

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



**TEAM ARMY**  
Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

14 July 2017

Friday

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

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*Understands 'hostage crisis' in Congress*








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By John H. Cooney



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Published since 1858

**Turkish terrorists in PH – envoy**  
By John H. Cooney



**Marawi death toll hits 529**

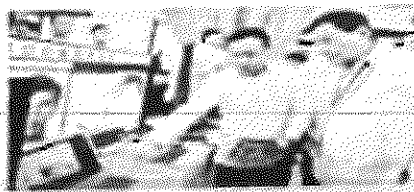


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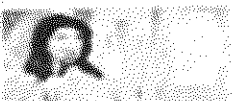
**ULTRALOTTO 6/55** **FRIDAY, 14 JULY 2017** **JACKPOT PRIZE** **PLAY THE TICKETS TODAY**  
**P137,000,000.00**

**Malaya**



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**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**  
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JULY 14, 2017 | FRIDAY

**INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING LUZON AND VISAYAS (As of 4:00 PM - July 13, 2017)**

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PART)

<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
5:34 AM	6:29 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
10:16 PM	9:39 AM
<b>FULL MOON</b> JUL 9 0:10 PM	<b>LAST QUARTER</b> JUL 17 3:26 AM
<b>LOW TIDE</b> MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 8:53 PM 0.12 Meter	<b>HIGH TIDE</b> 12:42 PM 1.19 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms.  
Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms.

<b>METRO MANILA</b>	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	<b>TACLOBAN</b>
25 - 33 °C	26 - 34 °C	25 - 31 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	<b>LEGAZPI</b>	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>
24 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C	24 - 32 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>
24 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>
17 - 26 °C	17 - 25 °C	24 - 33 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	<b>METRO CEBU</b>	
25 - 34 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C

**DZRH NEWS** MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11AM & 5PM

**PILIPINASH**

**AIR 21**  
SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

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

14 July 2017



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# CIDG's Marcos returns to duty in Region 12

*Palace: He has served his suspension*

By EMMANUEL TUPAS

Facing trial for homicide for the killing of a Leyte town mayor last year, Supt. Marvin Marcos is set to go back to active service as chief of the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Soccsksargen or Region 12.

His being given a new command – as announced by Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa yesterday – came a day after President Duterte declared in a speech that he wanted the suspended police official returned to duty.

“He was reinstated. His case was resolved,” Dela Rosa told reporters in a chance interview on the sidelines of

the 25th Defense and Sporting Arms Show in Mandaluyong.

It was not clear which case Dela Rosa was talking about. Marcos and 18 of his men in the CIDG in Eastern Visayas still face criminal charges for two counts of homicide.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said Marcos may go back to active duty because he had already served his suspension.

“The President respects and abides by the rule of law. Police Superintendent Marcos has served his suspension and is eligible to be back to duty,” Abella said in a statement.

“We leave the matter to the Philippine National Police-Internal Affairs Service (IAS) to explain its decision,” Abella said.

Defending the reinstatement,  
Turn to Page 10

OFFICE OF T

Dela Rosa said Marcos and his 18 co-defendants in the killing of detained Albueria town mayor Rolando Espinosa and fellow inmate Raul Yap last year had availed themselves of legal remedies under the country's judicial system.

Dela Rosa added that police officers accused of wrongdoing are as much entitled to due process as ordinary crime suspects.

Marcos' appointment was effective July 11, but he has yet to report to his new assignment, said Region 12 police director Chief Supt. Cedric Train. The command covers South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos City.

"There is already an order but he has yet to report here. He is still at Camp Crame," Train said in a phone interview.

Marcos used to head the CIDG-Central Visayas before he and the 18 other police officers were relieved for their role in the killing of Espinosa and Yap in their cells at the Leyte sub-provincial jail before dawn last November.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) earlier downgraded the charges against them from murder to homicide. With the downgrading of the case, Marcos and his men were allowed to post bail.

Dela Rosa said Marcos' co-accused would also be reassigned to field offices after serving penalties recommended by the PNP-IAS.

He said the penalties include suspension, demotion and admonition. There was no recommendation for dismissal from the service.

"Here comes the decision. Why can't we accept it?" the PNP chief said, addressing critics.

Dela Rosa challenged Marcos and the other police officers to work hard in their new assignments, "and show they are good policemen."

## Tough assignments

CIDG director Chief Supt. Roel Obusan said Marcos and his companions would be sent to areas where militants like the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) were active.

"Doon sa BIFF and ISIS area," Obusan told The STAR in a text message when

asked where Marcos and the others would be assigned.

Islamic State (IS)-inspired Maute bandits have been fighting government troops in Marawi since May 23. The Maute depredation had prompted Duterte to declare martial law in Mindanao.

"It would be up to the CIDG where to assign him," Dela

Rosa said, referring to Marcos. "He will be back on full duty status so he can be utilized again by the PNP for whatever assignment given to him."

For his part, National Police Commission (Napolcom) vice chairman Rogelio Casurao said there was nothing wrong with President Duterte declaring his desire to have Marcos reinstated.

At the 26th anniversary of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology last Wednesday, Duterte said Marcos should be reinstated because he was not part of the team that went to Espinosa's jail cell.

"Marcos was suspended. He has served his suspension... so I said give back to the man his job. He's not there anyway," the President said in Filipino.

"Legally there is nothing wrong," Casurao said, adding that the President did not directly order his officials to reinstate Marcos and the other policemen.

"So there you are, I hope our fellow Filipinos will understand there is nothing malicious about that from the legal point of view as well as the practical point of view," Casurao said in a radio interview.

He pointed out that while Marcos and his companions are back in the police service, the Leyte regional trial court would be hearing the homicide case against the policemen.

"While they are working, there is progress in the case against them with the Department of Justice," he said.

"That's never the intention," Casurao said to dispel impression that Marcos and the others were being exonerated. "In the first place, they are still in the service, they're getting salaries doing nothing," he said.

"At present there is nothing irregular about that, there's still a trial in Leyte. What's not good is if they're exonerated of homicide even if there's pending trial," he said.

He also pointed out that President Duterte as chief executive has the prerogative to issue directives within the executive department.

"While it is the prerogative of the President to do that, remember the DOJ, the PNP and the Napolcom - these are all part of the executive department and only the President has final say on this," he added.

He also urged the public not to make the situation more complicated by jumping to conclusions.

"Let's try to help ease the situation and the problem of our government. We have so many problems because of the Marawi incident - let's not make them worse by making wrong speculations," he said.

Casurao said while the Senate may have found in the killing of Espinosa a case of murder, the DOJ has spoken and ruled that it was homicide.

"If there are findings concerning legal liability of murder, Senate can investigate the case in aid of legislation," he said. - With Cecille Suerte Felipe, Alexis Romero

Local: 5285, 5295

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# INQUIRER

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## MAUTE, ABU SAYYAF TERRORISTS BREAK UP INTO SMALL GROUPS

**By Allan Nawal,  
Jeffrey Maitem  
and Richel Umel  
@Team\_Inquirer**

MARAWI CITY—The Maute gunmen and their Abu Sayyaf allies have split into small groups as government troops advance for the kill in what may be the final stages in the military campaign to retake Marawi from the Islamic State-linked terrorists holed up in the city.

Seven weeks after the fighting erupted on May 23, government forces have pushed the terrorists into a square-kilometer box in Marawi's commercial district, where military commanders are looking to finish the fight by pummeling the terrorists' positions with airstrikes and artillery fire, and a final close-quarter gun battle.

But the terrorists, who have pledged allegiance to the Islam-

ic State (IS) jihadist group in the Middle East, have blunted the impact of the aerial and ground attacks by spreading out in small groups.

### Sitting ducks

It is a strategy aimed at forcing government troops to enter the box and present themselves as sitting ducks for terrorists nestled in high-rise buildings.

The strategy is also designed to break up the government force into small groups that can be easily wiped out from elevated positions.

Military commanders, however, are not saying whether they see through the terrorists' strategy.

All they say is that the terrorist force has been cut down to a few men and these fighters appear to be running out of ammunition.

Lt. Col. Gerald Bautista, commander of Marine Battalion

Landing Team 7, said on Wednesday that in his jurisdiction, no more than 10 terrorists were engaging his troops.

"Their advantage is they know the area and they are prepositioned," he said.

But Bautista said his troops were pressing the operation to clear their sector of terrorists.

### Hit and run

"It's like this every day for the past weeks. We engage them and they fight back. Then they transfer to other hiding places," he said.

A soldier who spoke to the Inquirer on condition of anonymity said his unit had not encountered intense resistance from the terrorists on recent days.

"Sometimes one or two of them would fire at us," said the soldier, who had been on the front line since arriving in Marawi in early June.



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Lt. Col. Christopher Tampus, the commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said the resistance in his jurisdiction was also waning, as the enemy force had been drastically reduced.

"There are only about 10 of them here," he said.

Tampus said the capability of the terrorists engaging his troops diminished by the day while his soldiers continued to advance, retaking the bridges that led to the city center.

He said that in his area alone, the terrorists' will to fight had shrunk to just 1, on a scale of 1 to 10.

But soldiers said the small enemy groups were no less deadly than the large bunches of terrorists that dueled with them early in the fighting.

They said sniper fire was the deadliest obstacle to the troops' advance.

Fighting flared up anew in

Marinaut village on Thursday, prompting officials to abort the retrieval of bodies.

On Wednesday, advancing troops stumbled upon the remains of six people believed to be those earlier reported to have been executed by the terrorists.

Joint Task Force Marawi said in a statement that the remains were clad in orange suits similar to those worn by the six people shown in a video being killed by the terrorists.

#### Execution site

They could have been killed early in the crisis, the military said.

Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, spokesperson for the 1st Infantry Division, said troops from the 51st Infantry Battalion found the remains.

Herrera did not say where the remains were found, but described the place as a suspected

execution site of the Maute terrorist group.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of the military's Western Mindanao Command based in Zamboanga City, said the remains showed the Maute terrorists brutally killed helpless civilians.

Brig. Gen. Rolando Bautista, commander of Joint Task Force Marawi, described the executions as "brutal and inhuman."

"Our soldiers will do everything in their power to bring these terrorists to justice. We owe this to the victims, we owe this to our people," he said.

The recovery of the six bodies brought to 45 the number of civilians killed in the Marawi conflict.

As of Wednesday, more than 500 people have been killed since the start of the fighting, including 389 terrorists and 92 soldiers and police. INQ

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INDEPENDENT  
INQUIRER

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# Army foils S. Mindanao reb attack

Military officer urges troops to stay alert as Duterte prepares for State of the Nation Address

By Frinston Lim  
@flimINQ

TAGUM CITY—The military on Thursday said it thwarted a plan by communist rebels to stage a major attack in southern Mindanao ahead of President Duterte's State of the Nation Address (Sona) after government soldiers clashed with insurgents in Compostela Valley province that left nine dead.

Maj. Gen. Noel Clement, 10th Infantry Division (ID) commander, said the fighting in the upland town of Laak was a reminder for troops "not to lower our guard down against any armed threat that could harm our people."

The clash in LS Sarmiento village happened as soldiers from the 25th and 60th Infantry Battalions were pursuing a group of New People's Army (NPA) rebels who fled following the collapse of a rebel encampment in Casoon village in nearby Monkayo town early this week, said Capt. Alexandre Cabales, acting spokesperson for the 10th ID.

Cabales said their reports indicated that the rebels were massing up at the Laak-Monkayo border, prompting the military to conduct an operation that led to an encounter on July 10.



Military officials believe the rebel buildup in Compostela Valley is part of the NPA's plan to intensify attacks as Mr. Duterte prepares to address the nation on July 24.

