

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

02 June 2017

Friday

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

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST JUNE 2, 2017 FRIDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING SOUTHERN MINDANAO (As of 5:00 PM - June 1, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

ITCZ

SUNRISE	5:26 AM	SUNSET	6:22 PM
MOONRISE	12:32 PM	MOONSET	12:23 AM
FIRST QUARTER	JUN 7 6:51 AM	FULL MOON	JUN 9 8:10 PM
LOW TIDE	11:37 PM	HIGH TIDE	3:14 PM
0.10 Meter		0.21 Meter	

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	JUNE 1	JUNE 2	JUNE 3	JUNE 4	JUNE 5	JUNE 6
METRO MANILA	25 - 35 °C	26 - 34 °C	22 - 32 °C	27 - 31 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C	26 - 33 °C	27 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
LAOAG	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	17 - 24 °C	17 - 24 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 34 °C	25 - 33 °C	26 - 34 °C	26 - 33 °C		
TAGAYTAY	22 - 32 °C	27 - 31 °C				
LEGAZPI	26 - 33 °C	27 - 32 °C				
PUERTO PRINCESA	26 - 33 °C	26 - 32 °C				
ILOILO/BACOLOD	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C				
METRO CEBU	26 - 34 °C	26 - 33 °C				
TACLOBAN	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C				
CAGAYAN DE ORO	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C				
METRO DAVAO	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C				
ZAMBOANGA	24 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C				

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MAUTE REBUFFS GOV'T 2 TIMES

STORY BY RYAN D. ROSAURO

A government emissary tried to bring the leaders of the Maute terror group to dialogue, but they rejected talks with the administration

A12

FROM A1

By **Ryan D. Rosauro**
@inquirermindanao

BALO-I, LANA DEL NORTE—The government has tried to bring the violent Maute group to dialogue but has been rebuffed, according to a government emissary.

The first attempt was days before President Duterte visited late last November government troops who had overrun the Maute group's lairs in several villages in Butig town, the emissary said.

Two other attempts came early into the Maute siege of Marawi City, carried out by the government to spare the city from destruction from fighting and win the release of Catholic priest Teresito "Chito" Sukanob, who was taken captive, together with more than 200 other civilians, by the marauders.

Gov't emissary

The government emissary in those talks was former Marawi Mayor Omar Ali, better known as Solitario, the nom de guerre he uses as a commander of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in the Lanao provinces.

Ali told the Inquirer in an in-

terview on Wednesday night that he took orders from Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza.

"I am sure the President knew about my going to Butig," Ali said.

It was more of "an exploratory discussion, trying to define possible avenues for a political dialogue," he said.

"We were in a convoy of seven vehicles as I brought with me relatives and people with close familial ties" to the Maute brothers Omarkhayam and Abdullah, the leaders of the group, Ali said.

The Butig talks were held in the group's jungle lair amid a military offensive against the terrorists, he said.

"We could hear the sound of artillery fire as we talked," he added.

Close-minded

Ali said he presented to the Mautes the peace and development plan of the Duterte administration, pointing to the "federalization project" as an opportunity for establishment of a government sensitive to the cultural and religious moorings of Muslims.

Ali said Omarkhayam and Abdullah failed to appreciate his presentation on federalism "because they were never schooled in the underpinnings

of the Bangsamoro political struggle."

That disproved reports that the Maute brothers were either members of the MNLF or the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) before setting out on their own, he said.

"Their political ideals are based on radicalism masquerading as Islamic but which are not," Ali said.

"That is why my talks with them was more of an exchange of arguments. They were close-minded," he added.

Omarkhayam and Abdullah are Muslim preachers, which puts them in a position to recruit members from the local Islamic faithful, he said.

Maute relatives

"After that, I thought maybe that was just my initial impression as I got to meet them only for the first time. But I tried my best to give them good counsel, as a father would to his children," Ali said.

A week after his meeting with the Mautes, Ali said several local Muslim clerics approached him and told him they had convinced the brothers to give political dialogue a chance, although he had received no orders to talk to the Mautes again.

A consultant to the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the

285, 5295

Peace Process (Opapp), Ali is the older brother of former Marawi Mayor Fahad Salic, who married Rasmia Romato, first-degree cousin of Omarkhayam and Abdullah.

Rasmia's mother is a sister of the brothers' mother, Farhana.

Another sister married the late Aleem Abdulaziz Mimbantas, MILF vice chair, and still another married Ibrahim Macadato, a former mayor of Butig where the group has its main base.

"I deal with the Mautes through this web of relationships. That is how it is in clan-nish Maranao society. But that should not make me or others connected by affinity to the Romato clan as among the radicals," Ali said.

Hapilon in control

The second attempt at talks with the Mautes was on May 24, the day after they started to lay siege to Marawi, Ali said.

He said he received a call from Dureza to contact the terrorists' leaders and talk them out of holing up in the city to save it from destruction.

"I then called their relatives as I am personally disturbed by the thought of my city becoming a battlefield and eventually laid to ruins. I was later told the brothers begged for time as

they would have to consult first with Isnilon Hapilon, whom they referred to as their ameer (emir)," Ali said.

"That only shows that Hapilon was in control, in command of the forces fighting government soldiers in Marawi. And I have no way of knowing whether the suggestion for dialogue was ever elevated to Hapilon," he said.

According to a 2016 report of the Jakarta-based Institute for the Policy Analysis of Conflict, Hapilon, leader of the Basilan-based faction of the Abu Sayyaf, pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) group in 2014 and was ordained the group's emir in the Philippines.

Hapilon sneaked into mainland Mindanao early this year as part of his effort to consolidate the groups pledging allegiance to IS.

Before the Marawi siege, a big religious gathering was held in a mosque in Basak Malutlut, in the vicinity where Hapilon was believed hiding in an apartment.

Those who attended the gathering were foreigners and participants from Sulu and Basilan.

"That could have been the ploy to assemble the Abu Sayyaf and Asian fighters in Lanao del Sur," one source, a local security monitor, said.

In a press briefing in Manila, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana confirmed that those involved in the siege were Maute group and Abu Sayyaf members and several foreign fighters.

Release of Suganob

The third attempt to talk to the Mautes was on May 25, the day after the evacuation of Marawi residents to nearby towns.

Ali said he inquired about the condition of Suganob, the vicar general of Marawi, and chided the Mautes for targeting a priest.

In reply, he said, the Maute brothers offered to see him and discuss the matter in a barangay in Marawi.

"I then informed Secretary Dureza about this window for dialogue. I asked that I be given a military pass to enter the city [but it] never came," he said.

Ali said Dureza told him the military had already set a plan to flush out the terrorists and may no longer be able to factor in talks with the Mautes. INQ



WATCH VIDEO: Duterte: Rebellion in Mindanao is not Maute, it's purely Isis
<http://Inq.news/IsisinMarawi>

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Narco politicians backing IS – PNP

Rody: IS planned Marawi attack, Mindanao takeover

By EMMANUEL TUPAS

The Philippine National Police is conducting a case buildup against narco-politicians who are reportedly helping the Maute group occupy Marawi City, PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said yesterday.

Dela Rosa revealed the matter when asked by journalists whether the PNP has information on politicians who have been supporting the Islamic State (IS)-inspired terror group.

"We will not divulge those details for the meantime because our work is ongoing. We are doing a case buildup, that's all," Dela Rosa said in an interview at Camp Crame.

The PNP chief earlier backed a statement of President Duterte that politicians involved in illegal drugs are supporting the Maute group.

He said some drug lords from Metro Manila, Luzon and the Visayas held a drug summit in Marawi last year.

Some of these politicians are no longer in power but others

are incumbent, he said.

Dela Rosa did not provide a specific number, but he said these personalities are local chief executives based in Mindanao – "not only in Marawi, some are from Maguindanao and other provinces."

Some of these politicians reportedly even engaged Maute fighters in shooting competitions, Dela Rosa said, adding that this could be one of the ways the terrorists obtained ammunition.

With the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus suspended in Mindanao because of martial law, Dela Rosa said the PNP would take advantage of the situation to arrest politicians with links to the Maute.

"This is our chance to hunt

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Narco From Page 1

down and arrest these narco-politicians," he said over *dzMM* radio.

Three police officers have been killed, three were wounded and six remain missing since the Marawi crisis broke out on May 23.

Dela Rosa said the six police non-commissioned officers are believed trapped in downtown Marawi, where the fighting is still intense.

"They are trapped and could not come out because of the presence of the enemy."

Nearly 900 policemen are deployed in Marawi and fighting alongside the military against the rebels. Police public safety forces from other regions are on standby and ready for deployment in the event additional forces are needed.

No vacation

Vacation leaves of all police officers nationwide are put on hold as part of security preparations in the ongoing Marawi crisis, according to Interior and Local Government officer-in-charge Catalino Cuy.

The PNP has been on full alert since the attack on a night market in Davao City in September last year.

The explosion prompted Duterte to place the country in a state of lawlessness.

"Since the PNP is on full alert, all vacation leaves of police officers are suspended. We ensure the safety and welfare of troops deployed in Marawi," Cuy told *The STAR*.

Dela Rosa has ordered other police units in the country to be ready for deployment to Marawi City.

He clarified there is no need to send more troops in Mindanao.

He said police forces from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Central Mindanao and Northern Mindanao sent to Marawi City are enough.

At present, Dela Rosa said Special Action Force (SAF) commandos and members of the Regional Public Safety Battalion are handling the situation well, noting they are the elite units well trained in counterinsurgency and counterterrorism.

"Most of the operating battalions of SAF are there in Marawi and our force is strong. If they turn out insufficient, we have to pull out units from other regions," Dela Rosa said.

He placed on standby all elite police forces across the country in anticipation of the escalation of clashes between govern-

ment forces and the Maute group. "I advised the regional police offices to prepare their public safety forces. Right now, they are ready, waiting for my instructions to reinforce Marawi."

IS long planned attack

President Duterte said yesterday that ISIS or IS had long planned to infiltrate and attack Marawi City in a bid to control Mindanao as he ordered the military troops to wipe out terrorists in the region.

The recent confluence of events, starting from the time that Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon was anointed as "emir" of IS and then his group's fusion with the local Maute terror group, already sounded the alarm bells about IS-backed plans in Mindanao.

"Well, anyway, let me just run you through what's really happening. You know the rebellion now in Mindanao, it's not Maute, it's purely ISIS with different branch since they started it," Duterte declared while speaking before local officials, newly appointed justices and special envoys in Malacañang.

Noting the background of the Maute brothers, one of whom went to Libya, Duterte said the Islamic groups' control of Marawi had been

long-planned.

Maute fighters, combined with Abu Sayyaf terrorists, were forced to jump-start their plan after the military overran their secret operations while they were about to arrest Isnilon last week.

"This Marawi (attack) has long been planned. It could not be just a decision (saying), 'let's go to Mindanao.' All of these are planned," said Duterte, who declared martial law in Mindanao on May 23. Along with the proclamation, he also suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

"And it's a long time. So, I, as a student of you know what, history and maybe, (I knew that) when Hapilon was sent to Central Mindanao and he was anointed as the emir, that's when I thought that something terribly wrong is going to happen," Duterte added.

For him, the report already indicated a red flag.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, also the administrator of martial law, pointed out how Hapilon, a member of the Yakan indigenous tribe in Sulu, was able to penetrate Marawi City – a known bailiwick of the Maranaos – even when the two groups do not mix culturally.

"Yes, Isnilon particularly, we heard from our intelligence that he has re-

ceived several million dollars worth of funds from the Middle East. . . Culturally or whatever, these tribes do not mix. And there is only one reason there is – that he has a lot of money to distribute and buy loyalties," he said.

Authorities believed that the Maute fighters have reached about 500, although this has been reduced by about 100 from the 10 days of fighting. Lorenzana calculated the Maute group has about 260 members with them while Hapilon provided about 100. The rest came from the local groups that joined them.

"So we were able to kill already close to 100. We don't know yet how many more are unaccounted for," Lorenzana added.

Duterte said yesterday he has directed the military troops to "wipe out" all the enemies.

"When I say wipe them out, better. If you shoot him in the head, shoot it again in the heart to be sure. Otherwise, they will capture you if they would suddenly escape," Duterte said.

About 35 soldiers have been killed while over a hundred military personnel have been injured during the operations. Over 90 Maute members, including eight foreigners, were killed in the clashes. – **With Cecille Suerte Felipe, Christina Mendez**

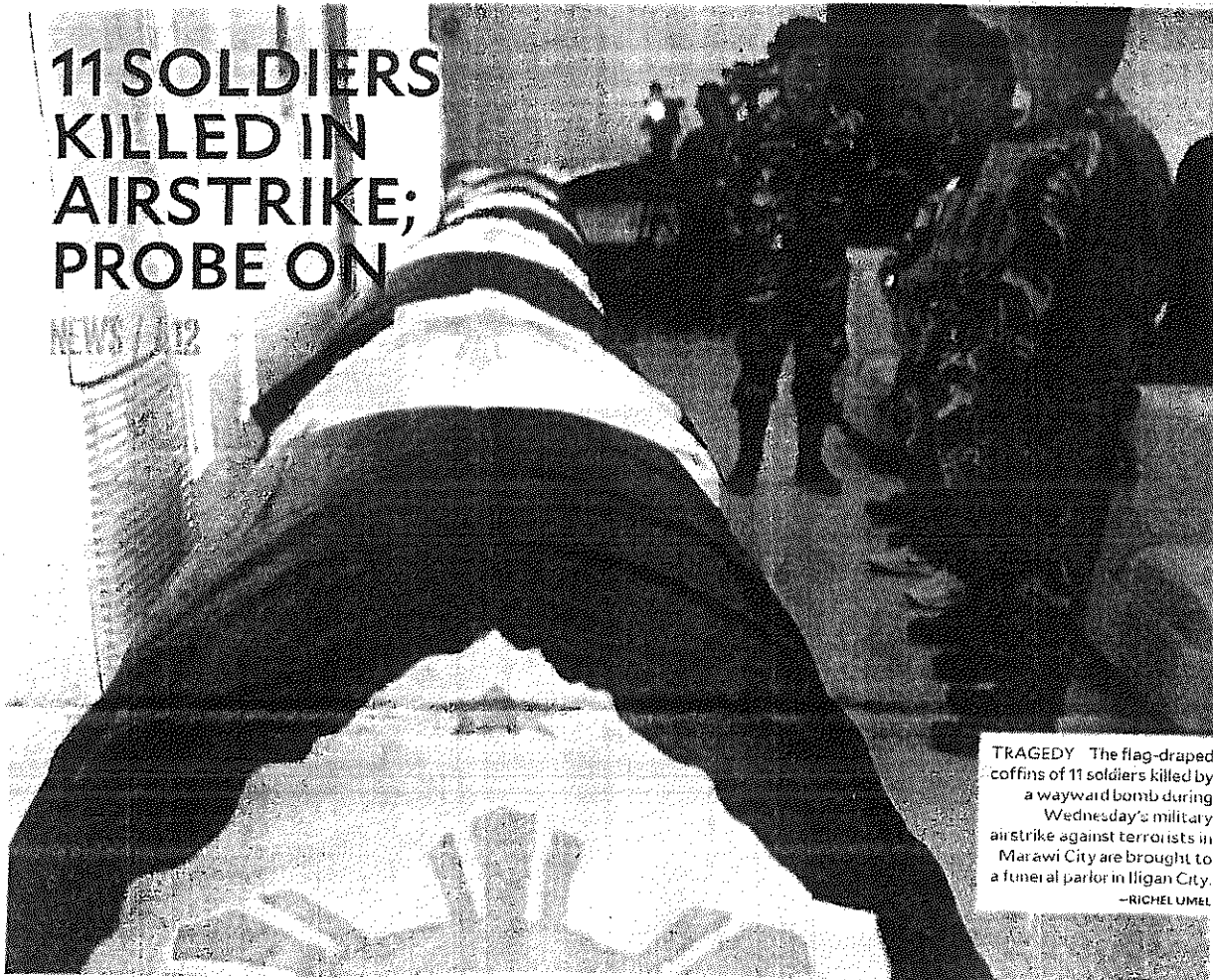
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11 SOLDIERS KILLED IN AIRSTRIKE; PROBE ON

NEWS / 2017



TRAGEDY The flag-draped coffins of 11 soldiers killed by a wayward bomb during Wednesday's military airstrike against terrorists in Marawi City are brought to a funeral parlor in Iligan City.
—RICHEL UMEL

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BusinessMirror

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Wayward bomb kills 11 Army troops

ELEVEN soldiers were killed while seven others were wounded by a wayward bomb that was meant for Maute Group bandits in Marawi City on Wednesday.

Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana told reporters that the bomb hit troops from the Army's 55th Infantry Battalion.

Lorenzana did not give more details, but Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., Armed Forces spokesman, said the aircraft involved was an SIAI-Marchetti SF.260 "Warrior" armed trainer that came from the Mactan-Benito Ebuen Air Base in Cebu.

Lorenzana ordered an investiga-

tion into the incident upon receipt of the report and appointed Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo M. Año to head the inquiry.

Families of the victims have been notified, Padilla added.

The aircraft involved in the incident is part of a flight of four SF.260s from the 205th Tactical Operations Wing based in Cebu.

Padilla said the first three SF.260s delivered ordnance on target, but

the bomb of the fourth hit the Army troops on the ground.

"It could have been equipment failure or miscoordination with ground controllers. It could also be human error," Padilla said.

"The Board of Inquiry, headed by the chief of staff [Año], will determine the cause of the incident. In the meantime, all personnel involved in the incident will be on administrative control to ensure their presence for investigation at all times," Padilla added.

The SF.260 "Warrior" can carry up to 660 pounds of ordnance on four underwing hardpoints. It can carry gun pods, rocket launchers, regular bombs and cluster bombs.

No halt to air strikes

THE suspension of air strikes in

the ongoing clearing operations in Marawi City is the exclusive decision of the ground commanders.

This was disclosed by Padilla after the accidental bombing of Army troops involved in the ongoing clearing operations in the locality, killing 10 and wounding seven others on Wednesday.

Bodies of the fatalities and the wounded were immediately recovered by rescuing units.

Padilla issued this statement when asked if the incident will mean the automatic suspension of air strikes in the ongoing offensive against the remaining Maute Group bandits in Marawi City.

Only ground commanders have this authority as they are the only ones who have full knowledge of the "combat environment" where the action is taking place, he said.

Despite this tragedy, Padilla said the military has been inflicting significant casualties to the Maute Group bandits, who have plotted to burn down Marawi City, since fighting started on May 23.

"The Armed Forces has greatly diminished the number of the bandits having neutralized, so far, 120 from the ranks of the terrorists and undetermined number of them wounded," he added.

Padilla added that government security forces continue to degrade the capability of the bandits and have seized 98 high-powered firearms.

"However, the recalcitrant remnants of the bandits refuse to heed the call of the government to give up their arms and continued their resistance while holed in fortified buildings and structures," he pointed out.

"They are employing sniper fires and homemade bombs against everyone—from government security forces, to relief and rescue workers,

to civilians—who get in the way of their fanatical desire to dismember Marawi from the Philippines and establish it as an ISIS [Islamic State in Iraq and Syria] province in this part of Asia," he added.

Padilla said that, to break the resistance of the group and its will to fight, the Armed Forces has decided to use combat support arms.

"Hence, we employed armor, artillery and airpower capabilities in support to our infantry units to breach the fortified walls, decks and undergrounds of buildings constructed to be virtual fortresses," he added.

Duterte vows to continue campaign against terrorism

PRESIDENT Duterte, meanwhile, assured that the government will continue to fight those who sow terror in Mindanao.

"They gave me sufficient information and I asked them, 'Are we already in the critical level?' And there was an almost unison, and redundant even, statements that *delikado tayo sa Mindanao*, given the practice of the ISIS in the Middle East, just exploding everything in their hands," Duterte said.

"Today [Wednesday], Iraq had two, in a market place and in an ice-cream parlor. They lose people by the hundred every day. We cannot allow it to happen here. We will have to die fighting them," he added.

The President also assured that his administration is prioritizing the acquisition of equipment for the Armed Forces and the National Police.

"I will have my time. I have five years. I will acquire more jets, air assets and boats. And I will make the Philippine Armed Forces a little bit stronger by the time, InShaAllah [God willing], I go out as President," he said. *PNA*

2 June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Suspension of aerial assault mulled; 100 militants still in Marawi City

By **NONOY E. LACSON,**
GENALYN D. KABILING,
and
FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Eleven soldiers were killed and seven others were wounded when a Philippine Air Force (PAF) SF260W aircraft conducting air strikes to flush out Maute Group terrorists now holed up in Marawi City hit ground troops instead shortly before noon Wednesday. ▶4

Air strikes kill 11 soldiers ◀1

In the wake of the botched aerial assault, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the military is now considering suspending or limiting air strikes.

A Board of Inquiry (BOI) was already created to investigate the incident upon the orders of Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año.

"One of our SF260W aircraft conducting airstrikes that day was successfully hitting its assigned target in its earlier sorties. However, it was unfortunate that the last ordnance round it delivered went wayward for an unknown reason and accidentally hit and caused the lives of our ground forces," said Lt. Gen. Carlito G. Galvez Jr., Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WesMinCom) commander.

Despite this setback, Galvez assured that the military will be unrelenting in the pursuit of our mission. The drive and the resolve of every AFP personnel in the air, ground, and water remain undiminished.

But Año said the military will defer the use of SF260 Marchetti light trainer/attack aircraft pending the result of the BOI investigation.

PAF currently has in its arsenal at

least 30 SF260 Marchetti aircraft manufactured by Alenia Aermacchi of Italy.

"Pending the result of the investigation, we may defer the use of SF260 for the meantime but we will continue using all other available ground air and naval assets in order to resolve this crisis quickly," Año said during an interview.

100 militants still in Marawi

So far, Lorenzana estimated that around 50 to 100 militants remained holed up in the city.

Galvez assured that while the AFP leadership commits and takes the initiative to conduct a thorough investigation on the circumstances surrounding this unwanted development, the AFP will remain focused on its mission.

He said the AFP mourns the loss of our valued men. We will attend to their bereaved families and provide comfort and solace to them during this trying time.

He emphasized that while every soldier, airman, sailor, and marine understands that the intricacies of warfare against these extremists entail high degree of risk, we shall take necessary actions to prevent such incident from happening again.

Since the conflict started, at least 120 Maute terrorists, 36 soldiers (including the 11 killed by friendly fire), two policemen, and 19 civilians have been killed.

To break the heavy resistance of the Maute Group and restore normalcy in Marawi, it is necessary to use combat support arms, Galvez said. Hence, we employed armor, artillery, and airpower capabilities in support to our infantry units to breach the fortified walls, decks, and underground of buildings constructed to be virtual fortresses of the Maute Group, he said.

The military, he said, will incessantly push our way forward to retake the remaining part of Marawi and liberate the people who have been used as human shield.

8 foreign terrorists killed

On Thursday, Lorenzana said at least eight foreign terror suspects were among those killed in the ongoing government operations aimed at restoring peace and order in Marawi City.

Lorenzana, appearing in a Palace press conference, confirmed that the Islamic State-linked suspects come from five countries, including Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and Chechnya.

"There were eight foreign fighters that were killed... two Malaysians, two Indonesians, two Saudi nationals, one Yemeni, one from Chechen. They are

ISIS members," Lorenzana said

"There could be more. There could be more that we killed that we have not identified," he said.

Lorenzana said the ISIS militants must have entered the country through the backdoor "maybe coming from Indonesia or from Malaysia." He noted that some Marawi residents they received reports the people saw "a lot of foreign-looking fighters" in the area.

Director General Ronald dela Rosa, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief, said he had already instructed local police commanders in Mindanao, especially near Marawi City, to ensure that nobody could sneak into the city.

"We are on the lookout, we are intensely guarding the borders so that no foreigners would be able to reinforce them," said Dela Rosa.

Around 500 extremists, including those from Maute gang, Abu Sayyaf, and other local armed groups, were involved in the siege of Marawi City, according to Lorenzana.

He said the armed groups had a "big plan to take over" Marawi City, slowly infiltrating the area with her weapons and other equipment since January.

"The area is very porous, it's very big. Maybe, we failed to put more troops there because we were also operating in some areas like in Eastern Mindanao and Basilan and Sulu and other areas that are also flaring up," he said.

Lorenzana said the armed groups also received foreign funds "to distribute around and buy loyalties."

Citing intelligence report, he said Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, the subject of a manhunt of troops, got "several million dollars worth of funds from the Middle East." "He has a lot of money to distribute and buy loyalties," he said in explaining how Hapilon was able to bring around 100 armed men from Basilan to Lanao del Sur.

Martial law duration

Meanwhile, President Duterte said Thursday he will be the first in line to ask for martial law in Mindanao to be lifted once he is assured that peace is restored.

In his speech during the mass oath-taking of newly appointed officials and national leagues, Duterte addressed the criticism against his declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

"The earlier we attain the equanimity of the community, the stability, I would be the first to clamor for the lifting of martial law," Duterte assured.

Duterte placed Mindanao under martial law and suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in the entire island for 60 days due to the armed conflict in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur which resulted to numerous casualties. (With reports from Aaron B. Recuenco and Argyll B. Geducos)

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THE DAILY
tribune
Without a Fear

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Military forms board to inquire on misfire

By Mario J. Mallari

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will form a Board of Inquiry (BoI) to look into the “friendly fire” that killed 11 soldiers and wounded seven others in Marawi City, AFP chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año said.

“I have already ordered The AFP Inspector General to create a Board of Inquiry headed by Major General Rafael Valencia to investigate the incident Wednesday wherein a friendly air support fire caused the death of 11 and wounding of 7 soldiers,” said Año.

The BoI would determine what went wrong that resulted in the accident.

Last Wednesday, one of the Philippine Air Force’s SF260s involved in the ongoing assault against terrorists in Marawi City accidentally hit AFP troops operating on the ground.

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"It was very unfortunate and no one wanted it to happen. I am deeply saddened and the whole AFP commiserate with the bereaved families with deep regret," said Año.

"I want to assure the public that it will not happen again," he added.

As of press time yesterday, Hapilon and his Islamic State (IS) inspired followers from the Abu Sayyaf and Maute groups continued to put up pockets of resistance in Marawi City and ignored calls for surrender by the military.

The AFP chief vowed that the military is exhausting all means to finish off the siege as soon as possible.

"I ensure that all measures and actions are being implemented in order to resolve the Marawi crisis at the soonest possible time without jeopardizing the lives of innocent civilians," vowed Año.

According to Año, pending the result of the probe of the "friendly fire", the military will suspend the use of the SF260s during air strike.

"Pending the result of the investigation we may defer the use of SF260 for the meantime but we will continue using all other available ground air and naval assets in order to resolve this crisis quickly," said Año.

"We are doing our best to comply with the timeline but what is more important is to finish our job with the minimum loss of soldiers' and civilians' lives," he added.

Senate to give way

Senators said they will give way to the military in conducting the probe.

Now is not the time to find fault on anyone on the death 11 soldiers and the wounding of seven others during a military airstrike in Marawi City,

Both Senators Antonio Trillanes IV and Panfilo Lacson said fault-finding should not be resorted to in the incident.

"We should allow the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) and the Defense establishment to accomplish their task including the ongoing fact-finding investigation being conducted," Lacson said.

Trillanes, a former junior military officer, likewise said it's tragic and unfortunate that the said incident came at a time that the AFP has almost won the war with the Mautes.

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"Regardless of the circumstances of their deaths, they are heroes. As to why this incident happened in the first place, I defer to the investigation of the AFP and hope that with it is an assurance that future mishaps like this would never happen again," Trillanes said.

"This is not the time to find fault on anyone, particularly those involved in the Marawi operations. On the contrary, this is the time to pray and honor all the heroes who lost their lives, no matter what caused their deaths," said Lacson.

Toll rises to 171

The airstrikes were aimed at Islamist militants who are holding hostages as human shields in Marawi City as authorities conceded hundreds of gunmen may

have escaped a blockade.

The friendly fire deaths bring to 171 the number of people reported killed since gunmen waving black flags of the Islamic State (IS) group began rampaging through the Muslim city of Marawi last week.

Shortly after the violence erupted President Duterte imposed martial law across Mindanao, home to 20 million people, to quell what he said was an IS bid to establish a base.

But the government's narrative of being in "full control" of Marawi City with the report of the misguided bombing mission.

"It's very painful. It's very sad to be hitting our own troops," Lorenzana told reporters. "It's sad but sometimes it happens in the fog of war," he added.

He initially said 10 soldiers died but AFP spokesman Brigadier-General Restituto Padilla later confirmed 11 were killed.

Lorenzana also warned that many militants may have escaped, despite checkpoints throughout the city and surrounding it.

"We have reports they are going to some of the towns around Marawi city," Lorenzana said.

He said there were about 500 militants at the start of the unrest and only between 50 and 100 were believed to still be in Marawi. According to the military, 120 gunmen have been killed, meaning as many as 330 remain unaccounted for and could have slipped out of the city.

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Adding to concerns about the rising threat of IS, Lorenzana said militants from Saudi Arabia, Chechnya, Yemen, Malaysia and Indonesia were among the dead.

The military has relentlessly dropped bombs and fired rockets at the militants, who have been hiding in residential areas of Marawi where local authorities believe about 2,000 people are trapped.

Propaganda videos spread

The gunmen are also holding hostages, some of whom have been forced to speak on propaganda videos for the militants calling for troops to withdraw.

Local authorities have repeatedly warned that the trapped residents and hostages are in grave danger of being killed in the air assaults, and on Thursday repeated calls for them to end.

"We continuously appeal to the chain of command... to refrain from using airstrikes," Zia Alonto Adiong, a local politician and spokesman for the provincial crisis management committee, told reporters in Marawi City.

The International Committee of the Red Cross on Wednesday also called for a humanitarian ceasefire.

Lorenzana said airstrikes may be curtailed because of the friendly fire incident, but Padilla insisted the soldiers' deaths would not weaken the resolve of the armed forces.

