government officials, from Duterte down, to order an immediate halt to all extrajudicial executions.

"We are also calling on the Department of Justice to investigate and prosecute anyone involved in these killings, regardless of their rank or status in the police or government," Hassan said.

"The Philippines should move away from lawlessness and lethal violence and reorient its drug policies towards a model based on the protection of health and human rights," she added.

The AI said its team of researchers interviewed 110 people, across the country, including some policemen, and documented 33 cases of drug-related killings, of which 20 occurred in police operations and 13 involved unknown armed men. A total of 59 people were

5295

7

l in these operations, the t said. We want the Senate to en its investigation (on), instead of prioritizing eath penalty bill. Unless nd this culture of impu- these senseless killings, crimes against humanity ontinue," Papa said. said the Philippines is a party to the Rome Statute e International Criminal t (ICC) and must abide ternational rules. We want the Philippine rities to deal with this hu- rights crisis on their own. f decisive action is not i soon, the international nity should turn to the ctor of the (ICC) to carry preliminary examination these killings, including volvevement of officials at ery top of government," id. Amnesty International is y concerned that the de- ite, widespread and sys- ic killings of alleged drug ders, which appear to nned and organized by uthorities, may constitute s against humanity under ational law," it added.

In cash

ie of those interviewed e AI team for the report a police officer with the of senior police officer 1 l) who has been in service most a decade.

The police officer, who claimed to have been part of an anti-drug unit in Metro Manila, said policemen usually receive financial incentives for every drug suspect or personality killed during the "encounter."

"We always get paid by the encounter. The amount ranges from P8,000 to P15,000... That amount is per head. So if the operation is against four people, that's P32,000," the police officer was quoted as saying in the report.

The police officer said the source of the money was never revealed to them, but the cash was usually given at their headquarters.

"We're paid in cash, secretly, by headquarters... There (are) no incentives for arresting. We're not paid anything," the police officer said, as quoted in the report. "It never happens that there's a shootout and no one is killed."

The police officer told the AI team that some of his colleagues also established a racket with funeral homes, which reward them for each dead body sent their way.

The AI said witnesses told the researchers that several policemen also stole from victims' homes.

The AI report said two hired killers confessed to the team that they took orders from a police officer who supposedly paid them P5,000 for each drug

user and P10,000 to P15,000 for each drug pusher killed, respectively.

"The targets often come from unverified lists of people suspected to use or sell drugs drawn up by local government officials. Regardless of how long ago someone may have taken drugs, or how little they used or sold, they can find their name irrevocably added to the lists," the report read.

"In other cases, their names could be added arbitrarily, because of a vendetta or because there are incentives to kill greater numbers of people deemed drug users or sellers," it added.

The AI said several residents as well as family members of the victims also narrated how policemen planted evidence against their slain targets.

"Fabricating their subsequent incident reports, the police have routinely claimed that they had been fired upon first. Directly contradicting the police's claims, witnesses told Amnesty International how the police conducted late night raids, did not attempt an arrest and opened fire on unarmed persons," the AI said.

"In some cases, witnesses said, the police planted drugs and weapons they later claimed as evidence," it added.

Papa said these findings call for the reopening of the investigation on EJKs to show the administration's sincerity

in cleansing the police ranks.

AI said these extrajudicial killings were incited by the rhetoric of Duterte, who vowed to protect the police officers who would get to kill drug suspects in the course of the operations against the illegal drug trade.

Since Duterte came to office seven months ago, there have been more than 7,000 drug-related killings, with the police directly killing at least 2,500 alleged drug offenders, AI noted.

The AI cited cases wherein suspects pleaded for mercy and surrendered but were still killed. Their bodies were also dragged and dumped or dehumanized, AI said.

Fajardo, meanwhile, said their new movement would like to emphasize that "life is sacred and only God can take it away."

In an interview over Church-run *Radio Veritas*, the priest revealed that the campaign is a follow-up to their earlier advocacy campaigns "Huwag Kang Magnakaw" (Do Not Steal) and "Huwag Kang Pumatay" (Do Not Kill).

"We saw in the past few months how lives have been stolen. This happened without sanction of law because there's no due process," he lamented.

"We will ask the Church and the schools to show that they believe in the sacredness of life and that it cannot be stolen," he stressed.

72 February 2017

NGAYON

Pahina. 5



Dalawang beses na sumaludo si Pangulong Duterte kay Brig. General Noel Buan sa ginanap na oathtaking ng newly promoted generals ng AFP kamakalawa. Si Buan, isang medal of valor, ay binuhag ng NPA noong 1999 habang intelligence officer ng AFP Southern Luzon Command at pinakawalan noong April 2001. Noong 2004, siya rin ang nangunla sa isang military operation sa Basilan bilang commander ng 1st Scout Ranger Battalion na nagresulta sa pagkamatay ni Abu Sayyaf leader Marusi Sali at kapatid na si Sahir. (KJ Rosales)

02 February 2017

Malaya

The National Newspaper

Page: B1

Army officer killed in NPA ambush

BY VICTOR REYES

A JUNIOR Army officer was killed yesterday in an ambush staged by the communist New People's Army in Manay town in Davao Oriental.

The ambush occurred hours after NPA spokesman Jorge Madlos announced the communist group is ending its unilateral ceasefire with government effective 11:59 p.m. of February 10.

The slain officer has the rank of second lieutenant assigned with the Army's 67th Infantry Battalion.

Capt. Rhyar Batchar,

See ARMY > Page B6

ARMY

public affairs officer of the Army's 10th Infantry Division based in Compostela Valley, declined to identify the officer pending the notification of his family.

Batchar said the officer and his men, accompanied by policemen, were on their way to barangay Lambog at around

1:45 p.m. when they were waylaid by about 30 rebels in Sitio Paliwason.

He said the troops were traveling on foot and were responding to a complaint of barangay officials of Barangay Lambog about NPA extortion activities. He said the rebels were demanding food from the people, forcing some residents to flee.

The rebels fled after a brief firefight.

He said military, in coordination with the PNP, is conducting pursuit operations or law enforcement operations which he said is allowed under the government-declared ceasefire.

"There was crime committed. We are not on offensive... we can conduct law enforcement operations," he said.

02 February 2017



ANG NANGUNGUNANG PARIYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSÀ P.B.00

Page. 5

5 sa Sayyaf todas, 7 sugatan sa Sulu encounter

Napatay ang limang kasapi ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) habang pitong iba pa ang nasugatan sa magkahiwalay na operasyon ng militar sa Panamao, Sulu, iniulat kaniyon.

Ayon kay Major Gen. Carlito Galvez, commander ng Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), nangyari ang sagupaan nitong Martes ng hapon sa Barangay Pugad Maraul sa Panamao.

Sinabi ni Galvez na dalawang sundalo ang bahagyang nasugatan sa nasabing bakbakan.

Batay sa report na tinanggap ni Galvez mula sa Army Scout Rangers, nakasagupa ng mga sundalo ang hindi pa tukoy na bilang ng mga bandido na pinamumunuan umano ni Alhabsy Misaya, Abu Sayyaf sub-leader.

Kasabay nito, nanawagan sa mga sibilyan si Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin

Lorenzana na huwag karlungin ang mga terorista.

Ito ang ipinananawagan ni Lorenzana matapos ang "full swing" na military operation laban sa Abu Sayyaf at Maute terror group.

Kung nais makatulong sa pagbibigay-tuldok sa labanan, hinimok na lang ng kalihim ang mga kaanak ng mga terorista na isuko na lang ang mga ito sa pamahalaan.

Fer Taboy

02 February 2017



Pahina. 5

5 Abu bulagta sa bakbakan

COTABATO CITY, Maguindanao - Patay ang limang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group habang siyam naman ang sugatan sa magkahiwalay na operasyon ng militar sa bulubunduking bahagi ng Barangay Pugad Manaulsa bayan ng Panamao, Sulu, kahapon.

Ayon kay WestMinCom Commander Major General Carlito Galvez, nakasagupa ng tropa ng Army Scout Rangers ang hindi patinukoy na bilang ng Abu Sayyaf members sa panumuno ni Alhabsy Misaya.

Samantala, sugatan naman ang dalawang sundalo na naisugod naman military hospital sa bayan ng Jolo.

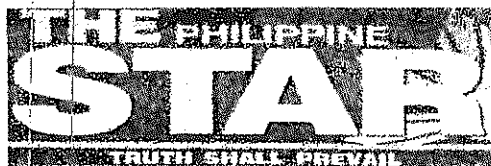
Nagpapatuloy naman ang hot pursuit operation ng mga sundalo laban sa mga teroristang grupo.

Nabatid na maingat ang pagluluhsad ng operasyon ng militar sa mga bulubunduking bahagi ng Sulu para maiwasan

sang maipit sa labanan ang mga natitirang bihag ng Abu Sayyaf.

Kasunod nito, panibagong grupo naman ang naka-engkwentro ng mga sundalo na tumagal ng 45 minuto. **Rhoderick Beniz**

02 February 2017



Page: 17

BIFF bandits attack Army detachment

NORTH COTABATO – The military beefed up security in remote areas in North Cotabato following a series of attacks by members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters.

BIFF gunmen attacked a command post of the Alpha Co. the Army's 34th Infantry Battalion in Barangay Nabalawag in Midsayap town.

Villagers said two BIFF gunmen identified only as Usman and Nabih were wounded in a gunfight with soldiers.

The terrorists also attacked Army detachments in Aloesan and Pikit on Saturday night and early Sunday, respectively.

02 February 2017

POLICE FILES

Page. 3

Kampo ng militar sinalakay ng BIFF sa Cotabato

MIDSAYAP, North Cotabato - Nagdulot ng takot sa mga sibilyan ang muling pagsalakay ng mga armadong grupó sa posisyon ng militar sa probinsya ng Cotabato.

Ayon sa ulat ng 602nd Brigade Philippine Army, inatake ng tinatayang 20 nga miyembro ng Bangsamoro Islamic Islamic Freedom fighters (BIFF) ang command post ng Alpha Company ng 34th IB sa Barangay Nabalawag, Midsayap, Cotabato.

Tumagal ng kalahating oras ang palitan ng putok sa magkabilang panig gamit ang mga matataas na uri ng armas.

Umatras ang mga rebelde nang dumating ang karagdagang pwersa ng 34th Infantry Battalion Philippine Army sa pamumuno ni Lt. Col. Angelo Lutera.

Wala namang nasugatan o nasawi sa panig ng mga sundalo habang hindi pa matiyak sa panig ng mga rebelde.

Una rito, magkasabay din na sinalakay ng BIFF ang mga detachment ng Cefgu sa ilalim ng 38th IB sa Barangay Pagangan, Aleosan at Barangay Nalapaan, Pikit, North Cotabato kung saan tumagal ng dalawang oras ang engkwentro.

Nakataas pa rin ang alerto ng militar at pulisya sa North Cotabato dahil sa magkasunod at sorpresang pananalakay ng BIFF.

NPA terminates truce, but talks continue

By **ROCKY NAZARENO** and **GENALYN D. KABILING**

The local communists yesterday announced the termination of the unilateral ceasefire they declared on August 28, 2016, but vowed "continuing support for the peace negotiations" with the government.