### Consolidation

At least eight rebels died in the firefight, one of the biggest losses of the NPA in Mindanao in recent years. A soldier also died in the clash, Cabales said.

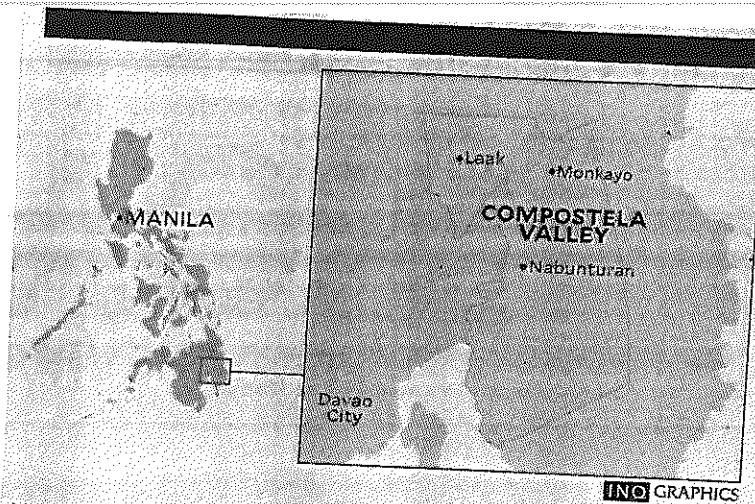
"It was a consolidation for a tactical offensive they would be conducting as part of their so-called compliance to a directive

to intensify attacks leading to the Sona," he said.

Soldiers also recovered five assault rifles, an M-60 machine gun and several improvised explosives from the clash site.

A day before the clash, rebels also abducted PO1 Alfredo Basabica Jr. of the Davao Oriental public safety company. Basabica was on a Davao City-bound bus that the rebels blocked at a checkpoint in Compostela town.

Chief Supt. Manuel Gaerlan, Southern Mindanao police chief, said Basabica was on his



New People's Army fighters from its North Central Mindanao regional command gather in a village in Misamis Oriental province for the Communist Party of the Philippines' anniversary in 2016. —JIGGER J. JERUSALEM

way to Davao to visit his family. The rebels also took Basabica's service pistol, said Senior Insp. Catherine dela Rey, southern Mindanao police spokesperson.

#### Firefight

In Masbate province, policemen engaged a group of communist rebels in a firefight in Cataingan town after land mine explosions were reported there on Wednesday morning.

Chief Insp. Albert Abayon, acting police chief of Cataingan, said the first explosion in

Barangay Gahit damaged a pickup truck of a food manufacturing company.

He said the truck driver and his companion were able to run away from a group of rebels following the explosion at 8:30 a.m.

Senior Insp. Maria Luisa Calubaquib, spokesperson for the Bicol regional police, said another explosion happened more than an hour later when personnel from the Cataingan police and the 5th Maneuver Platoon of the Masbate police's public safety company were on

their way to Gahit.

The blast was followed by bursts of gunfire from NPA rebels.

Abayon said government forces engaged about 60 rebels in a five-minute firefight, some 750 meters away from the site of the first explosion.

Calubaquib, in a report, said that another group of policemen was sent to the clash site but another explosion met the team along the national road in Barangay Busay. Reports said no policeman was killed or wounded in the explosions and clash.

Also in Masbate, police said NPA rebels burned an abandoned Army camp in San Jacinto town on Monday night.

Calubaquib said residents of Barangay Calipat-an reported seeing 15 rebels, armed with assault rifles and carrying gallons of gasoline, at the camp in Sitio Padaguilton.

She said the rebels burned 13 barracks, a function hall and a mess hall.

In Quirino province, six soldiers were wounded in a blast on Tuesday when their convoy hit a land mine in Nagtipunan town. The soldiers were on their way to their headquarters when their trucks hit the mine. —WITH

REPORTS FROM MA. APRIL MIER AND MARS. ARGUELLES INQ

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## BIFF men harass Army camp

MIDSAYAP, North Cotabato – Outlawed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) attempted, but failed, to inflict injuries Wednesday afternoon on government forces securing the borders of North Cotabato and Maguindanao, police said yesterday.

Supt. Bernard Tayong, Midsayap town police chief, said the lawless elements set off a powerful improvised bomb near an Army detachment of the 34th Infantry Battalion in Sitio Tapat, Barangay Ulandang, Midsayap.

Citing intelligence information, Tayong said the BIFF members have

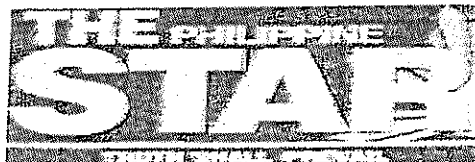
been harassing government forces tasked to secure rice and corn farmers residing near the borders of Midsayap and Datu Piang in Maguindnao borders.

He said military vehicles regularly passed by the village of Ulandang en route to its base in Sitio Tapat.

The IED was set off about five minutes after a military convoy passed by the blast site.

The exploded ordnance was made of 60 mm mortar with mobile phone as trigger mechanism which police said was a signature explosives of the BIFF. **PNA**

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# Sayyaf executes another Vietnamese

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Abu Sayyaf terrorists have executed another of their Vietnamese captives in a village in Sulu, authorities reported.

Military men recovered the bullet-riddled body believed to be that of Tran Khac Dung, alias Tran Viet Van, from Barangay Buhanginan in Patikul town last July 8.

Reports said the body was recovered hours after troops encountered several members of the Abu Sayyaf. It could not be immediately ascertained if the victim was killed during the gun battle.

The Joint Task Force Sulu (JTFS) turned over the body to the police Anti-Kidnapping

Turn to Page 7

Group last Monday for proper disposition.

Last week, the Abu Sayyaf bandits beheaded Vietnamese Hoang Trung Thong and Hoang Va Hai at Barangay Tumahubong in Sumisip town, Basilan.

The three victims were among the six Vietnamese sailors kidnapped from the cargo vessel *M/V Royal 16* on Nov.

11, 2016 while sailing through Sibagu Island in Basilan.

One of their companions, Hoang Vo, 28, was rescued late last month after he escaped at the height of military operations in Sumisip town.

Two more Vietnamese men, Pham Minh Tuan and Do Trung Hieu, are still captives of the Abu Sayyaf.

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Pahina. 7

## 2 Abu arestado sa cross border patrol

Umiskor ang pinagsanib na elemento ng Joint Task Force (JTF) - Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines makaraang masakorte ang dalawang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group na sangkot sa kidnapping for ransom /seajacking sa isinagawang cross border patrol operation sa pagitan ng hangganan ng karagatan ng nasabing mga bansa kahapon.

Isinailalim na sa tactical interrogation ang dalawang ASG na sina Ara Samindi at Omad Harun na may alyas Commander Halipa.

Ayon kay Brig. Gen. Custodio Parcon Jr. commander ng JTF Tawi-Tawi, ang grupo ni Commander Halipa ay sangkot sa serye ng kidnapping for ransom sa pagitan ng hangganan ng mga kara-

### NI JOY CANTOS

gatan ng Pilipinas, Malaysia at Indonesia kung saan ang mga bihag ay idinadaan muna sa Tawi-Tawi saka dadalhin sa baluarte ng mga kidnapper na Abu Sayyaf sa Sulu.

Una nang nilagdaan nina Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana at ng mga counterparts nito sa Malaysia at Indonesia ang tri-partite

agreement para magkaisa sa cross border patrol operations ng kanilang mga bansa upang masawata ang talamak na kidnapping for ransom ng mga bandido.

Nabatid na sa bahagi ng hangganan ng karagatan ng mga bansa na madalas mangharang ang ASG ng mga sasakyang pandagat at binibihag ang kapitan at mga tripulante nito.

Samantala, may pag-

kakataon din na sa beach resort ng mga bansa partikular na sa Malaysia ay dumarayo ang mga bandido para mangidnap.

Base sa tala, sina Samindi at Harun ay mga most wanted na sangkot sa seajacking /kidnappings sa katubigan ng Sabah at Tawi-Tawi kung saan responsable sa pag-atake sa Vietnam flagged vessel (M/V Giang Hai) noong Pebrero 2017.

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**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## Military finalizing report on martial law

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Armed Forces is finalizing its assessment on whether to recommend the extension of martial law that was declared by President Duterte in Mindanao hours after the Maute Group attacked Marawi City on May 23.

The military's recommendation will be submitted to the President, through Defense

Secretary and martial law administrator Delfin Lorenzana, later this week or next week, said AFP spokesman Brig Gen. Restituto Padilla.

"The assessment is ongoing and once the assessment is done, it will provide for the recommendation on whether to extend or lifted... I don't have

See MILITARY > Page B6

### MILITARY

the report yet and I cannot go (into details) before the report is done," he said.

The PNP's position paper will likely be submitted today to Lorenzana, said PNP chief Ronald dela Rosa.

He said the PNP "will state the investigative reasons why we want martial law extended" while the Armed Forces' position paper will state the tactical reasons.

Dela Rosa has said he favors an

extension of martial law until the situation in Marawi City normalizes so that the rehabilitation team will be safe, among others.

The martial law declaration ends on July 22.

Padilla said the assessment being conducted by military ground commanders in Mindanao, once finished, will be forwarded to AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año, martial law implementor, for his inputs and recommendation.

Padilla said the assessment and recommendation will be based on

the "operational objectives" that were given to the military establishment following the declaration of the martial law.

"So have we accomplished those objectives? If we have not, do we need more time to accomplish these objectives? And if we need more time, how long will that time be?" said Padilla.

Lorenzana has issued two arrest orders following the martial law declaration. Padilla said nearly 300 personalities were named in the arrest orders but only 60 of them

have been arrested so far.

"There are about 300 individuals listed in the arrest orders, 279 persons if I'm not mistaken. Out of that number, only 60 plus have been arrested so we have yet to reach half. We are still finding the other individuals who are hiding," he said.

Asked if the failure to account for over 200 personalities in the arrest orders will prompt the military to recommend an extension of martial law, Padilla said, "That will be part of our assessment." – *With Raymond Africa*

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# MANILA BULLETIN

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## PNP, AFP to submit papers on martial law extension

By **AARON B. RECUENCO**

The police and military leaderships are now preparing their respective position papers to justify the extension of martial law implementation in Mindanao.

Director General Ronald dela Rosa, chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), said the position papers will be submitted to President Duterte possibly today and would contain reasons on why martial law should be extended.

Dela Rosa, however, said that the timeframe on the extended martial law recommendation may not be discussed.

"We cannot still say how many days but we will cite reasons on why there is a need to extend the martial law from the law enforcement perspective," said Dela Rosa.

He said the military position paper will discuss the tactical and strategic reasons.

Both Dela Rosa and Gen. Eduardo Ano of the Armed Forces of the Philippines are keen to recommending the extension of martial law. The Chief PNP said one of the things they discussed is whether or not some areas in Mindanao would no longer be covered by the martial law.

But he said the decision remains with the President.

Duterte earlier said that he would only listen to the police and the military as to when the martial law would be lifted amid criticisms on its declaration.

Dela Rosa said they expect that they would be asked soon by the President as the 60-day martial law implementation is expected to end. So far, he said Duterte has not yet personally asked him about his thoughts on martial law extension.



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# Palace to probe organizations aiding terrorism

By Ted Tuvera and Mario J. Mallari

Following the announcement made by the Turkish ambassador to the Philippines of the alleged presence of Turkish terrorists in the country claimed to be linked to the foe of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who is currently in the United States on a political asylum status, Malacañang yesterday said it will not turn a blind eye on this matter, but will probe the issue of their alleged presence and ordered the state security forces to closely look into it.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella, in a statement yesterday, stressed that it is not turning a blind eye on Turkish Ambassador Esra Cankorur's heads up the other day that elements of the Muslim moderate group Hizmet or the Fetullah Gülen Movement (FGM) are "actively" operating in the Philippines.

