

Army Vision: By 2038, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



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NEWS CLIPPINGS

03 February 2017

Friday

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

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

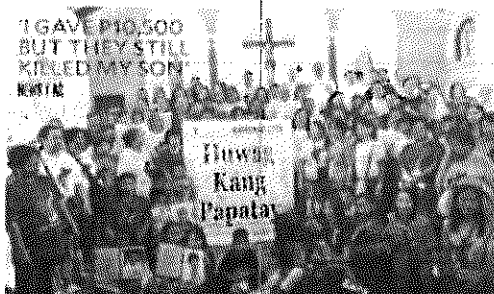
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03 FEBRUARY 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER **WITH DICK, PINE COOL TO PROBE OF DRUG KILLINGS**

POLICE VICTIMS' KIN SHARE TALES OF WOE

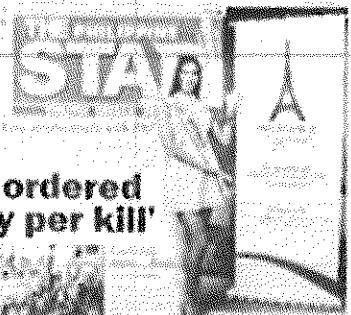
'I GAVE P10,500 BUT THEY STILL KILLED MY SON'
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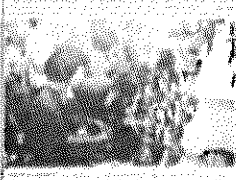
Probe ordered on 'pay per kill'



SIARGAO

Manila Standard

'Mining order means losses'



The Manila Times

Duterte orders police, NBI purge



P 150,000,000.00

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BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST FEBRUARY 3, 2017 | FRIDAY

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING LUZON
(As of 5:00 PM - Feb. 2, 2017)

LAOAG CITY 25 - 30 °C	TUGUEGARAO CITY 21 - 29 °C
BAGUIO CITY 14 - 22 °C	SBMA/CLARK 22 - 30 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY 21 - 29 °C	METRO MANILA 24 - 29 °C
LEGAZPI CITY 24 - 27 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY 25 - 30 °C
TACLOBAN CITY 23 - 28 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA 25 - 31 °C
METRO CEBU 24 - 30 °C	ZAMBOANGA CITY 23 - 31 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO 23 - 28 °C	METRO DAVAO 24 - 30 °C

SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:24 AM	5:56 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
10:55 AM	11:39 PM
NEW MOON	FIRST QUARTER
JAN 28 8:07 AM	FEB 4 12:19 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
8:40 AM 0.06 Meter	1:41 AM 0.66 Meter

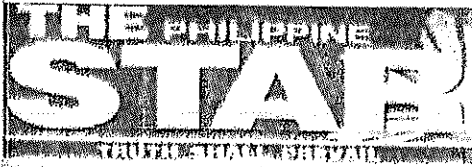
- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers
- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
- Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
- Light rain

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

METRO MANILA	23 - 29 °C	23 - 28 °C	TAGAYTAY	21 - 28 °C	21 - 27 °C	TACLOBAN	23 - 27 °C	24 - 27 °C
TUGUEGARAO	20 - 26 °C	20 - 26 °C	LEGAZPI	24 - 28 °C	24 - 28 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	23 - 28 °C	24 - 26 °C
LAOAG	22 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO	24 - 31 °C	24 - 30 °C
BAGUIO	13 - 21 °C	13 - 20 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25 - 30 °C	26 - 31 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	22 - 30 °C	23 - 30 °C	METRO CEBU	25 - 29 °C	25 - 30 °C	<p>SAGOT NG PAGALA NG I</p>		

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13 February 2017



Page: 1

Probe ordered on 'pay per kill'

I will kill more – Rody

By ALEXIS ROMERO

Reports that policemen were given incentives for every drug suspect killed would be probed as part of the cleansing process of the Philippine National Police (PNP), Malacañang said yesterday.

"It's part of the cleansing operation. It's being looked into," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said.

"Definitely the President is concerned about what's happening and has actually responded, as you can very well see," he added.

Abella cited the President's decision to suspend the PNP's anti-illegal drug operations following the death of a South Korean businessman at the hands of the PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Group (AIDG).

"The President's anti-drug war does not condone extrajudicial killings and the President is clear that he is after criminals," Abella said.

"Again, let me just say, criminal cops are not government. Their illegal acts do not represent the police institution whose duty is to ensure the protection

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Probe

From Page 1

and security of civilians.”

In Davao City, President Duterte yesterday vowed “to kill more” if he has to rid the country of illegal drugs.

Duterte told a gathering of water executives that he will not ease up on his fight against illegal drugs.

The President, however, lamented how the fight against illegal drugs has been affected by corruption in the PNP and even in the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), both lead agencies in the war on drugs.

“I cannot trust the police, because it is corrupt, I cannot trust the NBI because it is corrupt. I have very limited warm bodies but very many wars to fight,” Duterte told the representatives of water districts all over the country in a national conference at the SMX Convention Center in Davao City.

Earlier, Amnesty International (AI) said the PNP acted on instructions “from the very top of government” and have killed thousands of suspected drug offenders. The group said the policemen even paid others to execute the drug offenders.

Amnesty International also accused the PNP of “systematically” targeting poor and defenseless people, planting evidence, recruiting paid killers, stealing from their victims and fabricating incident reports.

“Under President Duterte’s rule, the national police are breaking laws they are supposed to uphold while profiting from the murder of impoverished people the government was supposed to uplift. The same streets Duterte vowed to rid of crime are now filled with bodies of people illegally killed by his own police,” the group said.

The policemen were incited

by the rhetoric of President Duterte, who has repeatedly threatened to kill drug lords, it added.

Abella admitted that some rogue cops may have used Duterte’s statements of support to the PNP as a cover for their wrongdoings.

“Some of these ‘scalawags’ may have taken that as a form of cover in order to engage in those operations,” he said.

“The President has repeatedly said that the drug apparatus has to be destroyed, that’s why he frames it in terms

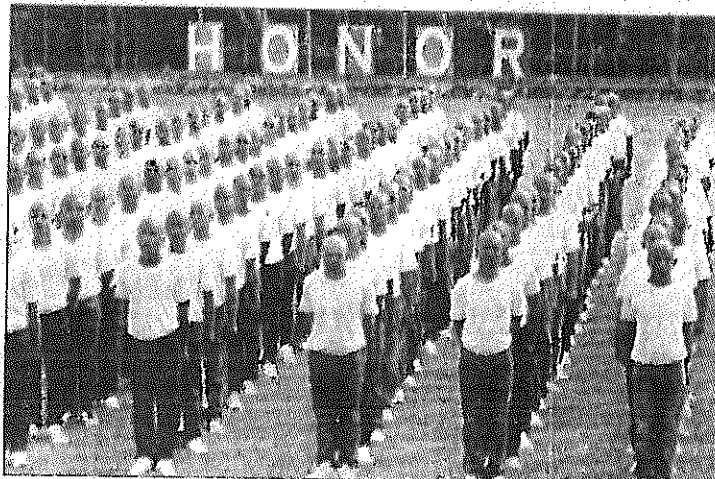
get of Duterte’s criticisms.

Abella said the Freedom report has partially attributed the ranking to Duterte’s policy of alleged extrajudicial killings of suspected drug dealers and addicts.

“Such conclusion is really far from the truth,” he said.

Abella reiterated Duterte’s anti-drug war does not condone extrajudicial killings and the President made it clear that he is after criminals.

“The campaign against illegal drugs has yielded more than a million drug person-



New police recruits take their oath during a ceremony at Camp Florendo in San Fernando City, La Union on Tuesday.

JUN ELIAS

of war.”

Abella also noted the Philippines has been ranked “partly free” by the Freedom in the World report, the same classification it has been in the previous years. “Although there was a slight dip due to human rights violations of varying scale with impunity,” he said.

Abella said the report should have been weighed in terms of the public’s trust and satisfaction over the President’s anti-crime campaign that created a better peace and order situation in the country.

He said the report was partially funded by the US State Department, which is the tar-

get of Duterte’s criticisms. alities, some of whom have already surrendered while some admit themselves to the rehab programs,” he added.

Inquiry urged

Lawmakers have called for an inquiry into the reports made by Amnesty International of policemen being paid for killing suspected drug offenders.

“These are serious allegations coming from an international body that should be looked into in order to determine if there is basis to the claims,” Sen. Francis Escudero said. Escudero said that the inquiry would also allow the PNP to air its side on the issue

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and even confront the AI on the allegations it made regarding the police.

According to AI, they were informed that policemen were given an incentive of P8,000 to P12,000 for each kill they made on drug personalities.

"If the claims are true then I will even support them (AI) but if they turn out to be false, they should not be allowed to just destroy the image of a country and then just make a retraction," he said.

Based on the account of AI in its report, Escudero said the PNP officials who supposedly ordered the killings could be charged with conspiracy to commit murder.

He added there is no legal justification for the use of public funds to finance the killing of people, so if the allegations made by AI are true, then the use of funds for the operations were definitely illegal.

Ifugao Rep. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. described the AI report as

"disconcerting."

He said Congress should scrutinize the allegations against the PNP.

"The AI report validates our assertion that the tactics and strategies of this administration on the drug war are faulty. They are premised on disregard for the rule of law, due process and human rights. And this has led to police corruption and state-sponsored or condoned killing," Baguilat said.

Some police officials disputed the AI report.

"The report is all allegations. It's easy to concoct that," said Director Oscar Albayalde, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office.

Albayalde though ordered an investigation to determine the veracity of the AI report.

Albayalde also urged the AI to bring forward their witnesses.

"We could start our investigation into their claims as soon as possible," he said.

Supt. Jackie Candelario, deputy director of the Pangasinan provincial police, also took exception to the report of AI.