A few hours after the termination, a soldier was killed while another was wounded when about 30 suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels fired at the Scout Platoon of the 67th Infantry Brigade in Sitio Paliwason, Barangay

Lambog, Manay, Davao Oriental.

The military said fighting is ongoing as of press time.

The Communist Party of the Philippines-Central Committee (CPP-CC) and the NPA-National Operations Command (NPA-NOC) cited two major reasons it decided to terminate the unilateral ceasefire declaration. They said the government failed to comply with its obligation to grant amnesty and release all political prisoners. ▶4

NPA terminates truce... ◀1

ers. They also accused the government of taking advantage of the unilateral ceasefire to encroach on the territory of the "people's democratic government."

In a statement, NPA spokesman Ka Oris said the negotiating panel of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), the political arm of the CPP-NPA, will give notice of the withdrawal of the unilateral ceasefire to the Philippine government (GRP) peace panel.

Gov't steadfast

Despite this development, the government is committed to advancing the peace process with the communist rebels and upholding its own ceasefire declaration.

"The President will continue to exercise strong political will to move forward with the peace talks with the CPP-NPA-NDFP, despite the revocation of the unilateral ceasefire by the NPA," Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said.

"Furthermore, the Department of National Defense (DND) will continue to observe the government's unilateral ceasefire, at the same time enforce the campaign to protect civilians from harm and terrorism," he added.

"We respect their decision. On the part of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), we will respectfully recommend to President Rodrigo R. Duterte that the government continues to maintain and uphold the unilateral ceasefire to sustain the peace in the communities where our people desire to live in peace. This will provide an enabling and conducive environment to the

ongoing peace talks. At the same time, we will recommend that government forces continue to be relentless in their campaign to protect the civilians from harm and terrorism," the OPAPP statement read.

Left offensive

With the termination of the unilateral truce, the CPP-NPA ordered its forces "to take full initiative in planning, coordinating, and carrying out military campaigns and tactical offensives against the reactionary Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP), the various paramilitary units and death squads of the Duterte government, drug traffickers and operators of the drug trade, and large-scale gambling, private armies and private armed groups of warlords, local tyrants as well as spies."

"They must counteract, frustrate and punish AFP-CAFGU-PNP interior patrol operations, AFP psywar operations under Oplan Kapayapaan, AFP units occupying barangays and communities and enemy armed offensives posing as anti-drug and anti-crime operations," the statement added.

Under this condition, communist insurgents will be adopting what experts describe as a "talk-fight" stance in dealing with the government, a negotiating strategy first used by the North Vietnamese in its talks with the United States at the height of the Vietnam War.

The CPP-NPA charged that "the GRP has not complied with its obligation to amnesty and release all political prisoners under the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitar-

ian Law and the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees as a matter of justice and in fulfillment of the promise of President (Rodrigo) Duterte."

"The unilateral ceasefire declaration was issued on the mutual understanding with the GRP that such releases will take effect within 60 days of August 28. Such was the context why the GRP panel approached the NDFP toward the end of October seeking an extension of the CPP/NPA's declaration with a promise that around 200 political prisoners were set to be released," the CPP-NPA statement said.

The communist group pointed out that the "Duterte regime failed to fulfill such obligation even though the CPP obliged by extending the ceasefire declaration to more than 150 days."

Duterte had actually made the first move in trying to convince the CPP-NPA-NDFP to return to the negotiation table, which was abandoned seven years ago, when he ordered the release of 21 political detainees acting as consultants and advisers in the August talks in Oslo.

But when the CPP-NPA-NDFP pressed for the release of more of their comrades, Duterte put his foot down and said he would only order the release of more political prisoners once he sees a document showing the communist group agreeing to a bilateral ceasefire with the government.

The CPP-NPA also charged that the government "has treacherously taken advantage of the unilateral declaration of interim ceasefire to encroach on the territory of the people's democratic government."

"Across 164 municipalities and 43 provinces, the GRP's armed forces have occupied at least 500 barrios which are within the authority of the

revolutionary government," it said.

No NPA territory - DND

But Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the government does not "recognize any areas under NPA control nor are they allowed to roam around with their firearms intimidating people."

"We emphasize that we do not recognize the NPA's claims to areas which they believe are under their control and our forces are ready to defend themselves when attacked," Defense spokesman Arsenio Andolong added.

The CPP-NPA argued that "the suspension of military operations (SOMO) and suspension of police operations (SOPO) issued by the AFP and PNP as basis of the GRP's unilateral declaration of interim ceasefire have served as license for its armed troops, police personnel, paramilitary units, and death squads to engage in hostile actions, provocations or movements, surveillance and other offensive operations that are labeled as 'peace and development,' 'civil-military,' 'peace and order,' 'anti-drugs campaign,' 'medical missions,' or 'law enforcement'."

The leftists said government forces "have subjected entire barrios to their armed presence and have committed widespread violations of human rights, such as occupation of people's homes, barangay halls, day care centers and other civilian structures." People have suffered threats, intimidations and harassments by AFP soldiers in their barrios. These "counter-insurgency" population and resource control have gravely affected the people's farm productivity, commerce and overall livelihood.

Left accused of extortion

Responding to the CPP-NPA decision, Secretary Lorenzana said the

group's decision to terminate the unilateral ceasefire will not have any effect on the Armed Forces Philippines (AFP).

He also criticized the communist group, accusing it of not stopping to commit atrocities despite the existence of the unilateral ceasefire.

"Anyway, despite their declared ceasefire they have not stopped extorting under the guise of their so-called revolutionary taxation, went on recruiting, burning buses and equipment, ambushing and kidnapping soldiers," Lorenzana said.

Reds still open to talks

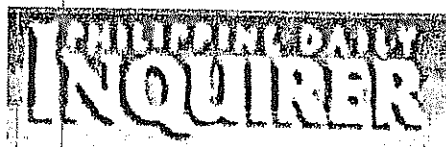
Despite the scathing rebuke of the government's peace initiatives, the CPP-NPA nevertheless kept the door open to negotiations.

"Even as we terminate the unilateral declaration of interim ceasefire, we continue to support the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations within the framework of The Hague Joint Declaration of 1992. In our experience and in the experience of other peoples, it is possible to negotiate while fighting until the substantive agreements are forged to address the roots of the armed conflict and lay the basis for a just and lasting peace," the statement said.

But the CPP-NPA underscored that it "opposes the use of interim ceasefires as basis for a protracted or indefinite ceasefire without substantial benefit for the people and their revolutionary forces and for laying aside peace negotiations on substantive issues such as social, economic and political reforms."

"Such is tantamount to the capitulation and pacification of the revolutionary people and forces," the leftist group said. (With reports from Yas D. Ocampo, Francis T. Wakefield and Jenny F. Manongdo)

02 February 2017



Page: AZ

QUESTION OF LEADERSHIP CONTROL

GOV'T SAYS REBELS VIOLATING OWN TRUCE

The government and the military said communist rebels had been violating their own ceasefire, an indication that leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA) were not in control of their forces in the field.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the public affairs office of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said on Wednesday the announcement of the termination of the rebels' unilateral ceasefire contradicted an earlier statement by Fidel Agcaoili, chief negotiator of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), that their truce would hold.

"This reflects the need for CPP-NPA-NDF leadership to control the actions of their people on the ground," Arevalo said on Wednesday.

President Duterte's peace

adviser, Jesus Dureza, had expressed alarm over reports of attacks and harassment staged by NPA guerrillas against government forces.

"Either some in the National Democratic Front leadership talking to the government are not in full control of their own forces on the ground, or they are themselves undermining these efforts for sustainable peace, or pressuring government for certain concessions," Dureza said in a statement on Tuesday.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said on Wednesday the rebels did not stop extorting "revolutionary taxes," recruiting new fighters and burning buses and equipment during their ceasefire.

Arevalo said the lack of control had led to various violations of the rebels' own ceasefire, which had led to the

killing of soldiers.

In the latest incident, one soldier died after guerrillas attacked a police and army team that was responding to complaints of harassment from villagers in Barangay Lambog in Manay, Davao Oriental, just hours after the rebels announced the end of their truce, said Capt. Rhyah Batcher, spokesperson for the Army's 10th Infantry Division.

On Monday, two Army soldiers on a "peace and development" mission were killed in an NPA ambush in Echague, Isabela province. The NPA's Benito Tesorio Command said the attack was in retaliation for alleged military atrocities in the area. —WITH REPORTS FROM CYNTHIA D. BALANA, LEILA B. SALAVERIA, FRINSTON LIM, KARLOS MANLUPIG, VILLAMOR VISAYA JR. AND ALLAN NAWAL INQ

18

Reds gear up for hostilities

Call off five-month truce effective Feb. 10



STIFF AND STRAIGHT. Troops from the 4th Infantry Division, known officially as the Diamond Division in northern Mindanao, stand at attention during their 47th anniversary Wednesday, with the soldiers in a forestalling mode after the communist rebels declared to terminate their five-month-long ceasefire with the government. Lance Baconguis

By John Paolo Bencito and Florante S. Solmerin

COMMUNIST rebels said Wednesday that they would end by Feb. 10 the unilateral ceasefire they declared during the resumption of peace talks last year, accusing the Duterte administration of failing to keep its promise to release more than 200 political prisoners.

...unist Party of the Philippines will notify the Duterte administration of the withdrawal of the interim ceasefire set to expire by Feb. 10, Friday.

"With this declaration and notice, the Aug. 28 unilateral ceasefire shall effectively expire on 11:59 p.m. of Feb. 10," the group said.

The NPA said that they will remain supportive of the peace negotiations between the National Democratic Front and the government, even as it terminated its unilateral ceasefire.

"In our experience and in the experience of other peoples, it is possible to negotiate while fighting until the substantive agreements are forged to address the roots of the armed conflict and lay the basis for a just and lasting peace," he said.

With the lifting of the ceasefire,

Next page

Reds...

From A1

Madlos said NPA fighters are tasked to "counteract, frustrate and punish" all state military operations in their areas.

All NPA units were also ordered to "take full initiative in planning, coordinating and carrying out military campaigns and tactical offensives" against soldiers, policemen, the "various paramilitary units and death squads of the Duterte government," drug traffickers, private armed groups, and spies.

The CPP and the New People's Army on Aug. 28 declared the unilateral interim ceasefire in a bid to promote and accelerate peace negotiations between the NDF and the government. The government declared its own unilateral ceasefire soon afterward.

But in December 2016, CPP founder Jose Maria Sison threatened to call off the truce they declared if the government fails to release all political detainees by January next year.

Madlos scored the administration for its failure to release more than 200 political prisoners, and the alleged military advances on NPA-held areas and accused the military of "treacherously taking advantage" of the cease-fire to conduct "hostile actions and offensive operations" in areas occupied by the NPA.

Madlos said the NPA declared the ceasefire on Aug. 28 on the understanding that the govern-

ment would free political detainees within 60 days.

The Duterte administration, he said, failed to do this even after the NPA extended the truce for another 150 days.

Peace Process Secretary Jesus Dureza said that while it respects the decision of the NPA to withdraw its unilateral cease-fire with the government, he would ask President Rodrigo Duterte not to lift the government's own ceasefire.

Dureza, admitted that the government was "dismayed" by the NPA decision despite ongoing peace talks.