"We will be unrelenting in the pursuit of our mission. The drive, resolve of every AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) personnel in the air, ground and water remain undiminished," Padilla told reporters.

"We will incessantly push our way forward to retake the remaining part of Marawi and liberate the people that the

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terrorists continue to use as human shields," he added.

The militants have murdered 19 civilians, the military has said, while insisting none have died in any air assaults or the intense street-to-street battles.

Thirty-two soldiers and police officers have been confirmed killed.

The clashes erupted when security forces raided a house to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, a veteran Filipino militant regarded as IS' leader in the Philippines. He is on the US government's list of most-wanted terrorists.

Authorities said they were taken by surprise when many gunmen emerged to protect Hapilon and then went on a rampage through Marawi, which has a population of 200,000.

The militants mostly belonged to a local group called the Maute, and the infamous Abu Sayyaf kidnap-for-ransom gang that Hapilon has helped lead for many years.

Airstrikes to be scaled down

"I got this the report late Wednesday that during the air strike conducted by the Air Force, using our trainer jets, the Marchetti S-260. There were two planes flying and the first plane dropped it accurately but the second went wrong and hit our troops," Lorenzana told reporters.

"Now, there were 11 killed in that unfortunate incident and seven wounded, they have been evacuated to Cagayan de Oro for proper disposition," he added.

Lorenzana, a retired Army general, said that based on his assessment, airstrikes should be limited and that ground offensives tend to be more effective in the continuous pursuit operations.

"As far as I'm concerned, because there's only a small pocket there, one strong pocket of resistance, and if we can converge our troops there, the more we do not need the air strikes if there are troops surrounding the area already, then the more we do not need the strikes," the Defense Secretary said.

"Maybe we will need the armored vehicles. We have just delivered 21 armored vehicles to Marawi," he added.

The martial law administrator denied that any civilian was counted as a casualty in the misfire.

Lorenzana was however uncertain if there will be some sort of accountability in the botched attack as investigations are underway through Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Ano.

"We are still investigating, conducting an investigation headed by the Chief of Staff what really happened if there was a miscommunication or there was an error of somebody there on the ground or on the air on the part of the pilot," he said.

"So what should we do? Are we going to court martial the pilots or the people on the ground? Sometimes in the fog of war, a lot of things could happen, it could happen, actually it could happen like this," he added.

"So let's see. Depending on the result of the investigation, if some people should answer for that then we will do it. If not, we can just charge it to a bad experience,"

Lorenzana said.

Meanwhile, another Marine battalion was sent to Marawi City to augment the troops now fighting the terrorists which laid siege on Marawi City since Last May 23 - this brought to more than 3,000 the number of troops now trying to clear Marawi City of Hapilon and his followers.

Palace releases order on media

Malacañang yesterday released President Duterte's martial law General Order no. 1 asking the media to report their coverage in Mindanao with prudence.

"The role of the media is vital in ensuring the timely dissemination of true and correct information to the public," the order dated May 30 stated.

"Media practitioners are therefore requested to exercise prudence in the performance of their duty so as not to compromise the security and the safety of the Armed Forces and law enforcement personnel, and enable them to effectively discharge their duties and functions under this Order."

Lawmakers also sought a review of the police and military operational procedures.

Magdalo party-list Rep. Gary Alejano and Muntinlupa City Rep. Ruffy Biazon sought a review of the military and police's procedural operations and execute necessary adjustments to lessen the dangers being faced by government troops which is becoming bigger with the

addition of 400 marines yesterday.

is a source of national pride

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"It is very unfortunate that things like this happen when our troops are hunting the enemies of the state. Though mistakes are unavoidable, I enjoin the commanders and operation officers of the units on the ground to review their operational procedures, particularly the call for close air support and make necessary adjustments so as not to endanger our friendly troops," Alejano, a retired Marines officer, said.

"There should be no blame game. It is very unfortunate that air strikes have killed government troops. Under the existing conditions, it was bound to happen due to the prevailing conditions, the pace of the air strikes, the battlefield conditions such as urban close-quarters combat, the means of delivery of the ordnance which is conventional (meaning not of the latest precision technology) and the level of proficiency based on the training of the Air Force, the coordination between ground and air forces," Biazon, vice chairman of the House committee on national defense, said.

Alejano proposed that "an investigation should be conducted to find out the real cause, whether it was a human error on the side of the pilot, erroneous close air support request, training of the forward air controllers (FAC), uncoordinated ground movements, or technical issue of the aircraft and the ordnance delivered."

After the inquiry, Alejano said sanctions should be meted against those who may be found responsible behind the unfortunate incident as he recommended to end the airstrikes and bombings that are destroying civilian properties.

Angie M. Rosales, Ted Tuvera, Gerry Baldo

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WAYWARD BOMB

AIRSTRIKE KILLS 11 SOLDIERS, WOUNDS 7; AFP PROBE ON

By **Leila B. Salaverria**
and **Philip C. Tubeza**
@Team_Inquirer

A military investigation is under way to determine how an airstrike directed at Maute terrorists holed up in Marawi City hit and killed 11 soldiers and wounded seven others instead, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said on Thursday.

Speaking to reporters in Malacañang, Lorenzana said Gen. Eduardo Año, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, ordered the investigation to determine whether it was miscommunication, pilot error or mistakes by people on the ground that led to the deadly friendly fire.

A converted SIAI-Marchetti S-260 jet was on a bombing run over Maute positions in Marawi on Wednesday when one bomb hit Army troops locked in close-range combat with the terrorists who had taken cover in buildings and houses, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesperson for the AFP, told reporters at military headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The plane had made three successful bombing runs before dropping the wayward bomb, Padilla said.

In Malacañang, Lorenzana said two aircraft were involved in the air-support mission. The first plane hit its targets but the second apparently made a mistake and hit an Army position on its last run.

He said the aircraft used conventional bombs on that mission.

Standard procedure during airstrikes include constant communication between pilots and controllers on the ground, and ensuring the coordinates of the target are clear, Lorenzana said.

Fog of war

"Sometimes in the fog of war a lot of things could happen. Accidents happen, like this," Lorenzana said.

The friendly fire deaths brought to 171 the number of people killed in the Marawi crisis.

The death toll includes 19 civilians and 32 government forces.

The bombing accident came during the first offensive deployment of fixed-wing aircraft on the ninth day of the military operation to flush out the terrorists who laid siege to Marawi

on May 23 after a failed military operation to capture Isnilon Hapilon, the Abu Sayyaf leader who had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) jihadi group in Iraq and Syria.

The military may limit airstrikes against the terrorists in Marawi as a result of the friendly-fire incident, but Lorenzana said he would leave the decision to the ground commanders.

Running out of smart bombs

Lorenzana said the military had precision bombs, but the supply of those munitions was dwindling and that was why some attack planes carried conventional bombs on Wednesday.

"If you drop that incorrectly and after you dive, its release would either be early or delayed, and you may not be able to hit the target," he said.

Lorenzana said there was only "one strong pocket of resistance" in Marawi and if the military could concentrate on that area, there may no longer be any need for airstrikes.

The terrorists are holed up in buildings and snipers are hindering the movement of government forces, he said.

The terrorists' position is located in a heavily built area of the city, where buildings make it hard for the military to hit targets with artillery, he added.

Lorenzana said he believed Hapilon, who is allied with the Maute group, was in the area.

In Camp Aguinaldo, Año said he had ordered the AFP Inspector General to form a board of inquiry to investigate the friendly fire.

The board will be headed by Maj. Gen. Rafael Valencia, he said.

The aircraft and its pilots have been grounded, he added.

"It was very unfortunate and no one wanted it to happen," Año said.

"I am deeply saddened and the whole AFP commiserates with the bereaved families," he added.

Año said the military may stop using the SF-260 while the investigation was going on, but it would continue using other available ground, air and naval equipment "to resolve this crisis quickly."

Converted trainer planes

Padilla said two SF-260s had been thrown into the fight against the Maute group in Marawi.

The Italian-made SF-260 is a trainer plane, but Padilla said the military used the version that could be fitted for combat.

Padilla said the accident happened around noon on Wednesday during an assault by ground troops on a hilly area of Marawi.

"There was an encounter at the time and they had the enemy in front of them ... It's a hilly area outside of the houses. It was on top of the hill," Padilla said, describing the terrorists' position.

He said the SF-260s were not

carrying smart bombs that could find targets on their own.

"Someone [on the ground] was directing where the plane was going to deliver [its payload]. That is why there were three instances that the SF-260 was given a target and it successfully hit it," Padilla said.

"But unfortunately, on the fourth instance, something happened and the bomb landed where it wasn't supposed to land. That is what the board of inquiry is going to investigate," he said.

Padilla declined to identify the casualties, as the military was still informing the families.

Mission first

Lawmakers and former Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro called for sobriety as news of the friendly fire deaths spread on Wednesday.

In separate statements, Teodoro, Magdalo Rep Gary Alejano and Muntinlupa Rep Ruffy Biazon said an investigation should come "at a later time."

"All efforts must be directed at this time toward accomplishing the mission. We have to trust ... the wisdom and the judgment of our defense establishment, and pray for the safety of our troops on the ground, in the air, and on water," Teodoro said in a post on Facebook.

Alejano, a former Marine, urged Lorenzana to "reconsider airstrikes and bombing runs and artillery bombardments in built-up areas."

He said airstrikes would result not only in casualties but also "tremendous damage" to property in Marawi.

Biazon, vice chair of the House defense committee, said friendly fire was "bound to happen under the existing conditions."

He said the military investigation should be conducted first "to determine any adjustment in tactics and later on for accountability and appropriate penalty if warranted." —WITH REPORTS

FROM NIKKO DIZON AND AFP INQ

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Friendly fire kills 11 soldiers

By JAIME LAUDE and ALEXIS ROMERO

An Air Force plane dropping bombs on Maute extremists killed 11 soldiers and wounded seven others in "friendly fire" as government forces were struggling to rout the militants who have laid siege to Marawi City, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said yesterday.

A Marchetti SF-260 jet was on a bombing run over militant positions in Marawi City

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Friendly

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on Wednesday when one bomb hit Army troops locked in close-range combat with the Maute gunmen who had taken cover in buildings and houses.

"A group of our military armed men were hit by our own air strikes. Ten (were initially) killed," Lorenzana said in a press briefing in Malacañang.

Armed Forces of the Philip-

ines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla later told a press briefing at Camp Aguinaldo that 11 troops were killed in the air strike.

"We are deeply saddened by what transpired. We mourn the loss of 11 of our brave 'Harbingers of Peace' and the wounding of seven others," Padilla said.

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Security officials repeatedly said the assaults involved "precision" and "surgical" air strikes, and gave assurance they were not harming any of the trapped civilians or hostages

The military has been using the new FA-50 jets armed with rockets. The Marchetti jets were using conventional steel cased bombs

Padilla clarified the AFP is not using precision guided bombs in Marawi, saying the military has yet to acquire such in its inventory.

What is being done, he said, is the conduct of precision air strikes, which the Air Force pilots are highly capable in carrying out the mission

"First of all, we are not using precision guided munitions. We don't have that capability. What we are doing in the conflict is precision air strikes," Padilla said

Lorenzana admitted the AFP has run out of rockets and has resorted to using conventional bombs to strike enemy positions.

"We still have some precision-guided munitions that will really hit the indicated targets. But medyo *naubusan na tayo niyan* (we ran out of that)," he said.

"They are now using conventional bombs. If you commit a mistake, either you will release it in advance or the release will be delayed then you will not hit the target."

Lorenzana though admitted the incident was an "accident"

"It's sad but sometimes it happens in the fog of war. The coordination was not properly done," Lorenzana said.

"We are still investigating what really happened, whether there was a miscommunication or there was an error of somebody there on the ground or on the air on the part of the pilot," he added.

Blue on blue

Padilla said the military has ordered an investigation of the friendly fire, which reflects the difficulty faced by government forces to contain the insurrection despite their overwhelming number and firepower.

"Despite the stringent procedure followed, there happens even with the best of armed forces, a case of friendly fire hitting our own troops," Padilla said.

AFP chief Gen. Eduardo

Año has ordered an investigation partly to prevent another incident.

"It was very unfortunate and no one wanted it to happen. I am deeply saddened and the whole AFP commiserate with the bereaved families with deep regret," Año added.

The AFP investigation is expected to last for three to five days.

Initial investigation showed two jets, laden with conventional gravity bombs, took the bombing runs into the targets.

Lorenzana said details provided by the Army's 1st Division said the first plane managed to drop the bomb on the target but the second plane following the run could have prematurely ejected the bomb, hitting the troops below who were engaging the militants in close combat.

"There were two planes flying and the first plane dropped the ordnance accurately but the second was off target and hit our troops," Lorenzana said.

The fatalities and the wounded included the troops from the Army's 44th Infantry Battalion and 15th Infantry Battalion.

The fatalities were identified as Sgt. Throlen Lago, Sgt. Joseph Villanueva, Cpl. Philip Apao, Pfc Anthony Capulot, Pvt. Jessrael Butalina, Pfc. Ahanie Ampalo, Pfc. Kevin Sisiban, Corporals Aliyasir Abdullah, Ricky Asan, Nilo Donato and Christopher de la Cruz.

The military has bombed and fired rockets from attack helicopters throughout the conflict at the militants, who have been hiding in residential areas holding hostages.

About 2,000 civilians are also trapped in the militant-held areas, according to local officials.

Concerned groups have been calling on the military to cease air strikes to allow trapped civilians to get out of Marawi.

Lorenzana said the conduct of air raids may be suspended but he would leave it to the ground commanders to decide.

"We are pouring more troops there that's why I said a while ago, we might suspend for a while the air strikes and let the ground troops do their thing," Lorenzana said.

– With Roel Pareño, Edith Regalado, John Unson, Cecille Suerte Felipe, Marvin Sy, AFP, AP

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Military eyes limited bombings

The military is considering "limiting" or "suspending" air strikes in Marawi City following the death of 11 soldiers in a botched bombing run, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said yesterday.

The possible change in military strategy aims to prevent a repeat of the mistake of hitting government troops battling extremists in the area, according to Lorenzana.

"It will be the call of the ground commander if they needed the strikes pero medyo limitahan muna

natin 'yung strike to the aircraft that can deliver accurately," said Lorenzana, also the Martial Law administrator in Mindanao.

"We are pouring more troops there that's why I said a while ago baka we might suspend for a while the air strikes and let the ground troops do their thing," he said in a Palace press conference.

Lorenzana said it was "unfortunate" that 11 soldiers were killed and seven others wounded in a friendly fire air strike in Marawi.

The two trainer jets launched the bomb raid last Wednesday but the second one missed its target and hit several soldiers, he said.

"There were two planes flying and the first plane dropped the – their ordnance accurately pero 'yung pangalawa sumablay, tumama doon sa tropa natin," Lorenzana said. "There must be some mistake there – either the people directing the bomb run on the ground or the pilot on the air," he added. **(Genalyn D. Kabiling)**

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Duterte sad because of 11 soldiers' death

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte regretted the military air strikes that accidentally killed 11 soldiers even as he indicated that he will be the first one to call for an end to martial law in Mindanao.