"There's nothing of that sort, that we can say as far as Pangasinan police are concerned," Candelario said.

Candelario, however, lamented the involvement of high ranking PNP officials in several controversial cases, particularly in the killing of a South Korean businessman right inside the national police headquarters.

"It's really saddening that there are police scalawags. We condemn our fellow policemen for destroying the good image of the Philippine National Police," Candelario said.

"We take this as a challenge, how to rise again after this incident," he said.

- With Christina Mendez, Marvin Sy, Non Alquitran, Eva Visperas, Edith Regalado, Roel Pareño, Artemio Dumlaog

Senate

From Page 1

confronts us. The events are not only worrisome, they have become disquieting," Gordon said.

"So far, however, the reports that I get are mostly hearsay... from people who tell me that X or Y or Z was reportedly killed through EJK or tokhang activities. But we cannot act on mere hearsay. And the (AI) report, on this score, does not yet rise above hearsay," he added, referring to "Oplan Tokhang" or the police operations against drug suspects.

But Gordon clarified he was not closing the door on a possible reopening of the probe in the future.

"If anyone will come to me and present testimonial

or other solid evidence to back up an assertion, I will be the first to say a hearing must be conducted. For to conduct a hearing based on hearsay is to expend precious government resources on mere *tsismis* (rumors)," Gordon said.

In an earlier interview, Gordon emphasized that a committee report on the previous hearings on EJKs had been prepared and which stated there was no proof of state-sanctioned EJKs taking place in the country.

"We already made a decision on that. You say there's extrajudicial killings but can you prove that these are state-sanctioned extrajudicial killings? No one is coming out with evidence," Gordon said.

"They (AI) can say anything about that but they still need to prove it and it's a good thing

they said it in fact because it puts a hold on some reckless people who may be doing such things," Gordon said.

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 killed in these operations, the report said.

"We want the Senate to reopen its investigation (on EJKs), instead of prioritizing the death penalty bill. Unless we end this culture of impunity, these senseless killings, these crimes against humanity will continue," AI Philippines campaigner Wilnor Papa said.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

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Kin of police victims share tales of woe

FROM A1

By Pocholo Concepcion
@skinnyziggy

"The policemen were asking for P50,000 for the release of my son from jail," a grieving mother told the Inquirer on Thursday.

Elena Dechavez said she could raise only P7,000, to which she added P3,500 that her son, Alvin Ronald, had when he was arrested in Navotas City on drug charges a few months ago.

"I gave them the money but they still killed my son," said Dechavez, who openly wept at a gathering called "Holy Eucharistic Mass Action Against Extrajudicial Killings," held at Our Lady of Victory Chapel in Potrero village in Malabon City.

Dechavez said she went to the police station to complain about what happened to her son. She said the cops just returned the money to her.



MONEY WASN'T ENOUGH Elena Dechavez weeps as she narrates how her son Alvin Ronald, a drug suspect, was killed even after they gave P10,500 to policemen for his release from jail in Navotas City. —NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

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'War on the poor'

Dechavez spoke to the Inquirer a day after London-based Amnesty International released its report on its investigation of the extrajudicial killings in President Duterte's war on drugs, accusing the Philippine National Police of paying officers and assassins to kill alleged drug offenders, planting evidence and setting up a racket with funeral homes in a "murderous war on the poor."

More than 7,000 suspects have been killed by police and unknown assailants since Mr. Duterte launched the crackdown seven months ago.

Amnesty warned that the killings could constitute crimes against humanity and urged the Duterte administration to investigate the murders and punish the policemen involved.

The PNP denied the allegations and Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II brushed aside Amnesty's findings, saying criminals were not human.

She lost 2 sons

Another mother from Navotas, Maria Mesa de Parine, told the Inquirer that she lost two sons—Aljun and Danilo—four days apart—in Mr. Duterte's war on drugs.

Rolando Paredes of Caloocan City told the Inquirer that his son, Rolando Jr., a scavenger who had no means or reason to use drugs, was killed two weeks ago by still unidentified gunmen in Tondo, Manila, in a case of "mistaken identity."

The gunmen's real target, he said, was a certain Reynaldo Gutierrez, the name given by police to the funeral parlor where the body of his son was taken.

The three parents joined more than 200 relatives of 70 victims of extrajudicial killings

from Malabon, Navotas, Payatas and Bagong Silangan in Quezon City, and Bagong Silang in Caloocan, at the gathering, which began with a Mass concelebrated by Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iniguez and 15 priests.

Church initiative

The Mass marks the first time the Catholic Church has gathered a big number of families of victims to publicly condemn the extrajudicial killings in Mr. Duterte's war on drugs.

"There was a previous initiative by Father Nonong (Fajardo) in Adamson University," said Fr. Joselito Sarabia, director of St. Vincent Seminary in Tandang Sora, Quezon City, and one of the organizers of Thursday's event in Malabon.

"We are continuing that initiative, with the help of friends, benefactors and other lay people here and in other countries like France, the US, and Papua New Guinea," he said.

Fajardo, director of the extension program of Adamson University, said the initiative began in July last year, "when the number of deaths was about 1,000. We had Mass for the victims."

Reaffirmation of support

He said the Church continued condoling with the families of the victims, and then schools started issuing statements condemning the killings, followed by more Masses and photos of the killings exhibited on the premises of the Redemptorist Church in Baclaran, Parañaque City.

The gathering in Malabon on Thursday was for reaffirmation of support for the families of the victims, Fajardo said.

"When these families meet here, they talk to each other and their fears are somehow

alleviated. They also feel that the community cares for them and their situation," he said.

Those who had been killed left behind children, "like this 5-year-old kid," Fajardo said, pointing to a child at the gathering. "Who will send him to school and look after his needs? So if, say, five men with their own families are killed, at least five or more children will suffer."

The gatherings move the community to pitch in to raise money to support the children, he said.

Fajardo reiterated the need for the Church and the community to unite and help each other, and allow the families to narrate their experiences and voice out their fears during the gatherings.

Families threatened

He said the perpetrators, after killing the victims, warned the families not to say a word or they, too, would be killed.

"There were times when these perpetrators, despite wearing [balaclavas], were recognized by the victims' families," Fajardo said.

"I'm glad that the families are now finally coming out to speak," he added.

Many of the families are under the care of the Vincentian congregation.

"It had to take the murder of a Korean for this drug war to stop," Fajardo said, referring to the kidnapping for ransom and murder of South Korean businessman Jee Ick-joo by policemen inside PNP headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City, on Oct. 18 last year.

"But the 7,000 Filipinos killed seemed to be ignored because they were all poor. Now the [military] is being asked to police the police. If they clash, what would happen next?" he said. INQ

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Wave of NPA attacks continues

Military troops in Mindanao placed on high alert

By **FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD,**
CANCER ORDONEZ,
and **YAS D. OCAMPO**

The New People's Army (NPA) offensive has escalated since they announced the termination of the unilateral ceasefire they had earlier declared in support of the ongoing peace talks with the government.

Yesterday at around 7:30 a.m., two soldiers from the 39th Infantry Battalion were abducted by 10 suspected NPA rebels at Purok 7, Barangay Telafas, Columbio, Sultan Kudarat, drawing the ire of the Philippine Army's (PA) 10th Infantry Division (10ID).

"The 10th Infantry Division condemns the NPA for kidnapping two enlisted men of 39th Infantry Battalion early morning of Thursday," the 10th ID said.

"The NPAs are showing complete disregard of their own earlier pronouncement that their unilateral ceasefire is in effect until February 10 by continuously committing atrocities against soldiers and civilians," it added.

"This action of the NPA further confirms that it is never a people's army but a nuisance propa- ▶8

Wave of NPA attacks... ◀1

ganda army of the local communists," the 10th ID added as it demanded the immediate release of the soldiers.

The 10th ID also urged the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) to order the NPA to immediately stop committing criminal acts that put the ongoing peace negotiations in peril.

The two soldiers were onboard a motorcycle on their way to their battalion headquarters when they were accosted by the 10 armed men.

"We are now on heightened alert and have instructed our line units to be vigilant and maintain proactive measures avoiding the said incident from happening again," it added.

The local crisis management council chaired by Columbio Mayor Amirh Musali is set to convene and discuss the incident. Likewise, security forces from the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Army will attend the meeting to provide updates on the incident.

Last Wednesday, a junior military officer and three other soldiers were killed in separate NPA attacks.

Army Captain Rhyan B. Batchar, the spokesman and chief of the Army's 10th Infantry Division-Public Affairs Office in Compostela Valley, said 2nd Lt. Miguel Victor Alejo, a member of the Philippine Military Academy "Sinag-lahi" Class of 2015, was killed in an NPA attack at Sitio Paliwason, Barangay Lambog, Manay, Davao Oriental, at about 1:45 p.m. Wednesday.

Batchar said soldiers and policemen, including Alejo, were on their way to Barangay Lambog in

response to reports from officials of Barangays Rizal and Lambog that an armed group were threatening and intimidating residents when they were attacked.

In Malaybalay City, Bukidnon, three soldiers were killed by suspected NPA guerrillas hours after the termination of the local communist group terminated its unilateral ceasefire.

The three soldiers were earlier reported missing after their deployment to Barangay Manalog, Malaybalay City. They failed to return to their station and could not be contacted after securing their subsistence allowance in the city proper.

The three soldiers' mutilated bodies were found last Wednesday at Sitio Kaleb, Barangay Kibalabag, Malaybalay City.

Allan Juanito, NPA spokesman for the North Central Mindanao Region, said three soldiers from the 8th Infantry Battalion's Community Organizing for Peace and Development were on board two motorcycles when they were flagged down by the Maoist rebels in Sitio Kalib, Barangay Kibalabag in Malaybalay, at around 5 p.m. Wednesday.

The troopers tried to fight back pulling out their firearms, but the rebels managed to shoot them first.