Ambassador Cankorur, in a television interview on Wednesday, said that the FGM runs a decade-old school in Zamboanga and two others in Manila.

She also assailed the group, saying that it has a cultural non-government organization that works as its front.

"We will investigate organizations abetting or aiding terrorism and will hold them accountable, especially those that may be working as fronts for terrorist and criminal activities, as alleged by the Ambassador," Abella said.

"The military is verifying the statements of Turkish Ambassador Esra Cankorur regarding the presence of Turkish terrorists," he added.

**From page 1**

Named after a US-based Muslim Cleric claimed by his followers as a "messiah", the said group insists that an Islamic-styled moderate form of government tried to overthrow and assassinate Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan last year.

The Turkish Ambassador said the group is known for operating with deceiving front groups.

"This is their façade, thinking themselves as civic education institutions and innocent charity organizations. That will be a huge mischaracterization, that is wrong," the Turkish Ambassador said over ANC.

"They are the facade. They talk about inter-faith dialog, but they are concealing themselves," she added.

Abella, furthermore, said that the Philippine government is one with other governments in the common fight against armed extremists.

"We are also working closely with all other nations to combat terrorism," Abella said.

"This is now a global threat that can be better addressed through a unified effort," he added.

#### **AFP air strikes vs IS terrorists to continue**

Military air strikes against the Islamic State-inspired terrorists in Marawi City will continue despite Wednesday's misfire that killed two soldiers and wounded 11 others - the second friendly fire that happened since May when the siege started.

But the type of aircraft which delivered the misfire, the Air Force's FA50 lead-in fighter jets, will be temporarily pulled out from Marawi City pending the result of an ongoing investigation.

Brig. Gen. Ramiro Manuel Rey, commander of Joint Task Group Lanao, said that the use of air strikes remains an option for the ground commanders to utilize when they think it is necessary.

"There was no mention of limiting or decreasing or to stop (airstrikes); it's the call of the

ground commander whenever it is necessary," Rey said during a press conference.

At around noontime on Wednesday, one of the FA50s dropped a bomb but missed its target by 250 meters - landing instead near the position of ground troops resulting in two soldiers killed in action and 11 others wounded.

The friendly fire happened a day after President Duterte said he wants to finish the Marawi City siege within 15 days - apparently setting another deadline for the military to flush out the terrorists within the next two weeks.

Reports said the military started the day on Wednesday by conducting air strikes against positions still being held by the IS-inspired terrorists in downtown Marawi City - until the misfire happened at noon time.

The misfire was the second in Marawi City. Last May 31, 10 soldiers were also killed while seven others were wounded when a bomb dropped by an SF260 hit the ground troops in Marawi.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año then immediately ordered the suspension of the use of SF260s in Marawi City as he directed a board of inquiry, led by the Inspector General, to conduct probe of the incident.

Lt. Gen. Rafael Valencia, AFP-Inspector General, has already completed the fact-finding but the results are being withheld pending the ongoing military operations in Marawi City. It was said that the findings have operational impact.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., AFP spokesman, said the military will temporarily pull out from Marawi City pending the ongoing investigation of the Wednesday misfire.

"The FA-50 will momentarily be pulled out from deployment until the investigation is finished and once we ascertain the reason the bombs went off target," said Padilla.

"The AFP is suspending the use of that particular aircraft.

For any further airstrike until such time that the cause of the accident has been determined, or the failure of the equipment has been determined," he added.

The AFP spokesman noted that this was the first time a bomb from the FA-50 jets had gone off target, saying the jets have been effective in its air support missions in the past.

"The success rate of the aircraft is very high. Out of the 70 plus missions, this is the only time when you had one wayward bomb that didn't hit its target," Padilla said.

#### **Maute execution site bared**

The military yesterday revealed the discovery of what it believes as an "execution site" of the Maute group in Marawi City.

Elements of the Army's 51st Infantry Battalion (IB) discovered the site with four to six skeletal remains.

"The skeletal remains are believed to be that of six individuals whom the Maute/ASG executed in the early part of the crisis as shown on the video released by them and posted on the internet," said Brig. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, commander of Joint Task Force Marawi.

"These brutal and inhuman actions of the Maute/ASG will not go unpunished. Our soldiers will do everything in their power to bring these terrorists to justice. We owe this to the victims, we owe this to our people," he added.

Bautista vowed the military will not relent in its ongoing operations against the IS-inspired terrorists who have laid siege on Marawi City since May 23 when government forces attempted to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, the designated emir or leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in Southeast Asia.

"We will pursue the Maute/ASG terrorists who attacked and caused the destruction of Marawi. We will make the Maute/ASG terrorists accountable in the destruction of Marawi and the countless crimes they committed

against our Maranao brothers and sisters; and the whole Filipino nation," vowed Bautista.

With the additional six, this brings to 45 the total number of remains of victims recovered by troops. It is believed that there could be more people who were mercilessly murdered by the Maute/ASG terrorists for defying their orders to loot or shoot at soldiers.

For its part, Malacañang yesterday offered consoling words to the families of two soldiers killed by a botched government airstrike in conflict-hit Marawi City on Wednesday.

If gunpowder was rubbed on recent wounds, the two fallen troopers and 11 wounded others are the second casualties of the second screwed bombing run of the Philippine Air Force in the government's bid to recover Marawi from Islamic State (IS)-inspired bandits.

"On behalf of the President, we wish to express our deepest condolences to the families of the two soldiers who were killed in yesterday's air strike accident while fighting Maute rebel remnants," Presidential spokesman Abella said in a statement.

"We are saddened by this unfortunate incident and a team has been created to investigate the circumstances that led to this tragedy," he added.

The Palace official said that even if the two did not die in enemy hands, they will still be remembered as "heroes".

"These fallen men in uniform laid down their lives for duty, flag and country," Abella said.

"Government will remember their heroism and will provide the necessary assistance to their bereaved families," he added.

As of recent reports, the number of terrorists killed in Marawi rose to 379 from 353.

Recovered high-powered firearms also grew, now at 451 or an additional of 25 firearms.

Government casualties have reached 91 while civilians killed have remained at 39 and civilians rescued at 1,723.

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## AFP to check on 'terrorist' activities of Turkish dissidents in PH

By Philip C. Tubeza  
@pctubezaINQ

The Philippines' Armed Forces is investigating a claim made by Turkey's ambassador to Manila that Turkish terrorists had found their way into the Philippines, according to Malacañang.

Ernesto Abella, presidential spokesperson, said the military was "verifying" a statement attributed to Turkish Ambassador Esra Cankorur warning against the activities in the Philippines of Turkish terrorists "particularly the Fetullah Gulen Movement."

According to bbc.com, how-

ever, the Gulen was a "community of people—not a political party." It was named after an Islamic cleric based in Pennsylvania who "promotes a tolerant Islam," the website said.

But Gulen, bbc.com said, "is regarded by followers as a spiritual leader and sometimes de-

scribed as Turkey's second most powerful man."

The administration of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared Gulen as a terrorist group in May 2016. Ambassador Cankorur said the group has been in the Philippines since the late 1990s.

Erdogan had accused the Gulen of being behind the failed coup attempt against him in July 2016.

Other than that, there is no known terrorist attack attributed to the group. The United States does not classify the movement as a terrorist organization and has repeatedly denied Turkey's

demand for Gulen's extradition.

In an interview with ANC on Wednesday, Cankorur said the Gulen was active in a school in Zamboanga City and two schools in Manila.

Cankorur said the movement's claim of pursuing interfaith dialogue was just "a façade." INQ

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## AFP probes report of Turkish 'terrorists' in Phl

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has ordered an investigation of reports that a Turkish terror group has infiltrated some civic organizations in the country, Malacañang said yesterday.

"We will investigate organizations abetting or aiding terrorism and will hold them accountable, especially those that may be working as fronts for terrorist and criminal activities, as alleged by the ambassador," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said, referring to the statement of Turkish Ambassador Esra Cankorur regarding the presence of Turkish terrorists, particularly the Fetullah Gulen Movement, in the Philippines.

The Turkish government had implicated the Fetullah Gulen Movement in the failed coup in Turkey last year. Turkey has identified the group as a terrorist organization.

Reports said Ankara has been blaming Gulen, a US-based cleric, and his followers for orchestrating last July's attempted coup wherein rogue soldiers commandeered tanks and fighter jets.

The group bombed the parliament building and tried to kidnap President Tayyip Erdogan. Hundreds were killed while over 2,000 were injured during the incident.

Abella added that concerned security agencies are coordinating with their counterparts abroad to make sure that any planned act of terrorism is averted.

He said this could be possible only through continuous communication with security and intelligence agencies abroad.

"We are also working closely with all

other nations to combat terrorism. This is now a global threat that can be better addressed through a unified effort," he said.

Abella has assured the public that the military is now gathering information to verify the reports.

"The military is verifying the statement of Turkish Ambassador Esra Cankorur regarding the presence of Turkish terrorists, particularly the Fetullah Gulen Movement, in the Philippines," he said.

Cankorur claimed that the Fetullah Gulen Movement has branched out in the Philippines through a tie up with some civic educational institutions and charity organizations.

Cankorur said Gulen's followers believe the global movement, known as "Hizmet" that means "service" in Turkish, wants to spread a moderate brand of Islam that promotes Western-style education, free markets and interfaith communication.

Cankorur said the group has been active through schools in the Zamboanga peninsula and in Manila.

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said it is possible that members of the Fetullah Gulen Movement are now in the country.

Dela Rosa said since Turkey has imposed strict security measures on its borders, terrorists who wanted to join Islamic State fighters in Iraq and Syria have now trained their sights on the Philippines.

"Now that Turkey has closed its borders, there are now advisories from IS leaders saying they can go to southern Philippines," Dela Rosa said.

– With Emmanuel Tupas

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## Gov't probes presence of Turkish militants in PH

In the wake of the reported presence of Turkish militants in the country, the government has vowed to run after groups abetting terrorists and work with other nations in fighting the global threat.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said authorities have yet to confirm the suspected presence of the Fethullah Gulen Movement in the country but will hold accountable groups in collusion with the terror suspects.

"The military is verifying the state-

ment of Turkish Ambassador Esra Cankorur regarding the presence of Turkish terrorists, particularly the Fetullah Gulen Movement, in the Philippines," Abella said.

"We will investigate organizations abetting or aiding terrorism and will hold them accountable, especially those that may be working as fronts for terrorist and criminal activities, as alleged by the ambassador," he added.

The government recognized the significance of international coop-

eration in eliminating the threat of terrorism.

"We are also working closely with all other nations to combat terrorism. This is now a global threat that can be better addressed through a unified effort," Abella said.

Armed Forces of the Philippines-Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said that they are validating the claim of Cankorur.

"We have to validate that information before we can comment on it," Arevalo said.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said that he still has to check the information. "Hindi ko pa alam ito," Padilla said.

Cankorur recently warned that the Gulen terror movement has reached local shores. She said the group has been using schools and other charity groups as front organizations.

The movement, named after US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, has been blamed for the deadly coup attempt against the alleged authoritarian government of Turkey last

year.

The rebels took over government tanks and jets, bombed government buildings, and attempted to oust Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. More than 200 people were killed in the violence as the government tried to end the mutiny.

Erdogan has branded Gulen's movement as a terrorist group and promised to pursue its members accused of trying to overthrow the government. **(Genalyn D. Kabiling and Francis T. Wakefield)**

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INQUIRER

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# FA-50 jets pulled out of combat in Marawi

By Nikko Dizon  
@NikkoDizonINQ

The military has pulled out its FA-50 jets from the campaign to clear Marawi City of terrorists after one of the supersonic planes was involved in a “friendly fire” incident that killed two soldiers and injured 11 others on Wednesday.