But only once Mindanao is "stable," the President insisted.

The President lamented the deaths of his security personnel in general resulting from the clashes in Marawi City.

"I have many dead, I am very sad. I have many dead soldiers. I have many dead police," Duterte said.

"The earlier we attain the equanimity of the community, the stability, I'd be the first to clamor for the lifting of martial law," the

President said yesterday during the oath-taking of government appointees in Malacañang.

He said the rising death toll of soldiers and police under his administration is pushing him to "hurry up" the war.

"I lose about 3, 4 [security personnel]. It keeps on increasing every day for as long as that war rages on. I am one of those who are really hurrying it up," he said.

He reiterated that he has faith in the military and police to make the proper recommendations based on the situation on the ground.

"Ask the military or police, 'Are we okay, because if we are, let's lift it immediately,'" the President said.

He criticized his detractors who claimed he did not consult the military before deciding to declare martial law on May 23.

Earlier, senators claimed Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said he believed the Marawi crisis could be resolved without martial law.

"You can hardly talk to the fools. You do not declare martial law without asking the soldiers and the policemen," Duterte said.

The President previously said he would lift martial law only if the military and police recommend that he do so.

He said he is considering suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in the region, not put it under martial law. **Efren Montano**

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Manila Standard

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Martial law until we're OK—Du30

By John Paolo Bencito and Macon Ramos-Araneta

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte told Congress on Thursday they must understand his position if he needs to extend martial law.

Responding to criticisms by opposition lawmakers that defense officials had not recommended he declare martial law, Duterte said he would listen to his Armed Forces and the police on when to lift military rule.

“With more reason today, I will ask the military and the police. ‘Are we okay? Because if we are, then let’s lift it immediately.’” Duterte said in a speech before newly appointed officials at Malacañang.

“But for as long as the military says, ‘Sir, hindi pa talaga kaya. [We still can’t do it.] And it’s beyond 60 days. Congress must understand that I may need more time,’ he said.

Duterte, who reiterated that drug money is fueling

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Martial...

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terror activities in the south, said there was a need to wipe out extremists seeking to establish a province of the Islamic State in the Philippines.

“The rebellion in Mindanao, it’s not Maute. It’s purely ISIS with a different branch,” the President said. “And I said by the time that they are pushed back and they lose the land mass, they will scamper everywhere.”

“When I say wipe them out, better [do it]. If you shoot him in the head, shoot him again in the heart to be sure,” he said.

He also said extremist groups were also involved in the drug trade in international waters.

Still, Duterte said he wants to end martial law in Mindanao as soon as possible.

“I am one of those hurrying it up. The earlier we attain the equanimity of the community, the stability, I’d be the first to clamor for the lifting of martial law,” Duterte said

The President likewise hit back at critics who said he did not consult defense and security officials when he declared martial law.

“They say I did not consult the military. You know, you can hardly talk to fools and those

who are stupid. They will never understand. You do not declare martial law without asking the soldiers and policemen,” Duterte said.

Former senator Rene Saguisag, meanwhile, taunted members of Congress for not objecting to the declaration of martial law.

Speaking to reporters after attending the necrological services for former senator Eva Estrada-Kalaw, Saguisag noted there are more echoes rather than voices under the Duterte administration.

“Only a few voices, especially in the House,” said Saguisag, a human rights lawyer who was

jailed at the height of military rule under the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

Former Senate president Aquilino Pimentel Jr., meanwhile, contradicted his son, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III, who said there was no compelling reason to call a joint session of Congress to discuss Duterte’s martial law declaration.

Congress, the older Pimentel said, should hold a joint session even if there is no intention to revoke or extend military rule.

“In other words, do their function to report to the people because they are the representatives of the people,” said Pimentel.

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No quick end to martial law

by ALEXIS ROMERO and CHRISTINA MENDEZ

President Duterte yesterday vowed to be the first to seek the lifting of martial law in Mindanao, which he imposed on May 23, if the situation in terrorist-infested areas stabilizes. The Chief Executive, however, said he

is not discounting the possibility of extending martial law in the south - a move that he hoped would be understood by Congress.

During the oath taking of new appointees and officials of local government groups, Duterte said he wanted to hurry up the implementation of

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No quick

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martial law as the number of fatalities keeps increasing every day.

"The earlier we attain the equanimity of the community, the stability, I'd be the first to clamor for the lifting of martial law," the President said. "But for as long as the military says, 'Sir, hindi pa talaga kaya (we still cannot do it),' and it's beyond 60 days, Congress must understand that

I may need more time."

Under the 1987 Constitution, martial law in the Philippines can only last up to 60 days, but can be extended by a majority in Congress "if the invasion or rebellion shall persist and public safety requires it."

General Order No. 1

Meanwhile, Malacañang released yesterday a copy of General Order No. 1 detailing the implementing guidelines for the declaration of martial law in Mindanao, including

the rules in the coverage of the media, under Section 6, in the armed conflict in Marawi City.

"The role of the media is vital in ensuring the timely dissemination of true and correct information to the public. Media practitioners are therefore requested to exercise prudence in the performance of their duties so as not to compromise the security and safety of the Armed Forces and law enforcers personnel and enable them to effectively discharge their duties and functions under the Order," it read.

The Palace also put a provision that assures the public that the state of martial law does not suspend the operation of the Constitution, nor supplant the function of the civil courts or legislative assemblies, nor authorize the conferment of jurisdiction on military courts and agencies over civilians where civil courts are able to function.

Duterte put to task the

Commission on Human Rights to "zealously exercise its mandate under the 1987 Constitution, and to aid the Executive in ensuring the continued protection of the constitutional and human rights of all citizens."

The President signed the two-page order on May 30 in support of Proclamation No. 216, declaring martial law in Mindanao and suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus for a period not exceeding 60 days.

Arrest order issued

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, in his capacity as martial law administrator, has issued an arrest order against 125 subjects, whose names are mostly aliases, who are allegedly members of the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups and their suspected supporters involved in the Marawi attack.

The four-page order, which the first arrest order issued under the implementation of martial law and suspension of writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao, was made public by Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre

II in a press conference at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Wednesday evening.

It was directed to the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police and NBI for implementation.

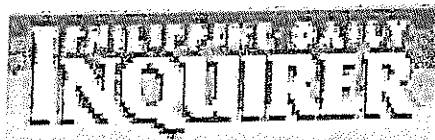
The order specifically stated that the subjects who have been "identified as members/supporters/spies/couriers" of the terror groups will be investigated on charges of rebellion under Article 134 of the Revised Penal Code.

Lookout bulletin

Meanwhile, the DOJ yesterday issued a lookout bulletin against the 125 individuals listed on the arrest warrant.

"We are studying if we can issue an order to the effect of a hold departure order, since there is already an arrest warrant against these individuals," Aguirre explained in an ambush interview, adding that verification is being made whether foreign nationals are included in the list. - With Edu Punay, Ghio Ong, Delon Porcalla

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ML IMPLEMENTER

LORENZANA ORDERS ARREST OF 100 FOR REBELLION

By Aie Balagtas See
@ABalagtasSeeINQ

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, acting as martial law administrator, has issued Arrest Order No. 1 for 100 people for rebellion.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II announced Lorenzana's directive in front of several children tagged as members of the Maute clan, blamed for the siege of Marawi City that prompted President Duterte's declaration of martial law last week.

"Actually, the declaration of martial law is only on the island of Mindanao, but its effects, for example the arrest order, can be implemented anywhere," Aguirre said. "We have to remember rebellion is a continuing offense.

The arrest order was issued on Monday. The National Bureau of Investigation received a copy on Tuesday.

Maute, Abu Sayyaf links

Aguirre said the people named in the arrest order had been identified as "members, supporters, spies, couriers of the Maute group and Abu Sayyaf group" blamed for "indiscriminately killing, kidnapping and perpetuating bombings in Marawi City and some parts of Mindanao, sowing terror to the populace."

The four-page Arrest Order No. 1 was shown to reporters while 27 men, women and children, including a 2-year-old boy, were at the NBI to clear their names.

"Among these individuals, 13 names were listed in a memorandum dated May 26, 2017, from the chief consultant of Visayas-Mindanao field office of the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime, and were labeled as 'members of the Maute clan who have, in one way or the other aided and abetted the killings and attack recently happened in Marawi City,' the NBI's initial report read.

Boys on list

Those accused include 15- and 10-year-old boys, according to the NBI.

Dalomilang Parahiman, a lawyer for the accused, said his clients' only fault was having Maute and Bandrang for their surnames.

"But Maute is a very common surname. As common as De la Cruz," said Parahiman, who is also regional director in the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos.

Most of the adults were businessmen, Parahiman said. They were bound for Saudi Arabia together with their families but a government lookout bulletin barred them from leaving.

These women and children were among those presented to reporters by the NBI. They were also present when Aguirre announced the arrest order.

Aguirre said the government had received passenger manifests listing supporters of Maute group who had left Mindanao. INQ

Lorenzana's 1st order: Arrest 100

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana has ordered the arrest of 100 suspected members, supporters, spies and couriers of the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups. Though martial law was declared only in Mindanao, "its effects, for example the arrest order, can be implemented anywhere," said Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II. —STORY BY AIE BALAGTAS SEE

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Arrest of 138 Maute, ASG members ordered

By JEFFREY G. DAMICOG

Martial law administrator Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana has issued Arrest Order No. 1, ordering the arrest of 138 suspected members of the Maute Group and Abu Sayyaf wherever they may be in the country.

The order dated May 29 was addressed to the chief of staff of the Armed Forces

the chief of the Philippine National Police and the director of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said he already placed the subjects of the arrest order under the Immigration Lookout Bulletin Order (ILBO).

Aguirre, however, noted the limitations of the ILBO which only places the persons subject to arrest in a watchlist. ▶6

Arrest of 138 Maute...

◀1

Because of this, Aguirre is thinking of a way that would enable immigration agents to hold persons from leaving the country without the need for a Hold-Departure Order (HDO) which only the courts can issue.

"We need a new name to warn our Bureau of Immigration officers or anybody na these are dangerous people," he said.

The NBI is an agency under the DOJ.

Aguirre said anyone whose name appears in the arrest order can be apprehended anywhere in the country, not just in Mindanao where martial law has been declared.

"Martial law is only declared over Mindanao but the arrest order can be implemented even outside Mindanao," Aguirre explained.

Those on the list, he said have com-

mitted the crime of rebellion which he explained is a "continuing offense."

"Even if they fled Mindanao but spotted in Mindanao, Luzon and the Visayas they can be arrested because they already committed a crime," he stated.

"We would like to remind everyone that the crime of rebellion is a continuing offense," said Aguirre.

Rebellion

The 138 ordered arrested have been "identified as members/supporters/spies/couriers of the Maute Group and/or Abu Sayyaf Group and known as perpetrators/supporters/spies/couriers for indiscriminately killing, kidnapping, perpetuate bombings in Marawi City and some parts of Mindanao, sowing terror to the populace and agreed upon them and prompted by common designs, come to an agreement and decision to commit

the crime of rebellion, for the purpose of removing Mindanao from the territory of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines or its laws by establishing an independent Islamic State and/or deprive the Chief Executive of his powers and prerogatives as President of the Republic."

Once in custody, authorities were directed to continue the investigation and "ensure that charges against them are filed before the Office of the Prosecutors of the Department of Justice within a non-extendible period of three calendar days from the date and time of their actual arrest."

"Finally, you are hereby informed that the rights of all persons arrested/detained/taken into custody by virtue hereof are protected by Philippine law, including rights and the rights of persons under custodial investigation under Republic Act No. 7438," reminded Lorenzana on the Rights of Detained Persons Act.

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The Manila Times

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DUTERTE:

Marawi attack planned by IS

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday said the Islamic State (IS) international terrorist group was behind a "rebellion" in Mindanao, amid ongoing clashes between security forces and the IS-linked Maute group in Marawi City.

Recent terrorist activities in Mindanao are not just the work of the members of the Maute group, but are "purely ISIS," Duterte said in remarks during an oath-taking ceremony in Malacañang, using another name for the IS.

"It's purely ISIS. [they started with] different branches. Actually, [the] Maute brothers went to Libya and the other one," Duterte said.

He said the terrorists had long planned to attack Marawi City, especially when

> Planned **A2**

Marawi

the IS named Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon as its emir in the Philippines.

"This Marawi [attack] has long been planned. It could not be just a decision [that] 'let's go to Mindanao,'" the President said.

'Penniless'

But Duterte said the IS fighters in the country were penniless, as he repeated his claim that the unrest in Marawi City was funded by drug money.

Ongoing clashes in Marawi City have affected tens of thousands of residents and have resulted in the deaths of 120 terrorists, 25 soldiers and policemen, and 19 civilians.

The militants attacked Marawi, a Muslim-majority city, on Tuesday after the government attempted to arrest terrorist leader Isnilon Hapilon.

The siege prompted Duterte to place Mindanao under martial rule, and suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus which allows warrantless arrests.

In his remarks on Thursday, Duterte said he would be the first to call for an end to martial law once Mindanao is "stable."

"The earlier we attain the equanimity of the community, the stability, I'd be the first to clamor for the lifting of martial law," he said.

He said the rising death toll of soldiers and police under his administration was pushing him to "hurry up" the war.

"I lose about three, four. It keeps on increasing every day for as long as that war rages on. I am one of those who are really hurrying it up," the President said.

Duterte said it would be up to the military and the police to make recommendations based on the situation on the field.

"I'll ask the military and police, 'Are we okay? Because if we are, then let's lift it (martial law) immediately,'" he said.

"But for as long as the military says, 'Sir, *hindi pa talaga kaya*' [we can't finish it yet], and it's beyond 60 days, Congress must understand that I may need more time," the President added.

He also blasted critics who claimed he did not consult the military before deciding to declare martial law on May 23.

"You can hardly talk to the fools and to the stupid, they will never understand. You do not declare martial law without asking the soldiers and the policemen," Duterte said.

The President made no specific mention of the military air strikes that accidentally killed 11 soldiers, but expressed regret for the death of security personnel because of the clashes.

"*Marami akong patay* [I have many dead], I'm very sad. *Marami akong sundalong patay, marami akong pulis na patay* [I have many dead soldiers, I have many dead police]," Duterte said.

General Order 1

The President meanwhile formally ordered the military to respect constitutional rights and recognize the role of the media following his declaration of martial law.

General Order 1, which Duterte signed on May 30 but was released by Malacañang only on Thursday, stated that "the Constitutional rights of the Filipino people shall be respected and protected at all times."

"The Commission on Human Rights is hereby enjoined to zealously exercise its mandate under the 1987 Constitution, and to aid the Executive in ensuring the continued protection of the constitutional and human rights of all citizens," the order read.

The order also highlighted the role of the media in "ensuring the timely dissemination of true and correct information to the public."

"Media practitioners are therefore requested to exercise prudence in the performance of their duties so as not to compromise the security and safety of the Armed Forces and law enforcement personnel," it said.

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The order also noted that during the suspension of the privilege of the writ, "any person arrested or detained... shall be judicially charged within three days, otherwise he shall be released."

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana was named martial law administrator, and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Eduardo Año as implementor. Año was earlier named martial law administrator.