"The NPA fighters were forced to fire first to defend themselves resulting in their (soldiers) death. Taken from them were three .45 caliber pistols," the NPA said.

Taken from one of the slain soldiers was an identification card identifying him as a certain Pat Olango

from Barangay Cugman, Cagayan de Oro City.

Major General Benjamin Madrigal, the commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, expressed sadness over the incident despite the existence of a unilateral ceasefire.

"Despite the incident, we continue to uphold the supremacy of the peace process," Madrigal said.

"But at the moment we already directed our troops to maintain a proactive defense of our camps. We also continue to perform our mandate to conduct law enforcement operations if needed," he added.

Aside from the killing of the three soldiers in Bukidnon, the NPAs also harassed troops conducting community outreach activities in Barangay Concepcion, Valencia City, last Monday.

Suspected NPA rebels reportedly lobbed two grenades to troops undertaking relief operations at an evacuation center. No one was injured as the grenades, which landed just a few meters from the evacuation center, did not explode, the military said.

In Batangas, suspected NPA rebels harassed a military detachment based at Sitio Buntog, Barangay Bulihan, Nasugbu town, Wednesday night.

Major Francisco Mangubat, Group Commander of 730th Combat Group of Philippine Air Force (PAF), said their detachment was shot several times by armed men at around 8:15 p.m.

No casualty was reported.

Sunday night, suspected rebels also attacked and disarmed the security officers of an exclusive residential resort in Nasugbu, confiscating several weapons and security gadgets.

High alert in Mindanao

With the wave of NPA atrocities in Mindanao, all field units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in Northeastern and Northern Mindanao regions are placed on “high alert” and preemptive defensive mode.

Combat maneuvering units of the AFPs 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division, which cover the Northeastern Mindanao (Caraga Region 13) and Northern Mindanao (Region 10), were instructed to be on a “high alert” and on defensive stance while securing the military’s defense perimeter and communities.

Field military units, however, would not launch any military action against the NPA, but would coordinate with the local law enforcers whenever necessary in running after criminals and fugitives.

‘Protect peace talks’

Meanwhile, the Special Envoy for the Philippine Peace Process of the Royal Norwegian Government (RNG), which has been acting as official third party facilitator in the negotiations between the Philippine government (GRP) and the local communist insurgents, has called on all parties to “protect the peace talks, as it is the only way to move forward toward a just and lasting peace.”

In a statement sent to The Manila Bulletin yesterday, Ambassador Elisabeth Slattum maintained that, despite a declaration made by the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People’s Army (CPP-NPA) that they are terminating a six-month-old unilateral ceasefire, the GRP and the leftist group “remain committed to the peace process.”

“Every peace process has its ups and downs,” she said in an e-mail

message from Norway.

The rich Scandinavian country has been supervising much of the peace talks between the GRP and the leftist group, bankrolling and organizing the conduct of the negotiations, as it has in other parts of the world. It was, most recently, involved in the forging of a final peace agreement between the Colombian government and FARC rebels.

Slattum underscored that “what defines the success of a peace process is the ability and commitment of the parties to stay at the negotiation table and not give up, despite setbacks.”

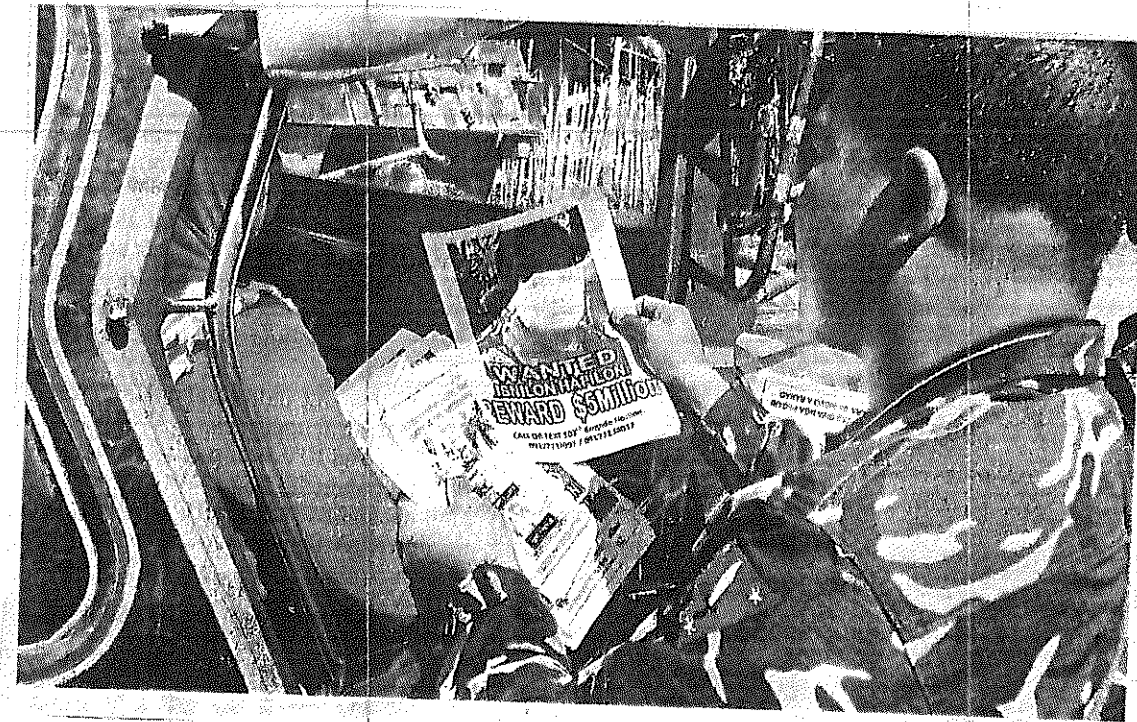
“What is important now is to protect the peace talks, as it is the only way to move forward towards a just and lasting peace, for the benefit of all Filipino people,” Slattum said.

Meanwhile, GRP peace panel chairman Silvestre Bello III expressed regrets that the NPA has decided to withdraw its ceasefire declaration effective February 10, but nevertheless recommended to President Duterte that the government stand by its own unilateral ceasefire in effect.

“The ceasefire provided our people the opportunity to participate in the bigger peace table, enabling them to voice out their positions on the ongoing negotiations,” he said in a statement issued late Wednesday.

The GRP panel also said it was not relinquishing hopes that the two parties could still strike a deal on a more binding, bilateral ceasefire agreement – the details of which will be taken up in a special meeting on February 22 in Utrecht, The Netherlands. (With reports from Rocky G. Nazareno, Ben Rosario, Mike U. Crismundo, Lyka Manalo, and Danny J. Estacio)

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SEEN THIS MAN? – Soldiers distribute pictures of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon in Butig, Lanao del Sur, Wednesday. Hapilon, who has a US government bounty of \$5 million for his capture, was reportedly wounded during a military offensive in Lanao del Sur last week. (Reuters)

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

03 February 2017

The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

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Reds slay 3 soldiers in Bukidnon

By Florante S. Solmerin

COMMUNIST rebels killed three soldiers in an ambush in Bukidnon Wednesday night and abducted two others Thursday in Sultan Kudarat, the Armed Forces said.

Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command, said all units under his command are now on alert to protect communities from “acts of extortion, burning of equipment, abductions, liquidations and other forms of atrocities.”

The alert was prompted by series of attacks by the communist New People’s Army (NPA) after a spokesman for the rebels announced the end of a unilateral cease-fire starting Feb. 10.

The renewed attacks come on the heels of a third round of talks

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Reds...

From A1

in Rome between the communist National Democratic Front and the government.

In Bukidnon, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal, commander of the 4th Infantry Division, said three of his soldiers were waylaid by armed men believed to be NPA rebels in Malaybalay.

Reinforcements found their bodies riddled with bullets from M16s along the national highway.

“The three soldiers in civilian clothes left battalion headquarters in Impasug-on town Wednesday afternoon to buy personal supplies in Malaybalay. They should have been back before dusk but failed to do so,” Madrigal said.

Civilians spotted the bodies along the highway and informed the military, he added.

He declined to identify the fatalities before their families were informed.

Despite the new attacks, Madrigal said the military would abide by the government’s cease-fire until Presi-

dent Rodrigo Duterte orders otherwise.

“We continue to uphold the supremacy of the peace process and we support the government. But at the moment we have already directed our troops to maintain a proactive defense,” he said.

He said the three soldiers were robbed of their money and personal belongings.

In Sultan Kudarat, Capt. Rhyan Batchar, spokesman of the 10th Infantry Division, said two soldiers were abducted Thursday at around 7:30 a.m. by suspected NPA rebels in Columbio town.

He said the soldiers were members of the 39th Infantry Battalion.

“The NPAs are showing complete disregard of their own earlier pronouncement that their unilateral cease-fire is in effect until Feb. 10 by continuously committing atrocities against soldiers and civilians. The 10ID demands the immediate release of our soldiers,” Batchar said.

He said the abduction took place in Purok 7, Barangay Telafas as the soldiers were on their way to their battalion headquarters on board a motorcycle. **With PNA**

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ABDUCTED SOLDIERS FOUND DEAD; 2 MORE SEIZED BY THE NPA

By Cynthia D. Balana
@cynchdbINQ

Three soldiers who were seized by communist New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas in the south have been found dead, the military said on Thursday, as two more government troopers were reported kidnapped by the rebels.

The bodies of the slain Army soldiers bore multiple gunshot

wounds and were found on Wednesday afternoon in Kibalabag village, Malaybalay City in the province of Bukidnon, military spokesperson Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

The slain soldiers belonged to the Bayanihan Team Activity squad and were abducted by suspected NPA rebels in Manalog village where they were deployed. Their names have been withheld pending notification

of their families.

The Army said the soldiers had just collected their living allowance when they went missing.