"This cancellation came just after some progress were made in the third round of talks in Rome, where negotiating panels from both sides agreed to further discuss a bilateral ceasefire in the Netherlands sometime end of this month," he said.

In a speech before troops at the Philippine Army's 4th Infantry Battalion at Cagayan de Oro City, Dureza denied that the government neglected its promise to effect the release of political prisoners.

The President, he said, has already released 20 jailed communists so they could participate in ongoing peace talks and would try to free more of them.

"The problem is they are all facing criminal charges in court and the President cannot just order the opening of the prison to let them go. There are judicial processes that must be observed," Dureza said.

Dureza remains optimistic that

the two parties would be able to resolve the issue in pursuit of peace in war-torn areas.

"We must go into a bilateral agreement where you have independent monitors, you have mechanisms and you have bases when you call a violation."

"We are looking at the end of February as another opportunity. Now with the unilateral ceasefire being declared by the CPP-NDF as canceled, what should the government do?"

Recently, a third round of peace talks ended in Rome, Italy last week with no deal on a joint and permanent ceasefire. Both sides agreed to meet for a fourth round of formal talks in Oslo by April 2-6.

Officials dealing specifically with the ceasefire will meet again sooner, in Utrecht in The Netherlands on Feb. 22-27.

On Jan. 21, a firefight broke out as the military launched offensive operations against an NPA platoon in Makilala, North Cotabato. Eight soldiers and a communist rebel were reported killed.

Army spokesman Colonel Benjamin Hao lamented the NPA decision.

"They are also terminating their desire for peace," Hao said.

The military has also accused the NPA of attacking their forces in some parts of the country, including Tuesday's attack in Echague, Isabela that killed two soldiers.

The Philippine National Police also expressed regret over the NPA decision to end its ceasefire.

With Francisco Tuyay

02 February 2017

Page: A1

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

CPP declares end to truce

WS / A2

EDS TO END EASEFIRE

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), announced on Wednesday the termination of their unilateral ceasefire after accusing the Duterte administration of renegeing on a promise to release more political prisoners and violating its own truce.

Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos, spokesperson for the National Operations Command of the NPA, said the unilateral ceasefire declared by the CPP-NPA on Aug. 28 would end on Feb. 10.

Madlos' announcement came just hours after Fidel Agcaoili, chief peace negotiator of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), gave assurance that the rebels' ceasefire would stand despite alleged military provocation.

Madlos said the rebels would still support the peace talks brokered by Norway.

"In our experience and in the experience of other peoples, it is possible to negotiate while fighting until the substantive agreements are forged to address the roots of the armed conflict and lay the basis for a just and lasting peace," he said.

Dureza dismayed

Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza said he was "dismayed" by the CPP-NPA declaration. "As we always stress, the road to peace is not easy to traverse. What is important is that we all stay the course," he



Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos
—DENNIS JAY SANTOS

said in a statement.

Dureza said the decision of the rebels "gives more impetus and encouragement" to efforts to reach a bilateral ceasefire agreement that would spell out guidelines and protocols of a mutual truce.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said Mr. Duterte would pursue the peace talks and maintain the government's unilateral ceasefire.

Representatives of the NDFP and the government, who were tasked with tackling a bilateral ceasefire, are scheduled to meet in Utrecht, The Netherlands, later this month.

Madlos said the CPP-NPA issued the ceasefire "on the mutual understanding" with the government that the release of political prisoners would take effect within 60 days from Aug. 28, the day the rebels declared a

suspension of hostilities.

The government then promised last October to free up to 200 political prisoners, he added.

The government had released 21 political prisoners who were to participate in the peace talks, which opened in Oslo, Norway, last August.

Mr. Duterte has refused to free more detainees without a bilateral ceasefire deal, saying he has already given too many concessions to the rebels.

Gov't violations cited

Madlos also accused the military of occupying 500 barangays "within the authority of the revolutionary government" in 164 municipalities in 43 provinces, which he claimed violated the government's own unilateral ceasefire.

When the ceasefire expires, all NPA units have been ordered to plan, coordinate and carry out "military campaigns and tactical offensives" against the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police.

Their targets would also include paramilitary units and "death squads of the Duterte administration, drug traffickers, and operators of the drug trade and large-scale gambling, private armies and private armed groups of warlords, local tyrants as well as spies," Madlos said.

—REPORTS FROM KARLOS MANLUPIG, JOFFREY MAITEM, LEILA B. SALAVERRIA, AP AND REUTERS' INQ



Palace: NPA ceasefire end won't hamper Rody's peace effort

by CHRISTINA MENDEZ

President Duterte's pursuit of peace will not be hampered by the decision of the communist rebels to end their unilateral ceasefire, Malacañang said yesterday.

Officials stressed Duterte is sincere in forging peace with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF), reminding the rebel group not to undermine the president's efforts to forge a lasting peace agreement.

"The President will continue to exercise strong political will to move forward with the peace talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF despite the revocation of the unilateral ceasefire by the NPA," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said.

Abella added the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will continue to observe the government's unilateral ceasefire.

The CPP-NPA-NDF and the government had separately declared a ceasefire as they resumed their peace talks.

The NPA yesterday declared they were terminating their unilateral ceasefire, accusing the government of failing to release all political prisoners and encroaching on its enclaves.

The government, for its part, said it would continue to observe its unilateral ceasefire declaration but will not waiver in the campaign to protect civilians "from harm and terrorism."

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the DND would continue to enforce the government's unilateral ceasefire unless Duterte decides otherwise.

He said troops would not carry out operations against the rebels but will maintain peace and order.

The military does not recognize any area under control of the NPA and will not allow the rebels to move around with their weapons, he said.

Lorenzana said the rebel group's decision to terminate or stop their unilateral ceasefire is up to them.

"It will not affect the AFP. Anyway, despite their declared ceasefire they have not stopped extorting under the guise of their so-called revolutionary taxation, went on recruiting, burning buses and equipment, ambushing and kidnapping soldiers," he said.

"Absent any instruction from the President, the DND will continue to enforce the government's unilateral ceasefire. Our troops will not actively operate against the NPA while our ceasefire is in effect," he said.

Lorenzana, however, stressed the AFP will continue to maintain peace and order and run after lawless elements "whoever they are."

Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza expressed dismay at the NPA's decision, saying it comes after progress was made in peace talks last month in Rome, with both sides agreeing to discuss a bilateral ceasefire later this month.

Dureza said he would recommend to Duterte that the government maintain its unilateral ceasefire.

Dureza said Duterte will definitely walk the extra mile for peace.

"But our counterparts on the other side of the peace table must also reciprocate accordingly and do the same. Let us all help to successfully traverse it," he said.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, who heads the government peace panel, also said Duterte is not inclined to lift the unilateral ceasefire he declared ahead of that of communist rebels despite their termination of their no-hostilities declaration.

Bello told a news conference at the House of Representatives that he did not know how long the President could stick to such decision.

Bello said the NPA decision to lift its ceasefire "came as an unpleasant surprise to us, especially in the wake of the fact that their negotiators had agreed that we will have talks in the Netherlands on Feb. 22-25 on a bilateral ceasefire."

"We agreed to upgrade the separate unilateral ceasefire into a bilateral ceasefire and to prescribe the terms of reference so the violations would be clear to both sides. If you don't have those terms, you don't know what the violations are," he said.

Turn to Page 7

22

Palace From Page 6

Asked if the Feb. 22-25 talks would still take place, Bello said, "The more we have to push through with the meeting and try to agree on a bilateral ceasefire."

He believes that their communist counterparts would show up.

Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar stressed the need to have a stable peace and order situation in the country to usher peace and development.

He said the government has been trying to do everything it possibly can to ensure peace.

"To our countrymen, the government is doing all it can to attain our longtime quest for peace. The government is sincere in its goal to have peace and order in the country," Andanar said.

"We know that for a country to prosper, it should have no insurgency. We need peace and order because investors will not come here if they see that the country's peace situation is not stable," he added.

Imminent collapse

The termination of the communist rebels' interim ceasefire could lead to the collapse of their peace talks with the government, Davao City Rep. Karlo Nograles said.

"This decision is unfortu-

nate and premature and might again lead to hostilities that can jeopardize the outcome of the ongoing peace talks between the government and communist insurgents," he said.

If hostilities erupt, the peace negotiations would collapse, Nograles said.

Nograles urged the NPA to restore its ceasefire.

He also called on leftist Cabinet members to convince the rebels to stick to the ceasefire and the peace process.

"I just hope that our members of the government who have connections with the CPP-NPA would go out of their way to ask their leadership to reinstate the ceasefire. It is their duty to help the national government," Nograles said.

The military, for its part, pointed out the supposed contradictions of the NPA's declaration to drop its unilateral ceasefire.

"We heard about the report that the NPA is lifting their unilateral ceasefire declaration effective Feb. 10 through their spokesman, a certain Ka Oris," AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said. - With Jess Diaz, Michael Punongbayan, Jose Rodel Clapano, Cecille Suerte Felipe, John Paul Jubelag, Edith Regalado, Gilbert Bayoran

02 February 2017



Page: 6

NPA ends unilateral ceasefire, still eyes talks

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – Communist rebels yesterday declared they are terminating their unilateral ceasefire after accusing the government of failing to release all political prisoners and encroaching on rebel-held areas.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its military arm, the New People's Army (NPA), said the Aug. 28 ceasefire would expire Feb. 10. The rebels and the government had separately declared a ceasefire as they resumed their peace talks.

NPA spokesman Jorge Madlos alias Ka Oris said the government negotiating panel would be given notice of the termination of ceasefire by the National Democratic Front (NDF), the umbrella organization of the CPP-NPA negotiating peace with the government.

Madlos also cited another reason for the termination was the continu-

ing "encroachment" by the military on what he called "territory of the people's democratic government."

"The Aug. 28, 2016 unilateral declaration of interim ceasefire issued by the Central Committee of the CPP and the National Operations Command of the NPA is hereby terminated," Madlos said in a statement.

The rebel group accused the government of failing to comply with its obligation to amnesty and release all political prisoners under the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law and the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees.

"The unilateral ceasefire declaration was issued on the mutual understanding with the government that such releases will take effect within 60 days of Aug. 28," Madlos said.

"Such was the context why the government panel approached the NDF towards the end of October seeking an extension of the CPP /

NPA's declaration with a promise that around 200 political prisoners were set to be released," he added.

The termination of the ceasefire came just days after the government and the NDF negotiating panels concluded their third round of talks in Rome.

The peace talks in Rome, however, did not result in any ceasefire agreement or release of political prisoners as demanded by the NDF.

The termination of the NPA ceasefire also came at a time that President Duterte is standing pat on his stance that he will no longer release any political prisoners despite the demand of the NDF for the release of over 100 political prisoners detained in various jails in the country.

The military had accused the NPA of "systematically" attacking government forces in the countryside.

Even before the latest announcement, the military counted nine rebel attacks since Sunday, including an

ambush that killed two soldiers in northern Isabela and a raid on an upscale resort in Batangas province, southwest of the capital, where the guerrillas carted away security guards' firearms.

The NPA made the same accusation against the military by claiming security forces are encroaching on their enclaves.

Madlos explained that an order has been issued that from today until the expiration of the ceasefire declaration, all commands and units of the NPA are under "active defense" mode.