Malacanang on Thursday condoled with the families of the two soldiers who died.

“We are saddened by this unfortunate incident,” presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said.

Abella said a team had been formed to “investigate the circumstances that led to this tragedy.”

## Second time

The incident on Wednesday was the second time soldiers have been killed by their own air support since fighting began in Marawi City almost two months ago.

On May 31, 11 soldiers perished when a bomb intended for Maute group terrorists and their Abu Sayyaf allies holed up in the city landed on a place occupied by government troops.

On Wednesday, the Army called airstrikes at midday against a building where terrorists were believed to be hiding, but one of four bombs dropped

by an FA-50 fighter jet fell short, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, told a news conference on Thursday.

“The bomb fell in an area proximate to a building where some of our men were staying and the ensuing blast caused part of that building to collapse,” Padilla said.

“The debris that fell from the part of the collapsed structure fell on our men, causing the death of two and injuries to 11 others,” he said.

Padilla said the incident was being investigated and the FA-50s would be kept on the ground while the investigation was going on.

“The FA-50 will momentarily be pulled out from employment until the investigation has been conducted and once we have ascertained whatever reason was behind one of the bombs falling short of target,” he said.

Only the FA-50s have been suspended from conducting airstrikes, Padilla said.

Other Philippine Air Force aircraft will still be used to provide air support to ground troops, he added.

In a statement, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the friendly fire incidents “reflect the harsh nature of urban warfare where soldiers operate in

tight spaces and in close proximity to the enemy.”

Lorenzana said the problems faced by the military were similar to those encountered by other nations taking on terrorists in Mosul, Fallujah and Raqqa, referring to the major strongholds of the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in Iraq and Syria.

“We have to operate with due consideration for the safety of the civilians who are still trapped in the area against enemies who know no rules, who use hostages as human shields and children as frontline fighters,” he said.

“Our resolve to end the situation, however, has not wavered. In

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fact, we are now more determined than ever to finally eliminate these terrorists, and we will not stop until evil is vanquished, not only in Marawi City, but also in the whole of Mindanao," he added.

#### **Board of inquiry**

Lorenzana said that the military was "reviewing and recalibrating its existing doctrines in order for the troops to adapt and respond to this evolving type of war."

Padilla said the military had constituted a board of inquiry that would look into Wednesday's accident.

Padilla, himself an Air Force

pilot, said the FA-50s had a "high success rate" in bombing runs in Marawi City.

Of the 70 runs they had made, Wednesday's incident was the only time that one bomb went "wayward from a pool of four jets that did not hit its target directly," Padilla said.

"The high success rate of the aircraft in previous missions is indicative of its efficiency and effectivity as a platform that supports our troops. However, the accident [on Wednesday] will require us to look closely and what caused the failure of one of the bombs and once we determine that remedial mea-

asures will have to be undertaken to correct it," Padilla said.

#### **Ordinary bombs**

On Wednesday night, the military said initial reports from Marawi indicated that the bomb landed 250 meters off-target and the impact of the explosion caused structures to collapse.

A well-placed military source told the Inquirer late Wednesday that the FA-50s were using ordinary ordnance and not precision guided munitions, or PGMs.

The acquisition of the weapons usually comes after the aircraft, the source added.

The source said that without the PGMs, Air Force pilots depend on their skills in maneuvering the FA-50s toward their targets.

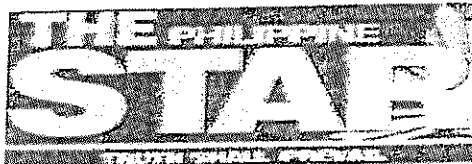
The FA-50, technically a trainer aircraft, can accommodate a wide range of weapons system.

Padilla told the Inquirer on Thursday that the procurement process for the FA-50s' weapons system began during the previous Aquino administration.

He said procedures that have to be followed in procuring a weapons system, such as securing clearances, needed to be followed. —WITH REPORTS FROM PHILIP C. TUBEZA AND AFP INQ

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# Jets involved in latest 'friendly fire' grounded

By JAIME LAUDE

The military has ordered the grounding of its FA50 fighter jets following last Wednesday's friendly fire incident that killed two soldiers and wounded 11 others in Marawi City.

Despite the error, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said airstrike operations will continue against the Maute extremists still holding out in various parts of Marawi.

"The incident that happened yesterday, however, will not cancel or prevent further airstrikes so that we can provide our troops the necessary

support that they will need in terms of close air support," Padilla said.

The military has formed a team that will look into the lapses committed during the airstrike and other options to continue operations without using the FA50s.

Padilla said it was the first time out of 70 missions conducted by the FA50 fighter jets that one of the four bombs dropped missed its target by 250 meters.

"The FA50 will momentarily be pulled out from employment as close air support aircraft until the investigation has ascertained whatever rea-

son was behind one of the bombs falling short of target," Padilla said.

He pointed out the high success rate of the FA50s in airstrike operations, indicating its efficiency and effectivity as a platform to support ground troops.

Aside from the FA50s, the Air Force has deployed OV-10 Bronco bombers, the SF260 fixed wing aircraft, the MG520 and the newly acquired AW109 attack helicopters in pounding the terrorists' locations in the city.

The SF260s were also initially grounded after one of the planes was involved in the

friendly fire incident last May 31 that left 10 Marines dead. The probe showed there was no defect in the aircraft and the error likely stemmed from air-to-ground miscommunication.

And unlike the first friendly fire incident, which directly hit the positions of troops, last Wednesday's airstrike involved hitting a building near the troops in the area of operations.

Padilla, meanwhile, brushed aside fears that the continued launching of airstrikes against the terrorists in Marawi is risky business.

"It's the commander's prerogative (to call for an air-

strike) and we are not taking that away from him. It is he who can decide what is best for his men and for his unit," Padilla said.

## Near end game

As the fighting winds down, the number of fatalities, however, keeps increasing.

As of yesterday, civilians confirmed killed and recovered have increased to 45 with the recovery of six bodies already decomposing.

Officials believe they are among those executed by the Maute extremists. "The brutal execution is proof of their un-Islamic ways, these terror-

ists do not respect anyone or anything," Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. said.

Padilla said the number of terrorists killed in the more than a month of fighting has increased to 392 while 497 of their firearms have been recovered.

With the friendly fire incident last Wednesday, the number of soldiers killed in the military campaign has increased to 92.

He added government forces have cleared 54 enemy positions but around 600 buildings still need to be taken over by the troops.

– With Roel Pareño



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# Palace rues 2 'friendly fire' deaths in Marawi

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

**M**alacañang yesterday extended its sympathies to the families of two soldiers who were killed by friendly fire during an air strike in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur Wednesday.

Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella, in a statement, said a team has been created to investigate the events that led to the unfortunate incident.

"On behalf of the President, we wish to express our deepest condolences to the families of the two soldiers who were killed in yesterday's air strike accident while fighting Maute rebel remnants," Abella said Thursday morning.

"We are saddened by this unfortunate incident and a team has been created to investigate the circumstances that led to this tragedy.

Abella assured that the government will not forget the heroism of the two soldiers who risked their lives while fighting the terrorists in Marawi City.

"These fallen men in uniform laid down their lives for duty, flag and country. Government will remember their heroism and will provide the necessary assistance to their bereaved families," he said.

According to Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo, another friendly fire killed two soldiers and wounded 11 others in Marawi City Wednesday afternoon.

"Initial report from Marawi indicates that the bomb was 250 meters off target. The impact of the explosion caused the collapse of nearby structures," Arevalo said in a statement.

"Large debris from heavily reinforced buildings accidentally hit two of our personnel who succumbed in the process," he added.

This was the second the incident where members of the government forces were killed due to a friendly fire. Last month, the AFP reported that 10 soldiers were killed following another air strike in Marawi City.

Government forces have been fighting members of the Maute terrorist group in Marawi City for 52 days now after the latter laid siege in the city on May 23, 2017.

This prompted President Duterte to declare martial law in Mindanao for 60 days.

The declaration will expire on July 22.

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**Malaya**  
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## Military grounds FA-50 fighter jets

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Armed Forces yesterday said it grounded all its 12 FA-50 fighter jets after one of them figured in an accident during an air strike against Maute Group members in Marawi City on Wednesday

The “friendly fire” incident, the second during the Marawi conflict that started on May 23, killed two soldiers and wounded 11 others.

The first incident, which occurred on May 31, involved an SF-260 aircraft and killed 11 soldiers and wounded seven others. Investigation into the first incident has not been completed.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla told a press briefing the military suspended the use of the FA-50s for any air strike until the military determines the reason one of the bombs fell short of target.

Padilla said two FA-50s were dispatched to conduct bombing runs against Maute Group members on Wednesday noon, on the request of ground forces.

“One of our aircraft dropped four bombs to destroy a target that was believed to have housed quite a number of remnants of the Maute Group. Unfortunately, one of the bombs did not hit the target squarely and it fell short by about 250 meters,” said Padilla.

Padilla said it was the first bomb that missed the target while the three others were delivered accurately or “proximate to their targets.”

Padilla said the bomb fell in an area near a building where soldiers were staying. The blast caused the building to collapse, leading to the death of two government troops and wounding 11 others.

In the May 31 incident, a bomb released by an SF-260 aircraft landed at soldiers’ position.

The death of the two soldiers from the second incident brought to 92 the number of soldiers and policemen killed in the ongoing armed conflict in Marawi City. The military said 392 Maute members have been already killed in the fighting.

The 12 FA-50s were acquired from the Korea Aerospace Industries for P18.9 billion under the AFP modernization program. The firm delivered the aircraft in batches, from November 2015 to May this year.

Padilla it was too early say if the cause of the accident was pilot or materiel failure, noting that investigation is still underway.

He appealed to the public not to blame the pilots prematurely. “It’s a pilot’s worst nightmare when a pilot hits friendly forces... In this case, we have no reason to say that it was the fault of the pilot yet, until after we have done the investigation,” said Padilla.

Padilla said FA-50s have performed almost 70 missions in the ongoing military efforts to rid Marawi City of Maute terrorists.

“The success rate of the aircraft is very high. Out of almost 70 missions that were conducted, this was the only time when you have one wayward bomb (dropped by an FA-50) from a pool of four, that did not hit its target directly. The

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## MILITARY GROUNDS

three others hit their targets. That's why we need to investigate this," said Padilla.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said he is "deeply saddened" by the "most unfortunate incident."

Lorenzana said the incident, and that on May 31, "reflect the harsh nature of urban warfare where soldiers operate in tight spaces and in close proximity to the enemy."

"The problems we face are the same as those confronted by

other nations fighting terrorists in places like Mosul (Iraq), Fallujah (Iraq), and Raqqa (Syria)," said Lorenzana, referring to the conflict involving the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) to which the Maute has sworn allegiance.

Lorenzana said the military is now reviewing and re-calibrating its doctrines in the conduct of the operations "in order for the troops to adapt and respond to this evolving type of war."

"Admittedly, retaking the very last

positions of the Maute-ISIS who are still in Marawi is proving to be a challenge. We have to operate with due consideration for the safety of the civilians who are still trapped in the area against enemies who know no rules, who use hostages as human shields and children as frontline fighters," said Lorenzana.

"Our resolve to end the situation, however, has not wavered. In fact, we are now more determined than ever to finally eliminate these terrorists, and we will not stop until evil is vanquished, not only in Marawi City, but also in the whole

of Mindanao," he added.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said Malacañang is "saddened" by the incident and President Duterte expressed his deepest condolences to the families of the two slain soldiers.

He assured the families assistance would be extended to them.

