

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

11 July 2017

Tuesday

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

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

NEWS HEADLINES

11 JULY 2017

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DESPITE LOSSES IS STILL INCITES GLOBAL ATTACKS

5 YEARS OF ML TOO LONG—AFP
 Malabon Speaker's proposed extension of martial law just his own opinion.

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TRUMP JR. BAITED WITH CLINTON TRUCK
 New epic bigger than 'General Luna'

Strong aftershock jolts Ormoc City

How far charter with cocaine and RWs?

ORC
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SENATORS
CITY HALL
REOPENS

REPS
SENATORS
CITY HALL
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Magnitude 5.4 aftershock rocks Leyte

STABLE

AFP balks at 5-year martial law proposal
 Ready for the...
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DOJ: 10-part... going on... Monday... 10-part...

AFP: Muslim-only ID 'discriminatory'
Marcos is merely fishing for evidence—Robredo

7 IS suspects held at NAIA, 3 released
AFP rebuffs Speaker on ML: 5 yrs too long

Law expert warns of 'constitutional impasse' over 'Hocos Six' row

Aguirre defends himself over 'fake news' raps

Most victory marks win for Pentagon training plan

Pizza by the... Pakistan... excluded by... most... evidence

The Manila Times
 Founded since 1898

Groucho's riboste! I don't care to belong to any organization that will have me as a member!
 BY...
 ...

Ormoc placed under state of calamity

AFP says no to 5-yr martial law
 BY...
 ...

MARAW CLASHES DIMINISHING
 BY...
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'Ends' widely practiced in govt — lawmakers

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Tribune
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AFP: Muslim-only ID 'discriminatory'
Marcos is merely fishing for evidence—Robredo

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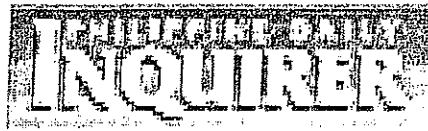
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PANAHON TV
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JULY 11, 2017 | TUESDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING PALAWAN AND VISAYAS (As of 5:00 PM - July 10, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

CELEBES SEA

SUNRISE 5:34 AM	SUNSET 8:30 PM
MOONRISE 8:06 PM	MOONSET 7:05 AM
FULL MOON JUL 9 9:10 PM	LAST QUARTER JUL 17 3:26 AM
LOW TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 9:42 PM 0.00 Meter	HIGH TIDE 10:20 AM 1.26 Meter

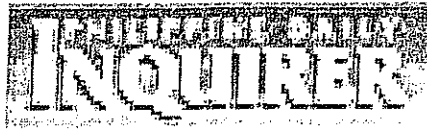
Partly cloudy with times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
 Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	JUL 12	JUL 13	JUL 12	JUL 13	JUL 12	JUL 13		
METRO MANILA	 25 - 32 °C	 25 - 33 °C	TAGAYTAY	 21 - 29 °C	 22 - 30 °C	TACLOBAN	 25 - 30 °C	 25 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	 24 - 33 °C	 25 - 33 °C	LEGAZPI	 25 - 32 °C	 25 - 32 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	 24 - 32 °C	 24 - 32 °C
LAOAG	 25 - 33 °C	 24 - 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	 25 - 32 °C	 25 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO	 25 - 32 °C	 25 - 32 °C
BAGUIO	 16 - 23 °C	 16 - 22 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	 26 - 32 °C	 26 - 31 °C	ZAMBOANGA	 24 - 32 °C	 24 - 32 °C
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DZRH NEWS MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

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

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5 YEARS OF ML TOO LONG-AFP

Malacañang: Speaker's proposed extension of martial law just his own opinion.

**By Christine O. Avendaño
and Vince F. Nonato**
@Team_Inquirer

The military finds "too long" a five-year extension of the martial law declaration in Mindanao that Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez has said he will recommend to the House of Representatives.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, the spokesperson for the Armed Forces

of the Philippines, on Monday stressed that the military could only recommend whether to lift or extend martial law, which President Duterte proclaimed after Islamic State-allied terrorists rampaged through Marawi City on May 23.

Proclamation No. 216, which was upheld by the Supreme Court, will expire in 60 days.

Alvarez on Saturday said he would push in the House an "exten-

sion of martial law in Mindanao until 2022, because two months is too short."

The lifting or extension of martial law is a "political decision," Padilla said.

"Actually, five years may be too long for the moment," he told a press briefing in Malacañang.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella, in a statement, acknowledged that extending

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FROM A1

martial law was a decision of the President and that this would depend on the assessment of military and police officials and other stakeholders.

Just an opinion

Abella also said Alvarez had clarified that his proposal for a five-year extension of martial law was his own opinion.

Padilla said he did not know the basis of Alvarez's proposal.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines, before it makes its recommendations to the Commander in Chief, must have enough basis—an intelligent basis—to make whatever recommendation there is for the extension or the lifting (of martial law)," he said.

Padilla said the military was continuing its offensive against the joint forces of the Maute group and the Abu Sayyaf in Marawi.

"We continue to gain headway in our operations on the ground. Troop morale is high primarily because of the continued public support that they

are experiencing," he said.

Not good for business

Muntinlupa Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon and Kabayan Rep. Harry Roque Jr. said on Monday that too much martial law was not good for business.

Biazon, vice chair of the House national defense committee, warned that an "unnecessary extension might have unintended consequences to our economy, tourism industry, investor confidence and others."

"It will give the impression that we are unable to contain the situation using normal powers of [the] government," he said in a text message.

Roque said in a press briefing that he would be "comfortable" extending the proclamation for another 60 days. "I hope it will be for the shortest time possible.

"Martial law, even if warranted, even if there is factual basis for it, is never good for the country. A continuing declaration of martial law is an admission to the entire world community that there is rebellion or invasion in the Philippines," Roque said.

"This is never good for

business, this is never good for tourism, it is never good for our international reputation," he added.

'An appalling prospect'

Rep. Edcel Lagman of the opposition bloc on Monday said any extension should not exceed 60 days as provided in the Constitution. He also wondered why senators and representatives were already talking about the prospect "when the President has not even officially initiated such extension."

ACT Rep. Antonio Tinio called Alvarez's remark "an appalling prospect, but not unexpected."

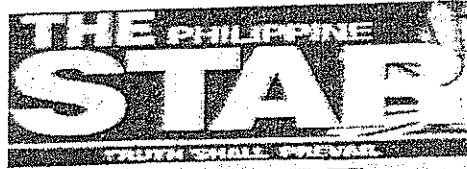
"It's becoming more evident that the Marawi crisis was merely the pretext, but the Duterte regime's plan all along is to place all of Mindanao under permanent martial rule," Tinio said in a statement. INQ



WATCH THE VIDEO

<http://Inq.news/AFPonMartialLaw>

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AFP balks at 5-year martial law proposal

By ALEXIS ROMERO

The five-year martial law extension proposed by Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez might be too long, the military said yesterday, as it stressed that the decision to prolong the proclamation would depend on the situation on the ground.

Alvarez is planning to persuade Congress to extend martial law in Mindanao for five years to allow President Duterte to put an end to terrorism and rebellion in the south.

Duterte imposed military rule in Mindanao on May 23 after Islamic State-inspired Maute terrorists occupied Marawi City, torched several buildings and kidnapped dozens of civilians.

The 1987 Constitution permits the President to impose martial law for up to 60 days, but this can be extended by Congress if the invasion or rebellion

persists and public safety requires it. Duterte's martial law in Mindanao will lapse on July 23.

Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla told a press briefing at Malacañang that security forces are still assessing whether to recommend the extension of martial law, but he said five years may be too long.

"The Armed Forces, before it makes its recommendation to the commander-in-chief, must have enough basis, an intelligent basis, to make whatever recommendations there are for

Turn to Page 7

the extension or the lifting," Padilla said.

Asked why he thinks five years is too long, Padilla replied: "I do not know the basis of our Speaker because martial law is a political decision."

"The Department of National Defense or the armed forces will just come up with recommendation but the eventual decision will come from the political leadership which has a wider perspective and basis," he added.

"It is possible that he (Alvarez) has information that we do not have. Our basis is the threats we are facing right now."

Alvarez renewed his call for President Duterte to extend the 60-day martial law he declared in the entire region of Mindanao until June 2022, or until he finishes his fixed six-year term.

"Ako bilang taga-Mindanao sinusupportahan ko iyung (as

tion in Mindanao are "operational in nature." He said the military's assessment on the security situation in Mindanao would be submitted to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana "in a few days."

"We are sticking to some mission profiles that we were provided at the very beginning of martial law. Most of the assessments we are making are dependent on whether we have attained the operational objectives," the military spokesman said.

"The period is something that will be subjective. So that is part and parcel of the assessment that we are making. So that when before 60 days comes, we will have a very good basis for recommending whether to extend it or not to the President," he added.

Duterte has hinted that he may not lift martial law in Mindanao before he delivers his second State of the Nation Address on July 24.

He said his decision on

a native of Mindanao I support) martial law even until up to 2022 *para lang matapos itong gulong ito* (to finally end the hostilities)," the Davao del Norte congressman said, expressing exasperation at how decades of conflict have adversely affected the region.

He clarified, however, that this is just his personal sentiment and not that of the entire 293-member House of Representatives.

"But I am not saying it is the official position of the House. What I'm saying is that is my position."

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, titular head of the independent opposition bloc, is wondering why senators and some of his House colleagues are talking about martial law extension when it has not expired yet.

"Why are some senators and representatives talking about extending martial law in

whether to seek the extension of martial law would depend on the recommendation of security agencies.

While he believes that a five-year martial law extension is too long, Padilla said the security threats are not limited to the conflict zone in Marawi.

"Let us not limit our thoughts to the places in Marawi. Remember, the structures that gave life to this rebellion are present not only in Marawi," Padilla said.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) yesterday asked if the declaration of martial law, more so its extension, would bring normalcy to war-torn Marawi City.

In a two-page statement on Marawi, terrorism and dialogue released by the CBCP at the end of its three-day 115th plenary assembly, the prelates said that they are for the end of war in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur.

The CBCP also appealed

Mindanao when the President has not even officially initiated such extension?" Lagman asked.

"Under the Constitution, while an extension needs the concurrence of the absolute majority of the members of the Congress voting in joint session, any such extension shall be upon the initiative of the President," Lagman pointed out.

Personal opinion

Malacañang distanced itself from the proposal, noting that the Speaker was only relaying a "personal opinion."

