

Army Vision: By 2048, 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

04 June 2017

Sunday

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

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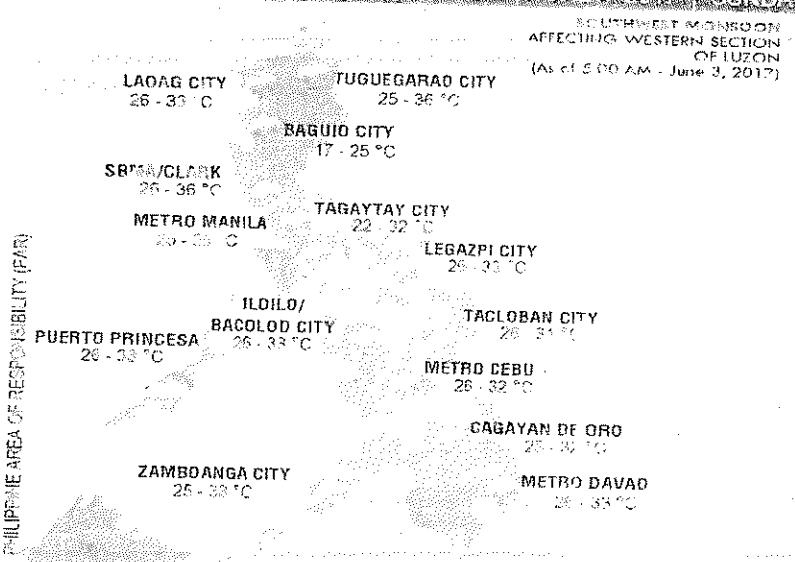
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS - FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JUNE 3, 2017 | SUNDAY

SOUTHWEST MONSOON AFFECTING WESTERN SECTION OF LUZON (As of 5:00 AM - June 3, 2017)



LAOAG CITY 26 - 33 °C

TUGUEGARAO CITY 25 - 36 °C

BAGUIO CITY 17 - 25 °C

SBMA/CLARK 26 - 36 °C

TAGAYTAY CITY 22 - 32 °C

METRO MANILA 29 - 35 °C

LEGAZPI CITY 28 - 33 °C

ILOILO/ BACOLOD CITY 26 - 33 °C

TACLOBAN CITY 28 - 31 °C

PUERTO PRINCESA 29 - 33 °C

METRO CEBU 28 - 32 °C

CAGAYAN DE ORO 28 - 32 °C

ZAMBOANGA CITY 25 - 33 °C

METRO DAVAO 28 - 33 °C

SUNRISE 5:26 AM

SUNSET 6:23 PM

MOONRISE

MOONSET 2:11 PM

FIRST QUARTER JUN 3 05:14 AM

FULL MOON JUN 9 08:10 PM

LOW TIDE 12:10 AM

HIGH TIDE 7:37 AM


MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 0.15 Meters

0.71 Meters




Parts cloudy to all times of night with occasional showers. Thunderstorms.

Cloudy clear with rainshowers before 04:00 AM.

	JUNE 2	JUNE 3	JUNE 4	JUNE 5	JUNE 6
METRO MANILA	25 - 35 °C	25 - 35 °C	22 - 32 °C	22 - 31 °C	26 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 35 °C	25 - 35 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C
LAOAG	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	28 - 32 °C
BAGUIO	17 - 25 °C	17 - 25 °C	26 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	26 - 36 °C	26 - 36 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 32 °C	28 - 33 °C
TAGAYTAY	22 - 32 °C	22 - 32 °C	22 - 31 °C	22 - 31 °C	26 - 31 °C
LEGAZPI	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	29 - 33 °C	29 - 33 °C	29 - 33 °C	29 - 33 °C	28 - 32 °C
ILOILO/ BACOLOD	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C
METRO CEBU	28 - 32 °C	28 - 32 °C	28 - 32 °C	28 - 32 °C	28 - 33 °C
TACLOBAN	28 - 31 °C	28 - 31 °C	28 - 31 °C	28 - 31 °C	26 - 31 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	28 - 32 °C	28 - 32 °C	28 - 32 °C	28 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
METRO DAVAO	28 - 33 °C	28 - 33 °C	28 - 33 °C	28 - 33 °C	28 - 33 °C
ZAMBOANGA	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C



SAGOT NG PAGALA MO!