"The Martial Law Administrator, the Martial Law Implementor, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and other law enforcement agencies shall implement this order within the limits of prescribed by the Constitution and existing laws, rules and regulations," the order said.

"More specifically, a state of martial law does not suspend the operation of the Constitution, nor supplant the functioning of civil courts or legislative assemblies, nor authorize the conferment of jurisdiction on military courts and agencies over civil courts," it added.

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Duterte: Mindanao rebellion not Maute but 'purely ISIS'

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday said the conflict in Marawi City is not the work of the Maute Group but of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

The Marawi conflict, which involves clashes between government forces and the Maute since Tuesday last week, prompted Duterte to place the entire Mindanao under martial law.

Duterte noted he had long warned that ISIS may eventually come to the Philippines -- which he said is now happening -- after Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon was supposedly named as ISIS head in the country.

"Alam mo iyang rebellion ngayon sa Mindanao, it's not Maute, it's purely ISIS with different branch... Noong si Hapilon na ipinadala sa Central Mindanao and he was anointed as the emir, doon na ako nakaamoy na something terribly wrong is going to happen (The rebellion in Mindanao, it's not Maute, it's purely ISIS with different branch. When Hapilon was sent to Central Mindanao and he was anointed as the emir, it was then I sensed something terribly wrong was going to happen)," he said.

Duterte issued the statement in Malacañang after administering the oath of office to new government officials.



DUTERTE

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, asked about Duterte's statement, said, "Maute is already ISIS. So they are one and the same."

Duterte said Islamist militants being driven out of Iraq and Syria were looking for a new base and the siege of Marawi City was planned a long time ago.

He also reiterated that the radicals in the South were getting funding from the illicit drugs trade, and said the Maute brothers, who the militant group is named after, were involved in narcotics.

Duterte also said he would lift martial law in Mindanao once the situation in there becomes stable.

But unless the military and the police tell him the situation is already stable, martial law should continue and Congress should be able to understand in case there is a need to extend it.

Duterte also said he is saddened that he is losing soldiers and policemen in the situation in Marawi City.

"I lose about three, four (soldiers, police a day). It keeps on increasing everyday for as long as that war rages on. I am one of those who are really hurrying it up. The earlier we attain the equanimity of the community, the stability, I'd be the first to clamor for the lifting of martial law," he said.

Lorenzana, in a briefing earlier in Malacañang, confirmed members of the Maute family are being investigated in connection with illegal drugs.

Lorenzana said one of the family members of the Maute was in fact included in the "narcologist" of the President.

He said one of them is a mayor.

"So we believe that the narco-politics there is working. The proceeds of the narcotics are being used for this terroristic activity there," he said.

He added that some of the illegal drugs, particularly shabu, that are being distributed to parts of Mindanao like Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Zamboanga, Cotabato, are coming from Lanao del Sur. — *With Reuters*

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8 foreign jihadists killed in Marawi strikes

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

Two Saudis and a Chechen were among eight foreign jihadists killed in military strikes against the Islamic State-backed Maute terror group in Marawi City, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said yesterday.

Lorenzana told a press briefing in Malacañang that the foreign fighters were composed of two Saudis, two Malaysians, two Indonesians, a Yemeni and a Chechen.

Lorenzana said the identities of the foreigners are now being verified, along with their affiliations.

They were among at least 30 suspected local terrorists killed during the firefight with the Armed Forces since the military started to conduct surgical strikes in the city last May 23, the same night President Duterte declared martial law in the whole of Mindanao.

Lorenzana, the administrator of martial law, said the foreign militants could have used the so-called southern backdoor via Malaysia or Indonesia to slip into Mindanao and join local militants.

"We do not know because we don't have any record of them coming through the proper channel, through the airports," he said. "There's only one way, through the backdoor, maybe coming from Indonesia or from Malaysia, from Sabah." Abul Khayr Alonto, head of the Mindanao Development Authority, has provided the defense secretary with the names of the foreigners who were among the bodies recovered along with that of their local associates in the Maute following recent military operations.

He said authorities have reason to believe that the foreigners were members of IS.

"I believe so. They are ISIS members, yeah. Because the report that we got from the civilian and from Marawi is that they saw a lot of foreign-looking

fighters," he said.

Lorenzana said the authorities are continuously conducting investigations on the groups used as fronts by the terrorists to be able to penetrate lairs in Mindanao, specifically in Marawi City.

In the case of detained police Supt. Maria Christina Nobleza, who was caught for trying to help Abu Sayyaf member Renener Lou Dongon in Bohol, the investigators traced funds from abroad being channeled to the police officer.

"Well, for one there is this agency that was run by a foreigner, a couple, I think a Moroccan and a Syrian. They were running a recruitment agency here but the proceeds there are also channeled to the Mautes and the ISIS *saka yung* Abu Sayyaf," Lorenzana said.

"Now, we have evidence to prove that the lady, the Syrian woman, is actually in contact with Supt. Nobleza. *Mayon silang mga renuñtances ng pera* between the certain lady to Nobleza," he added.

"And that's the reason why Nobleza tried and with one Abu Sayyaf went to Bohol to try to extricate the Abu Sayyaf that were being hunted by the military," Lorenzana said.

Border watch

Security forces are closely watching the country's borders after foreigners joined members of the Maute group in Marawi City.

"We are guarding what we call our border security so no foreigners can reinforce them." Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said.

De la Rosa's statement was in reaction to reports that more foreigners are planning to reinforce Maute fighters in Marawi.

There are reports that some foreigners were monitored in Southern Mindanao, aiding local terrorists in making improvised explosive devices. – With Emmanuel Tupas, Jaime Laude, John Unson, AP

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Government forces kill 8 foreign bandits in Marawi

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana on Thursday confirmed that eight foreign fighters were among the bandits killed by security forces in Marawi City.

Lorenzana said it was Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) Secretary Datu Abul Khayr Dangcal Alonto who informed him of the identities of the foreigners.

"There were two from Saudi Arabia, two from Malaysia, two from Indonesia, one from Yemen and one from Chechnya," he said.

"We don't have any record of them coming through the proper channel, through the airports. There's only one way, maybe coming from Indonesia or from Malaysia, Sabah," Lorenzana said.

In the meantime, he said they could not confirm if there were more foreign fighters killed or fighting along with the local bandits.

So far, he said that only 33 of the 95 bandits killed in the fighting, including the eight foreigners have been identified.

"There could be more. There could be more that we killed that we have not identified because we have already – as of our body count – we already killed about 95 of them. So 33 lang ang may identities eh, the others cannot be identified," he said.

Identifying foreign militants of Malay descent is also difficult, he said.

"When the people from Marawi see foreign fighters... Because if you are... If a Malaysian and Indonesian who look exactly like us who will go there, *huwag lang silang magsalita aka-lamo Pilipino 'yan eh*," Lorenzana said.

Lookout bulletin

THE Department of Justice (DOJ) on Thursday issued an Immigration Lookout Bulletin Order (Ilbo) against

138 Maute and Abu Sayyaf Group members who were ordered arrested by the Department of National Defense (DND).

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II issued the Ilbo in connection with the arrest order made by Lorenzana, who also sits as the administrator of martial law in Mindanao.

It was the first arrest order issued under the implementation of martial law and suspension of writ of habeas corpus in the region following the ongoing clashes between government troops and Maute members in Marawi City.

The four-page order, which has 138 subjects whose names are mostly aliases, was made public by Aguirre in a press conference at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Wednesday evening.

It was directed at the Armed Forces, the National Police and NBI for implementation.

"As a matter of fact ang tawag doon ay arrest order number one. Because of that I ordered the issuance of an Ilbo at least dun sa individuals listed in that arrest warrant," Aguirre told reporters in a chance interview.

He added that he is also determining whether there is still a need to come up with a new order for the Bureau of Immigration, in lieu of a hold departure order, which only the court has the authority to issue.

Aguirre called the new measure as a "DOJ Detention Order" which would compel immigration authorities to arrest and immediately detain those in the arrest order list provided by the DND even without a hold departure order.

"Kinakailangan natin a new name to warn our Bureau of Immigration officers or anybody na these are dangerous people na they are subject to arrest immediately," he explained. *PNA*

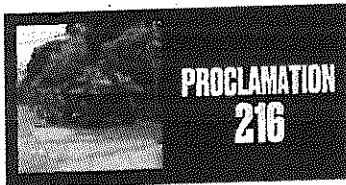
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Du30: No martial law in Visayas

But President studying suspension of privilege of writ of habeas corpus if terrorists flee to the region



By Frinston Lim
@flimINQ

DAVAO CITY—President Duterte on Wednesday said he might suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in the Visayas if extremists fleeing a military operation in Marawi City escaped to the region.

Mr. Duterte, however, said he would not declare martial law in the Visayas, as he did in Mindanao.

The President said he was worried about the terrorists fleeing to the Visayas because of the proximity of the region to Mindanao.

He described the Visayas as “very porous.”

Mr. Duterte said suspending the privilege of the writ in the Visayas would be “just a

precautionary measure.”

“I don’t think it will happen, I hope it will not happen. [B]ut if it does, we must be ready. There is no middle ground here,” he said in a speech during the celebration of the Philippine Navy’s 119th anniversary at Sasa Wharf in Davao City.

The Navy’s newest vessel, the BRP Davao del Sur, was commissioned during the celebration.

Islamic extremism

Mr. Duterte said the fight against Islamic extremism in Mindanao was serious that he had to declare martial law on the island.

He said he consulted military and police officials on how serious the threat was and they told him that the situation had become critical.

Mr. Duterte said extremists were dangerous, especially suicide bombers inspired by the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in Iraq and Syria.

“We cannot allow it to hap-

pen here. We will have to die fighting them,” he added.

Mr. Duterte assured government forces of support in the fight against terror, saying he

was giving priority to the acquisition of equipment for them.

He said the crisis in Marawi would not have happened had the illegal drugs problem been

dealt with earlier.

He said extremism in the country was being funded with drug money.

“I specifically warned every-

body that there was a more dark cloud ahead of us and I was referring to the contamination of [IS], which is slowly creeping in to our shores,” he said.

“Christians and the Moros who were into *shabu* sought sanctuary among the terrorists for protection and to ensure the success of their business,” he added.

But the extremists in the Philippines are not getting much support from IS, he said.

“We knew they’re not getting much help from [IS]. We intercepted the money they sent by just examining papers, and one of those recipients of huge amount was a member of the Philippine National Police. She was not only in cahoots but was an active player in the terrorism business,” he said, referring to Supt. Maria Cristina Nobleza, the deputy chief of the PNP crime laboratory in Southern Mindanao, who was arrested for trying to help Abu Sayyaf suspects being hunted down in Bohol province in April. INQ

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Militar inakusahan ng pagnanakaw, pagpatay sa Marawi

MARAWI CITY – Pagnanakaw sa mga bahay na inabandona, alegasyong summary execution sa mga sibilyan na pinagsuspetsahang terorista, at hindi makontrol na paglobo ng presyo ng mga pangunahing bilihan ang nagbubunsod ng kalitihan at galit ng nagdurusang mga residente ng kinubkob na siyudad na ito.

Mayroong apat na residenteng babaeng Maranao na nagreklamong pinagnakawan ang kanilang bahay at sa security checkpoints, na ang itinuturong suspek ay mga pulis at sundalo.

Magkakahirwalay na nag-post sa Facebook sina Noba Tamay Benito, Cling Labyoh, Inedal Macalayo at Beberly Pandao nitong Miyerkules at inakusahan ang mga sundalo na pumasok sa kanilang bahay upang umano'y magsagawa ng security clearing pero kinuha ang mahahalagang bagay sa kanilang safes o vaults kabilang na ang mga gintong alahas. Ayon kay Macalayo, ang mga sundalong pumasok sa kanyang bahay ay mga tauhan ng 15th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army.

Nag-post naman si Norjannah Hadji Rasol Dipatuan ng rebelasyon ng kamag-anak na dating OFW na nagreklamong nawalan ng mga alahas na nagkakahalaga ng P600,000 sa kagagawan ng mga pulis sa checkpoints patungo sa evacuation sa Iligan City.

Inilahad ng apat na biktima ang karanasan nila kay Drieza Abato Lirunding, ang outspoken na opisyal ng Bangsamoro Movement for Justice, Peace and Development, na una nang humimok sa mga biktima ng pagnanakaw na magsalita, upang

maitala ang kanilang mga testimonya sa pormal na affidavits.

Sinabi ni Lirunding na bibigyan ng kopya ng naturang affidavits ang Crisis Management Committee na binuo ng pamahalaang panglalawigan ng Lanao del Sur para sa mga biktima ng Marawi City siege.

Kahapon, nag-post si Lirunding ng tatlong litrato na ibinigay ng nagmamalasakit na mga residenteng Maranao na kuha sa isang sibilyan na teenager na simita ng mga sundalo, na ang bangkay ay natagpuan kalaunan sa damuhan.

Sa interview sa telepono kahapon, pinabulaanan ng military spokesperson na si Lt Col Jo-Ar Herrera ang mga ulat ng sibilyan na nagnanakaw at nang-aabuso ang mga sundalo.

"Yong sinasabing looting ay nangyari nu'ng sinakop ng mga local terrorists ang Marawi," sabi ni Herrera sa Balita, at binanggit na umbestigahan ng military hierarchy ang anumang pormal na pang-aabusong kinasasangkutan ng tropa ng militar.

Samantala, nagreklamo rin ang ilang residente – na piniling manatili sa siyudad para bantayan ang kanilang mga bahay – na bigo ang mga awtoridad na i-regulate ang pagtaas ng presyo sa mga pangunahing bilihan na ibibibenta sa mas ligtas na lugar sa Marawi City, tulad ng Mindanao State University main campus.

Ayon sa mga residente ng MSU na nainterbyu ng Balita, ang benta ng mga mapagsamantalang negosyante sa isang sakong bigas (50-kilo) ay P3,000-P3,500, habang ang isang litro ng gasolina ay P150.