"Extending martial law is the decision of the President which (Duterte) said would rest on the assessment and the recommendation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police and other stakeholders of the Marawi situation," Abella said in a statement.

Padilla said their parameters for assessing the condi-

tion for the return of normalcy and peace in Marawi City, which is already on its 49th day of conflict as of yesterday.

"We, the Catholic bishops of the Philippines, wish to enjoin your assistance and collaboration. We all cry from our hearts: war in Marawi, never again! War in Marawi, no more! We therefore call for the return to normalcy and peace in Marawi and its environs as soon as possible," the prelates said in a statement signed by outgoing CBCP president Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Socrates Villegas.

"We wonder whether the continued state of martial law, much more its extension, will bring this about," they added.

Some members of the Senate and the House of Representatives have reportedly expressed willingness to support the extension of martial law in Mindanao if Malacañang would ask for it. -With Delon Porcalla, Evelyn Macairan

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ILIGAN CITY INQUIRER

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LIMITED OPERATION

CITY HALL REOPENS FOR BUSINESS

By **Jeffrey Maitem**
@inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—The City Hall reopened for business on Monday even as government forces pressed an operation to dislodge Islamic State-linked terrorists holed up in the city's commercial district.

The ground and some structures shook from the impact of airstrikes and artillery bombardment as Mayor Majul Usman Gandamra led his staff and employees in a flag-raising ceremony at the City Hall premises.

Gandamra said City Hall would be open for business only on Mondays and Wednesdays.

"Despite the threat, we have to operate even on a limited basis. It's not every day but as much as possible, we will be holding office Mondays and Wednesdays so that we can make resolutions in support to our humanitarian efforts," he said.

Gandamra said members of the city council would also report for work.

He said the military had been provided with a list of government employees who would report for work twice a week.

"The bulk of our operation to address the needs of our constituents is in our command center in Iligan City because most of our displaced people are staying there," he said.

Lt. Col. Christopher Tampus, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Battalion assigned to secure the City Hall, told reporters that the building was within range of sniper fire.

—WITH A REPORT FROM CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO IN MANILA, ILO

|| July 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Army chides NPA for publicity stunt

By **TARA YAP**

ILOILO CITY — The Philippine Army has derided the gesture of the New People's Army (NPA) to return

items it had seized from the police station of Maasin town in Iloilo as a publicity stunt.

"Pakitang tao lang eto," said Lt. Col. Sisenando Magbalot Jr., commander

of the Army's 61st Infantry Battalion (61 IB).

Over the weekend, the NPA returned several items taken during the June 18 raid in Maasin to three major news radio stations in Iloilo.

First, the rebels turned over two laptop computers of the Maasin police

to Bombo Radyo Iloilo.

Then they returned the money, IDs, mobile phones, and jewelry of police officers to Aksyon Radyo Iloilo.

The NPA also returned personal items of a van driver they robbed to RMN Iloilo. The rebels said the van, which was stolen last June 15, was

intended to be the getaway vehicle for the June 18 attack.

Magbalot said the NPA wants to earn propaganda points by returning the station's computers and the policemen's personal belongings and chided the group for holding on to the guns that they stole.

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10 NPAs surrender in Masbate

By **NINO N. LUCES**

CAMP OLA, Albay — Ten members of New People's Army (NPA) surrendered last weekend to government troops based in Milagros town, Masbate, police confirmed yesterday.

Senior Inspector Malu Calubaquib, Police Regional Office 5 (PRO-5) spokesperson, identified the surrendering rebels only by their aliases "Jack" or "Ruel;" "Pito" or "Jan;" "Nonoy;" "Guiller;" "Mars;" "Obet" or "Purong;" "Zandra or "Gian;" "Judy" or "Daniel;" "Brix" or "Ros; and "Gelly."

Calubaquib said all of them surrendered their firearms to combined elements of the military and police at the Philippine Army's 2nd Infantry

Brigade (2IB) headquarters in Barangay Bacolod in Milagros last Saturday afternoon.

She said they all belonged to the same unit of the NPA which operates in Masbate.

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NPA rebels torch construction equipment

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Suspected New People’s Army (NPA) rebels burned heavy equipment owned by a construction firm in Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur on Sunday night.

Chief Superintendent Billy Beltran, regional police director, said the rebels surrounded the bunkhouse of Ramona Construction in Purok 1, Barangay Licabang at about 8:30 p.m., poured gasoline on three dump trucks and other heavy equipment and set them on fire.

Damage to property was estimated at P3 million.

Chief Inspector Edgar Hinoctan, Dumingag police chief, urged residents to help monitor the presence of rebels in the area and alert security forces to prevent similar attacks.

Meanwhile, in Masbate, at least 10 NPA rebels surrendered in Barangay Bacolod in Milagros town on Saturday.

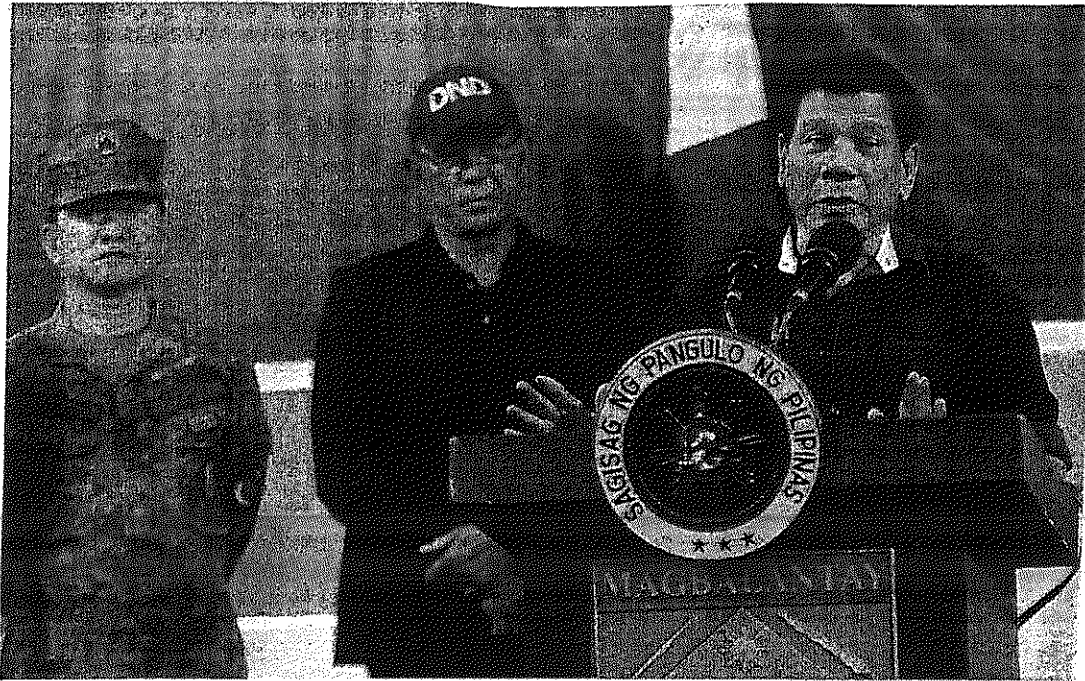
The rebels also turned over their firearms to the 2nd Infantry Battalion of the Army.

– Roel Pareño, Francis Elevado

11 July 2017

INQUIRER

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POLITICAL DECISION President Duterte speaks after a briefing on the Marawi crisis at a military camp in Iligan City. Listening are his martial law administrator, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, and its enforcer, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año. —MALACAÑANGPHOTO

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AFP: Kids forced to fight with terrorists

By **Christine O. Avendaño**
@10avendañoINQ

Children, including those taken as hostages, are being forced to fight alongside Islamic State-inspired terrorists battling government forces for control of Marawi City, the military said on Monday.

The terrorists seized Marawi on May 23 in a bid to establish an enclave for the Middle East-based Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in Southeast Asia, and about 80-100 remained holed up in the city despite intense military efforts to oust them.

Teenagers

Some of the terrorists are teenagers who may have been recruited and trained to use guns when they were still children, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, told reporters in Malacañang.

"We continuously get disturbing narratives from [escaped residents] that children as well as hostages are being employed in the firefight," Padilla said.

He said the military did not know exactly how many chil-



TERRORISTS This handout photo from the military shows Maute gunmen inside a house in Marawi City. —AFP

dren had been taken by the terrorists as hostages.

Casualties among children and adult hostages forced to take up arms could not be ruled out, Padilla said.

"As disturbing as it is, our troops are doing their best to avoid any casualty among these children that are being employed," he said.

"But in the event that they are armed and they bear arms and are involved in the fighting, there's nothing much that we

can do. Similarly with the hostages being forced [to fight]," he added.

Hostages

Shortly after seizing Marawi, the terrorists from the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups took at least a dozen hostages, including a Catholic priest.

Some of the estimated 300 other civilians still trapped in the battle zone may have also been taken captive, Padilla said.

The military earlier said

civilians had been forced to help the terrorists by carrying supplies and ammunition, bearing their wounded, helping them loot the city and fighting government forces.

Escaped hostages, the military said, reported that the terrorists executed at least six hostages for refusing to take up arms against the security forces.

Asked how the military would engage the child warriors, Padilla said soldiers, while

allowed to take defensive action when their lives are at risk, would endeavor to rescue "a child or an individual who is being forced into the fight."

"During engagements, if there are wounded and [we] see they are children, we help them right away. We are not in a rush to shoot a child who is running even if they are armed. If we could disable them, but we will not kill them," he said.

More than 500 killed

More than 500 people have been killed in the fighting, including 379 terrorists, 89 soldiers and police, and 39 civilians, according to figures released by the government on Monday.

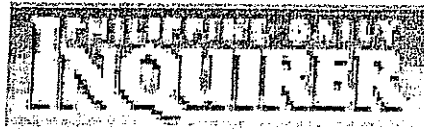
Most of Marawi's more than 200,000 residents have fled their homes.

Daily airstrikes and artillery barrages against terrorist snipers who control tall buildings have left the city's central business district a ghost town.

Padilla expressed hope that the fighting would soon be concluded.

"We continue to gain headway with our operations on the ground," he said. —WITH A REPORT FROM AFP INQ

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APPEAL BY LANA O DEL SUR OFFICIAL

'DON'T BLAME MARANAO FOR DESTRUCTION OF MARAWI CITY'

By Allan Nawal
@Inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—A Lanao del Sur official has rejected the assignment of blame to the Maranao for the destruction of Marawi City in the fighting between government forces and Islamic State-inspired local terrorists.