"These fallen men in uniform laid down their lives for duty, flag and country. Government will remember their heroism and will provide the necessary assistance to their bereaved families," he said.

*With Jocelyn Montemayor*

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## Airstrikes sa Marawi pinapaligil

Sapat na umano ang dalawang palpak na airstrikes na pumatay sa buhay ng mga sundalo para tuluyan nang itigil ang opensiba sa Marawi City.

Ayon kina Gabriela Partylist Rep. Emmi de Jesus at Arlene Brosas ang pangsurgical airstrikes ay sapat nang batayan para sukatin kung gaano kalaking panganib ang dulot ng patuloy pa rin na opensiba sa Marawi City, hindi lamang umano ang buhay ng mga sundalo ang nasa peligro kundi mga sibilyan din.

"If the military cannot precisely map out its ground forces during airstrikes, how can we be sure that AFP's nonstop aerial bombardment is targeting supposed terrorist hideouts and sparing innocent ones? This fuels our fear that not just a few but hundreds of civilians are being killed by the military operations in Marawi," paliwanag ng Gabriela.

Muling aginit ng mga mambabatas na bawiin na ang Martial Law at itigil na ang airstrikes.

"Kahit sibilyan ay hin-

di ligtas sa ganitong airstrikes lalo pa at fighter jets na gumagamit ng ordinaryong artillery ang gamit dito sa halip na precision guided ammunition, ang masama ni to ang mga fighter jets na ito ay bahagi pa ng mga scraps na binili sa ibang bansa sa ilalim ng AFP Modernization program," batikos pa ni Brosas.

Sa halos dalawang buwan nang opensiba sa Marawi ay 500 katao na ang nasawi habang 300,000 residente ang lumikas. (Tina Mendoza)

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Pahina. 2

**2 beses sumablay 13  
kapwa sundalo patay**

**AIR STRIKE, TULOY — AFP**

TINIYAK ng AFP na hindi nila ititigil ang paglulunsad ng air strike sa Marawi City sa kabila ng dalawang beses na pagpalya ng air strike, na ikinasawing 13 sundalo at ikinasugat ng iba pa.

Ayon kay AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Col. Edgard Arevalo, mahalaga ang kanilang gagawing air strike sa Marawi laban sa mga teroristang Maute na nagtatago sa matitibay na is-

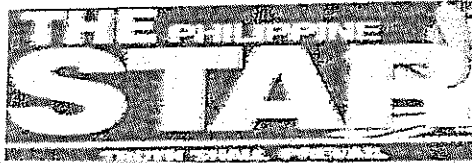
truktura.

Kinumpirma ni Arevalo na suspendido ngayon ang ginamit na aircraft sa sumablay na air strike subalit, gagamit sila ng ibang air assets ng Philippine Air Force (PAF) kaugnay ng mission sa Marawi.

Hindi pa tinukoy ng AFP kung anong klase ng fighter jet ang nagpakawala ng bomba na naging sanhi sa misfire.

*(Jeff Tombado)*

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# ML extension should not exceed 60 days – Lagman

By JESS DIAZ

Any extension by Congress of President Duterte's martial law declaration in Mindanao should not exceed 60 days, an opposition lawmaker reminded his colleagues yesterday.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman said the Constitution precisely sets a maximum period of 60 days for martial law wherever the President imposes it.

"It stands to reason that any extension should not exceed the original maximum period as provided for in the Constitution," he said.

Lagman made the statement in response to the proposal of Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez for Congress to extend military rule in Mindanao for

five years up to the end of Duterte's term in 2022.

The military has said five years is too long, while the President himself has declared he would finish the crisis in Marawi City in 10 to 15 days.

Under the Constitution, the President can request Congress to lengthen martial law.

Lagman said the 60-day limit is one of the safeguards written by the framers of the Charter to prevent the martial law abuses committed by the Marcos regime.

He said an extension beyond 60 days would render this particular safeguard useless.

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) also said there are constitutional safeguards covering

the declaration of martial law and possible extension.

CHR spokesperson Jacqueline de Guia said the decision on whether to extend martial law in Mindanao should be left to the discretion of the lawmakers based on the assessment of national security officials.

"We will leave it to the wisdom of the Congress to decide on its merits, as well as on the assessment of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on the situation in Marawi City should the President finally decide on the matter," De Guia said.

"But to echo CHR's call since its declaration, we urge the government to respect and protect the rights of all Filipinos, especially the vulnerable and marginalized, regardless

of the circumstance, and address the pressing humanitarian condition on the ground due to displacement and armed conflict," she added.

On Tuesday, Duterte said he would need 15 more days to finish martial law in Mindanao.

Martial law in Mindanao is set to end its 60-day prescribed period on July 22 but the President could ask Congress to extend it.

Duterte had justified the declaration of martial law and said he might extend it beyond the 60-day validity provided for in the Constitution.

He explained that the decision will be made based on the consensus of his security advisers – Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año and Philippine

National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa

Dela Rosa had said he would recommend the extension of martial law but not to five years as proposed by Alvarez.

He said the PNP will submit their position paper to the President before the 60-day period of martial law lapses.

"We are still working on a position paper. Maybe we will submit it tomorrow (Friday)," Dela Rosa said yesterday.

While they are pushing for an extension of martial law, Dela Rosa said they might limit the scope of military rule in Mindanao.

"We might reduce the scope. We are still talking whether to reduce or still the whole of Mindanao," he said.

Dela Rosa did not say how long martial law will be extended. "We still don't know how many days. We have reasons which will say why there is a need to extend martial from the law enforcement perspective, (like) what are the investigative reasons for an extension?"

For the AFP, martial law in Mindanao should be extended.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the prevailing military rule in Mindanao has yet to fully succeed in addressing the rebellion in Marawi City.

"There are around 300 individuals listed in Arrest Order No. 1 and Arrest Order No. 2 and if am not mistaken, to be exact 279 (individuals) and out of that, around 60-plus have been arrested. We have not reached even half and we are still going after these individuals who have gone into hiding," Padilla said. – With Janvic Mateo, Emmanuel Tupas, Jaime Laude

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## Reduced scope of martial law eyed—top cop

By John Paolo Bencito

SECURITY officials are considering proposals to reduce the scope of martial law in Mindanao, but maintained calls for its extension before it lapses on July 23

At the sidelines of a gun show opening in Mandaue City, Philippine National Police chief Ronald dela Rosa insisted that they would be asking for an extension of martial law, based on his last conversation with Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año.

“We might reduce its scope. [AFP chief General Eduardo Año] and I spoke about the possibility of reducing its scope or [having] martial law over the whole of Mindanao still,” Dela Rosa said.

Dela Rosa said they need to submit their recommendation to President Rodrigo Duterte before martial law lapses on July 23.

“The military will have their own perspective—for tactical reasons or strategic reasons, why martial law should be extended,” Dela Rosa said in Filipino. “On my side, from the law enforcement perspective, what are the investigative reasons we need to extend it. We will make our position paper.”

Duterte on May 23 placed the entire Mindanao under martial rule following clashes between government forces and Islamic State-inspired extremists in Marawi City. *Next page*

## Reduced...

From AI

The basis of his declaration was challenged before the Supreme Court, but the high tribunal upheld the constitutionality of martial law in a majority decision.

On Wednesday, Dela Rosa said that martial law should be extended for another 60 days or the maximum period allowed by law, as the problems caused by Islamic State-inspired terrorists have not yet been fully addressed.

“If the law allows 60 more days, [then it’s]

60 days. If the problem can’t be solved for another 60 more days, then we’ll apply for another extension,” Dela Rosa told Manila Standard in a chance interview.

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla however, insisted that before martial law in Mindanao can be extended, a detailed assessment on the prevailing security situation has to be done.

“We have stated our position that the AFP will conduct an assessment on the need to extend or not martial law. That assessment will then recommend our position for the Commander-in-Chief’s perusal and approval. Let us wait for that. What-

ever the Commander-in-Chief’s decision is, the AFP will be ready to comply and implement,” Padilla said.

Once the AFP finishes its assessment and recommendations, these will be forwarded to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who is also martial law administrator. He will forward the findings to Duterte for review.

“The declaration of martial law goes out of effect at the end of 60 days and the recommendation and decision to extend it must done before it ends,” Padilla added.

Under the 1987 Constitution, martial law is limited for 60 days and needs the approval of Congress for any extension. **With PNA**



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## Troops recover remains of six in Marawi execution site

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The skeletal remains of six persons were discovered by government troops in a place believed to be one of the

execution sites of the Islamic State-inspired militants in Marawi City.

Field reports showed that troops from the Army's 51st Infantry Battalion were doing clearing operations

when they stumbled upon the skeletal remains clad in orange shirts believed to be executed in the early days of the rebellion, recorded on video and uploaded on the web.

Lt. Gen Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), said the brutal execution is proof of the group's un-Islamic ways. ▶8

## Troops recover remains... ◀1

"These terrorists do not respect anyone or anything," Galvez said.

"While these terrorists kill people indiscriminately respecting no one in trying to dissect our land, our soldiers will continue to liberate Marawi bearing in mind that this city belongs to our Maranao brothers and sisters and this land belongs to the Filipino people," he added.

Brig. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, commander of Joint Task Force Marawi, condemned the brutal behavior of the Maute/ASG.

"This brutal and inhuman actions of the Maute/ASG will not go unpunished. Our soldiers will do everything in their power to bring these terrorists to justice. We owe this to the victims, we owe

this to our people" Bautista said.

"We will pursue the Maute/ASG terrorists who attacked and caused the destruction of Marawi. We will make the Maute/ASG terrorists accountable in the destruction of Marawi and the countless crimes they committed against our Maranao brothers and sisters; and the whole Filipino nation," he added.

The latest find brings the number of remains recovered by troops to 45. It is believed there could be more who were mercilessly killed by the Maute/ASG militants for defying orders to loot, shoot at soldiers, or follow every whim and caprices of the militants, according to hostages rescued by government forces.

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**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## Skeletal remains of Maute victims found

BY VICTOR REYES

SKELETAL remains of six civilians believed to have been executed by the Maute Group at the initial phase of the Marawi City siege were retrieved by government forces on Wednesday morning, the military said yesterday.

This brings to 45 the number of civilians killed in the conflict that started on May 23. The military said more civilians may have been killed by the group for resisting orders.

The military said the remains were in orange shirts.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesman of the Armed Forces,

said government forces cleared 53 buildings of Maute members on Wednesday, and 54 buildings the day before. About 600 more buildings are being cleared.

“At the rate we’re going, we will need about 12 days or less to clear the rest of the buildings,” said Padilla.

Asked if the clearing of the buildings is synonymous to the liberation of Marawi, Padilla said, “We are working to liberate Marawi at the soonest time possible. However, we are not providing a specific (date). We heard the President mention that we may need 10 to 15

See SKELETAL > Page B6

## SKELETAL

days and we will try to meet that,” said Padilla.

Duterte on Tuesday said he expects the Marawi crisis to be resolved in 10 to 15 days, noting the Maute is not running out of weapons.

Yesterday, Duterte yesterday urged the public to pray for the continuing strength of the military and the police.

During a visit to earthquake-hit Ormoc City, Duterte said a lot of people are suffering, especially those affected by the armed conflict in Marawi.

He renewed calls for Mindanaos, especially Maranaos, to reject terrorism which he said is an “idiotic” ideology that only aims to kill and destroy.

## COMMUNITY KITCHENS

The Department of Health called for the setting up of “community kitchens” for the displaced residents of Marawi and nearby areas.

In a press conference for the

National Nutrition Month celebration, DOH spokesman Dr. Eric Tayag said it is through community kitchens that the displaced can have balanced meals.