Watch PanahonTV on DZRH News Television from Monday to Friday at 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM, and via Pilipinas HD at 6:00 AM, 6:30 PM and 9:00 PM.

04 June 2017



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DUTERTE RULES OUT TERRORISM IN ATTACK

STORY BY LEILA B. SALAVERRIA, DJ YAP AND AIE BALAGTAS SEE

President Duterte on Saturday dismissed the attack on Resorts World Manila casino as an act of a 'crazy man.' His claim countered that of his political ally, Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, who had insisted that Friday's violence was carried out by a 'lone wolf' terrorist. Authorities have struggled to make sense of the tragedy that left 38 people dead, including the still unidentified gunman.

AB

FROM A1

**By Leila B. Salaverria, DJ Yap
and Aie Balagtas See**
@Team_Inquirer

President Duterte on Saturday said a predawn attack on Resorts World Manila that left the gunman and 37 other people dead was the work of a “crazy man,” dismissing a claim by a top ally in Congress who insisted that the violence was the work of a “lone wolf” terrorist.

“It’s not Isis,” Mr. Duterte told reporters in Cagayan de Oro, referring to the Islamic State (IS), which had earlier claimed responsibility for the Friday attack.

He insisted the gunman apparently “did not want to kill” but set the place ablaze after stealing millions worth of casino chips. “That is not the work of Isis. The work of the Isis is more cruel and brutal. They would simply kill people for nothing, not even for a reason,” Mr. Duterte said.

Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez earlier disputed the conclusion of authorities that the attack was a simple case of armed robbery and arson.

“This is a clear example of a ‘lone wolf’ terrorist attack targeting civilians to inflict maximum loss of life and damage to property, as what has happened in other countries,” said Alvarez, a close political ally of President Duterte.

However, he did not say how he arrived at his conclusion, which was in stark contrast to what Director General Ronald dela Rosa, Philippine National Police chief, has stated.

The attack occurred at a

sprawling gambling complex near the airport that includes hotels, restaurants and stores.

Police said that during the attack the man stole more than \$2 million worth of casino chips, though he abandoned them in a toilet soon after.

Resorts World on Saturday presented a video footage of the incident showing the gunman alighting from a cab and walking into the hotel, up an elevator and into a gaming area.

He ignored a metal detector and walked past an unarmed female security guard who appeared helpless to stop him, as people cleared the floor and scampered to safety.

He then made his way to the gaming area unchallenged, poured gasoline he was carrying in small plastic containers on at least two baccarat tables and set them afire.

He then proceeded to a hotel bar and then to slot machines, which he also torched. He then went to the cage area and grabbed what appeared to be casino chips. He fired shots into the air.

The footage then showed several security personnel armed with long rifles pursuing the suspect, and firing shots toward the gunman who returned fire but appeared to be unfazed. He was seen limping away, apparently wounded.

He then went up the stairs that took him to a hallway where he kicked open room No. 510 that appeared abandoned. The suspect later was shown setting afire linen he had found, before going back inside the room where police said he later killed himself.

Police originally said he arrived at the hotel in a car, but

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LONE WOLF? CCTV image of Resorts World gunman —LYN RILLON

changed that to a cab, and they had described him as Caucasian and English-speaking but the cab driver told them he spoke in the local language.

Not terrorism

Police said they had yet to establish the man's identity, amid some public fears he may be linked to IS.

"We rule out terrorism unless new evidence crops up.

Maybe when we establish the gunman's identity we can find links to terrorism," Dela Rosa said. "Until then, evidence points otherwise."

He said IS, which had claimed carrying out the attack, was known to attach itself to earlier incidents, including a gang war earlier in Manila that they claimed was a successful terror attack.

Director Oscar Albayalde, Na-

tional Capital Region Police Office chief, said the cab driver told police the suspect was picked up at San Lazaro, and that "he wanted to listen to the news" as they made their way to the casino.

"He did not talk much. The driver said he was a man of a few words," Albayalde said, quoting the driver, who said the man spoke Filipino.

But Alvarez said this should serve as a wake-up call for the police and the military to cooperate closely in making the seat of government as well as the financial and business center safe from any terrorist attack, whether by "lone wolves" or heavily armed terrorist contingents, as what happened in Marawi City.