"They must counteract, frustrate and punish (military) patrol operations, psywar operations under Oplan Kapayapaan, (military) units occupying barangays and communities and enemy armed offensives posing as anti-drug and anti-crime operations," Madlos said.

Madlos, however, gave assurance that the CPP-NPA will continue to support the ongoing peace negotia-

tions with government.

"Even as we terminate the unilateral declaration of interim ceasefire, we continue to support the peace negotiations within the framework of The Hague Joint Declaration of 1992. In our experience and in the experience of other peoples, it is possible to negotiate while fighting until the substantive agreements are forged to address the roots of the armed conflict and lay the basis for a just and lasting peace," Madlos said.

Madlos added they oppose the use of interim ceasefire, saying it is "tantamount to the capitulation and pacification of the revolutionary people and forces."

Battle setbacks, surrenders and infighting have weakened the NPA, which is considered a terrorist organization by the United States.

Sporadic fighting has left about 40,000 combatants and civilians dead.

- With Gerry Lee-Gorit, Artemio Dumlao, Raymund Catindig, AP

DND CHIEF: NPA EXTORTION DIDN'T STOP

Reds call off truce, blame Duterte

**By Mario J. Mallari
and Ted Tuvera**

Putting the blame on the Duterte administration for reneging on its promise to release all political detainees, the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) yesterday said it will terminate on February 10 the unilateral ceasefire it declared last August.

The government and the National Democratic Front (NDF), the CPP-NPA's political wing both indicated, however, that the peace negotiations will continue.

The government said it was acting on President Duterte's commitment to release all 434 political prisoners, citing the need to fulfill judicial and legal requirements but the communist group wanted their immediate release.

The unilateral ceasefire declaration was issued on the mutual understanding with the GRP that such releases will take effect within 60 days of August 28. Such was the context the GRP panel approached the NDF toward the end of October seeking an extension of

Turn to page 2

From page 1

the CPP/NPA's declaration with a promise that around 200 political prisoners were set to be released," the CPP-NPA statement read.

The CPP-NPA also accused the military of using the truce to encroach on "communist-influenced areas".

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, however, maintained that the termination of the communist group's unilateral ceasefire shall have no effect to the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

"If the CPP-NPA will terminate or stop their unilateral ceasefire it is up to them. It will not affect the AFP," said Lorenzana.

The defense chief stressed that the NPA's violated their own ceasefire by continuing with their illegal activities.

"Anyway, despite their declared ceasefire they have not stopped extorting under the guise of their so-called revolutionary taxation, went on recruiting, burning buses and equipment, ambushing and kidnapping soldiers," he said.

Without any directive from the President, Lorenzana vowed to continue enforcing the government's unilateral ceasefire with the CPP-NPA.

"Our troops will not actively operate against the NPA while our ceasefire is in effect. However, it will continue to maintain peace and order and run after lawless elements, wherever they are," the defense chief said.

Lorenzana also stressed "we do not recognize any areas under NPA control nor are they allowed to roam around with their firearms intimidating people."

In a statement, the Central Committee of the CPP and the National Operations Command of the NPA announced that effective 11:59 p.m. on February 10, the communist groups unilateral ceasefire will officially be terminated.

NPA National Operations Command (NPA-NOC) Chief Jorge 'Ka Oris' Madlos, in a video taken somewhere in Mindanao, said "[the] August 28, 2016 unilateral declaration of interim ceasefire issued by the Central Committee of the CPP... is hereby terminated.

Madlos, however, stressed that the ongoing peace talks between the National Democratic Front (NDF), the CPP-NPA's political arm and the government will continue primarily in the crafting of the Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms (CASER) which is described as the "heart and soul" of the peace talks.

"In our experience and in the experience of other people, it is possible to negotiate while fighting until the

substantive agreements are forged to address the roots of the armed conflict and lay the basis for a just and lasting peace," Madlos said.

"The [Government of the Republic of the Philippines] has not complied with its obligation to (grant) amnesty and release all political prisoners under the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law and the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees as a matter of justice and in fulfillment of the promise of President Duterte," Madlos said.

"The Duterte regime failed to fulfill such obligation even though the CPP obliged it by extending the ceasefire declaration to more than 150 days," he added.

"The GRP has treacherously taken advantage of the unilateral declaration of interim ceasefire to encroach on the territory of the people's democratic government," Madlos claimed.

The NPA leader also noted that "the suspension of military operations (SOMO) and suspension of police operations (SOPO) issued by the AFP and PNP as basis of the GRP's unilateral declaration of interim ceasefire have served as license for its armed troops, police personnel, paramilitary units and death squads to engage in hostile actions, provocations or movements, surveillance and other offensive operations that are labelled as 'peace and development', 'civil-military', 'peace and order', 'anti drugs campaign', 'medical missions' or 'law enforcement'."

The CPP-NPA's declaration of a unilateral ceasefire was in response to President Duterte's own unilateral truce which he announced earlier during his State of the Nation Address (Sona) in July.

Since then, peace panels from the government and the CPP-National Democratic Front (NDF) has held three rounds of negotiations but failed to come up with a bilateral ceasefire agreement.

The termination of the CPP-NPA ceasefire came amid the exchange of allegations between the communist group and the government, particularly the military.

NPA peace spoilers - AFP

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has branded the NPA as "peace-spoilers" after claiming that it launched atrocities in various parts of the country.

The communist leadership said the government negotiating panel would be given notice today of the termination by the NDFP's negotiating panel.

The communist group claimed that across 104 municipalities and 43 provinces, the government's armed forces have occupied at least 500 barrios which are

Local: 5285, 5295

Local: 5285, 5295

27

-government.

Despite the government's own unilateral ceasefire, the CPP-NPA said that the military continued with hostile actions, provocations, surveillance and other offensive operations labelled as "peace and development, civil-military, peace and order, anti-drugs campaign, medical missions, and law enforcement."

Despite the termination of the ceasefire declaration, the CPP-NPA-NDF said it would continue to support the peace negotiations with the government within the framework of The Hague Joint Declaration of 1992.

"In our experience and in the experience of other people, it is possible to negotiate while fighting until the substantive agreements are forged to address the roots of the armed conflict and lay the basis for a just and lasting peace," the CPP-NPA said.

The CPP-NPA ordered all communist commands and units to take initiative and more vigorously carry out active defense in order to "defend the people and revolutionary forces."

Dureza bares frustration

Speaking for the government, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza said that while the negotiators were frustrated by the CPP-NPA's sudden decision to suspend its ceasefire, he would still suggest to Mr. Duterte to maintain the government's ceasefire.

"We are dismayed with the announcement of New People's Army spokesman Ka Oris withdrawing their unilateral ceasefire effective Feb. 10. (But) we respect their decision," Dureza said in a statement.

"We will respectfully recommend to President Duterte that the government continues to maintain and uphold the unilateral ceasefire to sustain the peace in the communities where our people desire to live in peace," he added.

Dureza said that such response to the CPP-NPA's threat "will provide an enabling and conducive environment to the on-going peace talks" adding that he "will (also) recommend that government forces (should) continue to be relentless in their campaign to protect the civilians from harm and terrorism."

Moreover, the chief government negotiator admitted there were actual incidents committed by state forces that actually agitated the NPAs to react with force.

"We agree that the situation, with various incidents on the ground, had become untenable to sustain without the guidelines and protocols that a bilateral ceasefire provides," Dureza said.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella

that the peace talks should continue.

"The President will continue to exercise strong political will to move forward with the peace talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF, despite the revocation of the unilateral ceasefire by the NPA," Abella said.

The Palace official also pointed out that the DND is tasked to monitor the CPP's activities in areas where they operate.

"The DND will continue to observe the government's unilateral ceasefire, at the same time enforce the campaign to protect civilians from harm and terrorism," he said.

Meanwhile, NPA chief Madlos, told the *Tribune* that the fate of some of their comrades in the Duterte Cabinet depends on the President's discretion.

"Duterte said that he's a leftist. He hired the Left, that is his call," Madlos said.

"It was the President who asked for it. The NDF only gave recommendations, so that is Duterte's call," he added.

Prominent leftists in the Duterte cabinet, who were nominees of the NDF, are Social Welfare Secretary Judy Taguiwalo, Agrarian Reform Secretary Rafael Mariano and National Anti-Poverty Commission chairman Liza Maza.

Mr. Duterte's Cabinet Secretary and long time aide, Leoncio Evasco Jr., used to be an NPA combatant in the 1970s.

NPA cases of truce violation

Nonetheless, days before the NPA's declaration, they committed simultaneous atrocities in various parts of the country over the weekend:

Abduction of Pfc Erwin Salan of 30IB at the vicinity of Lumondo Falls, about a kilometer from the center of Barangay Budlingin, Alegria town in Surigao del Norte, while leading youth volunteers in a forest clean-up drive about 3:40PM 29Jan 2017; Wounding of three members of a composite Peace and Development Team of 75IB and 30IB when some 15 lawless members of SPP-16B, Guerilla Front 16, NEMRC, KOMMID, CPP-NPA led by Pablo Logatiman alias Lucas fired at them at the vicinity of Sitio Brazil, Barangay Mat-i, Surigao City past midnight of 30 Jan 2017;

Harassment of a team of CAFGU under 72IB & 73IB who are securing heavy equipment of Jargon Construction used in a road rehabilitation project as part of its Bayanihan Investors Protection and Security Operations at Sitio Banlibato, Barangay Pag-asa, Alabel town in eastern Sarangani Province about 2:26PM 30Jan 2017;

More or less 10 NPA fired upon a team securing an ongoing road rehab project resulting in a brief firefight at Sitio Banlibato, Brgy Pag-asa, Alabel town in Sarangani Prov abt 2:26pm today, 30Jan 2017, and; Burning of a passenger van plying the Gensan-Maitum route at the

Kiamba, Sarangani past 6PM 30Jan 2017.

There is also a reported NPA attack on a resort in Batangas visited by Miss Universe contestants. About 30 fully armed NPA rebels attacked the resort in Pico de Loro 7:35pm, Jan 29 and burned a staff house and several quarters of employees. The NPA allegedly disarmed the guards, took the weapons, ransacked the building then torched it. They also attempted to burn other buildings.

The CPP-NPA-NDF is currently the longest Maoist insurgency in Asia.

Reinstate ceasefire - solon

With the fate of the peace talks on the line following the decision of the revolutionary movement to terminate the unilateral ceasefire it had declared, House appropriations committee chairman Davado City Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles yesterday appealed to the CPP and its military arm the New People's Army to reinstate the ceasefire.

He expressed fears its "unfortunate and premature" termination might again lead to hostilities that can jeopardize the outcome of the ongoing peace talks between the government and the communist insurgents.

According to Nograles, Mr. Duterte has given the CPP-NPA so much latitude and so much preferential treatment so they should return the favor by exercising restraint and allow peace negotiations to proceed without looming concerns of the possibility of conflict among the communist insurgents and the government security forces.

"They should understand that any outbreak of violence between the two sides can lead to the actual termination of the peace process itself. This decision to terminate the ceasefire is really unfortunate and premature. The government has shown so much goodwill in its effort to finally end the war with the communist rebels so I think that it's time for them to show the same," Nograles said.