Ali G. Macabalang

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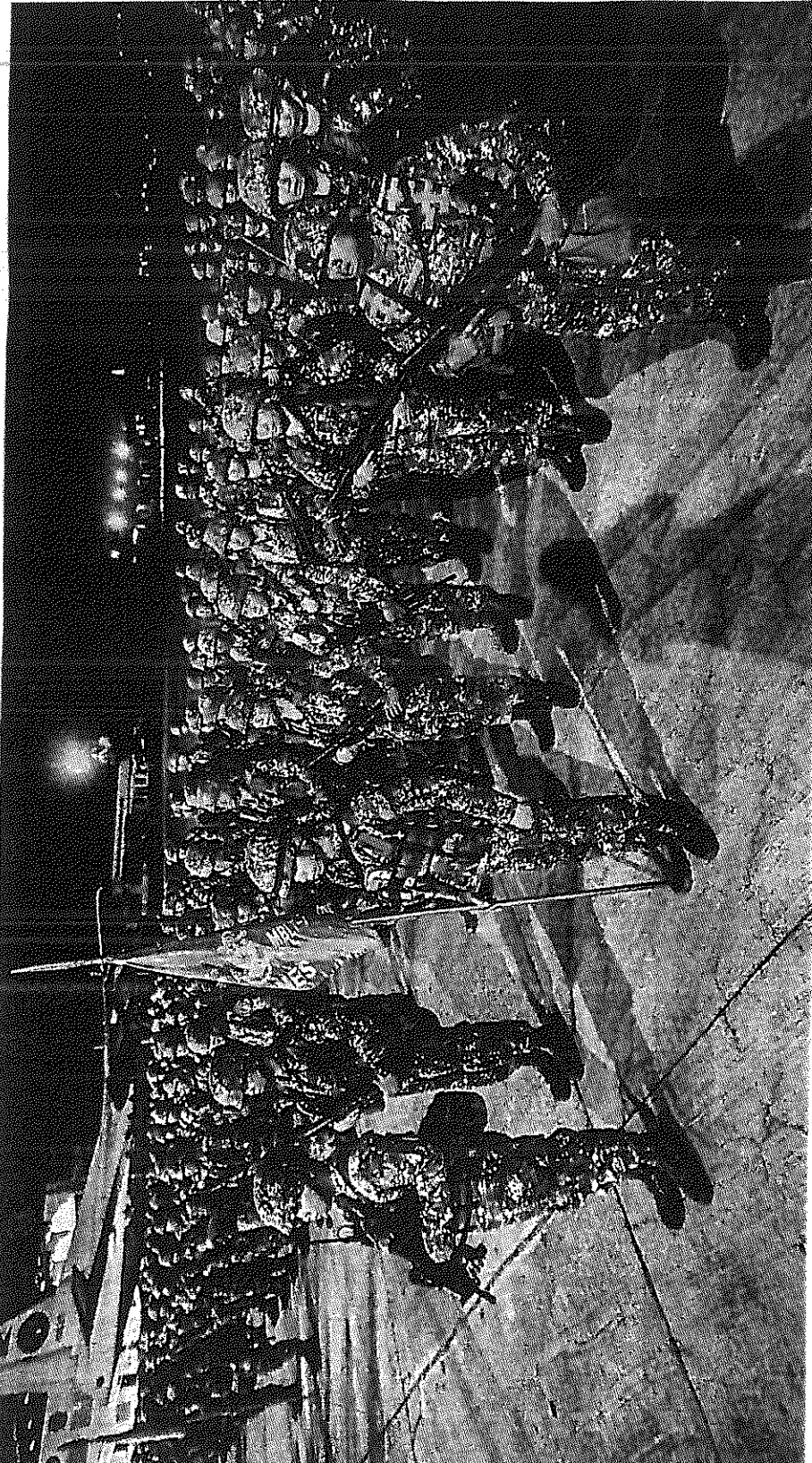


NO ENEMY A man carries a white flaglet to alert soldiers manning a street in Marawi City that he is not an enemy. —REUTERS

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PRESIDENT Duterte (left) sits inside the newly commissioned BRP *Davao del Sur* as he attends the 119th anniversary of the Philippine Navy in Davao City on May 31. Duterte, who declared martial law on Mindanao island, southern Philippines, has approved the creation of a "peace corridor" to hasten the rescue of civilians and delivery of humanitarian aid for displaced people, said Presidential Spokesman Ernesto C. Abella. PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE VIA AP

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Pahina. 4

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

Buwis-buhay sa misfire

Hindi biro ang nangyaring 'friendly airstrike' sa Marawi.

Labis na nakakalungkot ang pagbubuwis-buhay ng 11 nating magiging na sundalo at pagkasugat ng pito pa. Ito ay bunsod na rin ng sinasabing 'misfire' matapos tamaan ng bomba ng gobyerno ang mga tropa ng pamahalaan imbes na ang Maute Group.

Kung kelan pa tila patapos na ang giyera at nakaungos na sa 'bakkaban' ang tropa ng pamahalaan ay tila sumablay naman sa pagtama ang bombang pinakawalan ng ating Philippine Air Force (PAF).

Oo nga't hindi talaga maiiwasan ang ganitong insidente sa anumang giyera. Kahit nga sa ibang bansa ay nangyayari rin ang ganitong senaryo. Sumasalto.

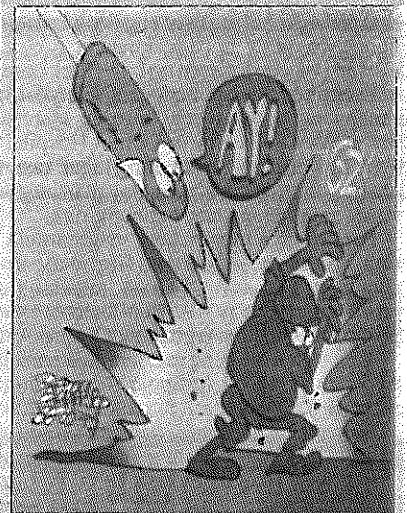
Hindi nga ba't noong termino rin ni Pangulong Corazon Aquino ay nangyari ito sa 1989 coup d'etat kung saan nang paulanan ng bala ng fighter jet ng gobyerno ang mga coup plotters ay ang tropa rin ng pamahalaan ang tinamaan?

Pero 'wag naman sana nating basta balewalain ang nangyaring ito dahil hindi biro ang pagsasakripisyong inilatag ng ating mga kasundalohan para lang sa kaligtasan ng ating mga kababayan at kapayapaan na rin sa Mindanao. Kung tutuusin nga'y maituturing natin silang mga tunay na ring bayani ng bansa dahil sa kanilang pagbubuwis-buhay.

Kaya dapat ay imbestigahan pa rin ang nasabing insidente at alamin kung sino ang nagkulang at nagkamali at kung kinakailangang parusahan ang mga ito ay dapat nating gawin.

Dapat rebisahin ng mga ground commander ang pagsasagawa ng airstrikes at magkaroon ng regular training dahil masyadong kumplikado ang ganitong uri ng operasyon.

Wag sana nating hayaang maulit pa ang ganitong masaklap na insidente.



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NGAYON

Pahina. 4



Saan galing ang suporta?

NGAYONG malapit na matapos ang krisis sa Marawi City – ayon sa AFP – kailangang pag-aralan kung bakit naganap ang krisis. Bakit ang Maute Group, na ang tingin ng marami ay armadong angkan lang sa Mindanao, ay nakuhang lusubin ang Marawi at, sabihin na natin, nakapalag sa AFP? Marami nga ang nagtatanong kung ano ang nangyari sa intel fund ng gobyerno, na umaabot sa bilyones sa ilalim ng administrayong Duterte? Hindi ba nabantayan ang mga kilos ng Maute? Sigurado pinagplanuhan ng Maute ang ginawa sa Marawi, kung saan higit isangdaang armadong terorista ang lumusob. Ayon sa mga residente ng Marawi, nagulat na sila at nakapasok ng siyudad ang mga terorista.

Ayon kay AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año, ang pag-atake ng Maute sa Marawi ay tila pakitang-gilas ng grupo, para makilala nang husto ng ISIS. Parang gusto ipakita sa ISIS na kayang tapatan ang mga sundalo ng bansa, at magtatag ng kuta ng ISIS sa bansa. Ang unang ginawa ng mga manlalaban ng Maute ay itaas ang mga itim na bandila ng ISIS. Marami rin ang nagulat sa paglaban ng Maute sa mga militar. Marunong daw lumaban, at hindi lang basta-basta umatake. Patunay na nakatanggap sila ng maayos na pagsasanay. Pero saan galing? Sino ang nagsanay sa kanila? Pati mga armas ng Maute ay hindi rin basta-basta. Nahirapan ang mga sundalo sa "clearing operations" dahil sa tindi ng "sniper fire" mula sa mga terorista.

Kailangang matukoy kung saan nanggagaling ang suporta, maging pera o armas, pati na rin ang pagsasanay sa mga terorista. Hindi maaaring makapasok nang lubusan ang ISIS sa bansa, partikular sa Mindanao, lalo na't humihina na sila sa gitnang silangan. Baka sa rehiyon na sila naghahanap ng bagong kampo, dahil alam na may kapareho ng ideolohiya. Kailangang bantayan ang mga kilalang teroristang grupo sa rehiyon, partikular sa Pilipinas, Malaysia at Indonesia. Ilang insidente ng terorismo ang naganap na rin sa Malaysia at Indonesia, halos kasabay pa ng pag-atake sa Marawi. Patunay na nagiging aktibo na nga ang ISIS sa rehiyon.

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Why Trillanes said 'No'

SEN. Antonio Trillanes IV is one of the five senators who did not vote for Senate Resolution 388 "Expressing the sense of the Senate supporting Proclamation No. 2016 dated May 23, 2017 entitled "Declaring a State of Martial Law and suspending the privilege of the writ of Habeas Corpus in the whole of Mindanao and finding no cause to revoke the same."

The other four are Senators Franklin Drilon, Francis Pangilinan, Bam Aquino, and Risa Honson. Six, if we count Sen. Leila de Lima, who is in detention.

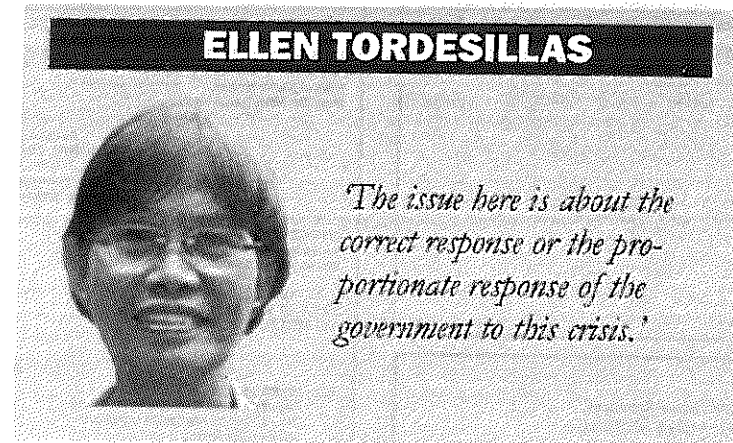
Senators Grace Poe and Chiz Escudero voted for the resolution but want to hold a Joint Session with the House of Representatives to discuss the resolution.

Military officials who briefed the senators last Monday in an executive session said the Armed Forces did not ask the President for martial law to deal with the Maute group, which was the reason given by Malacanang for the declaration of Martial Law in Mindanao.

Who did the President consult then? The officials said the President's advisers.

Who are those advisers? The military officials didn't know.

In his privilege explaining his "No" vote, Trillanes stressed: "Let me just make it clear that my negative vote for this resolution does not mean that I do not sup-



port the military operations going on right now or that I do not sympathize with the people of Marawi and the people of Mindanao. I believe all of us here are supportive and we salute the efforts of the AFP, we laud their sacrifices for the country and we want to support them as best we can. But the issue here is about the correct response or the proportionate response of the government to this crisis, which I believe that this declaration of Martial Law for the whole of Mindanao is not the correct response. And in fact, we heard it during yesterday's security briefing, the AFP and their defense establishment didn't even ask for it."

Trillanes explanation "Yesterday's briefing reinforced my belief that the AFP is very much

capable of crushing the Mautes without Martial Law. They have done this before during previous incidents. One in 1995, at least in recent history. One in 1995, during the Ipil Massacre wherein hundreds of Abu Sayyaf members raided the Ipil, Zamboanga Del Sur and killed randomly civilians and military personnel. The reaction then was swift and it was decisive. Immediately, the whole force of the Armed Forces in the AFP SouthCom then went after the Abu Sayyaf and they took on lots of casualties. And the whole of Mindanao were not inconvenienced with any Martial Law. Mission was accomplished but the progress, the economic progress of the area was not hampered. Then came the Cabatangan Raid or Cabatangan Sulu Siege, again,

facing a much larger enemy force, covering a much larger area, the government response was swift and decisive. Again, the AFP pulled through. They crushed the enemy and they restored law and order without resorting to Martial Law. Then came the all-out-war of President Erap, this was one of the biggest engagements of the Armed Forces, they faced around that time 15,000...15,000 armed regulars of the MILF and the re-Sottoonse of President Estrada then was very swift and very decisive and the Armed Forces was able to crush the 50 or so bases of the MILF without resorting to Martial Law. Then, recently during the Zamboanga Siege, facing a much larger force, covering again a much larger area, a significant city in Mindanao but President Aquino did not declare Martial Law. Again, the enemy force was crushed. Now, some would rationalize that that's why this things keep on happening because he didn't declare martial law. But let me remember someone who did. President Marcos, during 1972, declared martial law for the whole country precisely to crush and solve all this problems.

"And I was mentioning to Senator Zubiri, the incident he was citing when he was 10 years old that the NPAs raided their home

See WHY ► Page B5

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Marawi siege drags on



BACK CHANNEL

ALEJANDRO DEL ROSARIO

IT LOOKS like the siege of Marawi by the Maute terrorists is going to drag on longer than the timeline given by government forces. Authorities said they would be able to clear the city by Friday. That is today.

Yesterday, 400 Philippine Marines took off from Villamor Air Base to reinforce government troops battling the Maute. This is an indication the government won't be able to meet its self-imposed deadline to dislodge Maute from the beleaguered city.

Holding back the government troops' advance are Maute snipers who are using hostages to be used as human shields. On Wednesday 10 soldiers were mistakenly killed by air strike carried out by government planes helping troops on the ground flush out the Maute marauders.

At the pace fighting is still going on, it might take government forces longer to free Marawi than they did when Nur Misuari's Moro National Liberation Front laid siege to Zamboanga City in 2013. The government

then didn't have to declare martial law.

This is the view expressed by Magdalo Party-List Rep. Gary Alejano who claimed the government could harness the full force of its military power without declaring martial law in the whole of Mindanao. "An all-out military operation could have sufficed," said Alejano whose impeachment complaint against President Duterte was thrown out by the House of Representatives for insufficiency in form and consequently in substance.

President Duterte, on the other hand said no one recommended that he declare martial law in Mindanao. We have to believe Digong on this one. He had been toying with the idea of martial law even early in the first three months of his presidency. The siege of Marawi by the Mautes was the excuse waiting to happen. Besides, the siege was too close to Duterte's Davao where his daughter Sara is city mayor. While there is no lockdown in Davao, entry and exit from Davao City is so tight that tension is also running high.

I'll have to side with the President in his declaration of martial law in Mindanao. Lawless violence, rebellion and various groups like the MILF, MNLF and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters want to es-

tablish a separate state. These groups are apart from the criminal Abu Sayyaf kidnap-for- ransom gang. The MILF has offered to help the government open a peace corridor for refugees from Marawi that would give them safe conduct to flee Marawi for Iligan City and nearby safe areas.

The offer of the MILF to help the government in Marawi should be taken with caution, according to former Senator Juan Ponce Enrile. To accept MILF assistance, he said, would be according official recognition to the MILF which wants to set up a separate state.

Why is the MILF not aligning itself with the Mautes? A land-grabber does want another one grabbing land in Mindanao it wants for itself. The Mautes—who have identified themselves with the international terrorist group ISIS seeking to set up a caliphate in this part of world—could marginalize the MILF.