The attack in Resorts World lasted about six hours and caught authorities off guard with security forces focused on ongoing violence in Marawi City amid a state of martial law prevailing over Mindanao.

The violence forced the casino-hotel to evacuate its 12,154 guests and staff, but 37 were later found to have been trapped and died due to smoke inhalation.

Senseless act

Stephen Reilly, Resorts World chief operating officer, said on Saturday the company was giving P1 million to each of the families of the fatalities.

"Yesterday, we lost so many lives because of this senseless act. We hope that we will be able to help," he said.

One of the victims who died after inhaling smoke was Elizabeth Panilio Gonzales, the wife of Pampanga Rep. Aurelio Gonzales Jr. Alvarez expressed the House's "profound sorrow" at the incident.

Police were examining a car

that the gunman left in a complex parking garage, authorities said. Police Senior Supt. Tomas Apolinario said the car's owner was being questioned and had denied knowing the gunman.

The attack sent hundreds of people fleeing the complex. A South Korean died of a possible heart attack suffered during the evacuation, it's foreign ministry said. More than 70 people suffered mostly minor injuries in the stampede to escape.

Family members of employees spent hours waiting for news about their relatives, hoping that they had survived.

Casualties

Gil Yongco rushed to the complex when his daughter Hazel Anne, a casino employee, called early Friday. "She was asking for help because she said it was suffocating on the second floor area where she was," a distraught Yongco said as he stood outside Maxims Hotel, adding that his daughter did not call again.

Hours later, when company officials announced the names of employees who perished in the attack, Hazel Anne was first on the list of 23 employees.

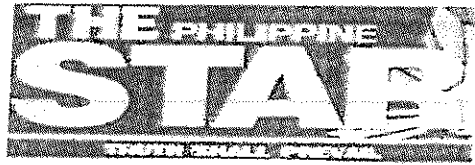
Ronald Romualdo, a Resorts World maintenance worker, said he and his colleagues heard gunshots and saw people smashing windows on the second and third floors to escape.

"We took out a ladder to save them. We were able to save many of them," he said. "But one woman I was trying to save fell from the second floor I could not carry her." He said the woman was not moving after she fell, but he didn't know what happened to her. —WITH REPORTS

FROM AP, REUTERS AND AFP INQ

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Rody: Casino attack not handiwork of IS

By EDITH REGALADO and CHRISTINA MENDEZ

DAVAO CITY — President Duterte last night said the rampage at Resorts World Manila Friday midnight that claimed 38 lives was not the handiwork of the Islamic State (IS).

“It was clear it was not ISIS. It was the work of a crazy guy who was after plastic chips,” the President said in a press conference at the Army’s 4th Infantry Division at Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City.

The President earlier visited the soldiers who were wounded in the ongoing operation in Marawi City, where he distributed medals and cash assistance.

“There was no rhyme or reason for his doing it,” the President said, referring to the Resorts World gunman.

Duterte said IS attacks for a reason or for a cause, adding that what happened at Resorts World did not show any indication it was the handiwork of

anyone who is affiliated with the terror group.

He likewise cited the fact that the gunman did not hurt anyone or fired his weapon at people in the gaming area of the establishment.

Instead, the still unidentified gunman fired at gambling tables and set them on fire.

Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, however, insisted that the Resorts World attack is an act of terrorism and not a failed robbery, despite the police’s pronouncement that it was an attempt by a lone gunman to rob the casino-hotel.

Aside from the casualties who died of suffocation, authorities have also recovered P113 million worth of casino

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Rody

From Page 1

chips taken by the gunman.

"I disagree with the conclusion reached by law enforcement authorities that the Resorts World incident was not a terrorist act but rather a criminal case of armed robbery and arson," Alvarez said.

"This is a clear example of a 'lone wolf' terrorist attack targeting civilians to inflict maximum loss of life and damage to property, as what has happened in other countries," he said.

But Alvarez offered no proof that the gunman was a lone wolf terrorist, one who acts alone but is motivated by the ideology of an external group.

Alvarez's pronouncements contradict Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa, who denied any involvement of IS and said the gunman was after casino chips.

"As far as the PNP is concerned, we cannot attribute this to terrorism yet IS can claim any attack as part of their propaganda," he told reporters at the police command center in the Resorts World complex Friday morning.