Now in its seventh week, the fighting has displaced most of Marawi's more than 200,000 residents and reduced much of the beautiful, lakeside city into rubble.

People blame the Maranao for the devastation, saying they allowed the terrorists to come to the city.

Even President Duterte, in public speeches, has said he is angry because the people of the city allowed the Maute terror group to set up base in the city and stock up on weapons and munitions.

But Zia Alonto Adiong, speaking for the Lanao provincial government on Sunday, said it was "preposterous" to blame the people of Marawi and

the Maranao in general for the crisis, which started on May 23.

"We are the victims here. We are the ones suffering and to say that we did not do anything about it is like saying we picked up a hammer and hit our heads with it," Adiong said.

But even if the residents were armed, he said, they could not have engaged and thwarted the attack of the Maute group, as it was "well coordinated, well planned" and carried out by "terrorists who had the support of inter-

national terror networks."

At least eight of the 379 terrorists killed in the fighting were foreigners, including fighters from Indonesia, Malaysia, Libya and Chechnya, according to the military.

The Maute terrorists and their allies from the Abu Sayyaf bandit group stormed Marawi on May 23 to establish an enclave of the Middle East-based Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in Southeast Asia.

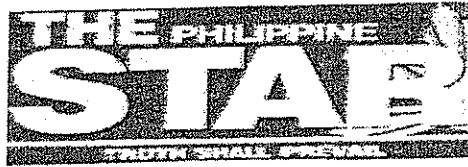
Adiong said the attack happened when the people of

Marawi were not in fighting mood, as they were busy preparing for the start of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Adiong lamented that the Maranao were being blamed for the attack on Marawi while residents of other areas previously targeted by terrorists had not been faulted at all.

"We have witnessed the Zamboanga siege and the Ipil siege. Nobody blamed the civilians of Zamboanga, nobody blamed the residents of Ipil," he said. INQ

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Terrorists forcing kids, hostages to fight – military

Children and hostages are being forced to fight alongside pro-Islamic State (IS) gunmen waging a seven-week battle for Marawi City, the military said yesterday.

Militants seized Marawi, considered the Muslim capital of the largely Catholic Philippines, on May 23 in a bid to create an IS province, and over 100 remain holed up in the city despite intense military efforts to oust them.

Some of the extremists are teenagers who may have been recruited and trained to use guns when they were still children, said Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesman for the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"We continuously get disturbing narratives from (escaped residents) that children as well as hostages are being employed in the firefight," Padilla told reporters in Manila.

Casualties among children and civilians forced to take up arms could not be ruled out, Padilla said.

"As disturbing as it is, our troops are doing their best to avoid any casualty among these children that are being employed," he said.

"But in the event... they bear arms and are involved in the fighting, there is nothing much that we can do. Similarly to the... are being forced."

Shortly after seizing Marawi, gunmen took at least a dozen hostages, including a Catholic priest. Some of the estimated 300 other civilians still trapped in the area may have also been taken captive, Padilla said.

The military earlier said civilians had been forced to help the gunmen by carrying supplies and ammunition, bearing their wounded and even helping them loot the city.

More than 500 people have been killed in the fighting, including 89 soldiers and police, 39 civilians and 379 militants, according to figures released by the government yesterday.

Nearly 400,000 civilians have fled their homes.

Daily air strikes and artillery barrages against militant snipers who control tall buildings have left Marawi's central business district a ghost town.

President Duterte last month vowed to "crush" the militants but several government-set deadlines to end the conflict have already been missed.

The fighting also prompted Duterte to declare martial law over Mindanao.

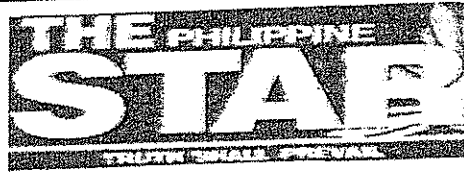
Padilla expressed hope yesterday that the fighting would soon be concluded.

"We continue to gain headway with our operations on the ground," he said.

– AFP

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AFP opposes ID cards for Muslims

By ALEXIS ROMERO

The military is not in favor of the proposal to issue identification cards (IDs) to Muslims, saying it discriminates against people based on religion.

The Central Luzon police have suggested the issuing of special IDs to Muslims from Mindanao, saying this would allow authorities to identify people with ties to terrorists.

A similar system is being implemented in Paniqui, Tarlac, according to Central Luzon police director Chief Supt. Aaron Aquino.

But Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla is not buying the idea, saying the issuance of IDs to just one sector is "discriminatory."

"Our proposal is when we start checking identification of individuals, it should not be aimed at certain sectors of our society but it must be applicable to everyone," Padilla said in a press briefing yesterday

in Malacañang.

Padilla stressed that the Marawi crisis is not a religious war and not all Muslims are supportive of the Maute terrorists.

"Not all our Muslim brothers and sisters are part of the rebellion. Only a few of them are... Terrorists are trying to make it appear that it is a religious war... Let us not allow them to incorporate such themes in this conflict," he added.

Instead of issuing a special ID for Muslims, the military is pushing for a national ID system, a measure that some sectors fear could pave the way for invasion of privacy.

"We are a strong proponent of the national ID system," Padilla said. "If that can be pushed, and I think Congress is pushing it, that would be some of the best measures that we can take."

Malacañang previously said it is open to a national ID system but clarified that the proposal is not among its priority bills.

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INQUIRER

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TAWI-TAWI TALK

MNLF VETERANS MEET WITH MILF IN UNITY BID

LANGUYAN, TAWI-TAWI —The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on Monday met with over 500 Moro National Liberation Front members, also known as Gagandilan (one who will die fighting), here.

Mohaqher Iqbal, MILF peace panel chair, said the meeting was aimed at creating a bridge between the two Moro revolutionary groups.

“We need to make bridges. One of the issues thrown against the Moro people is that there is so much disunity among us. I am disputing that,” he said.

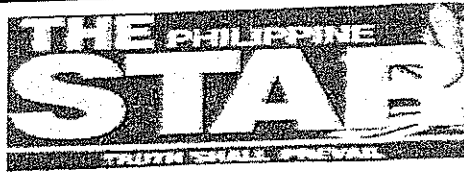
Iqbal and his team were welcomed by more than 500 Gagandilan members and their dependents.

Languyan Mayor Ismael Sali said the Gagandilan members were excited to see Iqbal and his team and listen to them talk about the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law.

Sali said there are some 1,000 Gagandilan members, some of them engaged in fishing, farming, business and education. —JULIE S. ALI-

PALA INQ

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Rody set to meet senators on ML, BBL

By PAOLO ROMERO

The possible extension of martial law in Mindanao will be among the crucial issues to be taken up when President Duterte and senators from the majority bloc meet next week, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said yesterday.

Pimentel said a meeting with Duterte was set on July 17 with the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) as the

Turn to Page 7

official agenda.

He said, however, that since meetings with Duterte are always frank and open, the issue of the possible extension of martial law will likely be tackled.

The expected meeting will come five days before the 60-day imposition of martial law expires and ahead of Duterte's

make a decision in the event that Duterte seeks an extension of martial law.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon and Sen. Richard Gordon, in separate interviews earlier, asked Duterte to inform Congress before July 22 if he wants martial law to remain in force.

Senators from the majority bloc are generally receptive to an extension, especially after the SC ruling, but they want to listen to security officials

second State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 24, when Congress opens its second regular session.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said the meeting will also likely discuss the security situation in Marawi City where government troops continue to battle Maute militants, who attacked the

first.

Under the Constitution, the president may declare martial law, if warranted, for 60 days and inform Congress within 48 hours of the justifications for its declaration.

Any extension of the declaration should be done with the consent of Congress—the Senate and the House of Representatives—convening jointly.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson noted that Con-

city last May 23.

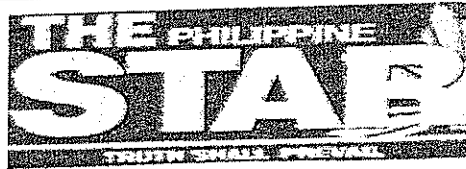
The attack prompted Duterte to issue Proclamation 216 declaring martial law and suspending the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao. The Supreme Court last week upheld the proclamation.

Pimentel, Sotto and Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito last week separately called on security officials to give another closed-door briefing this week to help the senators

gress is dominated by Duterte's allies, which could ensure the approval of any extension.

Ejercito earlier pointed out that since there have been no atrocities or any human rights violations committed since the imposition of martial law, "it will be easier to justify (its) extension if needed."

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4 Mautes bound for Malaysia held at NAIA

By RUDY SANTOS

The Bureau of Immigration (BI) at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 yesterday prevented four suspected members of the Maute group from leaving the country for Malaysia on a Cebu Pacific flight.

Marc Red Marinas, BI airport operations chief, identified the departing passengers as Abdulrahman Maute, Al

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4 Mautes From Page 1

Nizar Maute, Ashary Maute and Yasser Maute.

Immigration records show the four suspects have derogatory records in the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines

and investigation by BI and ISAFP officers.

Three other relatives – Abdulchahar Maute, Cota and Acmali Mawiyag – were also held at the airport but later allowed to leave.

The BI and the ISAFP officials have cleared another Saudi Arabia-bound Maute identified

(ISAFP).

They were scheduled to board Cebu Pacific flight 5J 499 bound for Malaysia at 2:45 p.m. yesterday.

The four Maute brothers are now undergoing interrogation

as Aziz Maute after authorities found out that he is an overseas Filipino worker in Riyadh and employed as a cleaner and is not involved in terrorist activities in Marawi.

Aziz Maute was scheduled to board Philippine Airlines flight PR 654 bound for Riyadh at noon.

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Maute Group's use of kids vs troops assailed

By **ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Monday denounced the use of children and other hostages by the Maute Group to engage government troops operating in the besieged city of Marawi, Lanao del Sur.

The AFP disclosed that escapees have been consistently narrating that the Maute terrorists are employing their hostages, particularly children, to fight government troops.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, AFP spokesperson, said in the Mindanao Hour press briefing Monday morning, that government troops are doing their best to avoid getting these children killed.

However, Padilla lamented that in the event the children are armed and they bear arms and are involved in the fighting, there's nothing much that we can do.

"And disturbing as it is, our troops are doing their best to avoid any casualty among these children who are being employed," Padilla said.

"When our soldiers' lives are at risk, they take appropriate measures to defend themselves and that is allowable even by the Geneva Convention. So there's no question about that," he continued.