“Our recommendation is to have a kitchen established there, where somebody volunteers to cook for them using fresh ingredients,” he said.

He said “tent cities,” or transition shelter for evacuees to be set up, will be a good venue to set up community kitchens.

“We appeal to our countrymen to help us put up kitchens so that their menu will not always be instant noodles, and canned goods. Once we have these resettlement areas, we need to somehow bring back their normal lives,” said Tayag.

“Canned food is not altogether bad. But the DOH has to make a balance. In their situation, it’s hard to have fresh food all the time,” he also said.

Based on DOH data, there are some 4,200 families or at least 23,600 persons in 87 evacuation centers. — *With Jocelyn Montemayor and Gerard Naval*

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The Manila Times

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# Marawi death toll hits 529

THE death toll in ongoing clashes between government troops and the Maute terrorist group in Marawi City has reached 529, the military said, as ground commanders weighed whether or not to extend the 60-

day martial law imposed over Mindanao.

As of 7 p.m. on July 12, 92 government troops have been killed, including two soldiers hit by "friendly fire" on Wednesday when an FA50 aircraft dropped bombs on

terrorist lairs in the war-torn city. On the side of the terrorists, 392 have been killed. Fighting has also claimed the lives of 45 civilians. A total of 1,723 civilians have been rescued from the city.

The military has also seized 497 firearms from the Islamic State-linked Maute fighters. Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman, said on

Toll A8

## TOLL FROM A1

# Marawi death toll hits 529

Thursday the aircraft used during the friendly-fire incident that resulted in the deaths of two soldiers in the battle area of Marawi City would be grounded until the completion of an investigation.

All FA50 aircraft will not be used in clearing operations in Marawi City, he said.

At 12 noon on Wednesday, an FA50 plane dropped bombs and missed its target 250 meters away. It hit a building and led to its collapse, causing large debris to fall on the soldiers who were inside the structure.

Eleven soldiers were injured, aside from the two fatalities.

Padilla said the aircraft had a "very high success rate" in almost 70 missions.

A similar incident occurred on May 31, but the plane that was used was a SF260. The incident claimed the lives of 10 soldiers and left seven wounded. Following an internal inquiry, the SF260 cleared for employment.

Padilla said the difference between the two incidents was that the first one hit the troops directly, while the recent one hit structures.

"This [recent] incident that happened, the bomb did not hit our men, it hit an area proximate to where they were, which caused the collapse of the

building," Padilla said.

In a statement, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the incident only reflected the "harsh nature of urban warfare" in Marawi City.

"What happened yesterday and last month, when several of our marines inadvertently perished because a wayward ordnance dropped from an aircraft, reflect the harsh nature of urban warfare where soldiers operate in tight spaces and in close proximity to the enemy," Lorenzana said on Thursday, referring to the two friendly-fire incidents.

"I am deeply saddened by the loss of lives resulting from this most unfortunate incident. We reach out to the families and loved ones of the soldiers who lost their lives, and pray for the speedy recovery of those who were injured," he added.

The Defense chief described the urban warfare in Marawi City as similar to the Middle East offensives in Mosul, Fallujah and Raqqa.

"Admittedly, retaking the very last positions of the [Maute] who are still in Marawi is proving to be a challenge. We have to operate with due consideration for the safety of the civilians who are still trapped in the area against enemies who know no rules, who use hostages as

human shields and children as frontline fighters," he said.

## Assessment at final stages

Less than a week before the 60-day martial law expires, the assessment of ground commanders on whether martial law should be extended is at its finishing stages and will soon be forwarded to the military chief, the AFP said.

Padilla, the AFP spokesman, said in a news conference the assessment of whether martial law would be extended or lifted would be based on "operational parameters" set since the President declared military rule on May 23 when the Maute men attacked Marawi.

"As I have continuously been mentioning the basis of the recommendation or the assessment, I would say will be the operational objectives that were given to us so we have to accomplish those objectives," Padilla told reporters.

Part of the assessment is whether all persons included in two arrest orders issued by Lorenzana have been arrested.

Lorenzana released arrest orders bearing the names of at least 279 individuals involved in the rebellion in Mindanao but so far, the government

has captured about 60.

"We did not even reach the half [of the list] yet. So, we are still going after these individuals because they are still in hiding," the military spokesman said.

The assessment conducted by military ground commanders in Mindanao might reach AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Ano today and transmitted to the Defense secretary, who is also the administrator of martial law.

"[The assessment] is now being finished. The first one who will see this is the AFP chief of staff so he can include his inputs and he will be the one to approve this before submitting to the secretary of National Defense," Padilla explained.

It is possible for the President to announce whether martial law in Mindanao will be extended or not during his second State of the Nation Address on July 24, he added.

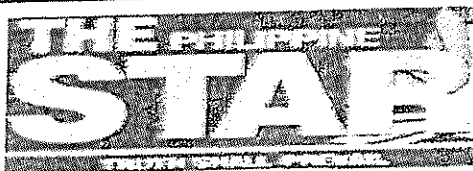
Aside from going after the Maute terrorists, the military is still clearing more or less 600 buildings in Marawi City. As of the latest count, 54 buildings have been cleared.

The military needs at least 12 days to retake the remaining 600 buildings in the city.

"We are working to liberate Marawi City at the soonest time possible, however, we heard the President mention that we may need 10 to 12 days, 10 to 15 days and we will try to meet that," Padilla noted, referring to the 15-day deadline set by President Duterte earlier.

DEMPSEY REYES

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## AFP: No security threat to SONA

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has not monitored any security threat to President Duterte's second State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 24.

"At present, nothing has come out in our security monitoring for the SONA," Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesman for the AFP, said yesterday.

Padilla said the Joint Task Force National Capital Region has laid out security measures for the SONA.

He said the military was verifying the reported pres-

ence of Turkish terrorists in the Philippines.

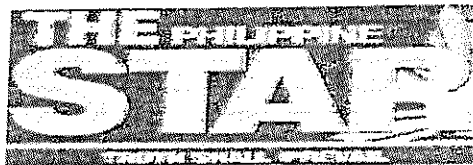
"We need to work closely with the Turkish government and ascertain whether they can provide us that source of information," Padilla said.

Earlier reports said there are around 300 foreign terrorists in the country, mostly from neighboring countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia.

Sources said authorities were monitoring the presence of supporters of the local Maute terrorist group in Metro Manila.

– Jaime Laude

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## US analysts: Time not on AFP's side in Marawi

By **JOSE KATIGBAK**  
STAR Washington bureau

WASHINGTON – The longer militants linked to the Islamic State (IS) prevent Philippine security forces from liberating besieged Marawi City in Mindanao, the better their chances of attracting more foreign and local fighters and financial support, an expert on terrorism has told US legislators.

Center for Strategic and International Studies' Transnational Threats Project director Thomas Sanderson said that as the Abu Sayyaf group and the Maute coalition hold on in Marawi, the IS could come to see this as a primary, extra-regional destination as its fortunes tumble in the Middle East and North Africa.

Sanderson told a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Wednesday that the battle for Marawi, now in its eighth week, has become the focal point of IS activity in Southeast Asia.

But it is the list of nationalities among the militants' body count that is raising alarm among counterterrorism officials in the region.

Among some 80 foreigners believed to be involved in the clashes have included fighters from Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Chechnya, Yemen, Indonesia and Malaysia, Sanderson said.

For years, experts and government officials have warned of the return of highly motivated, experi-

enced Southeast Asian jihadi fighters from Iraq and Syria. Marawi is the starkest example to date of their potential impact.

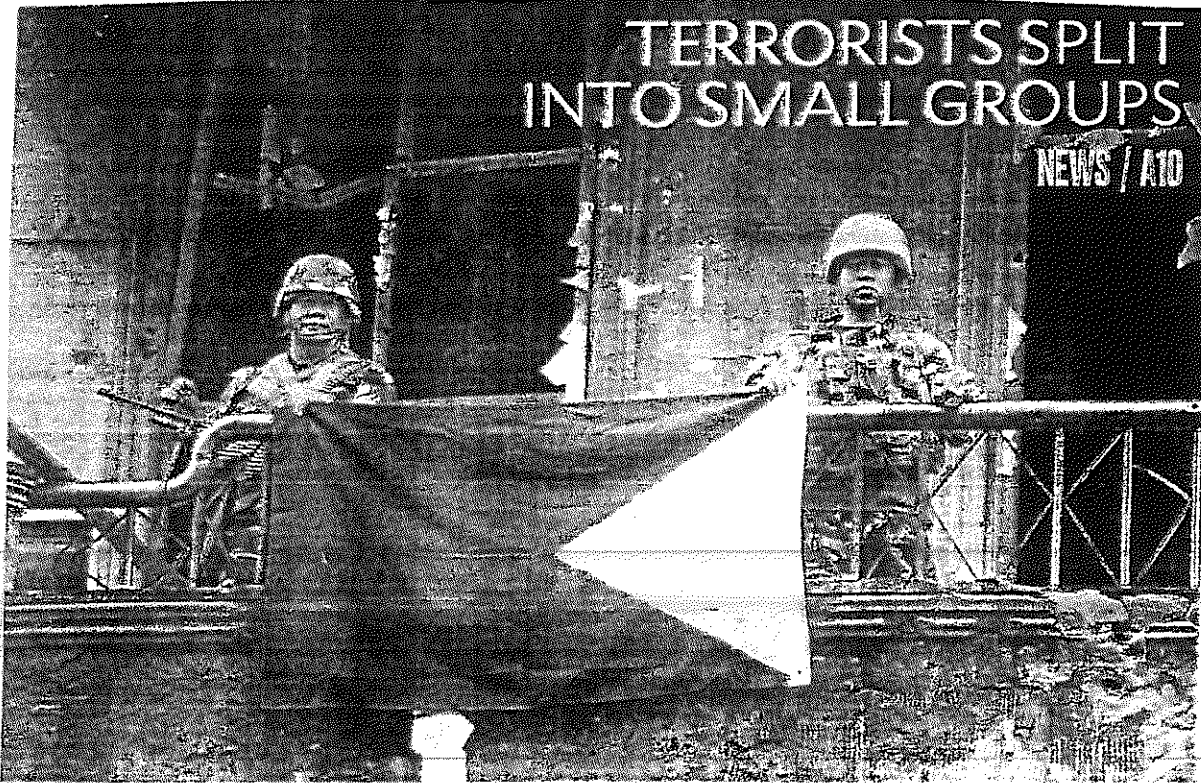
The presence of these foreign fighters raises concerns that the Philippines is becoming an IS hub, Counter Extremism Project strategic policy analyst Supna Zaidi Peery said.

Islamist terrorist organizations have operated in Southeast Asia for decades, but IS' attempts to establish a caliphate in southern Philippines represent a fundamental change in the nature of this threat, Republican subcommittee chairman Rep. Ted Yoho, who presided over the hearing "Black Flags over Mindanao: Terrorism in Southeast Asia," said.

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INQUIRER

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CLEARED Army troops display the Philippine flag at a building in Marawi City they have cleared of terrorists on Thursday. —PHOTO FROM PHILIPPINE ARMY

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**From his position, a government trooper views the frontline in Marawi City. President Duterte has vowed to wipe out the militants holding out in Marawi in 15 days. (Richel Umel/AFP)**

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# Noted architect offers help in reconstruction of Marawi

**By Allan Nawal**  
@inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—Prominent Filipino architect Felino Palafox Jr. has committed to help in the reconstruction of war-torn Marawi City, according to a Lanao del Sur official

Zia Adiong, spokesperson of the Lanao del Sur crisis management committee, said Palafox would “handle the reconstruction of Marawi and Lanao del Sur for free.”