Still, Alvarez called on the concerned agencies to "get their act together and put in place the highest level of security measures to prevent this from happening again, here or elsewhere in the country."

"This incident should be a wake-up call for the police and the military to cooperate closely in making the seat of government and our financial and business center safe from any terrorist attack, whether by 'lone wolves' or heavily armed terrorist contingents, as what happened in Marawi City," he added.

Alvarez said the government must draw up a "clear and better plan" to secure Metro Manila and other parts of the country from

terrorists.

He said business establishments must do their share by installing close-circuit television cameras and similar equipment and employing trained security personnel.

"We also urge the citizenry to actively help the government fight terrorism in all its forms by providing information to authorities on suspicious or unusual activities in their communities

He condoled with the families of those who died, including the wife of Pampanga Rep. Aurelio Gonzales Jr.

Reps. Winston Castelo of Quezon City and Rodel Batocabe of party-list group Ako Bicol urged the House of Representatives to inquire into the Resorts World attack.

Castelo said the committee on games and amusement should conduct hearings during the current recess of Congress.

"We want to give justice to those who died needlessly," he said.

Parañaque Rep. Gus Tambunting, who chairs the games and amusement committee, said of the tragedy: "Truly horrifying. Horrible as it is, we have to defer in the meantime to our law enforcement authorities."

Leyte Rep. Yedda Romualdez expressed her sympathies to the families of the victims. "I stand against anyone who dares harm innocent people and cause chaos in our peaceful society," she said.

Makati City Rep. Luis Campos Jr. said the loss of lives at the casino-hotel "is simply unacceptable."

"We are undeniably living in dangerous times, so we are counting on all establishments to constantly review and upgrade their security plans and emergency preparedness, especially their procedures in safely evacuating patrons and staff," he said.

– With Jess Diaz

04 June 2017



Pahina. 2

Sundalong nasawi sa airstrike pinarangalan

Personal na nakiramay si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa mga mahal sa buhay ng isa sa mga sundalo na nasawi sa nag-misfire na airstrike sa Marawi City.

Nagtungo ang Pangulo sa burol ni Corporal Nilo Donato na kabilang sa sampung tropa ng gobyerno na sinasabing aksidenteng nadale sa pumalyang government

airstrike. Ipinagkaloob ni Duterte ang posthumous medal kay Donato at inalo ang nagdadalamhating pamilya nito.

Bago ito ay lumapag ang Pangulo sa 102nd Infantry Brigade headquarters sa Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay.

Sa pakikipag-usap sa mga tropa ng gobyerno roon, binigyan-diin ni

Duterte na hindi matatalo ang pamahalaan sa giyera nito laban sa terorismo.

Pinaalalahanan din ng Pangulo ang militar na umaksyon nang naaayon sa batas.

Binigyan-diin nito na pagsisikapan niya na puro brand new equipment at hindi second-hand ang gagamitin sa operasyon ng mga sundalo. (Aries Cano)

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Army commander in Marawi relieved

THE commander of the Army's 103rd Brigade stationed in Marawi City has been relieved from his post, a move Armed Forces officials said was aimed at advancing the career of the official and is not in anyway connected with the Maute attacks since last week.

Brigadier General Nixon Fortes was designated as assistant division commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division effective last Tuesday. He was replaced by his deputy, Colonel Generoso Ponio.

According to Army spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Ray Tiongson, the movement was "integral to and part of the dynamism of the service" and has nothing to do with purported security lapses in Marawi City which enabled the ISIS-inspired Maute Group to launch its attacks which has so far left at least 175 persons including 36 soldiers and policemen and 19 civilians dead. The rest of the fatalities are members of the terror group.

Tiongson explained that as deputy commander of the Army's 1st ID, Brig. Gen. Fortes will be also involved in all operations in Marawi City.

Alfred Dalizon

07 June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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NPA arms cache found in Davao

DAVAO CITY — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said it had unearthed what is believed to be an arms cache of the New People's Army (NPA) last week in Davao Occidental.

The 73rd Infantry Brigade said it was able to recover last June 1 a hidden cache believed to belong to the NPA Guerilla Front 71 of the Far South Mindanao Regional Command.

The soldiers discovered the site with the help of rebels who recently surrendered.

The government forces were led to the hinterlands of Barangay Pangaleon in Malita, Davao Occidental.