The rebels also abducted two soldiers in the town of Columbio, Sultan Kudarat province, on Thursday morning. They were returning to battalion headquarters aboard a motorcycle when they were seized by about 10 armed men, suspected to be NPA rebels, the army said.

The abductions and killings came as the NPA announced it was ending a unilateral ceasefire this month in protest over the government's refusal to release more jailed comrades and the military's continued advance into rebel-held areas.

But Capt. Rhyon Batchar, spokesperson of the 10th Infantry Division, said the NPA showed a "complete disregard" of their earlier pronouncement

that it would recall its ceasefire only by Feb. 10, or days away from the abductions.

"This action of the NPA further confirms that it is never a people's army but a nuisance propaganda army of the local communists," he stressed.

The NPA is the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, which has reopened peace negotiations with Manila. INQ

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NPA rebels kill 3 soldiers, seize 2

New People's Army (NPA) rebels shot dead three Army soldiers in Bukidnon on Wednesday and seized two others in Sultan Kudarat yesterday.

The bodies of the soldiers, whose identities were withheld pending notification of their respective families, were found in Malaybalay City yesterday.

In a statement, Allan Juanito, NPA-Northcentral Mindanao spokesman, said NPA guerrillas shot the soldiers when they did not stop when flagged down in Sitio Kalib in Barangay Kibalabag at around 5 p.m.

Capt. Norman Tagros, 403rd Infantry Brigade civic military operations officer, said the soldiers were on their way to Barangay Manalog to follow up requirements for a livelihood project when the incident occurred.

The military said the rebels also took the soldiers' subsistence allowance amounting to over P12,000.

Meanwhile, Sgt. Solaiman Calocop and Private 1st Class Samuel Garay of the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion were riding a motorcycle on their way to their detachment in Barangay Telefas in Columbio town when the rebels took them at gunpoint. — Michael Punongbayan, John Unson, Gerry Lee Gorit

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

Statement of 10th ID on the kidnapping incident at Columbio, Sultan Kudarat

Lui Claudio

The 10th Infantry Division, Philippine Army condemns the NPA for kidnapping two enlisted men of 39th Infantry Battalion early morning today, 02 February 2017. The NPAs are showing complete disregard of their own earlier pronouncement that their unilateral ceasefire is in effect until February 10 by continuously committing atrocities against soldiers and civilians.

The 10ID demands the immediate release of our soldiers. We further urge the CPP to order the NPA to immediately stop committing criminal acts victimizing the people that could imperil the peace negotiations.

This action of the NPA further confirms that it is never a people's army but a nuisance propaganda army of the local communists.

The two soldiers were onboard a motorcycle on their way to their battalion headquarters when accosted by ten armed men at Purok 7, Brgy Telefas, Columbio, Sultan Kudarat at around 7:30 am, Thursday, February 2. The names of the kidnap victims are being withheld pending notification of their family.

As of now, the crisis management council chaired by Mayor Amirh Musali of Columbio will convene. Likewise, security forces represented by the PNP and Army will attend and provide updates relative to the incident.

Rest assured that the AFP, PNP and the Local Government Units of the Municipality of Columbio and the Province of Sultan Kudarat are closely working together to address the incident. We are now on heightened alert and have instructed our line units to be vigilant and maintain proactive measures avoiding the said incident from happening again.

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

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Army lieutenant killed in attack

An Army second lieutenant was killed in an attack by 30 suspected members of the New People's Army in Davao Oriental Wednesday, the military disclosed yesterday.

Army Capt. Rhyan B. Batchar, spokesman and chief of the Army 10th Infantry Division-Public Affairs Office in Compostela Valley, identified the slain Army junior officer as 2nd Lt. Miguel Victor Alejo, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Sinag-Iahi Class of 2015.

Alejo, according to Batchar, is from Nueva Ecija and Quezon City. Alejo's remains were brought to St. Peter Funeral Homes in Panacan, Davao City yesterday morning.

Batchar said that based on re-

ports he received, the attack occurred at 1:45 p.m. in Sitio Paliwason, Barangay Lambog, Manay, Davao Oriental.

Batchar said soldiers and policemen were on their way to Barangay Lambog to check reports from officials of Barangays Rizal and Lambog that an armed group threatened and intimidated the residents. The threats and intimidation have forced several residents to evacuate from their homes.

Batchar said barangay officials filed a blotter with the Manay Philippine National Police which prompted them to request security assistance from the 67th Infantry Battalion.

As the troops were making their

way to Barangay Lambog, an estimated 30 armed men fired at the soldiers killing the junior officer. A brief firefight ensued between the two sides.

Following the encounter, troops recovered an M16 armalite rifle, an AK-47 assault rifle, and personal belongings of the NPAs.

"The police and soldiers went there to restore law and order that is being destroyed by the ALG suspected to be NPA rebels," Batchar said.

"The 10th ID will continue to abide by the suspension of offensive operations but will not stop in providing security to the people being harassed and intimidated by these armed lawless groups," he added. **(Francis T. Wakefield)**

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Army exec vows to intensify war vs illegal logging in Aurora

By MAMER BAÑEZ

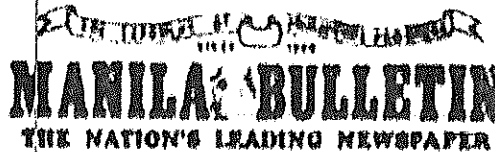
BALER, Aurora -- A top official of Army's 56th Infantry Brigade has vowed to intensify the war against illegal logging in the province and its suburb areas of responsibilities this year.

Lt. Col. Louie DS. Villanueva, Tatag Battalion commander based in Bgy. Calabuanan, recently said that they renewed their commitment to Aurora Gov. Gerardo A. Noveras to boost the anti-illegal logging operations, together with the police, as part of the campaign to save this province's forests against loggers.

"Illegal logging remains one of the top concerns of Gov. Noveras," Villanueva said, explaining that it is the mandate of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to support the plans and programs of the government and to help the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and police to protect the mountains, forests and other natural resources.

He said that through the conduct of anti-illegal logging operations, the Army has apprehended 10 illegal loggers, seized 9,647 board feet of assorted illegally-cut lumber, two chainsaws and one abandoned vehicle which were properly turned over to the authority within the area of operations in the provinces of Aurora, Nueva Vizcaya and Nueva Ecija.

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

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Bicol: Army, PNP still keep truce with Reds

By **NIÑO N. LUCES**

CAMP GEN. OLA, Legazpi City — Following the New People's Army (NPA) declaration of breaking its unilateral ceasefire the other day, the Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM) and the regional office of the Philippine National Police (PNP) said they will observe its part of the ceasefire.

Major Virgilio "Gil" Perez, information officer of the Army's SOLCOM, said they will remain committed to the order of President Duterte to observe ceasefire and the Suspension of Offensive Military Operations (SOMO) will remain in effect unless terminated by the President.

"The statement of Jorge 'Ka Oris' Madlos is not yet confirmed from the

national organ if his statement is officially recognized. There have been no orders from CPP-NPA leadership to revoke its unilateral ceasefire according to the report of Chief Peace Negotiator Fidel Agcaoiili and hence, the unilateral ceasefire remains in place," Perez said Wednesday night.

Perez told The Manila Bulletin that Lieutenant General Ferdinand F. Quidilla, SOLCOM commander, directed all Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) units in SOLCOM's area of responsibility to remain on red alert and vigilant to preempt any threat against the lawless armed group.

"We will continue to head the call of the people for a just and lasting peace. The province of Quezon, Sorsogon and Masbate remains to

be our priority area. We will continue to assist the civil authorities in the delivery of basic services and secure the community," Perez explained.

Meanwhile, the regional office of PNP-Bicol will also continue to observe the Suspension of Offensive Police Operations (SOPO) and will honor the government's own declaration of August 28, unilateral ceasefire with CPP-NPA-NDF.

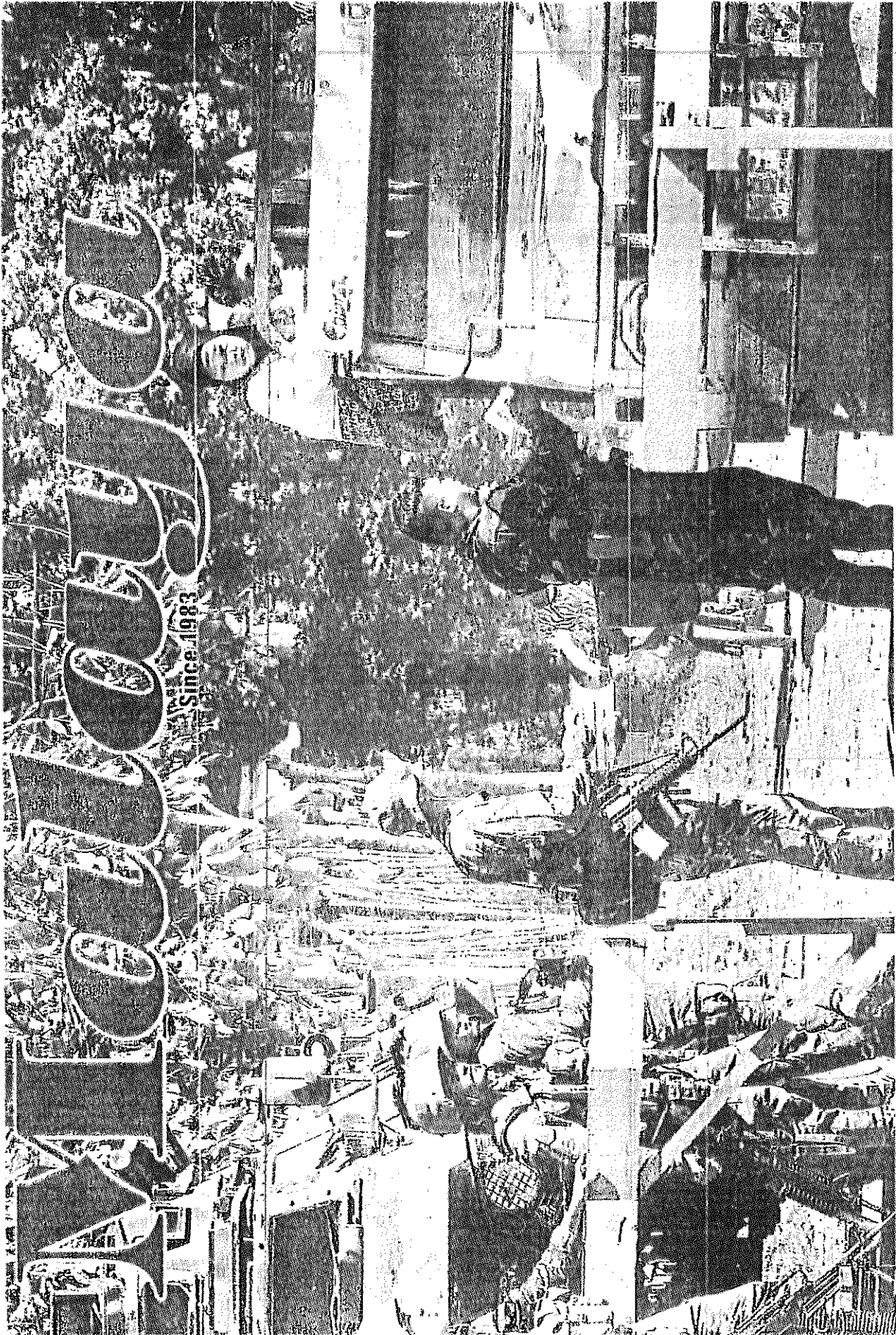
Senior Inspector Malu Calubaquib, spokeswoman of the Police Regional Office 5 (PRO5), said that with SOPO notwithstanding, the National Headquarters has alerted all PNP units to remain vigilant and will maintain a high state of operational readiness to respond in any hostile actions committed by any armed groups.