Nograles appealed to the members of the cabinet who are connected with the CPP-NPA to use their influence to convince the CPP-NPA leadership to revert to their ceasefire status and allow the peace process to take its course.

And instead of terminating the ceasefire, Nograles said the CPP-NPA should bring all their complaints to the negotiating table so that the peace panel can draw up a consensus on how to resolve them without resorting to the termination of the ceasefire.

Nograles expressed fears that the peace talks might again collapse in the event of a violent confrontation between the communist rebels and government security forces.

Charlie V. Manalo

22 February 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A1

Reds to resume war

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

COMMUNIST rebels withdrew a unilateral ceasefire declaration on Wednesday and railed against the Duterte government for failing to honor its promise to release their detained comrades.

They said, however, they would continue to talk peace.

Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza was "dismayed" by the news but also said peace talks would continue, and the military and police would not lift orders to suspend anti-communist operations.

Chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello 3rd admitted the government was surprised by the NPA move.

"It is a surprise and an unpleasant surprise all the while because we have a scheduled meeting on February 22 to 25 in the Netherlands for the sole purpose of upgrading the existing unilateral ceasefire [of both parties] to a bilateral ceasefire agreement," Bello told reporters.

New People's Army (NPA) spokesman Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos said the interim ceasefire declared by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the NPA's National Operations Command on August 28 last year "shall effectively expire on 11:59 p.m. of February 10."

"With the lifting of the ceasefire, Madlos said NPA fighters would "counteract, frustrate and

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WAR FROM A1

Reds to resume war

punish" all military operations in communist areas.

He claimed it was possible to wage war while talking peace.

"In our experience and in the experience of other peoples, it is possible to negotiate while fighting until the substantive agreements are forged to address the roots of the armed conflict and lay the basis for a just and lasting peace," the NPA spokesman said in a statement.

Madlos cited two reasons for ending the truce: the Duterte administration's failure to release 200 rebel detainees, and the alleged military encroachment into rebel territory.

He explained that the CPP-NPA issued the ceasefire on the understanding that the government would free political detainees within 60 days of August 28, the start of peace talks in Oslo, Norway.

President Rodrigo Duterte has said he would not release the prisoners after giving concessions to the CPP, NPA and the communist political arm, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

Madlos also alleged that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) had "treacherously taken advantage" of the ceasefire to conduct "hostile actions and offensive operations" in areas occupied by the NPA.

The military has "occupied at least 500 *barrios* (villages) which are within the authority of the

revolutionary government" across 43 provinces that the NPA claims to operate in, he said.

On January 21, he said, a fire-fight broke out as the AFP attacked an NPA platoon in Makilala, North Cotabato, resulting in the death of eight soldiers. "An NPA Red fighter was martyred," Madlos said.

The military has acknowledged the clash but not the casualty count. It earlier accused NPA rebels of violating their own ceasefire declaration in several incidents, including the fatal ambush of two soldiers in Isabela, a shootout with soldiers, and alleged extortion attempts on civilians.

The peace talks in August 2016 were the first between the government and the rebels since 2013, when negotiations were terminated by then president Benigno Aquino 3rd.

A third round of talks between the two parties ended in Rome, Italy, last week with no deal on a joint and permanent ceasefire.

Both sides agreed to meet for a fourth round of formal talks in Oslo on April 2 to 6. Officials dealing specifically with the ceasefire issue will meet sooner, in Utrecht in the Netherlands beginning February 22.

Govt won't lift ceasefire

Dureza said he would recommend retaining the government's own

ceasefire declaration until both sides agree to a bilateral deal.

But he will also recommend to the President that "government forces continue to be relentless in their campaign to protect the civilians from harm and terrorism."

"We agree that the situation, with various incidents on the ground, had become untenable to sustain without the guidelines and protocols that a bilateral ceasefire provides. This gives more impetus and encouragement to our earnest task of forging a sustainable ceasefire agreement," he said.

Bello pointed out that both sides disagreed on what constituted a ceasefire violation, as the unilateral declaration did not have clear parameters.

"Right now, if the military went inside schools, you cannot technically consider that a ceasefire violation. In the same vein, the NPA burning equipment or a bus cannot also be considered ceasefire violation. That's why we really need to come up with a bilateral ceasefire agreement so that you will be able to identify the acts that constitute a violation of the ceasefire agreement," Bello said.

The AFP said the suspension of military operations against the rebels will stay, but the military will continue dealing with incidents of extortion, burning of vehicles, farm and livelihood implements, and other criminal acts.

The Philippine National Police said it would also continue to observe a suspension of offensive police operations.

WITH LLANESCA T. PANTI AND FERNAN MARASIGAN

02 February 2017

Malaya

The National Newspaper

Page: B1

Communist rebels terminate ceasefire

BY VICTOR REYES
AND JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

THE Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army yesterday announced the termination next week of the unilateral ceasefire it declared last August but the rebels said they would still support peace talks with the government.

Cited among reasons for ending the communist ceasefire was government's failure to release political prisoners.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said government would maintain its unilateral ceasefire with the communist rebels. He also said President Duterte remains committed to the peace negotiations and would exercise strong political will to move the peace talks forward.

Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza said government is dismayed but it respects the decision of

See COMMUNIST > Page B6

COMMUNIST

the CPP-NPA.

"We agree that the situation, with various incidents on the ground, had become untenable to sustain without the guidelines and protocols that a bilateral ceasefire provides. This gives more impetus and encouragement to our earnest task of forging a sustainable ceasefire agreement. Despite these, however, we are still hopeful that the search for peace will continue and the tragedy of Filipinos fighting fellow Filipinos will come to an early end," he said.

The termination of the communist-declared ceasefire, to take effect at 11:59 p.m. of February 10, came amid stepped-up attacks by the NPA on government forces and civilian targets, with at least 12 incidents recorded last month.

NPA spokesman Jorge Madlos alias Ka Oris said the government can continue to talk peace with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines despite the termination of the communist-declared ceasefire.

"In our experience and in the experience of other peoples, it is possible to negotiate while fighting until the substantive agreements are forged to address the roots of the armed conflict and lay the basis for a just and lasting peace," he said in a statement.

The two sides concluded the third round of talks last month in Rome. The fourth round of peace talks, set to be held this month in The Hague, was supposed to discuss a permanent

st have 3 ls, President Is soldiers

Just have 3 kids, President... ◀1

"You should also teach them family planning talaga. I-program 'yan," the President said during a dinner meeting with the AFP Council of Sergeant Majors in Malacañang last Tuesday night.

"Ang average soldier, the most dapat tatlo. Boundary talaga 'yang dalawa ano na 'yari. Lalo na kung may babae at lalake na, tama na [An average soldier should have three, the most. Having two is boundary, especially if you already have a daughter and a son. That's enough]," he added.

Duterte even said in jest he would

cut off the soldier's manhood if he keeps on having children beyond his means. He expressed concern that some soldiers with many children find it hard to provide basic needs such as education and healthcare.

Duterte also said he empathizes with the widow and the children in case a soldier dies in the line of duty. "I pity the human being," he said, adding the government must continue the program of providing livelihood and education assistance to the surviving military family.

By GENALYN D. KABILING

President Duterte has encouraged country's soldiers to practice responsible family planning, saying having three children is enough. The President directed the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sergeant majors to teach responsible family planning to the troops amid concerns they have difficulty raising a large family. ▶4

Last month, the President issued an executive order on the full implementation of the reproductive health law in the country. The order seeks to accelerate the provision of funds and support for modern family planning in all poor households.

The President, meantime, called on the military officers to boost the morale of soldiers by helping address family needs such as food, education to healthcare.

He said they must "communicate always" and "look into the soul" of the soldiers and extend assistance especially if they have problems at home.

"Ang morale ng sundalo starts not really in the camp. If he is married or

if he is single, ang morale ng bata nasa bahay [The moral of a soldier starts not really in the camp. If he is married or if he is single, his morale starts at home]," he said.

Meanwhile, the the Department of Health (DOH) vowed yesterday to take different options in intensifying health education in schools after the Department of Education (DepEd) declined to distribute condoms in schools.

DepEd aims to develop and disseminate an age-appropriate reproductive health education in schools which will raise awareness on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

among the youth.

The two agencies agreed to take on different options that shall complement each other's respective mandates.

Health Secretary Paulyn Jean B. Rossell Ubial said the provision of services in schools to improve condom access is not a primary consideration anymore following the agreement with DepEd.

The DepEd will focus on the strengthened development of its curriculum, especially on reproductive health while the DOH will work with other partners to ensure information is linked to service provision, including but not limited to condom access. (With a report from Betheena Kae-United)

'Jihadists invade Mindanao'

By John Paolo Bencito and Florante S. Solmerin

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday confirmed the presence of Islamic State jihadists trying to spread extremism in war-torn Mindanao.

In a speech before newly promoted

officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Duterte expressed alarm over verified reports not only from the military but local officials claiming that Indonesian and Malaysian jihadists, along with their Middle East counterparts, have already entered Mindanao through the country's southern backdoor.

Next page

Jihadists...

From A1

"Now I've heard, not only from your report, but from the politicians who are there that there are about four to six Arabs... lecturing. They're the most dangerous. Political officers are dangerous for us," the President said. "We cannot just afford to allow them to spread [extremism]."

In the same speech, Duterte revealed that an Indonesian emissary had been sent to Manila to press him for action on the continued spate of kidnappings on the high seas by Islamic militants operating in the Philippines.

"There was a new report that an Indonesian was kidnapped, so a special emissary was sent by the [Indonesian] central government. And [the message was] urgent: What are we doing?" Duterte said after a late Monday night meeting with the visiting official.

In November, the Philippines agreed to allow Malaysia and Indonesia to conduct hot pursuit of pirates in the country's territorial waters as part of joint efforts to stop piracy and kidnapping.

"So I reminded him that we have this agreement. We have this understanding. Put it into practice and allow more ships," Duterte said.

Over the weekend, the President admitted he could not control the ISIS problem and threatened to call off the ongoing peace talks with Moro rebel groups should they provide refuge to the Abu No. 2 leader, Isnilon Hapilon, who has been the rising figurehead of a handful of ISIS followers based in Basilan, Sulu and Central Mindanao.

The military has reported the death of several foreign jihadists in recent operations.

Hapilon recently left his lair in Basilan and moved to Central Mindanao to find out if the area is conducive to the establishment of a provincial caliphate for the ISIS.

Security officials said the home-grown terrorist groups had been uniting and evolving into just one group called Dawlatul Islamiyah Waliyatul Masrik or DIWM, and had chosen Hapilon as their sole leader in their aggressive efforts to be recognized by the ISIS.

Duterte called on Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana to contain the fighting inside Marawi City and Lanao del Sur.

"I told Delfin Lorenzana, we have to contain the fighting. We cannot afford to allow it to spread, there are many who will die," he said. "I said limit the fighting inside Marawi."

On Wednesday, the Western Mindanao Command said at least five Abu Sayyaf gunmen were killed in fighting in Barangay Pugad Manual, Panamao, Sulu.

Lt. Col. Franco Alano, spokesman of the Western Mindanao Command, said the soldiers encountered the group of Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Alhabsy Misaya at 8 a.m.

Nine other bandits were wounded, as were two soldiers on the government side.