Enrile also expressed the view that a joint session of Congress should have been called to review the President's declaration of martial law. This, he said, is according to Article 7, Section 18 of the 1987 Constitution. Enrile is considered the architect and administrator of martial law during the Marcos years. He cited the difference between Mar-

cos' martial law and that of Duterte. In order to fully implement it, Enrile said he was placed in charge by Marcos to study its ramifications and the possible resistance to it by the populace. He said it took him six months starting in the latter part of 1969 to put all the pieces together. To enforce martial law, Congress was abolished: newspapers, TV and radio stations were shut down and the courts were not allowed to function. Aside from being limited in scope—only in Mindanao and its duration lasting only 60 days—Duterte's declaration allows Congress, the courts and the press to function.

The discovery of communist weapons landing on the coast of Isabela when the MV Karagatan ran aground because of stormy seas was the final *raison d'être* for Marcos to declare martial law.

Constraints on martial law were incorporated by former President Cory Aquino whose revolutionary government wanted to make sure martial law won't be subject to abuse. Again.

Refugees who have flocked to Iligan now number at least 96,000 according to latest government estimate. Some have evacuated to Cagayan de Oro City. This flood of refugees has given rise to the word "*bakwits*," the new term for evacuees.

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Martial law and Marawi



VIRTUAL
REALITY
TONY
LOPEZ

THERE are three conclusions one can draw from the ongoing war in Marawi. One, ISIS or Islamic State is now in the Philippines. Two, IS terrorism is funded and fueled by drug money. Three, martial law is the answer to either or both drugs and terrorism. Can martial law work against drugs and terrorism? It is too early to say yes or no.

There are three things where martial law, with its shock and awe effect, can be a big help—solving Metro Manila's traffic, especially on Edsa, speeding up infra build-up (army engineers are probably better at roadwork), and reducing graft and incompetence. The army can arrest the corrupt, bring them before courts whose judges will be intimidated into action, and probably, in cases of plunder, shoot the guilty by firing squad.

Some 1,487 kilometers southwest of Manila, Marawi is an ancient Muslim lakeside settlement dating back to 1639. It became a chartered city in 1940. Its population has always been majority Maranao Muslim. Brought by an Arab trader, Karim Makh-dum in 1380 (14th century), Islam is the oldest religion in the country and pre-dated the 1521 Spanish invasion to Christianize the Philippine archipelago. Waves of colonizers, from Spain (377 years), United States (50 years), and Japan (four years), failed to subjugate the fiercely independent Muslim Filipinos.

Fast forward to the 21st century. "You can say that the ISIS is here already," Duterte told his officers and soldiers of the

Armed Forces of the Philippines Friday, May 26, 2017, in Iligan, Lanao del Sur, on the fourth day of the fighting in Marawi, and of his imposition of martial law on the entire island of Mindano.

Duterte sees the ongoing Marawi siege as an aftermath of the Maute criminal group growing rich with drugs money. "Terrorism in the Philippines is funded and fueled by drug money," the President declared on Wednesday, May 31, addressing the 119th founding anniversary of the Philippine Navy in Sasa, Davao. Marawi itself had turned into a center of shabu (methamphetamine) production. Funding had to come from drugs, Duterte explained in Tagalog, "because there isn't that much money coming from IS (Islamic State) from the Middle East."

The situation has deteriorated to a point where even Manila has been flooded with illicit drugs and drastic measures were needed to stop the scourge.

"Of course, it would cost lives. You cannot fight a war, especially drugs, without losing your men and the enemy," Duterte said.

"And in Marawi now, I'm sad to tell you, we have suffered tremendous losses," Duterte told the navymen. "Because we are the invading force, and they have been set up there for a long time waiting for the soldiers of the republic to come."

Some 100 militants of the criminal syndicate Maute group and the kidnap-for-ransom terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group overran two-thirds of Marawi late afternoon of May 23, 2017, a Tuesday. They were reacting to an attempt by army commandos to arrest notorious ASG terrorist leader Isnilon Hapilon. He was allegedly sighted in Marawi, along with Maute group leaders, the brothers Abdullah and

Omarkhayam Maute.

The army's attempt to get Hapilon failed. The militants instead fanned out to various parts of Marawi and engaged troopers in hit and run battle lasting over 10 days now.

Wounded by a military airstrike last January, Hapilon apparently went to Marawi for medical help. He was accompanied initially by some 20 security men who took positions in the hospital, where they raised a black ISIS-style flag at the gate. Sensing their presence, government troops maneuvered for a quick, surgical strike. Confronted by army troops, the Maute summoned reinforcements from their allies and the ASG. Early afternoon of May 23, nearly 50 gunmen managed to enter the city, according to AFP Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año said. They swelled later on to more than 100. For the next 10 days, Maute had effective control of Marawi. The army thinks Hapilon is still in the city.

Duterte cut short his five-day Russia visit and went with his men to Iligan, 37 kms north of Marawi. As the terrorists occupied Marawi, refugees fled to Iligan. By the second day of the fighting, two-thirds of Marawi's population had emptied out.

On May 23, the first day of the siege, the terrorists raided the Marawi city jail and released 68 of its prisoners after killing its police guards, confiscating cell-phones and firearms and vehicles. They raided the police station, set it on fire, and took away a police patrol car. They raided a church and took away a Catholic priest and 14 other hostages. They raided the Amai Pakpak Hospital, held hostage its employees, and raised the ISIS flag. They burned another nearby Filipino-Libyan Friendship Hospital.

Three bridges were controlled—Lilod, Bangulo, and Sauraran. The terrorists set up checkpoints and blockades and house to house checks. They also commandeered a police tank, abandoned by its SAF commandos.

In the next ten days, the army would conduct what it called surgical air strikes or bombings, destroying houses and at least three school buildings. Without the air strikes, ground casualties from the government side mounted. With the air strikes, scores of civilians were killed or wounded and their homes and establishments destroyed as collateral damage. On June 1, ABS-CBN reported 11 soldiers died and seven were wounded by friendly air strikes.

On May 31, the ninth day of fighting, the government reported the death toll-- 89 terrorists, 19 civilians, and 21 troopers (32 if you add the soldiers accidentally killed by aircraft fire Wednesday).

Despite AFP claiming to have regained 90 percent of Marawi by the ninth day, the remaining 10 percent in terrorist hands was strategic, in the central part of Marawi, including two bridges that controlled entry into and exit from the city. Thus, it was not clear who was really in clear control.

The army told the terrorists to "surrender or die." AFP Spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. made the warning as the Maute group members dug in for a long siege reminiscent of the fighting in Aleppo, Syria where western troopers have been trying to drive out ISIS insurgents for the past eight months, a situation described by a United Nations official as a "complete breakdown of humanity."

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RIGHTS ABUSES IN MINDANAO MARTIAL LAW TO BE WORSE THAN MARCOS'

As a nation we have gone through the monstrosities of martial law. Given the record of AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año who is its administrator, a repeat of martial law will inevitably see far worse rights abuses.

The people of Mindanao themselves have been through various forms of rights abuses fomented by counterinsurgency programs and the recent all-out war declaration. With martial law in tow, an open fascist rule, coupled with impunity, will set the stage ripe for open state terrorism. More so with warmongers close to President Duterte's ears.

The President said that martial law was imposed to protect the country and its citizens. He also said that Marcos' martial law was "very good." Looking back, though, history shows the opposite—instead of ensuring the safety of citizens, it worsened the rights violations.

We also take exception to the Vice President Leni Robredo's admonition for the people to "trust the AFP." If anything, we should be vigilant and cautious with mili-

tary operations. After Marcos' martial law, gone are the days when we can trust the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

May we remind the Vice President: the blood spilled by the atrocities committed during Marcos' martial law tainted not just Marcos' hands, it also stained the hands of generals and many other officers, even ordinary soldiers. We would do well to never forget this.

Karapatan strongly urges President Duterte to immediately lift martial law in Mindanao, and to stop loaded warnings (read: threats) about putting the entire country under martial law. There are inviolable, constitutional rights that cannot be deprived, regardless of place, time or context.

But despite such safeguards, martial law will give way to systematic rights violations. Just like in the time of Marcos, the military and the police will disguise such violations as necessary for the "security" and "protection" of the people, or in "the interest of the nation."

Also, we should all be wary

of the subtle "war strategies" of the United States to make way for its interventions in the internal affairs of other countries, with the help of local surrogates in the military. Note that Suara Bangsamoro had earlier reported of Maute Group's ties with the Philippine military. We should look deeper into the Marawi incident, lest it becomes another excuse to deploy foreign troops and further undermine our sovereignty.

We stand in solidarity with the people of Marawi and Mindanao. We reiterate: Martial law or, for that matter, a militarist approach, is not the solution to Mindanao's problems or a way to achieving peace and order. It is by rooting out the unjust causes of unrest can a just and lasting peace be achieved.

Should President Duterte continue down the martial law path, he and the warmongers under him will eventually be held accountable for its consequences.

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MARTIAL LAW IMPERATIVE TO WIPE OUT TERRORISTS FROM MINDANAO

I fully agree with many of my peace-loving and God-fearing Muslim brothers who are in favor of President Duterte's decision to impose martial law in Mindanao. There is a need to use iron hand to wipe out Islamic State-inspired, terrorist groups like the Abu Sayyaf and Maute who kill and behead Muslims, Christians and just anyone opposed to their radical religious views.

These terrorists engage in inhuman and un-Islam acts. They have no place in human society. They would only impede development and progress because of their violent ways.

It is possible that the Maute Group or some other terrorist group would replicate elsewhere, or in different parts of Mindanao, what it recently did in Marawi

City—sowing terror and killing people to gain recognition from IS.

These local terrorist groups should be stopped by any means, so that they would no longer be able to spread the "virus" of terrorism among their fellow Muslims and other religious groups in Mindanao.

ISMAEL JADDIR HALIPA,
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All our voices

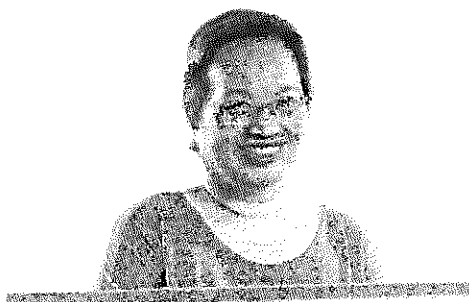
Residents of Mindanao, apparently supporters of the President and his decision to put the entire island under martial law, have gone on social media to decry—or deride—expressions of concern about the situation in Marawi.

“You don’t live here, you are not from here, so you have no right to say anything,” is the gist of their tirades. While there is some validity in this point of view, it is not entirely right. True, we might not know the entirety of the situation on the ground, but last I looked, the decision to declare martial law in Mindanao was made by the national government, primarily by the President who is President of the Philippines and not just of Mindanao or Davao.

Therefore, any Filipino citizen has the right, the duty, to comment and air his or her opinion on policies and actions that the nation’s officials have adopted. Even if such a decision affects only a single barangay in a remote town and just a hundred people, any Filipino has the right to say something about it. Of course, no one knows whether the government is listening even to contrary views, would react to these observations and initiate actions to correct whatever is wrong. But officials are still, under the Constitution, answerable to the people.

Of course, the “people” in this equation really consists of their duly-elected representatives, mainly the members of the House and the Senate. But let’s not go into the craven surrender of their power to the Executive, which is a whole new other can of worms.

Of urgent and crucial concern is the situation of the people of Marawi, about 70 percent of whom, say reports, have been forced



AT LARGE

RINA JIMENEZ-DAVID

to abandon their homes and flee the city.

A friend from Cebu reports that she had just held a “tense and teary-eyed conference call” with a woman from Marawi who was caught in the crossfire.

“When the war started on (May 23) and martial law was declared,” reports my friend, “she was stranded for two days in Iligan away from her three children (ages three to seven years old). No one was allowed to enter Marawi then. She is now in the town after Iligan, but her father and sibling who opted to stay in their home in Marawi will be forced to follow her. Air strikes are frequent and the military have reminded people that those who stay in their homes during the clearing operations will be shot at.”

My friend observes that “the painful thing is aside from being internally displaced, they are also now among the homeless with no home to go back to after the war.”

The Marawi resident pleads: “Stop the air strikes,” since these have killed even

the innocent, including soldiers subject to “friendly fire.” “When providing emergency relief, include those outside of evacuation centers who are sharing the homes of families in the surrounding communities,” which Muslim refugees are wont to do. Also, “clearing operations should be accompanied by Church people and civil society representatives, to protect people who stay because they have nowhere to go.” And lastly, for regulatory agencies to make sure to keep the prices of basic goods like rice and gas at levels before the fighting began.

In contrast to our legislators who chose to shirk their responsibility, one official has at least chosen to heed her conscience and take a stand.

Samira Gutoc-Tomawis, a resident of Marawi City, lawyer and human rights advocate, has resigned from her post as a member of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission following the siege of her hometown, Mindanews reports.

Tomawis said her resignation was “driven by the overwhelming situation” as well as by the declaration of martial law. She added that she was “turned off” by the “statement of (the President) on rape that is offensive to the Bangsamoro women.”

Mindanews says other Mindanao-based civil society groups are also calling for an end to the air strikes, and for agencies to address the needs of evacuees immediately.

These are voices from Mindanao, by the way, Christian and Muslim and *lumad*, all calling for the government to dial down the response to the Marawi crisis, before the fires spread to the rest of the island and the country.

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ONLINE NEWS

(02 JUNE 2017)

www.pna.gov.ph

Defense chief confident on swift resolution of Marawi crisis

MANILA, June 1 -- Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana expressed confidence that government forces will be able to accomplish its mission in going after elements of the local terror group Maute which has laid siege to Marawi City.

In a press briefing in Malacañang on Thursday, Lorenzana said the military will be relying more on ground armor and troops and less on air support in the next few days.

"Well, sa tingin ko naman because there's only a small pocket there, one strong pocket of resistance, and if we can converge our troops there, the more we do not need the air strikes if there are troops surrounding the area already, then the more we do not need the strikes," Lorenzana said.

"Maybe we will need the armored vehicles. We have just delivered 21 armored vehicles to Marawi. They were there... They arrived there yesterday and they will be there, all of them today and they will be used --- all of them will be used against the Mautes and the ISIS," he explained.

"It's just Thursday. We still have more than one day so I'm sure the troops will do the best they can to accomplish the deadline," he added.

In the same briefing, Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella assured that President Rodrigo Duterte will be guided solely by the Constitution in the implementation of martial law in Mindanao following the Marawi City incident.

Abella stressed the administration's commitment to uphold the charter and honor its safeguards for the general public's welfare in going after terror groups.

"It's really the Constitution. Basically the north star of all our policies is the Constitution," Abella said.

Meanwhile, Abella cited favorable findings for the Philippine economy by the Dutch multinational banking and finance services corporation ING Bank and New York-based Moody's Investors Service despite the Marawi crisis.

"We are pleased [with the announcement of] Dutch multinational banking and [financial] services corporation ING Bank that the financial markets can weather the political impact of martial law in Mindanao," Abella said.

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"As we have said, the macroeconomic fundamentals of the country remain solid. Our finance officials have repeatedly assured us the fiscal position of the Philippines is strong and well-managed and we have ample buffers to withstand the current rebellion in [Marawi]," he said.