Padilla, however, said that the soldiers will rescue the children if given the opportunity and will not be in a hurry to shoot them even if these children are

armed.

He also said that they are still unsure as to the exact number of children employed by the Maute group to fight against the government forces.

"Every time we have an opportunity to rescue a child or an individual who is being forced into the fight, we will do that," he said.

"Sa mga bakbakan, 'pag may nasugatan, at nakita mong bata 'yan, tutulungan kaagad-agad 'yan. At hindi po kami nagmamadaling barilin ang batang tumatakbo maski may dalang armas (When there is war, and you see that there is a wounded child, we will help him. We will not just fire at running children even if they are armed)," he added.

Padilla, however, acknowledged that not all the children fighting alongside the Maute Group may be their hostages, but rather original members of the group.

"Nailahad na rin natin na sa mga dati nating naging bakbakan, nakakuha tayo ng ebidensya na pictures, videos, at materyales na nagsasabi na talagang nagte-train sila ng kabataan (We already mentioned before that we were able to recover evidence like pictures, videos, and other materials, that show they were training children)," he said.

"Itong mga minors na ito ay maaaring kamag-anak nila o mismong anak nung mga ibang miyembro ng grupong ito (These minors may be relatives or even the actual children of the members of the terrorist group)," he added.

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MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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MNLF recruiting members in Palawan – AFP

By PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY – The Western Command of the Armed Forces yesterday warned factions of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in Palawan to stop their

recruitment activities as this sows fear among the people.

Recruitment of members is prohibited under the peace process, added the AFP.

WESCOM spokesperson Captain Cherryl Tindog told ▶6

the Philippine News Agency (PNA) that “recruitment activities of any MNLF faction are provocative and inimical to the commitment to attain enduring peace.”

Tindog said they have been receiving persistent reports about MNLF recruitment since the First Quarter of the year which is causing anxiety.

“We have received intelligence that some MNLF front runners are recruiting in southern Palawan. To convince new recruits, they are exploiting President Rodrigo Duterte’s bid for a shift to federalism, and they are also pledging to give them money, identification cards, and firearms,” she said.

The amount of compensation being promised range from P20,000 to P30,000.

“They are supposed to get this after paying a required registration fee,” Tindog added.

The sightings were reported in Aborlan, Quezon, Rizal, and Bataraza in southern Palawan; at least two barangays in the fringes of Puerto Princesa going south; and in the northern towns of Taytay and El Nido.

“They even had their selfies taken with local officials in one event in a southern Palawan municipality to show that their recruitment is legal. They wore uniforms bearing the name MNLF,” Tindog stated.

Two factions

The MNLF, Tindog added, attempted to set up a camp in Bataraza town, but Mayor Abraham Ibba reportedly opposed the move because it was illegal under the comprehensive peace process. “Aside from the fact that the recruitment all have the trimmings of being a scam, a rip-off – to fraud people into paying hard-earned money, what really raises our concern is the declaration of issuance of firearms, which is an outright violation of the peace process,” she said.

Lawyer Teodoro Jose Matta, legal adviser of the Palawan government and vice-chair of the Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC), also confirmed reports about the recruitment activities.

In Palawan, there are two factions of the Moro separatist group: the MNLF under Prof. Nur Misuari, and the MNLF

Mainstream (Central Committee) that takes orders from Yusop Jikiri, the former governor of Sulu province.

MNLF mainstream high-ranking leader Estino Jairie Ayyobie denied being involved in the recruitment activities.

“We have heard about it, but we are not the one recruiting new members. It is not allowed for us to recruit under the peace process. What is allowed is only to reactivate our old MNLF members,” Ayyobie said.

The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) has received similar information and has “reported this issue to the MNLF Implementing Panel for them to put a stop to it not only in Palawan.”

Fatwa vs extremism

Meanwhile, Bangsamoro Muriti Abuhuraira Abdurahman Udasan, head of the Bangsamoro Darul Ifta (House of Opinion), has issued a Shariah urging the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to guard its territory from the intrusion and influence of jihadists who have been eyeing poor communities in Mindanao.

Udasan said there is a need to fight extremism that has brought misery to many Muslim Filipinos in Mindanao, especially in Marawi City.

In a seven-paragraph Fatwa No. 1 (ruling), Udasan said the issue of extremism espoused by the misguided has sown intrigues and division among Muslims and non-Muslims.

He pointed out that the Islamic’s principal sources of law – the Qur’an and the written tradition of Prophet Muhammad are clearly against abuses and violence.

Dr. Aboulkhayer Tarason, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM’s) grand mufti and head of Regional Darul Ifta, issued the same ruling and urged the regional government to invest more on the education of the Muslim youth to protect them from becoming an easy prey of jihadists.

The MILF assured the Muslim religious leader that MILF leaders across Mindanao will do its best to prevent the spread of false Islamic belief and reject extremists entering their communities.

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Marawi death toll still rising

BY VICTOR REYES

THE armed conflict in Marawi City, which entered its 50th day today, has claimed the lives of four more soldiers, bringing the death toll on the government side to 89.

The Maute also had 12 additional fatalities, increasing the enemy's death toll to 379.

The number of civilian fatalities stood at 39. At least 1,700 civilians have been rescued from the conflict that started on May 23 when Maute members engaged government forces and occupied structures in a number of barangays.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla could not immediately say the circumstances leading to the death of the four soldiers but an official from the Joint Task Force Marawi said two of the soldiers died middle last week and the two others died Sunday.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP public affairs, said the increasing number of casualties on both sides means the enemy is still resisting "fighting is still intense."

"But as to the intensity and frequency as compared before, it's not that intense already," he said.

Arevalo also said success should not be measured by the number of casualties only but on the battle space. "The fight is now about the most space acquired during the period," he said.

Arevalo described the site of the fighting as a "built-up area" and said soldiers are conducting clearing operations "alley by alley, street by street, house to house."

"If we are able to advance by 100, 150 or 200 square meters in a day, that's already a big accomplishment already in a built-up area like Marawi," said Arevalo.

"But one thing is sure, our operation will continue, this is round the clock. We are winning, we are gaining ground. It's the enemy which is losing ground," said Arevalo.

Arevalo could not immediately say the space still occupied by the Maute members but said this covers portions of four barangays in the city. He said the enemy's area is getting smaller each day.

He said the morale and persistence of the soldiers to accomplish the mission remains high "but we but we just have to be very careful because it's not just our lives and limbs that we're protecting."

He said soldiers are advancing carefully because they also have to ensure the safety of civilians who are being held as hostages by Maute members. The group is holding about

See MARAWI > Page B6

MARAWI

100 hostages.

Padilla said about 80 to 100 suspected terrorists, including teenagers and foreigners, remain in Marawi.

He said some Maute members who have escaped remain a threat to the public.

"That is why we have instituted appropriate security measures to guard against the threat that may come from these individuals. They are not groups anymore. They are just individuals or small groups, but still the threat that they pose is clear and present," he said.

TEMPORARY SHELTER

Padilla said while military operations are ongoing, the government is getting ready to start the early

stage of rehabilitation of Marawi City with focus on setting up tents as temporary shelters for the displaced residents and the restoring basic services such as electricity, water, sanitation, health and education.

He said the inter-agency Task Force Bangon Marawi is set to meet this week "to lay the groundwork for the planning and the scheduling of all the work" needed for the early recovery stage. He said the task force would also be looking at the creation of a "single detached cottage" for those who lost their houses in the fighting.

He said the AFP is set to deploy "well-experienced" engineers from AFP engineering units to help in the rehabilitation process, particularly in the restoration of public infrastructure such as school buildings, mosques, multi-purpose

centers, farm-to-market roads and health centers, among others, while the Department of Education is also working with other contractors for the shipment of materials for the reconstruction and repair of schools in the city.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, in a statement issued after its 115th Plenary Assembly, expressed hope peace will return to Marawi and called on the public to help in rehabilitation efforts.

"War in Marawi, never again! War in Marawi, no more! We therefore call for the return to normalcy and peace in Marawi and its environs as soon as possible," it said. "We wonder whether the continued state of Martial Law, much more its extension, will bring this about." - *With Jocelyn Montemayor and Gerard Naval*

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Focus on Marawi services

THE rehabilitation work in Marawi City will focus on the repair of basic services as the neutralization of the remaining Maute group terrorists is just a matter of time, the Armed Forces of the Philippines said Monday.

Basic services refer to electrical power, water, sanitation, health and education, Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

"The primary attention and focus for the rehabilitation, of course, will go to the basic services initially," Padilla said.

He made his statement even as the Customs officials and

employees detailed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport have been raising money to help the families affected by the armed conflict in Marawi City.

The bureau, according to Naia-Customs Special Deputy Collector Norsalem Raymond Mama-o, has raised P480,000 since the program to collect donations started last month.

The initial cash donations from 458 Customs personnel will be sent to the evacuation centers in Mindanao.

Various agencies and local government units in Metro Manila have already sent cash and other assistance to Marawi City, which was declared under the state of calamity by the municipal and provincial governments in Lanao del Sur.

Mama-o said the money will be delivered to deserving recipients in various evacuation centers in Sagularan, Baloi and Iligan City.

"It's our way of helping our brothers in Marawi and at the

same time our little own way of showing our support to our commissioner," he said.

Padilla said once the fighting is over, government agencies along with other stakeholders will work so that the basic services can be restored immediately.

He said the Department of Education is now coordinating with military engineers on where they will be placing the materials that will be used in the rehabilitation of the schools damaged in Marawi.

"They are also working with other contractors to make sure that as soon as the coast is clear

and the signal is given, many of these materials that will be used for the reconstruction and repair of the schools in Marawi will be among the first items that will comprise the convoy for the full recovery efforts," Padilla said.

And as of 6 p.m. Sunday, the Maute group terrorists killed in the ongoing military operations totaled 379, with the civilians executed by the lawless elements reaching 39, and government casualties 89.

The number of rescued civilians has been placed at 1,723 and captured terrorists weaponry at 451.

PNA, with Joel E. Zurbano

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AFP: Muslim-only ID 'discriminatory'

By Ted Tuvera

Imposing an identification card (ID) system for Muslims is foul, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) indicated yesterday.

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, in a Mindanao Hour presser, said that it is offensive to check an individual's identity according to his or her religious affiliation.

The initiative was earlier exposed by a New York-based

rights watchdog amid the ongoing threat of Islamic State (IS)-inspired violence haunting Mindanao for nearly two months.