Seized were one M.16 rifle, one

Springfield Garand, two caliber 30 M.1 Carbine, and one M203 grenade launcher, the AFP said.

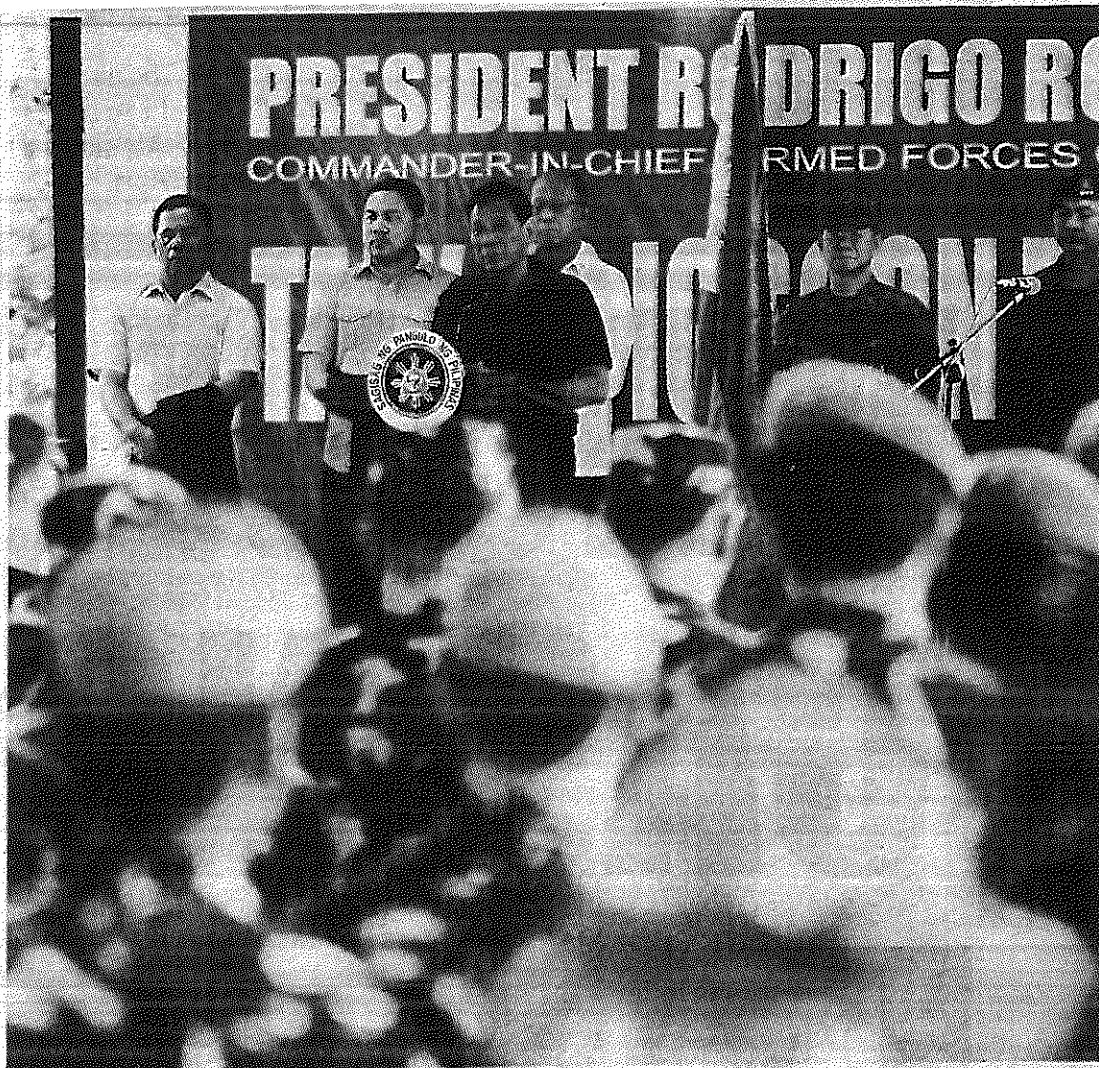
"The rebels were on the run and had no choice but to hide their firearms to cover themselves as civilians. With the discovery of these high-powered firearms, the NPA's capability would definitely be depleted," the AFP said in a statement.