"Government troops are now in pursuit of the said terrorist group while other military units cordoned the area to restrict the movement of the fleeing terrorists," Alano said.

The military has been carrying out an all-out offensive against the terrorist group in Sulu and Basilan upon orders of President Duterte.

05 February 2017



Pahina. 2

Duterte sa mga sundalo:

‘Wag pahuli ng buhay sa ISIS

Pinayuhan ni Pangulong Duterte ang mga sundalo na huwag magpahuli ng buhay sa mga terorista.

Sinabi ng Pangulo sa mensahe nito sa mga sergeant major ng Armed Forces of the Philippines kamakalawa ng gabi sa Malacañang, dapat magtira ang mga sundalo ng isang bala kapag nakikipaglaban sila sa mga terorista lalo sa ISIS at huwag silang

magpahuli ng buhay sa mga ito dahil babalatan sila nito ng buhay.

Nauna ng ibinunyag ni Duterte na itinalagang lider ng ISIS sa Pilipinas si Abu Sayyaf Group leader Isnilon Hapilon.

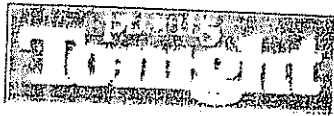
Wika pa ni Duterte sa mga sundalo, ireserba ang

huling bala nito para magpakamatay na lamang kaysa mahuli sila ng buhay ng ISIS.

Magugunita na nagtatago ngayon sa Lanao del Norte si Hapilon nang sumaklolo ito sa Maute group na nakikipaglaban sa mga government troops. (Rudy Andal)

35

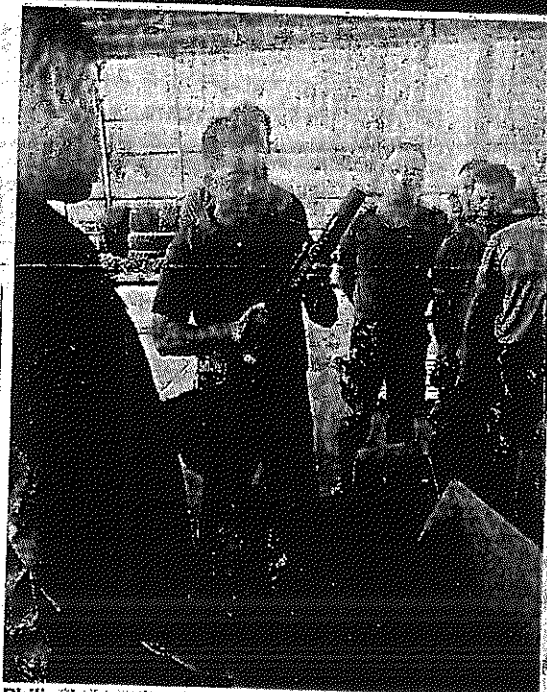
02 February 2017



Page. 10

U.S. military delivers counterterrorism equipment to AFP, Marine Corps

CLARK Air Base -- Representatives from the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines' Joint U.S. Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) delivered new military equipment to the Philippine Army and Marine Corps January 27. The transfer included over 400 M203 grenade launchers, 85 M40A5



Philippine service members receive new counterterrorism equipment from the Joint U.S. Military Assistance Group Philippines, as part of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' defense modernization efforts and a U.S. government grant program aimed at assisting security forces conducting counterterrorism operations.

sniper rifles, and a RQ-11B Raven unmanned aerial vehicle system consisting of three drones for exclusive use and ownership by the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The AFP procured the small-arms weapons through the U.S. government's Foreign Military Sales program. This equipment will help enhance the AFP's counterterrorism capabilities, and protect Philippine security forces actively engaged in counterterrorism operations in the southern Philippines.

In addition to the small-arms transfer, the U.S. government provided a Raven unmanned aerial vehicle system through the

grant counterterrorism program. As part of the grant, and in addition to the three unmanned aerial vehicles included in the Raven system, Philippine service members received training in the United States on its operations and maintenance. The Raven is a hand-launched unmanned aerial vehicle that will increase the AFP's capabilities to conduct intelligence collection, mission planning, and reconnaissance operations.

The equipment transfer and continued bilateral training efforts demonstrate the commitment between the Philippines and U.S. to work towards safer communities and the eradication of global terror networks.

36

Palace asked to issue written order on military's role in drug war

By **Mario J. Mallari** and **Angie M. Rosales**

The Department of National Defense (DND) has asked Malacañang to issue an order for

the military to start operations against illegal drugs, including granting troops powers to arrest rogue cops and suspected drug lords, as directed by President Rodrigo Duterte.

Turn to page 3

Palace asked to issue written order on military's role in drug war

From page 1

In a statement, DND Public Affairs Service Director Arsenio Andolong yesterday said the department has already requested the Office of the Executive Secretary for a written order "to serve as legal basis for the troops to follow."

Following his directive to dissolve all anti-illegal drugs units of the Philippine National Police (PNP), Mr. Duterte asked the armed forces to support the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in fighting in his war on narcotics.

"By the same token, the President's verbal directive to arrest 'scalawag cops' should also be covered by a formal order," Andolong stressed.

The disbandment of all PNP anti-illegal drugs units and the subsequent shelving of Oplan "Tokhang" came following the involvement of active policemen in the kidnap-slaying of South Korean Jee Ick Joo.

According to Malacañang, the President was fully aware of police corruption when he gave police the lead in the war on drugs, but the scale of the narcotics problem was so big that he had no other choice.

While the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), which takes over the lead in fighting drugs, noted that leading the crackdown without the police would be a challenge, it, however, said it could handle it.

"We can enlist the help of other agencies and other stakeholders and in fact our director general has been in several meetings with the AFP already," PDEA spokesman Derrick Carreon said.

"We will be deploying teams in key areas where it would be easier for them to respond. It will be more challenging ... that is why we are engaging other stakeholders."

'Bitter pill to swallow'

PNP Director General Ronald de la Rosa yesterday expressed full support to Mr. Duterte's intent to revive the defunct Philippine Constabulary (PC) to pursue the war on illegal drugs.

He said while the re-establishment of PC is a "bitter pill to swallow," he fully supports the President if only to have a better Philippines.

"What is important is for the betterment of the Philippines. I can swallow our pride. I can swallow the bitter pill," he added.

De la Rosa also stressed the need for a disciplined police force, just like the PC which was under the military.

"In the military, the focus is discipline and that is what needed in the uniformed organization. Strict discipline is needed, that is what I want to bring back (to the PNP)," he said.

'Bad idea'

Sen. Leila de Lima, a staunch critic of Mr. Duterte, said bringing in the military was a bad idea.

Enlisting military for anti-drug operations 'very dangerous' — Ping

BY JHANNAH TORREGOZA
Former Philippine National Police (PNP) chief and now Senator Pan-

filo "Ping" Lacson yesterday warned President Duterte it would be "very dangerous" to enlist military personnel to perform anti-drug operations ▶4

Enlisting military... 1

and go after scalawags in the police organization.

"I'll stand up against it because it would be chaotic if the one that would check on the anomalies of policemen would be the military," Lacson told reporters in a press briefing.

"We might end up having armed people — legitimate armed forces — who would be fighting each other. Remember, it's not only the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) which is armed, even the PNP is an armed force," the senator said.

"It would be better if the national police itself conducts the internal cleansing against their scalawag members,"

he said.

President Duterte had earlier said only the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and a select few from the AFP can conduct drug operations to avoid anymore scandals.

He declared this after dissolving all anti-illegal drugs groups of the PNP due to the killing of South Korean businessman Jee Ick-joo.

According to Duterte, police officers around the country are no longer allowed to enforce laws related to the drug campaign.

Sen. Leila de Lima also opposed the idea, saying the President has just exercised an emergency power of the

Commander-in-chief as provided for in the Constitution, calling out the AFP to suppress lawless violence, rebellion, or invasion.

De Lima said such plan cannot be invoked due to his own order suspending the PNP from conducting anti-drug operations.

"The problem here is that the President has wittingly drawn the military to his 'Tokhang' program, thus putting civil society in a bind of whether to choose the devil they know, of the PNP doing 'Tokhang, or the devil they don't know, the AFP implementing the same murderous Tokhang operations," De Lima said.

De Lima argued the real issue is the legitimacy of a government anti-drug program that sanctions killings

and violations of human rights.

"The real problem is not the PNP or AFP per se, but the monstrous policy hatched in the bowels of Davao City and that gave rise to more than a thousand dead in that city and over 7,000 in the whole country. No pretext can change this root of the problem," she said.

On the other hand, Lacson said the President's assessment that 40 percent of the PNP are scalawags is "an overestimate" number and he himself "won't believe that, won't buy that."

"It's very dangerous. If I may again give an unsolicited advice, it would be to better rethink or reconsider the instruction of the President because that's very dangerous," he said.

"Unless there is really a huge

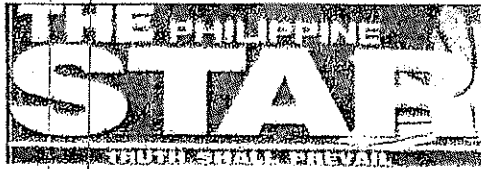
breakdown in the discipline, say 90 percent of our police force are really scalawags, because who are you going to call to resolve the problem, the 10 percent?"

"Definitely, the 10 percent would be hard put defeating the 90 percent but as I said, I wouldn't believe that 40 percent of the PNP members are scalawags," he said.

Negros Oriental Rep. Arnulfo Teves Jr. said the Chief Executive should be given a free hand to fully enforce the massive cleansing in the PNP.

"I don't think he has completely lost trust in the PNP. But he is definitely realizing that some personalities in the organization are rogue and that these people will be detrimental to the success of his programs," he said.

02 February 2017



Page: 46

Senators caution gov't on AFP hunt for rogue cops

By PAOLO ROMERO

Senators yesterday warned of dire consequences following President Duterte's order for the military to run after rogue policemen, saying this could get out of hand.

Sens. Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan said the Philippine National Police (PNP) should be allowed to undertake its own cleansing of its ranks amid high-profile cases of PNP officers being involved in drugs, kidnapping and extortion.

Lacson, chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, is a former PNP chief while Honasan, chair of the committee on

national defense and security, is a former Army colonel.

"I'll stand up against it. There'll be trouble if the military will check the police. We might end up having legitimate armed forces that are fighting each other," Lacson said.

"It's very dangerous. It's better if the police undertake the cleansing against their scalawags," he said.

Lacson said such directive may be warranted only in the unlikely situation where 90 percent of the police force are scalawags.

He expressed strong doubt over Duterte's estimate that 40 percent of PNP personnel are scalawags.

Lacson urged Duterte to reconsider his directive to the Armed Forces

of the Philippines (AFP).

"My heart goes out to our police force because they're now at the receiving end but they're trying to reform themselves, initiated by the leadership, no less," he said.

While also warning of possible adverse consequences, Honasan sought to put context in Duterte's directive.

He said that at the ground level, the roles of soldiers and policemen are very similar except that cops are more geared towards investigation.

"We should not misconstrue that they (military) really operate against rogue cops. Who knows who are the rogue cops? Their fellow cops," Honasan said.