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Checkpoint. Soldiers man a checkpoint in Butig, Lanao de Sur and distribute pictures of Abu Sayyad member Isnilon Hapilon, who has a US government bounty of \$5 million for his capture.

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Rody to Reds: Coup likely if I give in

By Ted Tavera

Addressing the communist movement, President Duterte said yesterday that giving in to its demand for the immediate release of all political prisoners may spark discontent in the military, resulting in his ouster and the end of the peace process.

Last Wednesday, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) announced that it was terminating its unilateral ceasefire on February 10.

In a speech in Davao City, Mr. Duterte appealed to the Maoist rebels not to push him to the wall.

"Now, they (communists) want 400 (political detainees) released. My God, that is already releasing all. It would seem as if I had granted them amnesty which is usually given after a successful (peace) negotiation. It is already as if the talks are over and there is a successful formula," he said.

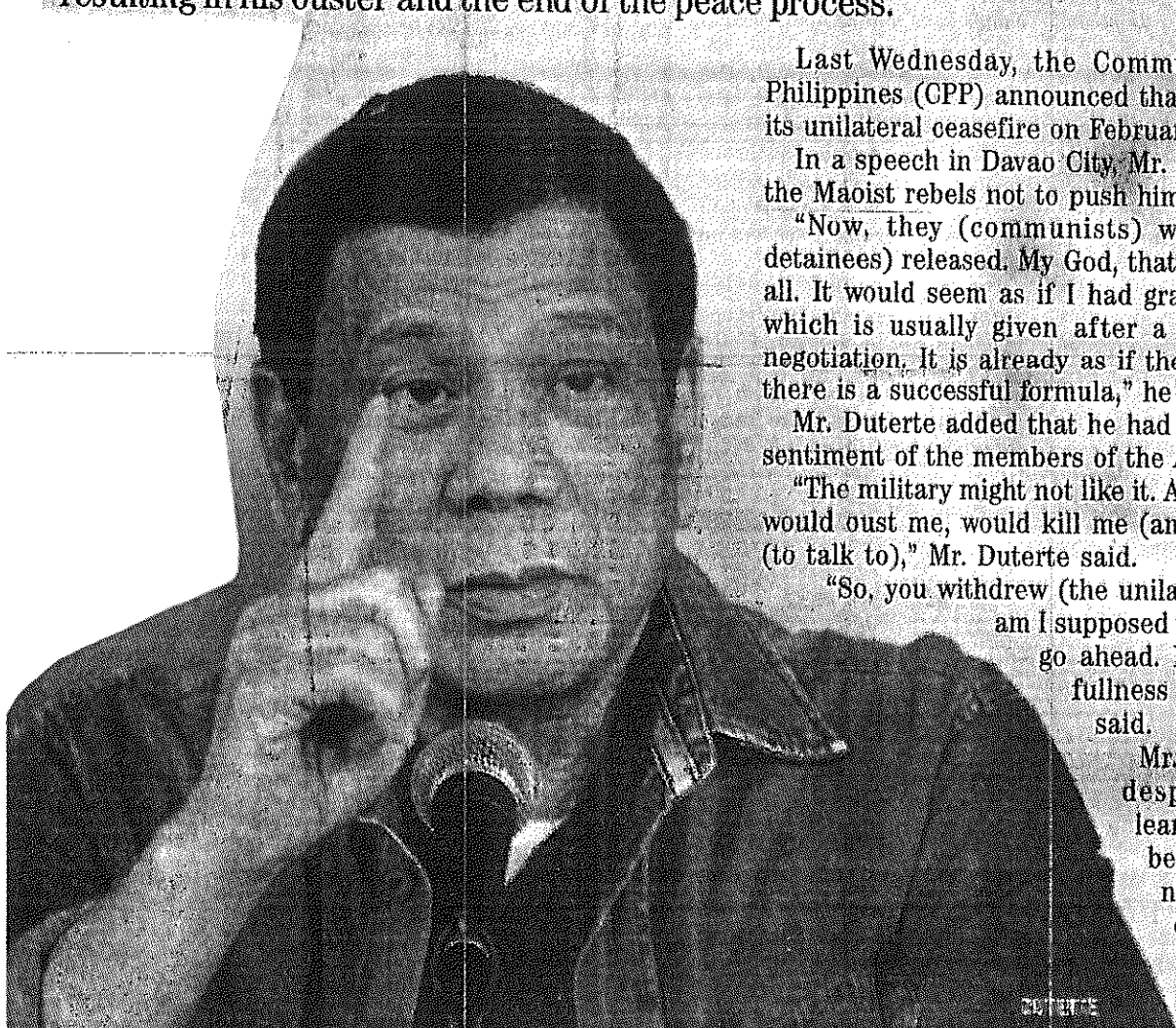
Mr. Duterte added that he had to contend with the sentiment of the members of the Armed Forces.

"The military might not like it. And then the military would oust me, would kill me (and) you have nobody (to talk to)," Mr. Duterte said.

"So, you withdrew (the unilateral) ceasefire. So, am I supposed to do the same? Just go ahead. I will decide in the fullness of God's time," he said.

Mr. Duterte added that despite his supposed leaning toward the left, being in Malacañang is not an assurance that every wish of the

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communist group can be granted.

"It would be hard if you believe that since I won, I can do everything. I am not a dictator and I have to be very, very careful. There is Congress to consider, which is a co-equal body," the President said.

"A day after stating that it would end a unilateral ceasefire with state forces, communist rebels said the government has enough time to convince them of a change of heart and perhaps even consider a bilateral ceasefire agreement.

New People's Army (NPA) National Operations Command Chief Jorge 'Ka Oris' Madlos said Duterte and government negotiators still has the chance in the days to February 10 when the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) announced it will terminate the unilateral ceasefire.

CPP to gov't: 10 days to comply

"They can preempt the termination, they have 10 days to comply with their obligations and encourage the CPP-NPA to reconsider the possible extension of the ceasefire toward the negotiation of a bilateral ceasefire," Madlos, who is somewhere in Mindanao, said.

"A bilateral ceasefire is possible as long as there's a solid basis for both the government and our side," the ageing rebel leader added.

Surprisingly, based on the acting NPA spokesman's claims and contrary to some of his comrades' request, the release of more than 400 political prisoners will not be the only ground to persuade them to reactivate the ceasefire beyond February 10.

"To release prisoners is a matter of justice but it is just a small step toward just peace," the guerrilla leader said.

"What can assure us is, if it happens, a major breakthrough in the talks. One that resolves a substantive agenda," Madlos added.

But Madlos cited a major stumbling block to a bilateral ceasefire, amid promises that it can be forged in less than a year.

"We would like to have a clear agreement on our terms of reference for a bilateral ceasefire," he said.

Apparently, among the communist group's demands is the pull-out of elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) in areas where they operate.

President Duterte shot back, saying a Philippine territory belongs to the NPA,

Claiming to govern local territories, the rebel leader said both the military and civilian

security forces kept on roving in NPA zones and that, despite their respective ceasefires, continued to monitor their activities which "naturally provoked" them to act in response.

"The AFP's brand of ceasefire implementation is very untenable. It's useless for us to continue a unilateral ceasefire with them," he added.

Also, the government said a sticking point in the current negotiations with the rebels is an article in their terms of reference referring to the collection of so-called revolutionary taxes which the government considers as a form of extortion.

The NPAs are quite notorious for burning business establishments, especially in Mindanao, for their failure to "pay" their "taxes" to rebels.

Gov't ceasefire still on

The Department of National Defense (DND) said it will still observe the government's unilateral ceasefire despite the termination of the communist group's own unilateral truce.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the DND had recommended to President Duterte the continuous implementation of the government ceasefire with the NPAs.

"We have recommended that we continue observing our ceasefire," said Lorenzana.

"It is only a recommendation to be approved by the President. But the rationale is to demonstrate the government's sincerity to work for peace," he added.