"We would like to opine that this measure is discriminatory, especially when you tend to be selective on asking IDs from a specific sector in society," Padilla said.

"Not all our Muslim brethren belong to the (IS-inspired) rebellion. Those who are part of it are just a few,"

he added.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) last week reported that the local government of Paniqui, Tarlac requires Muslims in their area to secure IDs.

Such mechanism is being studied for imposition for the rest of Central Luzon to "identify and weed out undesirable individuals and terrorists," said Police Regional Director Senior Supt. Aaron Aquino.

AFP spokesman Padilla

reiterated that the government's bid to recapture the Islamic City of Marawi in Lanao del Sur from the hands of the fundamentalist fanatics is not a form of a religious war.

"This (is) not a fight between religions. This is not a religious war," he said.

"The government is grappling with an evil force that caused violence in Marawi. Period. This has nothing to do with a religious war," he added.

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NPAs set heavy equipment ablaze in Zambo del Sur

By **NONOY E. LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY — Three heavy equipment units owned by Ramona Construction were burned by 15 unidentified armed men believed to be members of the New People's Army (NPA) in Purok-1, Barangay Licabang, Dumingag, Zamboanga Del Sur, Sunday night.

Police Regional Director for Zamboanga Peninsula (PRO-9) Chief Supt. Billy Beltran said about 15 armed NPAs surrounded the bunkhouse of Ramona Construction Located at Purok-1, Barangay Licabang, Dumingag, Zamboanga Del Sur, and poured gasoline then set fire on several parked trucks and heavy equipment at about 8:30 p.m.

Among those that were burned were a Mitsubishi Canter, a Mitsubishi mini-dump truck color blue, which was also wheeled into a ditch by the raiders; and an Isuzu dump truck.

According to fire officials, damage was placed at P3 million

Elements of the Dumingag Municipal Police Station, together with the 53rd Infantry Battalion, launched manhunt operations against the armed suspects who fled immediately after the incident.

JL

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NPAs burn firm's heavy equipment

SUSPECTED New People's Army rebels torched three heavy equipment owned by a construction firm in Zamboanga del Sur Sunday night reportedly because of the company's non-payment of "revolutionary taxes" or ex-

ortion money.

Reports from the Western Mindanao Police Regional Office said around 15 armed men barged into the compound of Ramon Construction in Purok 1, Barangay Pivcabang, Dumingag town and at

gunpoint ordered the personnel on duty to lie down on the ground as the others poured gasoline on the equipment before setting those on fire.

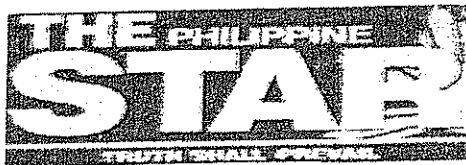
The burned equipment units include a white Mitsubishi Canter

(YEC 352), a blue Mitsubishi mini dump truck (YGV 890), and an Isuzu dump truck (RHD 217).

Estimated cost of damage to property was placed at P3 million. The rebels escaped on foot after the incident. – Raymond Africa

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Indonesia bomb maker wanted to join Phl fight – police

JAKARTA – Indonesian police say a man whose homemade bomb accidentally exploded in the West Java city of Bandung was obsessed with the idea of joining Islamic State group-affiliated militants who have occupied parts of Marawi City in Mindanao since May.

West Java police spokesman Yusri Yunus said yesterday that 21-year-old Agus Wiguna was arrested following the explosion Saturday at his rented house

and was probably acting alone.

The pressure cooker bomb allegedly prepared by Wiguna exploded unintentionally but caused no casualties.

He told investigators that he planned to fly to the Philippines to join the fighting in Marawi after attacking three targets in Bandung.

Police said Agus planned to begin his attack on July 16 at a café, then a restaurant and a church. – AP

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Military: 5-year martial law extension too long

The military does not seem to support the five-year extension of martial law in Mindanao proposed by House Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez to deal with the lingering threat of terrorism and insurgency in the South.

Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said he does not know the basis of Alvarez for his proposal but believes such timeframe might be "too long."

"Actually, five years may be too long for the moment," Padilla said during the "Mindanao Hour" briefing in Malacañang yesterday.

For now, Padilla said, the military has started to conduct an assessment of the security situation and would submit its recommendation on whether or not to extend martial law to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana "in a few days."

The assessment includes whether or not the troops have accomplished the mission given when martial law was declared by President Duterte.

Lorenzana, the administrator of martial law in Mindanao, will then submit such report to Duterte for his decision, he said.

"The Armed Forces, before it makes its recommendation to the commander-in-chief, must have enough basis – an intelligent basis – to make whatever recommendations there is for the extension or the lifting," Padilla said.

"Our primary basis is whether we have accomplished the operational objectives that have been given to us at the very beginning of martial law," he said.

He said the main consideration is "whether we have reestablished the rule of law as well as peace and security in most parts of Mindanao."

So far, Padilla said, the military



ALVAREZ

has been able to thwart the Maute terror group from launching a larger scale attack in Marawi City. He said security forces have also been deployed to prevent a spillover of the Marawi fighting to other parts of Mindanao.

Padilla said 379 Maute Group members have been killed in the fighting that started May 23. Eighty-nine soldiers and 39 civilians were also killed in Marawi.

More than 1,700 civilians were rescued by soldiers, local government units, and civil society organizations in Marawi.

Meanwhile, Indonesian police said yesterday that a man whose home-made bomb accidentally exploded in the West Java city of Bandung was obsessed with the idea of joining the Maute Group in Marawi.

West Java police spokesman Yusri Yunus said that Agus Wiguna, 21, was arrested following the explosion on Saturday at his rented house and was probably acting alone.

Yunus said a written document found in the house showed Agus' pledge of allegiance to IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. He said that Wiguna learned about IS and how to assemble a bomb from the Internet. **(Genalyn D. Kabiling, Francis T. Wakefield, and AP)**

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Pahina. 3

7 Maute pinigil sa NAIA

NI BUTCH QUEJADA

Pinigil ng mga tauhan ng Bureau of Immigration sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 ang pitong katao-pawang may mga apelyidong Maute na patungong Malaysia.

Layunin nitong ma-

doble-check ang mga ito kung sangkot sa mga terroristang Maute group na gumawa ng kaguluhan sa Marawi City.

Ayon sa report ni Da-

nieve Binsol, supervisor sa BI T3 kay Red Marinas, hepe ng BI - Port Operation Division, sa pitong pinigil, apat sa mga ito ang may derogatory "hit" sa Intelligence

Service Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP), samantala ang tatlo sa mga kasama nito ay walang record na nakita.

Sabi ni Binsol, ang tatlong pinigil ay hindi nakasakay ng eroplano dahil sa ginawang double checking pero ang apat aniya ay ililipat nila sa pangangalaga ng ISAFP.

"Regular off-loading ang

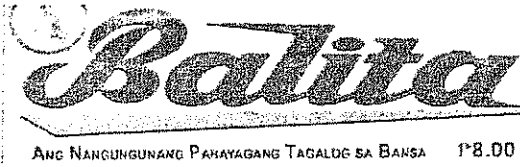
tatlo dahil hindi na sila inatay ng eroplano." sabi ni Binsol.

Ang pitong pinigil sa airport ay patungong Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Base sa kanilang boarding pass, nakilala ang mga ito na sina Ashary Maute, Yasser Maute, Abdulrahman Maute, Al Nizar Maute, Abdulcahar Maute, Acmali Mawiyag at Mawiyag Cota.

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Cyber warriors vs terorismo palalakasin

Naghahanda ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa pagbuo ng mahusay na "cyber workforce" na mangangalaga at magdedepensa sa information network at system ng militar.

Ito ang inihayag ni AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Colonel Edgard Arevalo matapos ang Cybersecurity Summit na layuning turuan at ipaalam sa kanilang mga miyembro ang tungkol sa cybersecurity.

Nakipagtulungan ang AFP sa Information and Communications Technology sector upang ibahagi ang kanilang kaalaman at paraan kung paano haharapin ang cybersecurity threats.

"It is high time that the AFP raise awareness for a secure and resilient AFP cyberspace as we adapt to the rapid technological advancements brought by the digital age," ani Arevalo.

Pinamunuan ng Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Communication Electronics and

Information System (CEIS), OJ6, AFP ang dalawang araw na summit sa Camp Aguinaldo nitong Hunyo 27-28, 2017. Itinipon nito ang ilang I.T. experts ng militar, gayundin ang mga representative mula sa CEIS offices ng AFP Major Services and Unified Commands, Philippine National Police, at Philippine Coast Guard.

CYBERSECURITY ROADMAP

Sa summit inihayag ni Maj. Gen. Jose Tanjuan, Jr., Deputy Chief of Staff para sa CEIS, na inilalatag na ng kanyang tanggapan ang strategic plan na magpapaunlad sa kakayahang ng cyberspace ng AFP.

"The development of the AFP Cyberspace Strategic Plan is one of the thrusts of the AFP in attaining information security. It will provide the Armed Forces with a roadmap that will lead us to the realization of a fully cyberspace-capable organization by 2022," ani Tanjuan.

**Francis Wakefield
at Fer Taboy**

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Marshall Plan for Marawi

A strong bond that unites Muslims worldwide is their membership in the *Ummah Islamiyyah* or Islamic community. It is a deep-seated doctrinal belief of the oneness and brotherhood of Muslims that transcends geographical barriers, origin, citizenship, color and station in life. Conservative Muslims stretch its meaning by comparing Muslims to a human body where a pain in any of the organs transmits to the entire body. This was the convenient excuse of Libya strongman Moammar Gadhafi, now deceased, and other Arab leaders and organizations exporting revolutionary ideas and bankrolling the rebellion of Muslim minorities even in remote countries like the Philippines.

Parallel to this concept is the obeisance to the obligatory *zakat al-mal*, or giving of alms to needy Muslims, which is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. This belief has made the Middle East fertile ground for enterprising Muslims seeking donations (even for the flimsiest of reasons). Most of the imposing and beautiful mosques with towering minarets dotting the Marawi skyline, *madaris* or schools, and other structures prominent before the siege were built from petrodollar donations of benevolent Arabs.

These all come to mind as the government anticipates the liberation of Marawi, mobilizes its different departments to start drafting a blueprint for the city's reconstruction and rehabilitation. In fact, Administrative Order No. 03 formed Task Force Bangon Marawi for such a purpose with President Duterte publicly committing P20 billion to fund the project. But

COMMENTARY

MACABANGKIT B. LANTO

this will not be enough and will still pass through the gauntlet of bureaucratic red tape, which may unduly delay, if not derail, implementation.