41

02 February 2017



Page: A12

PNP suing NPA over drug-related death in Davao

DAVAO CITY—Police said the man killed by communist rebels in Paquibato district was involved in the illegal drug trade. Senior Insp. Catherine dela Rey, city police spokesperson, said police would file murder charges against the NPA for the killing of Nep-tali Alfredo Pondoc. In a statement, Rigoberto Sanchez, spokesperson of the New People's Army in Southern Mindanao, said the NPA "meted out the death penalty" on Pondoc, who was killed in his farm in Barangay Malabog. Sanchez said Pondoc oper-ated one of the drug syndicates that traded "shabu" (crystal meth) from Diwalwal in Monkayo, Compostela Valley, to Panabo City, Paquibato and Calinan in Davao City. He said the operation on Jan. 23 was backed by a government-issued warrant against Pondoc. Dela Rey, however, denied any knowledge of an arrest warrant against Pondoc, even if he had surrendered under Operation "Tokhang," the police's antidrug campaign. —KARLOS MANLUPIG

Navy ship joins antipiracy patrol in Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Philippine Navy is deploying BRP Andres Bonifacio to Mindanao in a bid to boost the military's war on terror and piracy—particularly against the Abu Sayyaf and its allied groups. The 1967 Hamilton Class high endurance cutter, formerly known as USCG Boutwell of the United States Navy, docked here last week. Navy officials said it will be de-ployed as soon as the "shakedown mission" or familiarization voyage for its crew is completed. Navy Commander Brendo Casaclang, commander of BRP Andres Bonifacio, said the ship will patrol the waters off Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi provinces, along with BRP Alcaraz and BRP Del Pilar, as the mili-tary intensifies its operation against the Abu Sayyaf and other terror groups. BRP Andres Bonifacio was acquired by the gov-ernment under the US Excess Defense Articles Program last year. —JULIE ALIPALA

07 February 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Page: 41

NEWS / A2

MANCAO SURRENDERS



DACER-CORBITO MURDER CASE

MANCAO SURRENDERS 3 YEARS AFTER ESCAPE

By Jerome Aning and Christine O. Avendaño @Team_Inquirer

The Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) is awaiting the decision of the Manila Regional Trial Court on where former Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao II, one of the accused in the Dacer-Corbito double murder case, would be detained.

Mancao surrendered on Monday to the CIDG-National Capital Region, according to its head, Senior Supt. Belli Tamayo.

Mancao had earlier sent feelers to PNP Director General Ronald dela Rosa and the CIDG director, Chief Supt. Roel Obusan, his "mistah" or batchmates in Philippine Military Academy Class 1986, according to police sources.

The warrant of arrest was returned to the court on Tuesday morning, Tamayo told reporters.

In the meantime, Mancao will be detained at the CIDG-NCR office in Camp Crane, Quezon City, while awaiting the issuance of the commitment order.

"We can't really tell how long he will be here because it's the court's decision on where to commit him. But as of now, for security reasons—because we can't put him in any detention together with other sus-



Former Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao II

pects in drugs, [suspected members of the bandit group] Abu-Sayyaf—he is in this office and is closely guarded," Tamayo said.

Mancao, a former official of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), escaped from detention in the National Bureau of Investigation in May 2013, a few days after the Manila RTC ordered him transferred to the city jail.

The judge earlier denied the prosecution's plea to discharge Mancao as a state witness in the Dacer-Corbito double murder case and the higher courts denied his demurrer or plea for the dropping of the charges against him.

Mancao was extradited from the United States in June 2009 and was tapped by the Department of Justice to testi-

fy against former President Joseph Estrada, former PAOCTF head and now Sen. Panfilo Lacson, and other suspects in the killing of publicist Salvador "Bobby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito.

Dacer and Corbito were abducted in November 2000. They were executed and their bodies burnt in Indang, Cavite.

Estrada was never charged. The courts later cleared Lacson and other suspects, including Senior Supt. Glenn Dumilao, currently the head of the PNP Anti-Kidnapping Group, and former Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino.

In February 2015, Cesar Mancao secretly met with several journalists and told them about his plans to surrender. He also cleared Estrada and Lacson from the crime and offered to reveal all he knows about the murders.

Lacson said on Wednesday he had forgiven Mancao even if the latter had made his life "miserable" in the 14 months that he had to go into hiding in 2009 after being persecuted by the Arroyo administration.

The senator, who was cleared in the Dacer-Corbito murder case by the Supreme Court in 2010, said when Mancao was in hiding, the latter sent his mother, wife and sister to talk to him and that he had always said he had forgiven Mancao. INQ

OFFICE

5285, 5295

43

Ex-soldier goes berserk, kills 4 in Ilocos Sur

By **FREDDIE G. LAZARO**
and **MARTI SUENAD**

CAMP PRESIDENT QUIRINO, Ilocos Sur — The relative serenity of this municipality was jolted when a former soldier, for still unknown reasons, went berserk Tuesday night and armed with an US-made rifle, shot dead four individuals who were having a drinking binge in Barangay Basug.

Santa police chief Sr. Supt. Rey de Peralta said Antonio Espiritu, 63 of Barangay Rizal, was captured 15 minutes after he gunned down Reykhel Balleasca, 25; Fazel Custodia, 24 and Gerardo Belen, 48, all residents of Brgy. Basug,

along with Rurnolo Bruzon, 21, a resident of Brgy. Quezon.

De Peralta said the victims died on the spot due to multiple gunshot wounds.

A fifth victim, Prince Marion Garcia, 26, survived the attack and was brought to hospital for treatment.

Initial investigation showed that prior to the incident, the victims were having a drinking session at the residence of one Isidro De Peralta, a barangay kagawad.

Espiritu later showed up and instantly fired at the victims.

"The suspect was able to enter the compound where the victims were having a drinking spree and shot them instantly without any reason," said De Peralta.

The four casualties were rushed by neighbors and the police to Metro Vigan Cooperative Hospital but were declared dead on arrival by attending physician Rachel Rumias.

Garcia was brought to Gabriela Silang General Hospital for treatment of gunshot wounds.

"Our police officers were able to arrest the suspect who did not voluntarily surrender, while the carbine was recovered from the house of John Pader, a resident of Sacuyya Norte, Santa, Ilocos Sur by KIMAT Team led by Chief Inspector Honesto Lazo Jr.," said De Peralta, who added that Pader will likewise be charged.

According the Chief Inspector William Nerona, spokesperson of the Ilocos Sur police provincial office said that an old grudge is the likely cause of the attack, although investigators are gathering more pieces of evidence.

02 February 2017

POLICE FILES

Page 2

SUNDALO IPANTATAPAT SA POLICE SCALAWAGS

IPAAARESTO ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Armed Forces of the Philippines ang mga pulis scalawags at mga sangkot sa ilegal na droga.

Sa oath-taking ng anim- naput-anim na bagong opisyal ng AFP sa Malakanyang, siya ding pangulo na kapag hindi niya ipinasok sa larang mga sundalo tiyak na wala pang titigin sa mga abusadong pulis.

Sinabi pa ng pangulo na malala na ang kultura ng korupsiyon sa hanay ng mga pulis.

Paggiit pa ng pangulo, wala na ni isang pulis sa

buong bansa ang maaring magsagawa ngayon ng anti-illegal drug campaign habang isinasagawa ang reorganisasyon sa hanay ng PNP.

Maari aniyang hingin ang tulong ng AFP dahil nasa ilalim ang bansa sa national emergency.

Samantala, nilinaw naman ni National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon na ang tulong na maibibigay ng AFP sa pag-

sugpo sa problema sa ilegal na droga ay ang pagbuo ng mga anti-drug units.

Paliwanag niya, bagaman susuporta ang AFP sa kampanya kontra droga, hindi "as a whole" na sabak ang AFP dito bagkus ay may ilang units lang na ide-deploy.

Oras aniya na mabuo na ang mga anti-drug units sa AFP, doon na sila makakatulong sa Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) sa kanilang mga operasyon.

02 February 2017



Page: 9

Breakthrough

By ELFREN S. CRUZ

The end of democracy?



Is the world seeing the beginning of the end for liberal democracy? Is the end of the political ideology, form of government characterized by fair, free and competitive elections; separation of powers; the rule of law in everyday life as part of a free society; equal protection for all individuals of human rights, civil liberties and political freedoms?

Liberal democracy is under attack from both the Left and the Right. China believes that it will be the leader of the new world order. But, recently, after Trump's inauguration, the People's Daily, the flagship paper of the Communist Party of China wrote that democracy has reached its limits, and deterioration is the inevitable future of capitalism. Quoting Mao Zedong, the newspaper said that the ultimate defeat of capitalism would enable communism to emerge victorious.

The *People's Daily* wrote: "The emergence of capitalism's social crisis is the most updated evidence to show the superiority of socialism and Marxism. Western style democracy used to be a recognized power in history to promote social development. But now it has reached its limit. Democracy is already kidnapped by the capitalists and has become the weapon for capitalists to chase profits." On the other side, liberal democracy is now being seriously threatened by the rise of populism. Democracy is conceived to be a representative government that would represent the interests of all sectors of the citizenry. Populism is a political philosophy that supports the rights and power of the people in their struggle against the elites. Populism rises when the general populace is frustrated with their perceived inability to influence legislation and government. Populist leaders will take an anti-establishment message and rally the people with promises that the movement will address the wrongs committed against them by the ruling class.

Donald Trump's clear message is that America First refers to putting the interests of the average American whose voices have not been heard before. The one inference I can discern is that liberal democracy believes that every individual has rights that must be protected. Populism, on the other hand, believes that government must protect the "greater good" even if it means sacrificing the rights of the minority.

China, therefore, suppresses all forms of dissent in Hong Kong supposedly for the "greater good." Donald Trump is willing to violate the civil rights of the Muslim minority to ensure the safety of the majority. In the Philippines, there are those who insist that the drug menace has become so widespread that certain legal "short cuts" are justified. The only danger, which the government has realized, is that these "short cuts" can lead to abuses.

History repeats itself

But why the rise of leaders like Putin, Trump, Xi Jinping and an increasing number of populists on the Left and the Right. Are these people really transforming society? Or are they simply the product of the environment that is happening all over the world?

The rise of income inequality and the callousness of the elite in addressing these issues are the immediate causes. This is not the first time this has happened in the history of the world.

The Industrial Revolution happened between 1750 and 1914 in three phases. It is said that we are going through a similar Technological Revolution. The Industrial Revolution was a period of transition from hand production to machines. During this period historic inventions were made - machinery, penicillin, steam engine, electricity, telephone, steel, machine tools, automobile, airplane among many other inventions.

There is no question that the Industrial Revolution ushered in a new era of economic growth and global trade. There was unprecedented wealth for the new elite that profited from the Industrial Revolution. Some family names that symbolized the wealth of the era were Rockefeller, Rothschild, Carnegie, Vanderbilt, Mellon and Ford.

But industrialization had a severe impact on the mass of people. Millions of people lost their jobs as production shifted from craftsmanship to mass production. In the new wage economy, workers had nothing to survive on but their labor. Most industrial workers lived in great hardship barely meeting their subsistence needs as wages were kept low and prices rose. Crisis such as illness and old age brought misery to these workers. Children as young as ages 10 - 14 were put to work to contribute to the family income.