On Wednesday, the CPP-NPA announced the termination of its unilateral ceasefire with the government starting 11:59 p.m. on February 10.

The communist group cited the unfulfilled promise of President Duterte to release all political prisoners as primary reason behind the termination. The CPP-NPA also accused the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) of continuing with its operations against revolutionary forces despite the government ceasefire.

The AFP, on the other hand, branded the NPAs as "peace spoilers" for launching series of atrocities against government troops and even civilians during the past weeks.

Lorenzana even said that the NPAs continued with their extortion and harassment activities - in violation of their own ceasefire.

The defense chief reiterated that the termination of the communist ceasefire will have no effect to the AFP.

"No effect. That is their ceasefire, we have our own that

we have recommended we continue to implement. The termination of their ceasefire will not affect the deployment of forces in Basilan and Jolo," Lorenzana said.

The AFP managed to deploy around 20,000 troops in Mindanao, particularly in the provinces of Sulu and Basilan to destroy the terrorist Abu Sayyaf, Mauté group and the Ansar Al-Khilafa Philippines (AKP) as ordered by the President.

Asked if the continuous observance of unilateral ceasefire will not endanger the lives of troops against NPAs, Lorenzana replied "we can always fight back."

Relatedly, the mutilated bodies of three members of the Army's 8th Infantry Battalion (IB) were recovered in Sitio Kaleb, Barangay Kibalabag, Malaybalay City on Wednesday.

Reports showed that the bodies of the soldiers, who were part of the 8th IB's Bayanihan Team, were found at around 3 p.m. after they failed to return to their base and could not be contacted since going to the city proper to get their subsistence allowance.

"There are indications that the victims resisted when armed men, believed to be CPP-NPA bandits abducted them," reports said.

Shrunk LP no threat to DU30 - Leni

The "voice" of the opposition Vice President Leni Robredo insisted that the Liberal Party (LP) is not behind any plot to oust Duterte as she cited the diminished number of party members.

The Vice President, who has been alleged to be a part of a destabilization plot to overthrow Mr. Duterte, denied that the "yellows" are collaborating against the administration, stressing that the opposition party has "never met as a party" since Duterte took office.

Robredo was recently tagged in a purported email leak dubbed as "Leni Leaks," where destabilization emails allegedly written by United States-based LP stalwarts under the banner of the "Global Filipino Diaspora Council" were exposed.

Robredo, however, categorically denied all accusations her fiercest critics have hurled at her. She insisted that while she and President Duterte have opposing views, they are not enemies.

"I don't think we can even speak of destabilization, in the sense that what has been left of us are part of the super majority, not only in the House of Representatives, but also in the Senate, Robredo said in an interview over GMA News TV.

The Vice President added that since the LP joined the super

majority, the party's numbers have dwindled from all sides, at the House of Representatives, at the Senate, and among the local government officials.

"The party's members have fallen in numbers," Robredo said. "At the House of Representatives, we started with more than a hundred members. Now, we are left with only 32 members, so that is a huge impact."

"(Even if) in the Senate, we still have five, and for the local government officials, we have more, but for me, the size of the party has been affected, even if others perceive it differently," Robredo said.

While she has declared that she would be the opposition's leading voice, Robredo however clarified that she was not referring to the yellows alone.

The Vice President stressed that she would be the voice of everyone who harbors opposing views toward the Duterte administration, an affirmation her critics would take as a rallying voice for everyone, regardless of political party, who is against President Duterte.

"When I said that I would be the voice of the opposition, I wasn't referring to opposition parties. I was referring to groups with opposing views. Those who harbor opposing views (toward the administration's stance)," Robredo said.

Robredo bared in the interview that she would be more vigorous in her opposition against the administration, stressing that no opposition figure have been appointed to the Cabinet.

The Vice President, who resigned from her Cabinet post as Housing secretary last December, was the only opposition figure President Duterte had appointed to the Cabinet at the time.

"I will be their voice. I will be very vocal about it, as I have been very vocal in the past. But (I will do it) with more vigor this time, because there is no balancing act in the Cabinet since I've resigned," Robredo said.

"I want to be the voice, not just for the parties, but for the persons who very passionately oppose some (if not all) the views of the President. But for me, it is still important to support those things President does right," she said.

For her part, Robredo believes that President Duterte is on the right track when it comes to the peace process in Mindanao, the administration's macro-economic policies, social protection programs, and the proposed tax reform package.

Mario J. Mallari, Julius Leonen

February 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Communists asking too much: Duterte

**BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR
AND VICTOR REYES**

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday said the communist group is asking too much by demanding the release of some 400 political prisoners even before a final peace agreement is signed.

He said releasing that many prisoners is like granting amnesty, which he said requires the concurrence of Congress. An amnesty grant, he also said, results from a "successful ne-

gotiation."

The government and the communist group have just concluded the third round of peace negotiations. A fourth round is scheduled this month, with a joint permanent ceasefire among the topics to be tackled.

The failure of government to release political prisoners is among reasons given by the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army

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COMMUNISTS

when they announced Wednesday the termination of their unilateral ceasefire with government. They said their ceasefire will "expire on 11:59 p.m. of February 10" but would still support peace talks with the government.

The government-declared ceasefire will remain in effect.

The NPA, meanwhile, continued with its rampage, killing three soldiers in Bukidnon on Wednesday and abducting two other soldiers in Sultan Kudarat.

The President said he has given too many concessions, including the temporary release of some of the ranking leaders and consultants of the CPP-NPA-NDF, like Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria.

Duterte said he also has to consult other stakeholders, like the military and Congress, and consider their stand.

He said just giving into the demands of the communist group might anger the military.

"Sabi ko, huwag niyo akong ipitin kasi the military might not like it, and then if the military might oust me, might kill me, then you (communists) have nobody talking to you," he said.

Government peace panel chairman and concurrent Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said it is regrettable that the NPA decided to withdraw their unilateral

ceasefire. He said the unilateral ceasefires declared by both parties in August last year have been instrumental in moving the peace process forward.

He said his panel recommended to the President to "stand by our unilateral ceasefire."

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana also recommended the continued observance of the government's unilateral ceasefire.

He also said the lifting of the rebel truce will have no effect in terms of deployment of forces. The military pulled out forces in NPA-infested areas last year and deployed them to Sulu and Basilan to fight the Abu Sayyaf.

SOLDIERS KILLED, ABDUCTED

In Bukidnon, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal, commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, said the three slain soldiers were enlisted personnel from the 8th Infantry Battalion.

He said the soldiers had just collected their subsistence allowance and were returning to their detachment in Impasug-ong town, also in Bukidnon, aboard a motorcycle when they were attacked.

Madrigal said the soldiers were in civilian clothes and were not carrying long firearms.

Madrigal said they learned of the death of the three soldiers through

civilians who found the bodies late Wednesday. The bodies were riddled with bullets from M16 rifle and their money and belongings were missing. "The description given by the troops was it was overkill... Tadtad ng bala yung description nila," he said.

In Columbio town in Sultan Kudarat, the abducted soldiers are from the 39th Infantry Battalion.

Capt. Rhyan Batchar, public affairs officer of the 10th Infantry Division, said the soldiers were unarmed, in civilian clothes, and on the way to their battalion headquarters in Makilala town in North Cotabato for re-enlistment when intercepted by about 10 rebels.

Batchar withheld the names of the soldiers because their families have yet to be informed of the incident.

"The 10th ID demands the immediate release of our soldiers. We further urge the CPP to order the NPA to immediately stop committing criminal acts, victimizing the people that could imperil the peace negotiations. This action of the NPA further confirms that it is never a people's army but a nuisance propaganda army of the local communists," said Batchar.

Prior to the attacks in Bukidnon and Sultan Kudarat, NPA rebels have staged more than 10 attacks since last Sunday in Luzon and Visayas, leaving at least three soldiers dead and another soldier abducted.

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Rody to Reds: Don't push me to the wall

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ and EDITH REGALADO

Saying he had given too much in the name of attaining peace, President Duterte yesterday

NPA kills 3 soldiers, seizes 2 others. Story on Page 16

called on the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) not to turn to Page 9

Rody From Page 1

The military might not like it. And then if the military would oust me or would kill me, then you have nobody talking to you," Duterte said in his keynote address during the 38th National Convention of the Philippine Association of Water Districts at the SMX Convention Center in Davao City.

"400 is 400, it is already as if the talks are over and there is an accepted formula. So what is there to show?" the President said.

Releasing the remaining prisoners would not give the government an upper hand in the peace negotiations, he added.

"I have surrendered, conceded too much for so long. I have released their leaders (such as the) Tiamzon couple, they are ideologues there," he said.

Duterte ordered the release of CPP leaders Benito and Wilma Tiamzon last year as a sign of goodwill. But he stood pat on his decision not to release more political prisoners unless both parties have signed the peace agreement.

"Now, they want 400 (political detainees) released. My God, that is already releasing all. It's like I have declared amnesty, which is usually given after a successful negotiation," Duterte pointed out.

No ceasefire withdrawal

The President remains unfazed by the CPP-NPA's move to withdraw the ceasefire by Feb. 10, adding he would not be pressured to do the same.

"You want individual declaration of ceasefire... I am just asking for a document which says that we are now in a ceasefire mode, signed by the government of Oslo," he said.

"You withdrew from the ceasefire. Am I supposed to do the same? Go ahead, I will decide in the fullness of God's

time."

Duterte, perceived to be a sympathizer of the leftist group, reminded the communists that he needs to listen and weigh the government side in reaching out to the CPP-NPA.

"If you ask too much, this is a country that is not authoritarian. I head the executive department but I consult people and the military, especially on this matter," he said.

"Of course, nobody stood up in my face that it is not good," he said, adding he got the cues during his conversations with concerned government officials.

Duterte stressed he is not a dictator, saying he has to consult the other branches of government in deciding on major issues.