The Marshall Plan as a concept can serve as a guidepost in rebuilding Marawi. Europe was devastated during World War II, and one of the strategies to reconstruct it was conceived and spearheaded by the United States. As announced by State Secretary George Marshall, it entailed the pouring of huge financial and technical assistance and was also intended to arrest the creeping threat of communism, much like the Daesh extremist ideology which now haunts us. Government planners should take a lesson or two on how it was implemented successfully.

But it is proposed that the government adopt a two-pronged approach in raising funds—one by the government through AO 03 and the other by foreign government donors like the United States, China and the European Union, which have expressed willingness to help. Most important is tapping the oil wealth of altruistic Arab leaders and organizations that are just waiting for a request for assistance from needy Muslims invoking ties with *Ummah Islamiyyah*. Muslim organizations like the Arab League (the equivalent of the United Nations), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Muslim World League,

and many others have windows and mechanisms for the support of Muslims in need. They likewise donate funds as *sadaqah* or voluntary charity. (The crisis in Marawi is prominently played up in the Arab media, alongside the severing of diplomatic and political ties of Saudi Arabia and its allies with Qatar.)

For this purpose, the government should form a mission with the main work of fund-raising, to be headed by a high government official trusted by the President and the stakeholders in Marawi. Lawyer Abdullah Mamao, secretary for OFW and Muslim concerns, a former classmate of the President, and a native of Marawi, comes to mind. He is a longtime expatriate and therefore unaffected by the intrigues and dynamics of local politics.

The mission, which will coordinate with our embassies, should include *ulamas* and be clothed with sovereign authority from the Office of the President to give it credibility. The funds and assistance received, being donations to a local government unit, should be subject to review by the Commission on Audit. This will forestall any attempt by bogus victims to deceive benevolent donors.

But we may rebuild Marawi physically, yet the social and psychological trauma, and the horrors of war, will leave a deep scar in the psyche of the residents.

Macabangkit Lanto (amb_mac_lanto@yahoo.com), UP Law 1967, was Fulbright Fellow to New York University for postgraduate studies. He has served the government in various capacities.

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EDITORIAL

Beheading as grim reminder

If there's trash talk among boxers, there are threats of eating the enemy alive among contending forces in war. Last week President Duterte vowed to eat alive the Abu Sayyaf extremists that had beheaded two of their Vietnamese captives. "I will eat your liver if you want me to. Give me salt and vinegar and I will eat it in front of you," he declared. And this is hardly new. The President made the same promise last year, following a bombing in his home city of Davao that was attributed to the bandit group.

Does that indicate that the threats aren't working, aren't getting on the nerves of the Abu Sayyaf, one of the most brutal and violent armed groups in the South? The idea of having their livers ending up as the President's supper appears to have emboldened the members of this group that are also part of the terrorist army now wreaking havoc in Marawi City. After all, with their penchant for beheading their victims on camera, these bloodthirsty men would welcome the Grand Guignol spectacle of their cannibalized fate as precisely the kind of sensational sacrifice called for by their attention-hungry cause. Sadly, the onus is on the government to prove that bizarre threats of terror on the state's part as blowback against a hardened terror group have some kernel of strategic, national-security wisdom to them.

Extreme language is par for the course for this wildly popular President, whose admirers are convinced that such words are backed by effective operations on the ground that would neutralize the Abu Sayyaf. In the wake of the news of the Vietnamese captives' beheading, the Armed Forces characterized it as the bandits' way of reasserting force in the face of military operations that have "degraded their capacity." According to the spokesperson for the military, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, as quoted in a CNN report: "*Ito'y pagpapakita ng lakas pero hindi naman na sila ganoon kalakas* (This is an attempt to show strength but they are no longer that strong)."

Hasn't the country heard that before? Indeed, how many times has the military said that the Abu Sayyaf is now a spent force? And yet, across successive administrations now, the bandit group has continued its rampage, growing from a ragtag band of outlaws and kidnappers to a small army flush with millions of dollars in ransom paid by foreign captives, and lately pledged to the worldwide terrorist movement Islamic State. The separate and stunningly rapid war that broke out in Marawi against a wave of Maute terrorists has effectively drawn attention away from the Abu Sayyaf, but its beheading of the two Vietnamese nationals is a grim and frustrating reminder that the group remains an unfinished menace: It still holds 22 hostages so far, according to the police—16 of them foreigners.

Just this February, a German hostage was beheaded on-cam, followed by a Filipino in April. Last year, it was a Canadian national. Press coverage intermittently bubbles up whenever these horrific acts happen, but increasingly the fate of the Abu Sayyaf's hostages have faded from the consciousness of the general public, especially the ordinary Filipinos among them who are without access to the international spotlight, or simply without the money demanded as ransom for their release. Or is the public now so inured to the sights and sounds of violence that another beheading no longer elicits high outrage and cries for justice? A frightening thought.

Hoang Vo was lucky. Among the six Vietnamese crew members taken hostage from a ship that the Abu Sayyaf attacked in November last year, Vo was able to escape in June and is now back in Vietnam. The headless bodies of his compatriots, Hoang Thong and Hoang Va Hai, were found last week, after eight months in captivity.

The Vietnamese won't be the last, as long as this terror group is not wiped off the face of Mindanao. The nation awaits the "day of reckoning" for the Abu Sayyaf that Mr. Duterte has promised.

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FIRST PERSON

ALEX MAGNO

Extension

President Rodrigo Duterte indicated he would not likely lift the Mindanao-wide martial law he imposed on May 23 ahead of his state of the nation address on July 24.

The Supreme Court last week dismissed the various petitions questioning the constitutionality of the martial law imposition.

Leaders of the two chambers of Congress have stated they will support any extension of martial law the President may decide on. The stage appears to be set for extending martial rule in Mindanao.

There is now no constitutional barrier for such extension. Neither is there political inhibition for doing so. Congressional support is more or less guaranteed.

A public approval survey taken after martial rule was declared took President Duterte's ratings to new highs. Despite the best effort of leftist groups to create a semblance of public opposition to martial rule, the surveys tell us citizens support it. Our public is, in the main, favorably disposed towards stronger, more decisive state approaches to our peace and order problems.

Antonio Trillanes, during that disaster of an interview he gave to BBC's "Hard Talk," predicted Duterte's job approval ratings will soon collapse. He was indulging in wishful thinking. The surveys do not support his contention.

The heavy hand with which the administration has been pursuing the war against drugs puts our people in an ethical quandary. On the one hand, there is almost universal disagreement with extrajudicial killings. On the other hand, no one wants a limp response to the dreadful epidemic of drug use.

The war on drugs may be bloody, but it produces concrete results. The volume of crime declined, supporting the belief that drug addiction is the predicate to the commission of other crimes.

When three men, all named persons of interest in the gory massacre in Bulacan recently, were exterminated vigilante-style, there was no public outrage. Our public, tired of the judiciary's corruption and inefficiency, appears to be willing to postpone considerations of due process if those exterminated are likely guilty.



We do not know what the precise military situation will be in Marawi on the day Duterte delivers his SONA. It is expected that the matter of extending martial rule will be a highlight of that speech.

The AFP spokesman announced that the military would try to complete the liberation of Marawi before the President delivers his SONA. That sounds doable. The enemy force is now reduced to an estimated 80 men. All of them imaginably exhausted. Confronting them are our best fighting units.

Nevertheless, the battle wore on beyond expectation. Our troops have had to fight for every inch of ground. We will have to hand it to them. For a bunch of sub-literate bandits, the fighters of the Maute group have proven themselves a tough adversary.

As of the last official announcement, AFP units have taken an additional 58 buildings from the enemy. The rest of what remains in enemy hands, except for the mosque where the leading lights of this unseemly force appear to be holed up, have been shattered by bombardment. It is hard to imagine how the enemy could resist another two weeks.

President Duterte, armed and in battle fatigues, tried to make an appearance at Marawi the other day. He was kept away from the scene by bad weather. It will be entirely in character that he tries to make an appearance before the gunfire finally ceases. He is out to make a point: that he is no armchair warrior. Nothing excites him more than an intense gunfight.

Besides, the photo-ops of the President at the frontlines will be immensely rewarding. He might not be of much help in actually routing the Maute group, but the propaganda value of such a brave appearance in the frontlines will enable him to rout his critics.

Duterte, perhaps merely for political effect, once threatened he would jail the anti-martial law critics. He also said he would chew on the livers of the Maute bandits. His most ardent admirers feed off words like these. Duterte uses threats like these to hold together his awesome political base.

Each time a Filipino president delivers the year's SONA, the occasion always shapes the public debate. Protestors, as a matter of ritual, take to the streets to point out areas of shortcomings.

This year, because Marawi looms so large and because the political left chose to position against martial law, the public debate will be focused on the potential extension of martial law. This favors Duterte. Public opinion strongly favors the martial law he declared. His political opponents will be constrained to sound as befuddling as Justice Marvic Leonen's dissenting opinion to the Supreme Court's majority opinion.

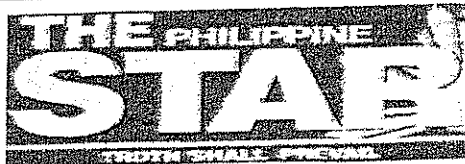
If martial law becomes the headline issue on the day the SONA is delivered, all the administration's other perceived sins will be pushed under the rug. The way the economy is run will not be the subject of debate. Tax policy, the delay in the infra program and a host of other potential points of debate will be overshadowed by the academic bickering over whether martial law is necessary or not.

Focus on martial law will make things easier for the Duterte administration to hold the political high ground. The rebellion is real. It is resilient. It is virulent. The State has taken out its last weapon from its political armory and still the enemies of the Republic are holding tough.

Critics of martial law can only dig up things from the political past to warn of "creeping authoritarianism" and widespread abuses. None of those things will win them the debate.

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HOTSPOT

MOCHA USON

Trip to Marawi

I have to be with the men, the fighting forces of the government. I should show my face there. *Hindi naman pwede iyang peace time ka na pumunta. Hindi naman na* you place yourself in jeopardy, but during the fighting, you should show yourself, that you are one in the desire to protect the Republic.” – President Rodrigo Roa Duterte



President Rodrigo Duterte is loved by many because of his genuine care for the Filipino people that can be seen through his actions and not just his words. Some of his political enemies and self-proclaimed critics will always question what he does, how he talks and his choice of words; but the way he speaks and his actions – that are always for the good of the people – is what separates him from the traditional politicians.