It was only a matter of time before the working classes would rebel. The first populist movements were those who tried to stop industrialization like the Luddite movement composed of workers who had lost their jobs and tried to destroy machines. They became so strong the army had to protect factories. Its leaders were caught and hanged.

The most extreme and popular reaction, was the rise of Marxism or Communism. Marx and Engels, 19th century authors of the Communist Manifesto, felt the Industrial Revolution was to blame for the oppression of the working class poor who lived in slums and worked in dangerous working conditions. Rather than stop industrialization, the Communist Manifesto advocated that the working class will rise up in revolution against the property owning capitalists.

Eventually the liberal democracies countered the Communist threat by introducing drastic reforms like giving workers the right to organize and providing safety nets like minimum wages; maximum working hours, safe working conditions and social welfare benefits.

46

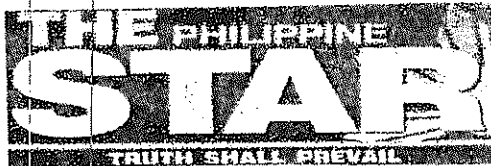
Today, we are seeing again that income inequality has widened, and, the elites have continued to reduce the bargaining power of labor and refused to give workers a living wage. The last time this happened, the poor revolted in countries like Russia and China, populism won in European countries and several world wars erupted. Will history repeat itself?

Creative writing classes for kids and teens: February 4, February 18 and March 4 (1:30pm-3pm). **Creative Nonfiction Writing for Adults:** March 11 (1:30pm-4:30pm). Classes at Fully Booked Bonifacio High Street. For registration and fee details text 0917-6240196 or email writethingsph@gmail.com.

Email: elfrencruz@gmail.com



12 February 2017



Page: 9

Notes from the EU Delegation

By FRANZ JESSEN

A new momentum for peace

I believe that Secretary Dureza, the dynamic Presidential Adviser on the Peace processes, and his colleagues had hoped to find clement weather when they arrived in Rome to attend the Third Round of talks between the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the National Democratic Front (NDF) at the end of January. But they surely must have been disappointed: the Eternal City was experiencing an unusual cold spell which probably made him miss the nice warm beaches of Mindanao where he comes from.



On the other hand, they must have been encouraged by the peace talks: the government and the NDF submitted drafts on key reform proposals, signed side agreements to resolve contentious issues and scheduled informal meetings to fast-track the completion of a peace deal. And more importantly, they set new dates for further official talks, exemplarily facilitated by the Norwegian Government.

Keeping the pace in peace talks is essential as peace processes are always long bumpy roads. A steady pace is needed to keep the right momentum.

I am impressed by the pace of the current Administration in trying to attain peace with the NDF. It remains promising despite the recent series of attacks and harassments by alleged New People's Army (NPA) elements in various areas nationwide and the following NPA's termination of the five-month-old ceasefire with the Philippine government.

However, the other peace process, with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in which the European Union is deeply involved, being a partner of the Government since 2010, appears to be slower.

But it is not only a matter of pace. In fact, Secretary Dureza and his staff have worked tirelessly and assiduously over the last months in order to

promote the convergence of the two Moro factions which ended successfully with the appointment of three MNLF representatives to the just formed Bangsamoro Transition Commission. They have also been working to set up a framework to channel funds in support of the Government's Peace and Development Roadmap.

What is alarming are the reports from Mindanao on the continuous criminal violence of the Abu Sayyaf (ASG) and its affiliated networks in the Sulu Archipelago through hijackings, piracy, kidnappings and on Bangsamoro splinter groups and outfits such as the Maute Brothers and smaller supposedly Daesh-affiliated cells which are potential sources for recruitment and radicalization of youth.

Even if the majority of these local groups will be severely weakened by the vehement response of the Government in the next months, their *raison d'être* will not go away and they remain a potential destabilising factor for the entire process.

I believe that it would be crucial to build on the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro (CAB) signed on 27 March 2014 so as not to lose the impressive achievements the parties were able to make over the last years, to mitigate the frustration of the people and prevent violent extremism at grassroot level.

For this reason the European Union has recently approved a new contribution amounting to P214 million for the next year and half in support of the Peace process with the aim to support the Government in the monitoring of the situation to diffuse tensions on the ground and to support confidence building, and creating a more inclusive political platform, bringing together Mindanao's diverse population.

On the development side, while our programs in supporting livelihood in conflict affected areas are at full speed, we are fielding two groups of experts

48

which in the coming months will help us formulate relevant programs on job creation and on support livelihood and development in Mindanao. This will help us avoid gaps between our interventions and to make the peace dividends more attainable for the local population of Mindanao.

The European Union and its Member States have been supporting the peace process for many years and are always ready to support the Government in its efforts to bring long lasting peace in Mindanao. Peace and stability are also crucial elements for economic development, and we have seen in the Philippines Development Plan how lacking development has been in Mindanao for many years. The EU is ready not only to continue our support to Mindanao, but also to increase it by supporting peace and development in the most needed areas in strong coordination with the Government.

In this respect, I appreciate the efforts of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) to team up with international partners in supporting peace. To have international support in peace processes – although they are truly domestic ones – could help in keeping developments on track and in receiving the necessary boost if the situation deteriorates. Secretary Dureza's visit on 24 January to New York where he spoke on the current status of the Philippine peace process at the UN is a positive evidence of the open attitude of the Government not only to take the peace process to the global stage but also to offer some lessons learnt from the Philippines.

I know that Secretary Dureza is not tired after shuttling from Manila to Rome and New York, working for peace. I would be pleased to see him in Europe in the next months to strengthen our relation.

(Franz Jessen is the Ambassador of the European Union.)



02 February 2017



Page: 9

hooting Straight

By BOBIT S. AVILA

NPA's: How to jeopardize the peace talks



I have always been a staunch anti-communist since I began my journalistic career 30 years ago... thanks to close friends and my mentor the late Sir Max Soliven who always reminded me of the days he was in the field with then Defense Secretary and later President Ramon Magsaysay. This was why it took me some time to support then Presidential candidate Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte who had close ties with the underground movement. But then, this was the concession I gave to DU-30... that if there was anyone who could bring the Communists to the peace talks, it was DU-30 and that's exactly what the President did after taking the reins of power in Malacañang. During many of our lunches and dinners with anong Max Soliven, when the topic of the communist insurgency came up, he always reminded me of the Magsaysay formula in handling the Communists with his four "F's". Pres. Ramon Magsaysay's formula was simply, "Find them, fight them, fool them, then finish them, then offer them the hand of peace!" Of all the four "s" of Pres. Magsaysay, we failed to do one, which is to finish the communist rebels so we could offer them the hand of peace. In short, Pres. Magsaysay wanted to talk peace with the communists when they are down and weakened, so that they would readily talk peace. alas, this is not happening.

Apparently a couple of days ago despite the on-going ceasefire between the government of the Philippines (GRP) and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA) in Rome, the NPAs attacked members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in what looked like a highly coordinated ambush in different parts of the country. One ambush was in Barangay Concepcion, Valencia City and in Barangay Banquet in Echague town. Another group of NPAs attacked Barangays in Isidro Mahayahay and in Kitcharao in Agusan del Norte.

What is happening here? Why are the NPAs violating this ceasefire with the Philippine government? Please don't tell me that the CPP has abandoned the peace process? Come now, are the Communists serious in their quest for peace or not? If so, why are they doing coordinated attacks against the AFP? What can they hope to achieve in attacking the military while their leaders are talking peace in Rome?

Meanwhile, in what I would call an act of humility on the part of the AFP, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana announced that despite the renewed attacks by the NPA, the military would continue to desist from launching attacks against the NPA. But this stance means that our soldiers should always be on the alert in the event they get themselves in the middle of a firefight with the NPA rebels.

At this point, I would like to believe that the Duterte administration has bended too much to the demands of the communists... in releasing many prisoners, many of whom have criminal cases on their heads. Just recently, no less than Pres. Duterte has asked the international community to delist the name of CPP Chairman Jose Maria "Joma" Sison from the Terror watch list, which for me is another concession by the

Turn to page 10

AVILA From page 9

Philippine government in exchange for nothing! So the least we expect from the NPA cadres is to honor the ceasefire with the Philippine government. Perhaps the NPAs have no idea of what honor means?

But then, some pundits believe that perhaps Sec. Dureza is talking with the "Old Guard" of the CPP who no longer controls the young NPA rebels who have been living and fighting in the countryside and no longer listens to these old fogeys? I've always been skeptic about talking peace with the Communists, but because I fully support Pres. Duterte, I am giving peace a

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nce. So far so good...until this incident happened.
What we would like to get is the explanation from those
communists who are now in Rome talking peace with OPAPP
if the NPAs have broken the ceasefire? We cannot go on talk-
peace while the NPAs go on rampaging in the countryside
because the AFP has been told not to engage them. I also would
like to hear what Pres. Duterte what he thinks about this break in
the ceasefire with the NPA and what his administration should
do if it happens again. I believe that the Duterte administration
has made too many concessions to the CPP/NDF/NPA just so they
could sit down and talk peace.
If I know Pres. Duterte, he is tough enough to withdraw

from the ceasefire with the communists if he sees that they are
using the peace talks as their delaying tactics. Mind you, this
has happened many times in the past and I wouldn't be surprised
if this is happening again. At this point, the Philippine govern-
ment should come up with strict rules against the parties that
violate the ceasefire. There is no sense in sitting down with the
CPP officialdom when the NPA cadres cannot even respect the
ceasefire agreement. I know that peace will not come easily, but
violating the ceasefire will not bring peace.

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munists by just jettisoning the talks and embracing the Moro insurgents in Mindanao; it was a simplistic and simple-minded "solution," but the strategy made the dream of peace with the Communist rebels more elusive than ever before.

I still think that peace with the local Communists, who have degenerated mostly into discrete, autonomous bandit-like groups after they lost their ideological moorings with and financial backing from a no-longer-Red China, is still attainable. But unless the NDF and the NPA stop being unreasonable and actually start working for a lasting solution to this never-ending war, it won't ever happen.

The Communists would be wise to remember that they, too, have a stake in making peace come to pass. Their once-formidable mass base has long been eroded and if war once again erupts, they may find that the citizenry is no longer sympathetic to their unending demands and discredited ideology.

Turn to A5

Why...

From A4

Peace will also stop the steady decline to irrelevance of a local Communist movement that can no longer count on the support of the masses or even support itself without resorting to extortion and other criminal activities. They should understand this, if they don't understand anything else.

Just how brave is the former coup plotter, Senator Antonio Trillanes? Not brave enough to confront Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre in the Senate, Trillanes' own home court, apparently.

Nearly forgotten during the tearful and bombastic Senate

hearings last Tuesday on alleged corruption in the immigration bureau was the fact that Trillanes, who originally called for the investigation of the attempt to extort from casino mogul Jack Lam, wasn't even in the session hall. Aguirre, on the other hand, whom Trillanes had long accused of masterminding the extortion attempt on Lam, was there—and he rebutted the senator's allegations point by point, while Trillanes was conveniently absent.

This is why the Senate has gotten such a bad rap in recent years as the ultimate forum for the political bullying and trolling that Trillanes does so well. And the fact that he can't even face the people he so boldly accuses when they arrive to refute him speaks volumes about this "sundalong karin's" mettle.