"I said I have to temper, I have to calibrate my moves vis-à-vis the military and the police. What is important is that they have respect. Otherwise, if they lose their respect, then all is lost," Duterte added.

He underscored the lessons he learned from his father, a former governor, about the importance of getting the respect of every person.

Hopeful for bilateral accord

Government peace panel chairman Silvestre Bello III said the government is looking forward to signing a bilateral agreement to end hostilities with the National Democratic Front, despite a decision of the NPA, the NDF's armed wing, to withdraw its unilateral ceasefire.

"We look forward to meeting with our NDF counterparts for the fourth round of talks in April and to discuss the possibility of a bilateral ceasefire agreement on Feb. 22, as agreed upon during the third round of talks held in Rome," Bello said.

- With Jose Rodel Clapano

03 February 2017

NGAYON

Pahina. 2

Militar vs droga - Digong Wala nang tiwala sa pulis at NBI

Pinagbawalan na rin kahapon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) na mag-sagawa ng anti-illegal drug operations kasunod ng pagbuwag nito sa anti-illegal drug units ng Philippine National Police (PNP) dahil sa pagdukot at pagpatay sa Korean businessman na si Jee Ick-joo.

Sinabi ng Pangulo sa kanyang mensahe sa 38th National Convention ng Philippine Association of Water Districts (PAWD) sa Davao City, nawala na rin ang kanyang tiwala sa NBI matapos masangkot din ito sa Jee kidnap-slay.

"NBI is now suspended in enforcing anti-drug laws, wala na akong ti-

wala sa inyo," pahayag ng Pangulo.

Ayon sa Pangulo, tanging Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) ang kanyang inaatasang mag-sagawa ng anti-illegal drug operations.

NI RUDY ANDAL

Ayon kay Duterte, posibleng magpalabas na lamang siya ng proclamation o memorandum order para atasan ang AFP upang tumulong sa PDEA sa anti-drug operations.

Nauna rito, hinimok ni Duterte ang mga sundalo na arestuhin ang mga

corrupt na pulis.

Iginiit din ni Pangulong Duterte na patuloy pa rin ang kanyang pagtiwala sa liderato ni PNP chief Ronald dela Rosa kaya hindi nito tinanggap ang pagbibitiw nito sa tungkulin ng mabunyang ang Jee kidnap-slay na pinatay mismo sa loob ng Camp Crame.

03 February 2017

The Standard

WE CAN MAKE IT BETTER

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Duterte won't name new envoy to America

By Funny Pearl A. Gajunera and John Paolo Bencito

DAVAO CITY—President Rodrigo Duterte said Thursday he was not keen on appointing an ambassador to the United States following its criticism of his war on illegal drugs, which has killed more than 6,000 drug pushers and users.

“We don’t have an ambassador going there. I don’t feel like sending one,” Duterte said in a speech here.

He had previously asked Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, presidential protocol chief Marciano Paynor, and columnist Jose Manuel Romualdez to take over the Washington-based post but all three declined—although Romualdez will remain Special Envoy to Washington. **Next page**

Duterte...

From A1

The Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. is headed by Chargé d’Affaires Patrick Chuasoto.

In his speech, Duterte repeatedly denied the police involvement in the thousands of deaths that have resulted from his war

on illegal drugs.

He had earlier said he would not help the undocumented Filipinos in the US who will be deported as a result of President Donald Trump’s stricter immigration policies.

“If you are not allowed to stay there, get out,” Duterte said.

“If you get caught there and deported, I will not lift a finger.”

07 February 2017

The Manila Times

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NPA REBELS HARASS AIRFORCE DETACHMENT IN BATANGAS

NASUGBU, Batagas: Hours after the New People's Army (NPA) declared on Wednesday that it is terminating a ceasefire agreement with the Philippine government following a series of fatal skirmishes with the military, the rebels harassed a Philippine Air Force (PAF) detachment at Sitio Buntog, Barangay Bulihan in Nasugbu, Batangas. Provincial Police Director Senior Supt. Leopoldo Cabanag said the rebels fired at Buntog Patrol Base manned by 30 personnel from the 730th PAF Combat Group at about 8:15 p.m. No one was hurt in the incident and the rebels escaped after firing more or less 15 to 20 rounds. Early this week, the rebels also attacked the security detachment of Costa del Hamilo Inc, the security agency of Pico de Loro Resort in Hamilo Coast, Barangay Papaya also in Nasugbu.

ROSELLE AQUINO

03 February 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: A18

CIGNAL BOOSTS FRANCHISE ROSTER, SIGNS 3 BIG STARS

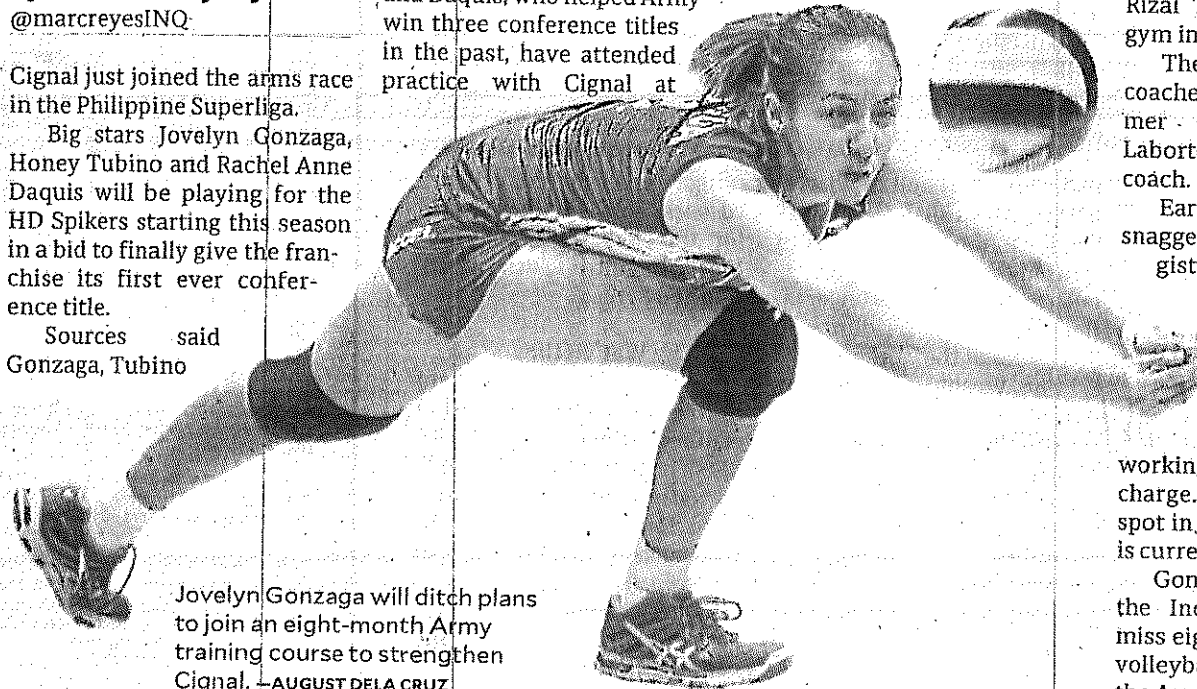
By **Marc Anthony Reyes**
@marcreyesINQ

Cignal just joined the arms race in the Philippine Superliga.

Big stars Jovelyn Gonzaga, Honey Tubino and Rachel Anne Daquis will be playing for the HD Spikers starting this season in a bid to finally give the franchise its first ever conference title.

Sources said Gonzaga, Tubino

and Daquis, who helped Army win three conference titles in the past, have attended practice with Cignal at



Jovelyn Gonzaga will ditch plans to join an eight-month Army training course to strengthen Cignal. —AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Rizal Technological University gym in Mandaluyong.

The HD Spikers will be coached by George Pascua. Former Cignal spiker Micmic Laborte will be the assistant coach.

Earlier this month, Petron snagged Mika Reyes from F2 Logistics, which followed massive movements among teams.

Gonzaga and Tubino, who are Army enlisted personnel, are reportedly working on their honorable discharge. Gonzaga is also eyeing a spot in the national team which is currently holding tryouts.

Gonzaga had previously told the Inquirer that she would miss eight months of this year's volleyball season to train with the Army. INQ

13 February 2017



Pahina. 4

EDITORIAL

Para sa inyong reaksyon: I-type ABANTE <space> EDITORIAL <space> MESSAGE at i-send sa 2299

Pagbabalik ng puwersa ng pula

Hindi biro itong sunud-sunod na pag-atake ng mga rebeldeng komunista. Hindi lamang sa Mindanao at Kabisayaan kundi maging sa Luzon.

Kamakailan ay pinasok ng mga ito ang resor't sa Batangas na tinuluyan mismo ng mga kandidata ng katatapos na Miss Universe.

Tila mabangis ang pagbabalik nila. Sinampolan ang tallong sundalo ng Philippine Army sa Bukidnon na nagkalasug-lasog ang mga katawan sa tama ng bala.

Sa kasagsagan din ng peace negotiations ay pinutol ng New People's Army (NPA) ang sinang-ayunan nitong unilateral ceasefire sa administrasyong Duterte. Hanggang Pebrero 10 pa sana ang bisa ng napagkasunduang tigil-putukan pero tinapos na ito ng mga rebelde, ayon sa isang tagapagsalita kamakalawa.

Pero bago pa ito, sunud-sunod na rin ang kanilang pagpapailan ng bala sa mga military outposts sa Surigao City at Agusan del Norte.

Bago umupo si Pangulong Rodrigo 'Digong' Duterte, matagal-tagal na panahon na ring walang balita tungkol sa NPA. Tila nawalan sila ng aktibidad sa nakalipas na ilang taon.