It has been over a month since President Duterte has declared Martial law in Mindanao; we are also nearing the end of the 60-day period Martial law, after which it will be decided if the President will ask the Congress for extension upon the recommendation of the military and the police. Last Friday, with the intention to see the situation in Marawi and be there for his people and the military troops, the President once again attempted to go to Marawi city. We were already in the chopper; unfortunately, just like his first attempt to visit the city, we were not able to push through due to the bad weather. Instead, we just visited the 2nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade in Iligan City where we also waited if the weather will give an opportunity for another attempt.

In this second attempt of the President to visit the city of Marawi, we can see what he is willing to give in order to show to his people that their leader is there for them; that the leader and the father of the nation is one with them in protecting the country against all form of threats, especially terrorism. We can also feel the President's bravery who has repeatedly stated that he is not afraid to die, especially if he dies in the service of the Filipino people. According to the President himself, any day is a good day to die.

We were also able to talk to the President about his higher satisfaction rating. In our talk, you can see what his supporters have seen in him and probably one of the reasons why millions of Filipinos voted for him: His dislike for self-promotion. We've already witnessed a lot of politicians who promotes themselves in everything they do and every accomplishments; but with President Duterte, if you try to praise him for doing a good job he will just tell you that it's his job. He had the same reaction when we asked for his comment regarding his higher satisfaction rating. To better understand, let me just quote his answer: "I ran for the Presidency to serve the Filipino people, period." Another thing we were able to talk to him about are the OFWs, where he talked about their situation and their need for a peaceful Philippines; which is probably one of the reason the President has a strong stance against illegal drugs, crime and corruption: to ensure the Filipinos abroad that the government is taking care of their families here in the Philippines.

Now, all of these show the kind of leader that we have right now; we have a brave leader with a strong political will, a father of the nation who will do everything for the people without any concern for his personal interest or self-promotion. For the first time, I feel that we have a President who we can truly call a public servant. His enemies can throw a lot of issues along his way but the positive results of his actions will always prevail. We now have a President who is there for us in our time of need, with this, I say to our brothers and sisters in Marawi, the President is here for you.

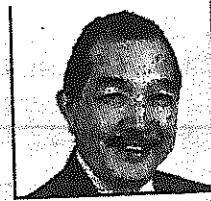
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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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CHAFF FROM THE GRAIN ML to continue

By HECTOR R. R. VILLANUEVA

*“Success is relative.
It is what we can make of the mess
we have made of things.”
— T. S. Eliot*

THE Philippine Supreme Court is living up to its reputation. It will pursue what is right, and with fortitude.

Martial law in the entire island of Mindanao needs to continue with minimal military abuses that the public had initially feared.

The fact that the battle for Marawi City will soon be won, the war against rebellion and terrorism is far from over, and will continue to elude peace in Mindanao.

Thus, let the Marawi City siege be an example and lesson to future terrorists and jihadists that the national government and its armed forces will not allow and tolerate the ISIS or any foreign terrorist organization to establish a stronghold or caliphate in the Philippines, or parts thereof.

First, the conflict in Mindanao, like similar Islamist extremism in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and in Central Asia,

To reiterate, Pres. Rodrigo Roa Duterte and the authorities concerned should refocus on other domestic chores such as criminality, legislation, employment, investments, tourism and education by circumscribing negative and adversarial media treatment.

When all is said and done, while pursuing the war against drugs and mopping operations in Marawi, Presi-

dent Rodrigo Roa Duterte should endeavor to insulate the rest of the nation from the conflict in the South so that life goes on, as in London, Paris, or Bangkok, and economic activities go on.

It would be business as usual and it is more fun in the Philippines.

You be the judge.

should be considered as a domestic issue and quietly resolved.

That is, the Philippines has the penchant to internationalize domestic quarrels that should be resolved among us.

One of the reasons the Bangsamoro quasi-independent movement had failed is that Malaysian fingerprints were all over, including the concept of a federal state.

Second, notwithstanding entry of ISIS, if verified and validated, Pres. Rodrigo Roa Duterte can utilize martial law to limit movement of journalists and foreign meddlers into war zones and areas of conflict for security reasons.

The case in point is the uncontrolled and uninhibited media coverage of Marawi City which has become prime time television shows which is not always in the national interest.

In other words, there is excess media coverage of the rebellion in Marawi City which is not only isolated but is also distant to Manila.

However, the pocket war is being depicted from the outside looking in as if Marawi is the Philippines which should be avoided, and investments and travel to be discouraged.

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The Manila Times

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Telling it to the Marines: Meeting Gary Alejandro

GARY Alejandro, former Marine officer turned lawmaker as a Magdalo party-list representative, is a remarkably sanguine person under some very bad circumstances. When he launched his impeachment bid against President Duterte last March, he did so knowing full well the President enjoyed a public approval rating of 82 percent and a super majority in the 292-seat Congress. Two months later, a congressional panel poured scorn on the bid and junked it. Undeterred, Alejandro, with his Magdalo comrade-in-arms, Sen. Antonio Trillanes, went to the International Criminal Court in The Hague and submitted supplemental documents to bolster the human rights complaint against Duterte filed earlier by lawyer Jude Sabio. Conservative at heart and a military man by nature, Alejandro is quickly turning out to be a radical defender of liberal democracy.

The Magdalo HQ is located in a modest street behind the strip of up-scale bars and glamorous restaurants that these days populate the area of Timog in Quezon City. A giant poster with the faces of Trillanes and Alejandro covers an entire wall at the entrance. Up the stairs are the offices and a meeting room where senior members of the Magdalo group convene. Ornamented kris blades and shelves of recognition plaques awarded to Trillanes line the hallway. It's a busy place but, oddly, has a thrilling fly-by-night feel. It's almost as if at any moment the plaques and posters will disappear leav-



THE LONG VIEW

RACHEL A.G. REYES

ing the building deserted and anonymous.

On the particular afternoon I met Alejandro, he was preoccupied with an Australian TV news crew who was interviewing him on the situation in Marawi. From 1996 to 2002, Alejandro was stationed in Mindanao where he was an officer in a Marine reconnaissance battalion and responsible for field-training snipers. His modest background—the middle child of five siblings supported by a farmer father and a teacher mother—is rare for someone entering the elite preserves of the military and politics. But growing up in Negros Occidental, in a place “swarming” with communist guerrilla fighters, the NPA, he tells me, influenced him to join the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) at the age of 18. He eventually rose to the rank of captain. His and Trillanes’ batch, the ‘Marilag class’ of 1995 was reputedly brilliant, patriotic and charged with idealism. They embraced the academy’s values of “integrity, loyalty and courage”.

But putting their faith in these principles set them up for a rude awakening with Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as their Commander in Chief, Oplan Greenbase

was a top-secret document that was leaked to the military in 2003. Cooked up by Arroyo and her intimates, Greenbase was a plan to purposely destabilize Mindanao in order to avail of US funds to ostensibly fight terrorism. Government soldiers were instructed to plant bombs in mosques.

Outraged by the corruption they saw within the military and government, the Class of 1995 organized some 300 officers and enlisted personnel into a mutiny in 2003. The Oakwood Mutiny, named after the high-end apartments in Makati they occupied, was a failure. The group, conceding to negotiations and the pledged reforms, laid down their arms without firing a single shot and was promptly jailed for over seven years. Alejano opposed the peaceful solution and wanted to see the rebellion to its bitter end. "I was prepared for blood," he told me, "I was prepared to die." Alejano has forcefulness and passion in spades.

Their PMA background and the Oakwood Mutiny episode forged something of a critically deep bond between Alejano and Trillanes and the other core members, all of whom are former Marines, who constitute the beating heart of the Magdalo group. They are, as American historian Alfred W. McCoy memorably describes in his work on the Philippine military and the PMA, "closer than brothers."

The Magdalo, Alejano explains, is a political party founded along the same mission-oriented, military structure and

mindset that molded them. Their sacrifices, he says, are for "the love of God, country, people, family, the environment." Their core values remain the same: a unity of command and direction, moral courage and honor, and discipline guided by a martial code of conduct that crucially includes one new element—participation in the political process.

Alejano believes they continue to fight a war constrained by democratic institutions and the parameters of the rule of law. It's a war, he says, they wage against the injustice, impunity, falsity, and the criminality of the Duterte regime. He likens the proliferation of fake news to the Cold War-esque tactics of psychological warfare and calls this a "perception war."

Alejano home-schools his children, possibly it seems, out of a sense of distrust toward the educational system. He strives to use all political means to bring about a new country. However, for all the idealistic trumpeting I have heard, the military ethos he and the Magdalo group cherish, essentially bind them to a very familiar sort of social conservatism. He is against same-sex marriage and divorce, and, despite the fact his wife works in the Magdalo offices, there is not a single woman holding office within the core group. On this score, the new Philippines he envisions, I tell him, seem a bit old and familiar to me.

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Absolute no to Muslim ID

The proposal for a Muslim register is a sophomoric solution to the complex problems of insurgency and terrorism and a proposal which should not even be entertained.

The terrorism that hit Marawi City, the only city in the country dominated by a Muslim population, has nothing to do with religion or ethnicity but a devious ideology that seeks to dominate the world.

Congress, however, should speed up the enactment of a law that will provide a national identification system which will not only be useful for quick profiling of individuals but also to speed up government services.

The police proposal apparently is already being implemented somewhere in Tarlac province which is a huge surprise for many Filipinos who have no tolerance for prejudicial acts.

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Gov. Mujiv Hataman said it is a form of discrimination against the believers of Islam and could set a dangerous precedent.

It is also a good copy of US President Donald Trump's discriminatory travel ban that singled out Muslim-majority countries that the US Supreme Court allowed in a modified version covering six countries.

The initial implementation of the travel ban in January resulted in people being detained and deported while thousands of visas were canceled before it was struck down in court.

The proposed Muslim ID was described as a show of Islamophobia, according to Zia Alonto Adiong, head of the Marawi Crisis Management Committee as it fans fear or hatred of the Islamic religion and its followers.

The measure, instead of solving what it set out to resolve will merely push more adherents to the radical cause of the Islamic State (IS).

Hataman said it could just make matters worse, as it could "ignite anger among young Muslims who are the primary target for recruitment of extremist groups," he added.