“Task Force Bangon Marawi has contacted his firm (Palafox and Associates) and he committed to help. I guess the professional charge is free,” Adiong said on Wednesday

## **P20-B reconstruction fund**

The details of Palafox’s role in the reconstruction of the city, for which President Duterte said he would allot P20 billion, were still unclear, but Adiong said the architect would definitely be part of the team.

Palafox, also an environmentalist and cited by Forbes magazine as one of the world’s 48 heroes of philanthropy, worked in rehabilitation efforts

in at least 38 calamity-stricken countries, including Sri Lanka and Malaysia.

The company he founded, Palafox Associates, was on World Architecture magazine’s 1999 list of top global architectural firms.

Mr. Duterte earlier said the reconstruction of Marawi could start as soon as the military had cleared it of terrorists.

The President has approved Administrative Order No. 3, creating the Bangon Marawi In-

teragency Task Force, according to Gen. Eduardo Año, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana was named head of the interagency task force.

## **Military’s role**

Año said he had issued a directive designating Brig. Gen. Ramiro Manuel Rey, head of Joint Task Group Ranao, as leader and overseer of military efforts during the construc-

help in the rehabilitation and rebuilding of Marawi.

Malacañang said it welcomed the offers, although Lorenzana said the foreign governments' roles would still have to be discussed.

#### **Relocation site**

Officials said they had started the groundwork for an 11-hectare temporary relocation site where displaced residents of the city would be transferred.

Marawi Mayor Majul Gandamra said the construction of the temporary dwellings in Barangay Sagonsongan here, which would include tents and "possibly shelters made of light materials," could be completed in a month's time.

The site would be able to accommodate 5,000 families, he said.

Gandamra said the city government was also working with other local governments to find more areas for relocating displaced residents while Marawi was being rebuilt.

The fighting has displaced most of Marawi's more than 260,000 residents. INQ

tion and rebuilding phase.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., spokesperson for the military, said the AFP's engineering units were prepared to take on the job and would be deployed to the city as soon as ground troops had finished operations.

Padilla said the military would work closely with local governments during the rebuilding and rehabilitation phase.

Several countries, including the United States, China, Australia and India, have offered to

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**BASKETBALL**

# AFP bags UNTV crown

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) crowned itself as the first UNTV Cup Executive Face-Off champion by beating Philippine National Police (PNP), 75-71, in overtime before a huge crowd at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

In claiming the bragging rights as the country's toughest "men in uniform," the AFP Cavaliers rode on the heroics of Army Col. William Gonzales and Dexter Macasaet, Gen. Gener del Rosario and Jonathan Abutin to frustrate the Gen. Ronald dela Rosa-led PNP Responders in a one-game face-off.

The win was doubly sweet for the Cavaliers as they rallied from a huge 17-point (32-15) deficit early in the second quarter to claim

the P1 million top prize in the event designed by UNTV president and CEO Daniel Razon for the country's public servants.

AFP Deputy Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Narciso A. Vingson Jr. said their prize will go to the AFP's Educational Benefit System Office which grants scholarship to orphans and children of soldiers killed and wounded in action.

The Responders, on the other hand, will give their P500,000 to the families of policemen killed and wounded in action in Marawi City.

The day's other highlight was the awarding of P1-million financial grant to the Samahan Ng Mga Dating Professional na Basketbolita ng Pilipinas Foundation.

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**Editorial EDITORYAL Editorial**

## **Pangakong pagtapos ng giyera sa Marawi, sana matupad**

**I** LANG linggo na rin ang nakalipas mula nang manggulo ang Maute Group sa Marawi City.

Maraming establisimyento na ang nasira at ilang buhay na rin ang nasawi.

Pero anumang unos, 'ika nga nila, matatapos din naman.

Sa totoo lang, maraming nabuhayan ng pag-asa nang sabihin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na 15 days na lamang daw ang itatagal ng gulo sa Marawi.

Pero mas marami rin ang natuwa nang malamang ang AFP pursigido raw na matapos ang giyera sa Marawi sa susunod na 15 araw alinsunod sa assessment ng pangulo.

Ayon na rin kay AFP Public Affairs Office Chief, Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo, gagawin ng militar ang lahat ng paraan para tuluyan nang durugin ang Maute Group.

Dahil bilang Commander-in-Chief, batid daw ng pangulo ang complexities sa ongoing operation sa Marawi.

Kaya ang gobyerno, hindi raw patitinag sa kanilang misyon na maibalik ang kapayapaan sa Mindanao.

Sa totoo lang, magandang malaman na may takdang panahon na ng pagtapos sa kaguluhan sa Marawi, kung tutuusin, dagdag-pag-asa rin ito sa ating mga kababayan.

Ang tanong na lang ngayon siguro ay kayanin nga kaya ng gobyerno na matapos ang gulo sa deadline na kanilang ibinigay?

Hangad natin ang pagtatapos ng giyera at ang panunumbalik ng kapayapaan sa Marawi sa lalong madaling panahon.

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# NGAYON

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Hotlines: 09198972854  
Tel. Nos.: 7103618

## 'Banyagang terorista nakapasok na?'

**MARAMING NAGHAHASIK** ng kaguluhan sa bansa. Nandiyan ang **Maute Group**, mga adik, mga kriminal, mga **Abu Sayyaf** at ngayon naman ay napabalitang nakapasok na sa bansa ang **Turkish Terrorist**.

Inaalam pa ng **Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)** ang balitang ito kung may katotohanan ba ang impormasyong natanggap.

Sa panayam kay **Turkish Ambassador Esra Cankour** sinabi niyang sa Pilipinas nagtatago ang mga terorista ng kanilang bansa.

Ang grupong ito ang nasa likod ng nabigong kudeta sa Turkey. Ang **Fethullah Gulen Movement** ay ang teroristang grupo na kinatatakutan sa nasabing bansa.

Nagtago umano ang mga ito sa limampung bansa at kasama na nga ang Pilipinas.

Ang **Fethullah Gulen Movement** o **Gulen Movement** ay isang **Islamic transnational religious at social movement** na pinamumunuan ng **Turkish preacher** na si **Fethullah Gulen**.

Walang opisyal na tawag sa kanila pero kalimitan silang binabansagang **'Hizmet'** o **'service'** ang ibig sabihin.

Nakahanap ng mga supporters ang nasabing grupo ngunit hindi din naman nawala ang mga kritiko sa Turkey, **Central Asia** at ilan pang bahagi ng mundo.

Aktibo sila sa edukasyon na may mga **private schools** at unibersidad sa halos 180 bansa.

Hindi pa kinukumpirma ng AFP kung totoo nga bang nasa

bansa ang mga ito. Ayon kay AFP spokesman Col. **Edgard Arevalo** inaalam na ng kanilang intelligence operatives kung narito na nga ang kinatatakutang grupo sa Turkey.

Dagdag pa ni Cankour naging aktibo ang nasabing grupo sa bansa sa pamamagitan ng isang **madrasah school** sa Zamboanga na nagbukas noong **1997** May dalawa pang eskwelahan sa Metro Manila.

Ang grupong ito ay may mga foundation at ilang eskwelahan sa bansa ngunit ginagamit lamang daw nila ito para isipin na sila'y isang civic education institutions at inosenteng charity organizations.

Hindi raw ito totoo ang nagkakaroon lang ng mischaracterization.

Ang grupong ito ay nasa terror list ng **Turkey, Cyprus** at ng **Organization of Islamic Cooperation**.

Tulad ng nangyayari sa ating bansa na umaatake ang mga terorista at may mga sibilyang nadadamay ay naghasik din ng kasamaan ang nasabing grupo.

Sinisisi ng **Turkish government** si **Gulen** dahil sa umano'y pamumuno nito sa kudeta sa kanilang bansa.

Pakikipaglaban sa gobyerno, pagbomba sa ibang lugar at paggamit ng tangke at fighter jets. Sinubukan pa nilang dukutin at patayin si **President Tayyip Erdogan**.

Dalawang libong katao ang nasaktan sa pag-atakeng ito at 250 naman ang namatay.

Ang kanilang presensya sa Pilipinas ay hindi magandang bagay ayon pa kay Cankour. Sa lahat namang bansa kung pasukin ka ng terorista ay hindi ikakatuwa ng mga taong mandito.

Sa rami na ng ginagawang panggugulo, pagpatay at pakikipaglaban ng local terrorist ng bansa ay mas magiging mapanganib ang paligid mo sa pagpasok ng paribagong kalaban.

Kung ano ang ginawa ng mga ito nung July 15 ay pwede pa nila itong ulitin o maaaring mas matindi pa ang maaari nilang gawin.

Nakatutok ang ating kapulisan at mga sundalo sa pagsugpo sa **Maute Group** na naghahasik ng kaguluhan sa Marawi.

Maliban dito ay binabantayan pa nila ang posibleng pagpasok ng panibagong pwersa na tutulong sa **Maute**.

Sinusubukan din nilang sugpuin ang **Islamic State-inspired extremists** sa bansa.

Hindi pa man kumpirmado ang balita kung totoo bang nasa Pilipinas ang grupong ito mas mabuting mas maging mapagmatiyag tayo sa mga kahina-hinalang indibidwal.

Sa rami ng kaguluhang nangyayari, patayan at dukutan sa bansa ang pagtutulungan ng bawat isa ang susi para masugpo ang kasamaan.

Hindi lahat ng nakikita natin na maganda ang ginagawa o maganda ang organisasyon ay totoo ng nakakatulong sa ating bansa at lipunan. Tulad ng sinabi ng **Turkish Ambassador** nagtatago lamang sila sa ganitong uri ng gawain.

Malaki rin ang posibilidad na ulitin lamang nila ang ginawa sa Turkey at maraming tao pa ang mapahamak.

Kung sa kalamidad nga lang na wala tayong kalaban-laban ay maraming tao na ang nasaktan, pamilyang nawalan ng tahanan at namatayan.

Tulungan lamang ang isa sa magiging panlaban natin dito.

Nangako naman ang Palasyo na gagawin nila ang lahat para malaman kung may katotohanan nga ba ito.

Kung sakaling may mga taong tumutulong o may kaugnayan sa nasabing grupo ay dapat papanagutin.

Ayon kay **Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella** ay hihingi rin sila ng tulong sa ibang bansa para matuldukan ang problema sa terorismo na buong mundo na ang pinepeste.

Ang mga bansang konektado at pinanggalingan ng grupong ito ay ang makakapagbigay ng impormasyon sa grupo at kung sinu-sino ang posibleng miyembro nito.

Kapag nagtutulong ang lahat ng bansa laban sa terorismo at hindi mapagbibigyan ang mga hinihingi ng mga ito ay madali itong masugupo at mababawasan na ang banta sa bawat lugar.

**SA MGA BIKTIMA NG KRIMEN** o may problemang ligal maaari kayong magtext sa **09198972854, 09051090451** at sa gustong maka-usap ako ng direktso sa **710-3618**.

Maaari din po ninyong i-like ang [www.facebook.com/tony-calvento](http://www.facebook.com/tony-calvento) o i-type na rin ng direktso sa Facebook sa **Tony A. Calvento** at mag-iwan ng mensahe para sa inyong mga problema.

14 July 2017



Pahina. 4

### Editorial

## Makaya kaya ng AFP?

**N**AGTAKDA ng 15 araw na deadline si Pres. Rodrigo Duterte sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) para tapusin na ang giyera sa Marawi City na umabot na sa mahigit isang buwan. Ang deadline para tapusin ang Marawi siege ay sinabi ni Duterte nang magsalita sa isang pagtitipon sa Philippine Stock Exchange noong Martes. Sabi ng Presidente, maaaring 15-araw na lamang ang ita-tagal ng giyera at makakaya na ng AFP na wakasan ang teroristang Maute na kumubkob sa Marawi noong Mayo 23. Ayon sa AFP nasa 80 hanggang 100 Maute fighters pa ang nasa Marawi at naglulungga sa dalawang barangay. Hawak pa ng mga ito ang mga bihag na karamihan ay church workers kasama ang isang pari.