Maliban sa mangilan-ngilang pagpapasabog sa transmission lines ng mga telecommunications companies sa malalayong probinsya at panununog sa mga bus o pag-raid sa mga pribadong 'farms' na hinihinalang nag-uugat sa



revolutionary tax na kanilang sinisingil sa mga kumpanya, wala masyadong pag-atake sa tropa ng pamahalaan.

Ang totoo kasi, tinanggalan sila ng pakpak ng nagdaang gobyerno ni dating Pangulong Noynoy Aquino nang buhusan ng pondo ang mahihirap, lalo na sa mga liblib na pook, sa pamamagitan ng 4Ps.

Nabuwag kasi ang community-based na suporta nila!

Kung dati, kayang-kaya nilang makihalubilo at mamuhay sa gitna ng isang komunidad, taglay ang proteksyon ng mga sibilyan, nabawasan ito dahil nakita ng tao na hindi naman sila pinapabayaang gobyerno.

Noong panahon ng Martial Law naging pinakamalakas ang puwersa ng NPA. Base sa pag-aaral, kumakapit ang tao sa armadong pakikipakikipag-ugnayan sa adhikain ng mga komunista kapag: 1) nakakaramdam ang tao ng dismaya sa gobyerno; 2) kawalan ng justice system o tingin ng tao ay hindi gumagana ang hustisya; 3) sa pakiramdam nila ay inaapi o ginigipit sila ng gobyerno.

Nagiging alternatibong takbuhan nila ang mga rebeldeng komunista.

Ngayon ay nararamdaman na naman ang presensya ng mga NPA. Ngayon ay agresibo na naman silang pumapatay ng mga sundalo.

Bakit kaya? Kung kelan pa nagkaroon ng isang Pangulo na tulad nila ay nagtataas na kuyom na kamao at kina-gigiliwan ng kanilang founding chairman na si Joma Sison?

63 February 2017



Pahina. 4

Kung ang PNP, sablay sa drug war; AFP, abangan!

MUKHANG hindi na talaga ihihinto ang operasyon kontra droga dahil kahit out na ang PNP ang PDEA at AFP naman ang magtutulongan at magtutuloy sa drug war ni P-Duterte.

Una nang ipinahayag ng pangulo na maaari namang hingin ang tulong ng mga sundalo dahil nasa ilalim ng national emergency ang bansa.

At ang hirit pa niya, kung hindi niya ipapasok ang AFP, tiyak na wala nang titingin sa mga abusadong pulis.

Lalo na at malala na ang korupsiyon sa hanay ng kapulisan.

Kaya ang AFP ay naghihintay na lang umano ng pormal na utos bago umaksiyon.

Kumbaga, kahit na verbal nang naipahayag ng pangulo ang nasabing utos, iba pa rin naman ang opisyal na kautusan para hindi malagay sa alanganin ang AFP sa pagsuporta sa PDEA kontra droga.

Pati na rin ang utos nito sa mga sundalo na hulihin ang mga pasaway na pulis.

Para sa atin, ayos lang ang ginagawang paghahintay ng pormal na utos ng AFP at lalong aprub din ang gagawing pag-take over nila sa operasyon kontra iligal na droga pati na rin sa pagdakip sa mga police scalawag.

Dahil hangga't hindi malinis ang buong hanay ng PNP sa tingin natin ay wala pa rin silang 'K' na pamunuan ang giyera kontra droga lalo na at ilan sa mga miyembro nila ang promotor at protektor ng iligal na droga.

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

ONLINE NEWS 03 FEBRUARY 2017

NPA truce withdrawal no effect in troop deployments in Sulu, Basilan -- Lorenzana

From the Philippine News Agency (Feb 2): NPA truce withdrawal no effect in troop deployments in Sulu, Basilan -- Lorenzana

The New People's Army (NPA) decision to terminate their unilateral ceasefire effective 11:59 p.m. Feb. 10 will have no effect on military deployments in Basilan and Sulu where an offensive against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and terror threats are now in full swing.

This was stressed by Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in an interview Thursday.

"No effect. That is their ceasefire, we have our own that we have recommended we continue to implement. The termination of their ceasefire will not affect the deployment of forces in Basilan and Jolo," he stressed.

And despite the NPAs conducting pinprick attacks on military and civilian targets in Northern Mindanao, Lorenzana said the DND is not recommending that the government lift its own ceasefire.

"We have recommended that we continue observing our ceasefire," he said.

But in case the rebels persist in attacking military units going about their lawful business, the DND chief said the Armed Forces can retaliate.

"We can always fight back," he stressed.

And while the decision to maintain the ceasefire needs to be approved by President Rodrigo Duterte, the rationale behind this is to demonstrate the government's sincerity to work for peace, he added.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=960463>

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EMC units now on alert in wake of conflicting rebel statements on ceasefire withdrawal

From the Philippine News Agency (Feb 2): EMC units now on alert in wake of conflicting rebel statements on ceasefire withdrawal

With conflicting statements on the New People's Army (NPA) decision to withdraw its unilateral ceasefire, the Eastern Mindanao Command (EMC) on Thursday has placed all units on alert in wake of possible unprovoked attacks by the insurgents.

EMC head Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero issued the warning amidst the conflicting statements of NPA spokesperson George Madlos alias "Ka Oris" and National Democratic Front (NDF) negotiator Fidel Agcaoili on the termination of their own unilateral ceasefire.

Madlos earlier said the NPA will be withdrawing their ceasefire effective 11:59 PM of Feb. 10, while Agcaoili stressed that the unilateral ceasefire is still in place.

Prior the NPA decision to lift its unilateral ceasefire, the insurgents conducted a series of attacks against civilian and military targets in Batangas, Isabela, Bukidnon, Compostela Valley, Sarangani, Agusan Del Norte, and Surigao Del Norte last Jan. 29 and 30.

The unprovoked attacks killed two soldiers and wounded three others and resulted in the abduction of one.

"Always protect the communities including all detachments and camps against enemy attacks," said Guerrero.

"Alert troops for possible attacks. Protect the communities from criminal acts of extortion, burning of equipment, abductions, liquidations and other forms of atrocities," he stressed.

With this development, all EMC units are now on active defense posture.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=960461>

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Bukidnon rebels claim death of 3 soldiers, torching of heavy equipment

By: InterAksyon

February 2, 2017 1:04 PM

InterAksyon.com

The online news portal of TV5

(UPDATE - 4:30 p.m.) MANILA, Philippines - Communist rebels in Bukidnon province killed three soldiers and "paralyzed" heavy equipment of food processor Del Monte on Wednesday, the same day the New People's Army announced it is terminating its unilateral ceasefire.

The attacks were announced in a statement, written in *Bisaya*, released Thursday by Ka Allan Juanito, spokesman of the NPA's North Central Mindanao Regional Command.

Juanito said the three soldiers, who he described as members of the Community Organizing for Peace and Development unit of the Army's 8th Infantry Battalion, were killed when they attempted to shoot it out with the guerrilla unit that stopped their motorcycle in Sitio Kalib, Barangay Kibalabag in Malaybalay City around 5 p.m. Wednesday.

He said one of the fatalities was a native of Cagayan de Oro based on his identification. The NPA unit seized the three soldiers' .45 caliber pistols, Juanito said.

Although the military describes COPD teams as a "non-combatants," the rebels maintain these are combat units that carry out intelligence work and psychological warfare in hinterland communities and could be considered legitimate targets if they encroached on territory the NPA claims to control.

At 10:13 p.m. Wednesday, Juanito said a team of the NPA's Mt. Kitanglad Subregional Command "paralyzed" the backhoe and bulldozer of Del Monte in Barangay Adutyon, Pangantucan. The rebels typically set fire to heavy equipment of large corporations they accuse of environmental destruction and displacing indigenous people and peasant communities.

Even before these, Juanito said, on January 30, the NPA had also harassed a COPD unit of the 8th IB commanded by a Lieutenant Calumba that had been maintaining a base in Barangay Concepcion in Valencia City, Bukidnon since November.

Among others, he said, the unit organized the "Duterte Drug Squad Movement" led by the Military Intelligence Battalion that used the government's war on drugs as cover to interrogate farmers on the NPA.

Also on that day, he said, rebels under the South Central Bukidnon- Sub-Regional Command "paralyzed" a drump truck owned by a couple they accused of land grabbing and exploiting their workers in Barangay Salawagan, Quezon town.

In response to the incident, Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom), said all units under his command are now on active posture for possible attacks.

"Alert troops for possible attacks. Protect the communities from criminal acts of extortion, burning of equipment, abductions, liquidations and other forms of atrocities," Guerrero ordered.

In Bukidnon, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal, commander of the 4th Infantry Division, acknowledged that three of his soldiers were waylaid by armed men believed to be NPA rebels in Malaybalay.

Reinforcement troops recovered on Thursday morning the bodies of the soldiers peppered with bullets along the national highway.

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"We continue to uphold the supremacy of the peace process and we support the government. But at the moment we have already directed our troops to maintain proactive defense," he said, adding that the three soldiers had gone to Malaybalay from the town of Impasugong to get supplies. *(With reports from Jaime Sinapit and Thom Andrade, InterAksyon)*

www.interaksyon.com

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EMC Commander Alerts Troops after CNN withdraws Unilateral Ceasefire

Posted by Lui Claudio on February 2, 2017 at 2:25 PM

www.dwdd.com

NSFA, Panacan, Davao City – Lt General Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, AFP reiterated his directive to units under Eastern Mindanao Command to be on alert for possible attacks amidst the conflicting statements of George Madlos alias Ka Oris and Fidel Agcaoili on the termination of their own unilateral ceasefire.

Lt General Guerrero emphasized to the troops to always protect the communities including all detachments and camps against enemy attacks.

“Alert troops for possible attacks. Protect the communities from criminal acts of extortion, burning of equipment, abductions, liquidations and other forms of atrocities,” General Guerrero said.

All units under Eastern Mindanao Command are now on active defense posture.

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