"Notwithstanding, we are still encouraging them to lay down their arms and surrender themselves peacefully and avail the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP)," Lt. Col. Marion Angcao, Commander of the 73IB said. (Yas D. Ocampo)

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Tempo

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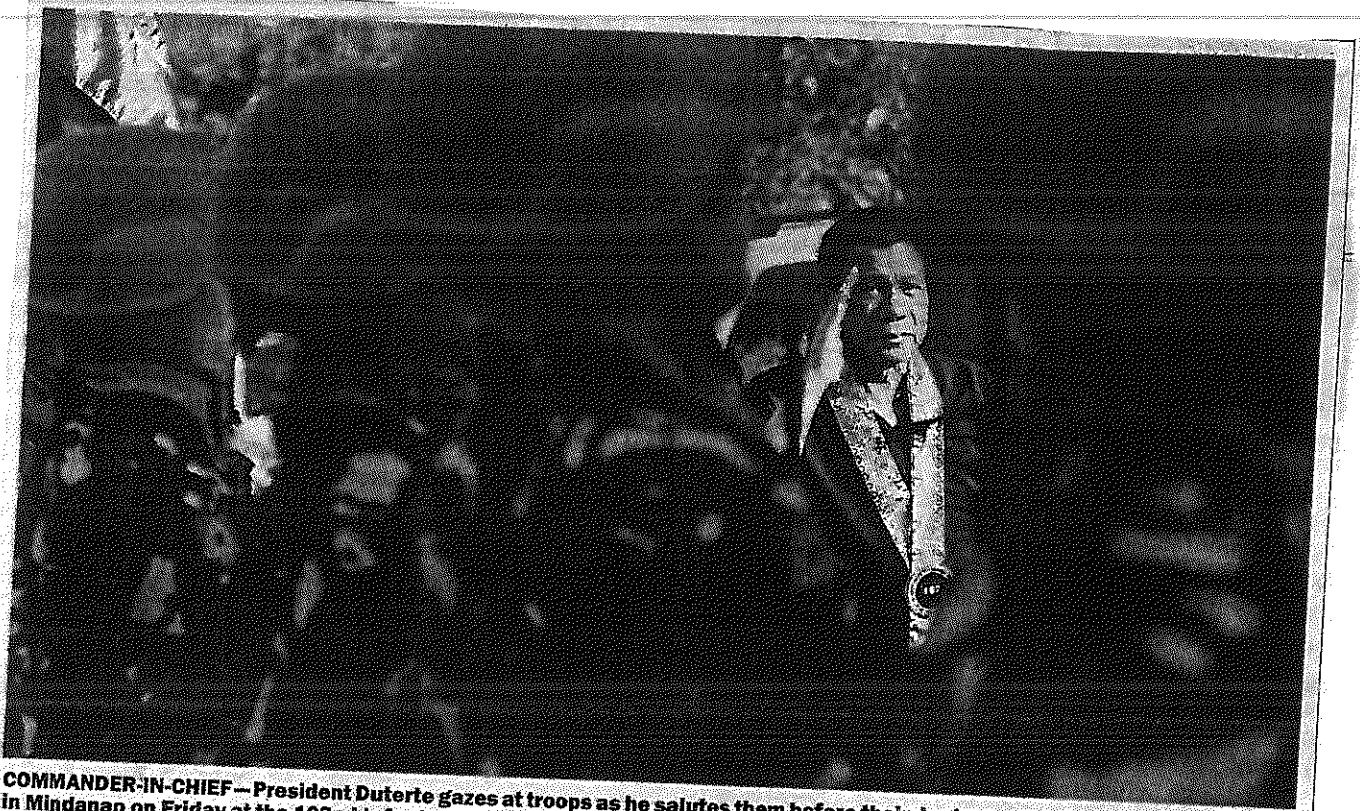


PRESIDENT Duterte gives a pep talk to soldiers during a visit to the headquarters of the 102nd Infantry Brigade in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay. With him were Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar, Presidential Adviser on Military Affairs Arthur Tabaquero, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año, and Philippine Army commander Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda. (Presidential photo)

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF – President Duterte gazes at troops as he salutes them before their deployment to battle terrorist threats in Mindanao on Friday at the 102nd Infantry Brigade Headquarters in Ipll, Zamboanga Sibugay. He reminded them to act within the bounds of rules and treaties. (Presidential Photo)

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DU30 GIVES WOUNDED SOLDIERS MONEY, PHONES, PISTOLS

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY —President Duterte on Saturday visited soldiers wounded during the Marawi City clashes, who were being treated at the military hospital here.