Ang tugon ng AFP sa deadline ng Presidente, kakayanin daw nila na matapos sa loob ng 15 araw ang giyera. Pipilitin daw nilang durugin ang mga terorista. Hindi raw sila titigil sa pagsalakay sa pinaglulunggaan ng Maute. Magsasagawa raw sila nang matinding air at ground assaults para mapulbos na ang mga terorista.

Sana nga ay matupad ang 15-araw na itinakda ni Duterte para tapusin ang Maute at nang maibalik ang kaayusan sa Marawi. Sana nga ay makaya ng AFP na malipol na ang mga terorista na sa kasalukuyan ay sinasabing patuloy na nakikipagbakbakan at walang patid ang pag-atake ng snipers. Kahapon, isang sibilyan na nasa loob ng isang konkretong gusali ang tinamaan ng bala sa braso. Sniper ang sinasabing bumaril sa lalaki. Isinugod sa ospital ang biktima.

Maikli ang 15 araw na deadline para tapusin na ang kaguluhan sa Marawi. Pero determinado ang AFP na gawin ang lahat nang kanilang makakaya. Ipakikita raw nila na mas malakas sila kaysa mga terorista.

Sana nga makaya nila. Siguruhin lamang na hindi na mauulit ang friendly fire na pumatay sa dalawang sundalo kamakalawa. Ikalawang beses na ang friendly fire. Noong nakaraang buwan, 11 sundalo ang namatay dahil sa air strike.

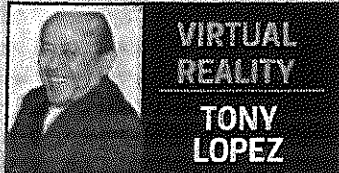
Baka sa pagmamadali ng AFP, mga kakampi ang mapatay at hindi ang mga terorista. Siguruhin na ang tatargetin.

14 July 2017

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## Martial law espresso (2)



**CAN President Duterte declare martial law in the manner Ferdinand E. Marcos did in September 1972?**

The answer is no.

This is because under the 1987 Constitution, martial law is limited by three things, as enumerated in the dissenting opinion of Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno in the Supreme Court's 11-3-1 July 4, 2017 decision finding factual and constitutional basis for Duterte's May 23 martial law declaration (Proclamation 216) in the whole island of Mindanao.

The three restrictions: One, the ability of Congress and all legislative assemblies in the country to legislate or enact laws. With this ability, the rule of law prevails.

Two, the continuing operation of all civil courts which cannot thus be supplanted by military courts. With the operation of civilian courts, the Rules of Court continue to be applicable.

Three, the ban against arbitrary arrests. In general, no one can be arrested without an arrest warrant. The military can arrest a suspect for rebellion without warrant but it must be for his immediate prosecution and he must be charged within three days (36 hours without martial law). This kind of arrest without warrant is like arresting a suspect who is being arrested for committing a crime in the presence of the arresting officer. Under Philippine law, rebellion is reckoned as a continuing crime.

Also, rebellion must not be

imminent (required by the 1935 Constitution) but actual and necessary (as required by the 1987 Constitution). Since the requirement is actual, the President cannot declare martial law in other places by simply anticipating that the rebels could be going to these other places, or a "spillover." This is why, Carpio agreed with martial law in Marawi only and not for the entire Mindanao because there is not actual rebellion—yet—outside Marawi.

Because of the above restrictions, I liken Duterte's martial law in Mindanao to coffee espresso—coffee dispensed in a small cup, seemingly strong (in coffee flavor) but with lesser coffee content than a regular cup of coffee. I also call it martial law express—in the manner restaurant chains, supermarket chains, and even banks call their small or ad hoc branches "express"—a small unit operation without the whole menu of services or products offered by their regular branches.

In his dissenting opinion, Senior Justice Antonio Carpio offers even more restrictions. "The 1987 Constitution does not automatically vest significant additional powers to the President under a state of martial law or suspension of the privilege of the writ. However, a declaration of martial law or suspension of the privilege of the writ has a built-in trigger mechanism for the applicability of other constitutional provisions that may lawfully restrict the enjoyment of constitutional rights, provided there are existing laws specifically authorizing such restrictions," Carpio writes in his 13,500-word dissenting opinion.

Carpio pretends to raise the specter of a Marcos-era martial law then proceeds to contradict

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himself, in very fine and cogent language. He recalls “When President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1972 under the 1935 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.”

Duterte salivates at having such a Marcos-type martial law, saying his martial law “will not be any different from what Marcos did.” Unfortunately, the 1987 Constitution does not allow him to back that rhetoric with action.

Carpio reminds the President: “The review power of the Court, as well as of the Legislature, on the Presidents exercise of his Commander-in-Chief powers was precisely written in the 1987 Constitution as a checking mechanism to prevent a recurrence of the martial law of Marcos. The 1987 Constitution further mandates that a state of martial law does not suspend the operation of the Constitution. It is apparent that President Duterte does not understand, or refuses to understand, this fundamental principle that forms part of 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.”

With his martial law, Marcos was able to take over enterprises like public utilities (power plants, radio-television stations and telephone companies) and businesses like banks and didn't return them to their original owners until his ouster in 1986.

Under the 1987 Constitu-

tion, the President can take over business enterprises like power plants, television stations, and businesses affected with public interest—but he needs a law from Congress to do so. Marcos never needed a law; he simply produced his own law or decrees. Today's President cannot do that.

Moreover, Carpio notes, “counsel for petitioners (Lagman et al) and the (Solicitor General) share the view that martial law under the 1987 Constitution does not significantly give the President additional powers. Indeed, there are only incremental accretions of power that automatically attach under a state of martial law. The significant additional powers that the President can exercise under a state of martial law require laws to be enacted by Congress.”

Finally, there is now a law which places members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police under the jurisdiction of civilian courts (not military tribunals) for abuses or offenses committed in the performance of their duties.

Notes Carpio: “To date, no statute confers jurisdiction on military courts and agencies over civilians where civil courts are unable to function. On the contrary, Republic Act No. 705562 even strengthened civilian supremacy over the military by returning to the civil courts the jurisdiction over certain offenses involving members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, other persons subject to military law, and the members of the Philippine National Police, repealing for the purpose certain presidential decrees promulgated during the Marcos dictatorship.”

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## **ONLINE NEWS**

### **14 JULY 2017**

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

## **No info yet on Turkish terror operating in PH — AFP**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) announced it currently has no information on Turkish terror groups allegedly operating in the country.

"As to the AFP position on whether we have that kind of information, I have to tell you with all honesty that we (do not have any)," military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said Thursday.

And to ascertain this with finality, he said they might have to coordinate with the Turkish ambassador to the Philippines to obtain such source of information.

Earlier, Turkish Ambassador Esra Cankorur said Turkish terrorists, particularly the Fetullah Gulen Movement, is active in the Philippines.

"We need to closely work with the Turkish ambassador and ascertain whether he can provide us that source of information," Padilla stressed.

As this develops, the AFP spokesperson said they are still to detect any security threats for this year's State-of-the-Nation-Address of President Rodrigo Duterte.

"We still do not have information on that, our monitoring is still to come out with such information," he added.

Padilla also declined to comment on how many troops will be securing the event.

"It's a matter that I would not want to divulge," he added. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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## All FA-50s involved in Marawi operation grounded following bombing accident

Pending a detailed investigation why its bombs fell short of the enemy and landed near a building housing friendly troops, killing two and wounding 11 others, all South Korean-made FA-50 "Fighting Eagle" jet aircraft conducting close-air support missions in Marawi City will be temporarily grounded.

This was bared by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla in a briefing Thursday.

"The FA-50 will momentarily be pulled out from deployment as close-air (support) aircraft until the investigation has been conducted and once we have ascertained whatever reason was behind one of the bombs falling short of target," he added.

The AFP, through the Air Force, has 12 FA-50 jet fighters currently in service. The aircraft were acquired in 2015.

Deliveries started on December of that year and were completed in 2017.

However, Padilla clarified that use of other AFP air assets like the SIAI-Marchetti SF-260s, Rockwell OV-10 "Bronco" and various types of attack helicopters will continue.

The above-mentioned aircraft, which is capable of flying up to Mach 1.5 speed, has successfully performed 70 close-air support missions prior Wednesday's incident.

"Again as I mentioned the high success rate of the aircraft in previous missions is indicative of its efficiency and effectivity as a platform that supports our troops, however the accident yesterday (July 12) will require us to look closely and what caused the failure of one of the bombs and once we determine that remedial measures will have to be undertaken to correct it," Padilla pointed out.

The two FA-50s were conducting missions to destroy Maute Group positions in Marawi City when one of its bombs landed 250 meters short of the intended target.

The ensuing blast rocked a nearby building housing friendly troops, tearing large chunks of the structure and hurling it on the sheltering soldiers, killing two and wounding 11 others.

Padilla said he has no idea on the exact payload or weigh of the bomb that accidentally hit the building sheltering government troops.

He added only one bomb out of the four dropped by the FA-50s went short and awry.

"If it's any cause of consolation the 11 wounded are all ambulatory and now out of danger and on the road to recovery. However our two men who died in that area are unfortunately an

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additional two to the number of casualties that have been building up recently. So we have to bring the remains of our heroes to their families and that's what we're trying to do right now, and we pass all our condolences to the families who lost their loved ones again," the AFP spokesperson stressed.

"So suffice to say there was a bomb run or an airstrike that was conducted, one bomb not hitting the target, three others were proximate to the target and were efficiently employed, and except that one bomb, we would like to find out what caused it to fall short of target," Padilla added.

And speaking as a veteran pilot, the AFP spokesperson said accidentally hitting friendly troops is a combat aviator's worst nightmare.

"These kinds of incidents will occur in the battle because of the complexity of the environment, the fog of war, the lack of communication and what have you, so in this case we have no reason to say that it was the fault of the pilot yet until after we have done the investigation," he added. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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## Palace condoles with families of 2 soldiers killed in latest 'friendly fire'

Malacañang on Thursday condoled with the bereaved families of the two army troopers killed in Wednesday's airstrike accident in Marawi City and assured them of full government support.

"On behalf of the President, we wish to express our deepest condolences to the families of the two soldiers who were killed in yesterday's air strike accident while fighting Maute rebel remnants," Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella said in a statement.

He said the Palace is saddened by the unfortunate incident and a team has been created to investigate the circumstances that led to the tragedy.

"These fallen men in uniform laid down their lives for duty, flag and country. Government will remember their heroism and will provide the necessary assistance to their bereaved families," Abella said.

Earlier, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said the two soldiers were killed after an ordnance missed its target during an airstrike in Marawi City around noon Wednesday.

According to Col. Edgar Arevalo, chief of AFP Public Affairs Office, the bomb was 250 meters off target.

The type of aircraft involved in the incident was not identified.

"The impact of the explosion caused the collapse of nearby structures. Large debris from heavily reinforced buildings accidentally hit two of our personnel who succumbed to death in the process," he said in a statement.

Meanwhile, 11 others sustained minor shrapnel wounds and are recuperating in a nearby hospital.

Arevalo said the military has already launched an investigation into the incident.

Wednesday's incident was the second time that state security forces have been killed by "friendly fire."

On June 1, 10 soldiers were killed while seven others were injured when a wayward bomb from a Marchetti SF-260 trainer jet missed its target by 100 meters.

The two incidents occurred as the military ramped up airstrikes in the operation to dislodge the remaining Islamist militants holed out in their last strongholds in Marawi City. (Cielito M. Reganit/PNA)

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