The Palace official likewise noted that Moody's retained the 6.5 percent GDP forecast for 2017.

"Unlikely that recent developments in Mindanao will lead to changes in economic and fiscal policies which continually anchored by the well-articulated 10-point socio-economic agenda," he said.

Abella also announced that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 3000-million loan to help the Philippines boost its youth employment.

"International developmental financial institution, ADB has approved the policy-based loan amounting to USD 300 million to give assistance to the first phase of the Department of Labor and Employment's Facilitating Youth School-to-Work Transition Program," he said.

"This is to give the Filipino youth preparation and assistance in finding quality employment," he added.
(PND/PNA)

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Lookout bulletin issued vs Maute, ASG members in DND arrest order

MANILA, June 1 -- The Department of Justice (DOJ) on Thursday issued a Immigration Lookout Bulletin Order (ILBO) against 138 Maute and Abu Sayyaf Group members who were ordered arrested by the Department of National Defense (DND).

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II issued the ILBO in connection with the arrest order made by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who also sits as the administrator of martial law in Mindanao.

It was the first arrest order issued under the implementation of martial law and suspension of writ of habeas corpus in the region following the ongoing clashes between government troops and Maute members in Marawi City.

The four-page order, which has 138 subjects whose names are mostly aliases, was made public by Aguirre in a press conference at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Wednesday evening.

It was directed at the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police and NBI for implementation.

"As a matter of fact ang tawag dun ay arrest order number one. Because of that I ordered the issuance of an LBO at least dun sa individuals listed in that arrest warrant," Aguirre told reporters in chance interview.

The DOJ Chief added that he is also determining whether there is still a need to come up with a new order for the Bureau of Immigration, in lieu of a hold departure order, which only the court has the authority to issue.

Aguirre called the new measure as a "DOJ Detention Order" which would compel immigration authorities to arrest and immediately detain those in the arrest order list provided by the Department of National Defense (DND) even without an HDO.

"Kinkailangan natin a new name to warn our Bureau of Immigration officers or anybody na these are dangerous people na they are subject to arrest immediately," he explained.

As to the involvement of foreign terrorists with the Maute group, he said that they are now verifying the 138 names in the list to determine if they are purely Filipinos.

Asked if there were foreigner included in the list in arrest order, the DOJ chief answered "Wala namang nakalagay doon (kung ano ang specific nationality), pero I believe na marami doon mga Filipinos. Possible din naman na may mga foreign terrorists doon. Sapagkat naidentify natin ang ilang terrorists from Indonesia, from the Middle East, at meron ngang parang galing Saudi Arabia."

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Aguirre added that he is now finalizing the creation of five panels composed of five prosecutors each to handle rebellion and violation of the provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Act cases that would be filed against those who will be arrested.

He said the panel would be based at the Hall of Justice of Iligan City under the supervision of Undersecretary Reynante Orceo.

"Galing yung aming (Undersecretary), si Usec. Reynante Orceo, ang unang plano namin dyan is we're going to form five separate panels of prosecutors to hear the inquest and preliminary investigation of these cases, rebellion cases. Pero kahit mga common crimes, pwede rin sila. Kaya lang mga lima ang nakikitang namin na ifoform namin, kasi magkakaroon sila ng rilyebo. Siguro, mga two days yung dalawang panels, and then after two days, magririlyebo naman yung other two panels," he pointed out.

Aguirre said the NBI is still verifying whether the 18 members of the Maute clan living in Metro Manila who surrendered on Wednesday are among those who were ordered arrested by the DND.

Aguirre ordered the NBI to conduct a probe on the identities of the surrenderers.

The group, which include women and children, were accompanied by National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) South Luzon Regional Director lawyer Dalomilang Parahiman.

According to Parahiman, the group includes some of his relatives who are also from Lanao del Sur.

"They are law abiding citizens. Their only crime is their surname is Maute," Parahiman told reporters, adding that most of these Mautes have been residing in Manila for more than 30 years.

The NCMF official lamented among them are boys aged two and 10 who are even included in the arrest order of the government for having namesakes of Maute group members.

The two boys, together with their families, appeared before the NBI on Wednesday to clear their names because some of them are surnamed "Maute" while others, with the surname "Bandrang" are their relatives.

Aguirre said their identities will be verified and vetted with the lookout order and arrest order issued by the government.

He added that they will be questioned and will undergo medical examination.

Meanwhile, NBI spokesperson Ferdinand Lavin said that the two children have been cleared while their relatives are still being processed.

The two-year-old will turn three on Sept. 20, 2014 while the 10-year-old boy will turn 11 on Aug. 26, 2006.

Aside from the two, included in the lookout list of the government is an 11-year-old girl who will turn 12 on July 9 and another girl who turned 13 last March 28.

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The arrest order specifically stated that the subjects who have been "identified as members/supporters/spies/couriers" of the terror groups will be investigated on charges of rebellion under Article 134 of the Revised Penal Code.

It stressed that the persons in the list were responsible for "indiscriminately killing, kidnapping, bombings in Marawi City and some parts of Mindanao, sowing terror to the populace and agreed upon by them and prompted by common designs, come to an agreement and decision to commit the crime of rebellion."

According to the DND, the said individuals are criminally liable for "publicly taking arms against the duly constituted authorities for the purpose of removing Mindanao from the territory of the government of the Republic of the Philippines by establishing an independent Islamic State."

It also ordered authorities to make sure that charges will be filed before the DOJ or local prosecutor's office against the subjects within three days after they are arrested, as provided by rules on criminal procedure, and also submit written report within the same period.

Lastly, the order pointed out that the rights of the persons ordered arrested - including human rights and custodial rights - are "protected by Philippine law."

Authorities may enforce arrest even without corresponding orders from the court under the martial law declaration and suspension of the privilege writ of habeas corpus.

The government is given three days to file appropriate charges against these individuals

Aguirre stressed that the arrest order could actually be implemented even outside of Mindanao considering that rebellion is a continuing offense.

"The declaration of martial law is only in Mindanao, but the effect of this arrest order is that it can be enforced in Luzon and Visayas. It means that even if these people committed the crime of rebellion in Mindanao, they can be arrested in any part of the country," he explained.

President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration of martial law in the entire Mindanao seeks to neutralize Maute terror group members who carried out attacks in Marawi City.

Aguirre said the Chief Executive possessed information and reports that were not known to ordinary citizens which could have been used as basis for the declaration.

"The proclamation is in accordance with the Constitution and necessary to avoid the dismemberment of our nation. The President is entitled to be presumed to be regularly performing the duties of his office, of course those who opposed the decision can go to the SC," Aguirre noted.

Under the 1987 Constitution, the President has the authority to declare martial in any part of the country or the entire country for a period of 60 days but Congress, voting jointly, may revoke or extend the proclamation.(Christopher Lloyd T. Caliwang/PNA)

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8 foreign fighters among militants killed in Marawi — DND

MANILA, June 1 -- Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Thursday confirmed that eight foreign fighters were among the Islamist militants killed by security forces in Marawi City.

At a press briefing in Malacañang, Lorenzana said it was Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) Secretary Datu Abul Khayr Dangcal Alonto who informed him of the identities of the foreigners.

"There were two from Saudi Arabia, two from Malaysia, two from Indonesia, one from Yemen and one from Chechnya," he said.

"We don't have any record of them coming through the proper channel, through the airports. There's only one way, maybe coming from Indonesia or from Malaysia, Sabah," Lorenzana said.

In the meantime, the Defense chief said they could not confirm if there were more foreign fighters killed or fighting along with the local militants.

So far, he said that only 33 of the 95 militants killed in the fighting, including the eight foreigners have been identified.

"There could be more. There could be more that we killed that we have not identified because we have already --- as of our body count -- we already killed about 95 of them. So 33 lang 'yung may identities eh, the others cannot be identified," he said.

Identifying foreign militants of Malay descent is also difficult, he said.

"When the people from Marawi see foreign fighters... Because if you are... If a Malaysian and Indonesian who look exactly like us who will go there, huwag lang silang magsalita akala mo Pilipino 'yan eh," Lorenzana said. (PNA)

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Wayward bomb kills 10 security forces — DND

MANILA, June 1 -- The Department of National Defense (DND) on Thursday confirmed that 10 security forces were accidentally killed during an airstrike when a wayward bomb exploded in their position.

The Wednesday incident also resulted in the wounding of seven of their comrades.

"I got this report late yesterday that during the air strike conducted by the Air Force involving Marchetti SF-260 trainer jets. There were two planes flying and the first plane dropped their ordnance accurately, but the second missed and hit our troops," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said during a press briefing in Malacañang.

"There were 10 killed in that unfortunate incident and seven wounded, they have been evacuated to Cagayan de Oro for proper disposition," he said.

The incident happened as the military stepped up its use of surgical airstrikes to dislodge Islamist militants from their positions while limiting the risks of hitting civilians still trapped in the fighting.

Some military aircraft were outfitted with precision-guided munitions for this purpose.

However, Lorenzana said that the Marchetti S-260 trainer/attack jets involved in the incident were using conventional bombs.

But even then, he said that all previous airstrikes in Marawi City have been accurately hitting their targets.

The Defense Secretary said that investigations are already underway to ascertain how it happened that the first pass hit the target and the second pass hit 100 meters away where the troops were positioned.

"More than 100 meters is already far away. So there must be some mistake there either those people directing the bomb run on the ground or the pilot on the air," Lorenzana said.

According to the Defense chief, the standard operating procedure in bombing runs involved constant communication between the ground commanders and the pilot.

The coordinates of the target are clearly marked on the operations map and no troops should be in the direct flight path of the aircraft.

In the meantime, the investigation, to be headed by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Eduardo Año, would take at least three to five days.

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Meanwhile, Lorenzana said the use of subsequent airstrikes in the operation to dislodge the remaining Islamist militants holed out in their last strongholds in Marawi City are up to the discretion of the ground commanders.

"I give those decision to the ground commander to determine if they still need airstrikes there, especially now that there are more troops operating on the ground and the chances of hitting our own troops is very big like what happened yesterday," he said.

"And maybe we have to limit the air strikes to the aircraft that can deliver accurately their ordnance," Lorenzana said. (PNA)

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AFP says there are no PGMs in its inventory, only pilots trained in precision air strikes

MANILA, June 1 — While lacking "precision guided munitions" (PGMs) in its inventory, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has enough pilots qualified in making precision and surgical strikes against Maute Group terrorists and other enemies of the country.

PGMs are defined as ordnance or bombs capable of identifying and striking its targets without human intervention or guidance.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla issued this clarification in wake of the "friendly fire incident" involving a SIAI-Marchetti SF-260 attack aircraft which on Wednesday led to the death of 11 soldiers and wounding of seven others.

"We are not using PGMs in the ongoing campaign in Marawi City, we don't have PGMs (in the inventory), what we are using since (May 23) are precision air strikes or precision close-air support which our pilots are trained for," he added.

Padilla also said the SF-260s, which are originally designed for training purposes, was modified for the ground attack role, a mission the aircraft is well suited for.

Other AFP ground attack assets being used in the Marawi City clearing operations are the Rockwell OV-10 bombers and the MG-520 and AW-109 attack helicopters.

As this develops, AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año said he has already ordered the AFP Inspector General, under Major Gen. Rafael Valencia, to investigate Wednesday's "friendly fire incident".

"It was very unfortunate and no one wanted it to happen. I am deeply saddened and the whole AFP commiserate with the bereaved families with deep regret. I want to assure the public that it will not happen again and I ensure that all measures and actions are being implemented in order to resolve the Marawi crisis at the soonest possible time without jeopardizing the lives of innocent civilians," he added.

And when asked on whether there are plans to ground the SF-260s pending the investigation, Año said the AFP "may defer the use of SF-260 for the meantime but it will continue using all other available ground air and naval assets in order to resolve this crisis quickly."

"We are doing our best to comply with the timeline but what is more important is to finish our job with the minimum loss of soldiers' and civilians' lives," the AFP chief added. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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No halt to air strikes in Marawi City despite 'friendly fire incident' - AFP

MANILA, June 1 (PNA) -- Suspension of air strikes in the ongoing clearing operations in Marawi City is the exclusive purview of the ground commanders.

This was disclosed by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla after a SIAI-Marchetti SF-260 "Warrior" light attack/trainer aircraft accidentally bombed an Army unit involved in the ongoing clearing operations in the locality, killing 11 and wounding seven others Wednesday.

Bodies of the slain and wounded troops were immediately recovered by rescuing units.

He issued this statement when asked if whether the incident will mean the automatic suspension of air strikes in the ongoing offensive against the remaining Maute Group terrorists in Marawi City.

Only ground commanders have this authority as they are the only ones who have full knowledge of the "combat environment" where the action is taking place.

Despite this tragedy, Padilla said the AFP has been inflicting significant casualties to the Maute Group terrorists, who have plotted to burn down Marawi City, since fighting started May 23.

"The AFP has greatly diminished the number of the terrorists having neutralized so far 120 from the ranks of the terrorists and undetermined number of them wounded," he added.

Padilla added that government security forces continue to degrade the capability of the terrorists and have seized 98 high-powered firearms.

"However, the recalcitrant remnants of the Maute-ISIS refuse to heed the call of government to give up their arms and continued their resistance while holed in fortified buildings and structures," he pointed out.

"They are employing hostile sniper fires and IEDs (improvised explosive device) against everyone -- from government security forces, to relief and rescue workers, to civilians -- who get in the way of their fanatical desire to dismember Marawi from the Philippines and establish it as an ISIS province in this part of Asia," the AFP spokesperson stressed.

Padilla said that to break the resistance of the group and its will to fight, the AFP has decided to use combat support arms.

"Hence, we employed armor, artillery, and airpower capabilities in support to our infantry units to breach the fortified walls, decks, and undergrounds of buildings constructed to be virtual fortresses," he added.
(Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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SF-260 pilot involved in 'friendly fire incident' grounded - AFP

MANILA, June 1 (PNA) – The pilot of the SIAI-Marchetti SF-260 light attack aircraft, which accidentally bombed a military position in Marawi City, killing 11 and wounding seven others is now placed under administrative control of his unit while investigation of the case is ongoing.

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

While he did not identify the pilot, he said the Board of Inquiry formed by AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año will focus on determining whether the aircrew, aircraft, ordnance or the personnel tasked to guide the bombs to their target, are at fault.

This procedure is done to ensure that the pilot will be available for questioning by the panel.

Padilla said the investigation will provide the military with the necessary inputs to prevent the incident from happening again.

"While the AFP Leadership commits and takes the initiative to conduct a thorough investigation on the circumstances surrounding this unwanted development, the AFP will remain focused on its mission," Padilla stressed.

The air strike, which accidentally bombed and killed 11 Army men and wounded seven others, is the fourth done by that aircraft for that day.

Padilla said that the first three strikes were successful and hit their target squarely.

"While we mourn the loss of our valued men, we will attend to their bereaved families and provide comfort and solace to them during this trying time," he pointed out.

"We will take down every Maute-ISIS member that continue to desecrate the Islamic City and thwart the security forces from restoring peace and order in this part of Mindanao. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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