A measure embodied through Senate Bill 917 or the Filipino Identification System Act already proposed the ID system for all Filipinos. The House committee on population passed last May 10 a counterpart measure for the national ID.

Acts meant to address problems engendered by the IS-inspired mischiefs should encourage unity instead of division among Filipinos and the Muslim IS proposal is not one that would weld people together against the terrorism threat.

Rody won't even agree to the proposal because of his recognition of the social rather than religious dimension of the IS problem.

Rody believes that which happened in Marawi City was a "contamination" from a foreign extremist movement.

Rody said he was displeased with the Maranaos in Marawi City for letting in a "corrupt ideology" of the IS to destroy the city as he shut the door on talks with the Maute group which is mainly made up of Maranao fighters.

"I'm angry at the Maranaos who let even foreigners in," Rody said.

Rody admitted in a speech at the height of the fighting in Marawi City that he had relatives who were slain on the side of the Maute group.

Rody started warning of a spread of radicalism last year after the Davao City bombing in September that killed 15 people and wounded dozens. The Maute group that had led the IS assault was also suspected to have been behind the failed bombing near the US Embassy in Manila in November.

While Rody said that he will not talk with terrorists but only with groups that are guided by ideology such as the Muslim separatist rebels, he earlier said the promise of a better economic condition was used by IS-allied groups to seduce individuals to join their cause.

A long-term solution to the terrorism problem, however, is not about segregating people into religion or ethnic backgrounds.

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Extension talks up

Even the military says that five years are too long an extension of President Duterte's martial law.

However, the idea of some senators granting Duterte's martial law extension for two months is unrealistic, just as the power of the President to declare and impose unilaterally martial law in Mindanao for 60 days, or two months, is unrealistic, precisely because it is impossible for any president and his military to eliminate in 60 days the rebellion in Marawi by the Islamic State-allied Maute group.

But the 60-day unilateral time frame for declaring and imposing martial law is balanced by the constitutional proviso that has Congress revoking or extending the martial law imposition, should the President seek such extension from Congress, which Duterte most likely will next week from both Houses of Congress.

One cannot expect a two-month extension to remove the vestiges of the rebellion and even capture and arrest all the members of the Maute group, especially since these would be the same terrorists who will be melding with the hostages once freed by the military.

This has happened in Mosul, Iraq and in Syria, and it is certainly likely to happen in Marawi.

But five years would be too long for martial rule to be in place, even just in Mindanao. Still, given that it is already the military that is stating that five years would be too long a time for a martial law extension, Duterte would probably not bother with the idea of seeking from Congress a five-year extension of martial law.

The military's assessment of the situation in Mindanao would be based on their operational objectives upon the declaration of martial law last May 23, according to the military spokesman.

Extending the duration of martial law would also be part of the military's assessment in the region, he added.

FRONTLINE



Ninez Cacah-Olivares

What bothers however, are the reactions from the dissenters, such as Supreme Court (SC) Senior Justice Antonio Carpio, who apparently believes history is bound to repeat itself with the reemergence of the evils of martial law during the regime of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

Carpio said a repeat of the nation's experience during the Marcos era highlighted by extrajudicial killings and human rights violations might not be farfetched after the high court gave its approval to Duterte's martial law declaration.

And his belief of a repeat of Marcos' martial law is based on a public pronouncement of Duterte that his martial law "will not be any different from what Marcos did" after he issued Proclamation 216 that placed the entire Mindanao under martial law and suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in the region.

"The Court must take this public and official statement seriously for this is no trivial matter. When President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1972 under the 1973 Constitution, he abolished Congress, shut down media, imprisoned leaders of the political opposition, packed the Supreme Court with his law school classmates and loyalists, and ruled by decree – thereby making himself a dictator for over 13 years until the people ousted him from power in 1986," Carpio warned. He is wrong. It was Cory Aquino demanded

the resignation of all the SC justices and packed them with her own yellows.

Carpio blames the SC majority for a likely recurrence of the Marcos martial law saying the SC should have considered this "presidential mindset."

He added: "The 1987 Constitution was written precisely to prevent a recurrence of the martial law of Marcos. It is apparent that President Duterte does not understand, or refuses to understand, this fundamental principle that forms the bedrock of our democracy under the 1987 Constitution, despite his having taken a solemn oath of office to 'preserve and defend the 1987 Constitution,'" the magistrate lamented.

Carpio himself states that the 1987 Charter was written precisely to prevent a recurrence of the martial law of Marcos. What's his beef then? Duterte followed what the Constitution allows him, as president and commander in chief of all the armed forces of the Philippines. He has not violated the terms of his declaration of martial law in Mindanao and no abuses have been reported.

Carpio's arguments are all speculative and he really has no basis to state that Duterte does not understand, or refuses to understand, this fundamental principle that forms the bedrock of our democracy... despite having taken his oath of office to preserve and defend the 1987 Charter.

Duterte, in his 60-day power to impose martial law in Mindanao, has not shut down Congress, has not imprisoned any political foes, has no record of abuse committed by his military and police, has not censored the media and the rights of every citizen has been upheld. Yet Carpio bases his belief of a Marcos resurgence of martial law, simply because of a statement made in anger by Duterte?

After a year of Duterte, even less intelligent people can dismiss Duterte's controversial statements as just meaningless "tough talk."

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EDITORIAL

Dressed for battle

WHEN the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces dons a military uniform, he means business.

Serious business.

And when he packs heat, he is in a fighting mood.

The image of President Duterte in Army fatigues and brandishing a weapon is a visual warning to enemies of the State that he is taking the battle to its logical conclusion—victory for State security forces and the retaking of areas briefly occupied and controlled by terrorists.

The bold image is a powerful psychological boost to the troops in the battlefield.

The last time a sitting President wore a military uniform was the capture of a Muslim rebel camp. Former President Estrada was the Commander-in-Chief then.

A gun-toting President Duterte made a surprise visit Friday to a military camp close to a city where Islamic State group-inspired militants are battling security forces.

Photos and video footage released by his office showed the 72-year-old wearing camouflage fatigues with a submachine gun slung over his shoulder.

Duterte walked with soldiers and aides at an army camp about 25 kilometers (15 miles) from Marawi, saying bad weather stopped him flying into the battlefield.

But he said he could not wait until the fighting was over to visit the war-torn area, adding his trip was designed to show solidarity.

"Placing yourself in jeopardy is one thing, but somehow you need to show yourself ... in our desire to protect the republic," Duterte said.

More than six weeks after hundreds of IS-styled gunmen attacked Marawi, the militants are still holding out in about 1,000 buildings, and up to 300 civilians remain trapped, the military said Friday.

The fighting has left 353 militants, 87 soldiers and police, and 39 civilians dead, according to government officials, while nearly 400,000 residents of Marawi and nearby areas have fled the fighting.

Duterte declared martial law over Mindanao within hours of the start of the Marawi fighting on May 23 to stop what he said was an IS bid to carve out territory in the Mindanao region.

"If the armed forces and the police tell me the situation is no longer critical, then that is the time I will lift (martial law)," he said Friday.

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ONLINE NEWS

11 JULY 2017

www.pna.gov.ph

Martial law in Mindanao helped neutralize Maute infrastructure — Lorenzana

July 10, 2017, 11:25 am



MANILA, July 10 -- Careful implementation of Martial Law in Mindanao has greatly aided the government's efforts in neutralizing the support infrastructure of the remaining Maute Group terrorists in Marawi City.

"Aided by the principled and properly guided implementation of Martial Law, the collapse of the terrorists support infrastructure is assured," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said in a statement.

Martial law in Mindanao was implemented nighttime of May 23 following the attack of Maute Group terrorists in Marawi City.

"And with the overwhelming support of fellow Filipinos in general and local residents in particular, we can altogether deter terrorists from causing further havoc in other parts of our country," the defense chief stressed.

As this develops, Lorenzana said the government is now making plans needed for the the reconstruction of war-torn Marawi City.

"Government has trailed it focus on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi as the defeat of the Maute-ISIS Group looms with the military operations and the cooperation of local government," he added.

As of 6 p.m. Saturday, Maute Group terrorists have sustained 367 killed during ongoing focused military operations.

Also recovered were a total 367 firearms have been recovered from them. There were 39 civilians they have mercilessly killed or executed.

Meanwhile, 1,722 civilians who were held hostage or trapped in the main battle were either rescued or brought out of harms way.

Government losses at now placed at 87 killed. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/Gilbert Villaruz & Jayvee H. Castro (OJTs)/PNA)

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Injured twin Negrense soldiers: 'Always ready to fight for the country'

From the Philippine News Agency (Jul 10): **Injured twin Negrense soldiers: 'Always ready to fight for the country'**

The twin soldiers from Barangay Dulao, Bago City in Negros Occidental, who were injured in separate encounters in Marawi City, were one in declaring their readiness to fight for the country.

Corporal Rey Ga and his twin Private First Class Roy Ga, both 30, are scout rangers who were among the government troopers deployed to fight the Maute bandits since May 23.

Their older brother Roderick is also a scout ranger still fighting in Marawi.

Rey, who belongs to the 2nd Company, 1st Scout Ranger Battalion, was first injured on the evening of May 27. He was hit in his left hand and his little finger was amputated.

While recuperating at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center in Quezon City, Rey said he has no regrets since being in battle is part of being a soldier.

"We are always ready to offer our lives for the country," said Rey, who entered the military service in 2007.

Before his assignment in Lanao de Sur, he was deployed in Zamboanga, Samar, Jolo, and Basilan.

In a telephone interview on Sunday night, Rey said that when he learned that his brother Roy was also injured, he immediately called him up and was thankful when he learned that his condition was stable.

"I thank God that he is safe. Prayer is the ultimate weapon in any battle in life," he said.

Roy, a member of the 4th Company, 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion, said in a separate interview Sunday night that he was hit by a shrapnel in his right leg around 7:00 p.m. on July 5.

A colleague brought him to a temporary medical center, and he was later moved to a hospital in Iligan City.

He is now recuperating at the headquarters of the Philippine Army's 4th Infantry Division in Camp Evangelista, Cagayan de Oro City.

Roy, who joined the military in 2011, said this was the first time he was injured in battle. "This is part of our obligation to serve the country," he said, adding that he is always ready for the possibility to die in battle.

"We are praying for our older brother and fellow soldiers who are still fighting in Marawi," he said.

Their sister Rosie posted on Facebook that she is very proud of her three brothers.

"We are blessed because they were given a second life. God is really good," she added.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/999925>

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