Mr. Duterte, who arrived at 6:20 p.m., also pinned medals on

the wounded soldiers

Aside from the medal, the President also gave each of the 63 injured soldiers P100,000 and a Samsung J1 smartphone so they could call up his office for assistance and concerns.

He also handed each of

them .45-cal handguns. "Don't let the enemy take this from you. Leave a single bullet in the chamber," he told the soldiers.

Speaking to reporters in Cagayan de Oro, the President said he was saddened by the

airstrike that killed 10 soldiers on Wednesday.

"It is a very sad commentary, but these things will happen again and again and again," he said. "We are sorry that it happened, and I hope this will not be repeated. But there is no

guarantee. In a war, everything is stretched and it can break any moment."

He also said he would leave the investigation of the botched airstrike to the military. —WITH

REPORTS FROM JIGGER JERUSALEM AND LEILA B. SALAVERRIA INQ

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Duterte sets up P50-B education fund for soldiers' kids

DAVAO CITY – President Duterte is setting up a P50-billion trust fund for the education of children of soldiers.

"If I can have a P50-billion trust fund *para lang sa edukasyon ng mga anak ninyo* (just for the education of your children), even if you fight or you are somewhere else in this universe, *sagot na ang edukasyon lang, ha* (education is assured, only education)... So, *wala kayong problema* (you won't have any problem). I have already 50 – the 20 of the 50 billion. *Maski interes na 'yan* (Even if it's just the interest)," the President told soldiers in a pep talk in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay Friday afternoon.

Duterte said he has found the source for the initial P20-billion fund.

"If I could have reached P50 billion, *sobra-sobra na 'yan* (that's a lot). So, *'yan ang maasahan ninyo* (that's what you can count on)," he said.

The President likewise vowed to give the military the best equipment. For those in Jolo and in Cagayan, he said he has already completed it.

"You have a new building at the AFP Medical – MRI, basic to fight the infection. You have all the equipment now and you will have the best of everything," he added.

Duterte said he would do everything to make sure that the

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) would be much better equipped when he steps down from office in five years' time.

He pointed out, though, that what is important is that the soldiers are fighting for a principle, even telling the soldiers not to fear martial law and that they just have to do their job.

US envoy mourns Marawi deaths

Meanwhile, US Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim yesterday joined the country in mourning for the Filipino soldiers who died during the ongoing clashes in Marawi City. "Our thoughts are with the families of the brave AFP soldiers who gave their lives in Marawi to protect the nation they served so proudly," Kim said in a Twitter post.

He issued the statement following the death of 10 soldiers accidentally killed by a military air strike on Wednesday.

At least 26 others from the government side have been killed since the start of clashes in Marawi City in May 23.

The US, which has issued a travel advisory following the declaration of martial law in Mindanao, has turned over various equipment to the military to support their anti-terrorism campaign. – Edith Regalado, Janvic Mateo

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Dozens flee terrorists in war-torn Marawi

MARAWI, PHILIPPINES—Dozens of people dashed to freedom through a terrifying gauntlet of military airstrikes and Islamist gunmen on Saturday, nearly two weeks after being trapped in a deadly battle for this Philippine city.

One group of 38 ran from their hiding places in a part of Marawi City controlled by self-styled Islamic State (IS) group gunmen as soldiers seized a key bridge in the area to give the civilians safe passage.

“We lay on the floor in the dark each night whenever we heard gunshots or explosions. We barricaded the doors with furniture and a refrigerator,” high school teacher Jerona Sedrome, 27, told the French news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP).

“IS tried to force their way into the house and got in at the second attempt, so we hid in a tunnel beneath the house,” she added.

Col. Jo-ar Herrera, spokesperson for the Army’s 1st Infantry Division, said one hostage who was among 180 people trapped in the fighting or being held hostage in Marawi’s Banggolo area, was killed by the gunmen as he tried to escape.

Hundreds of gunmen rampaged through the predominantly Muslim city of 200,000 on May 23 after government forces attempted to arrest their leader, Isnilon Hapilon.

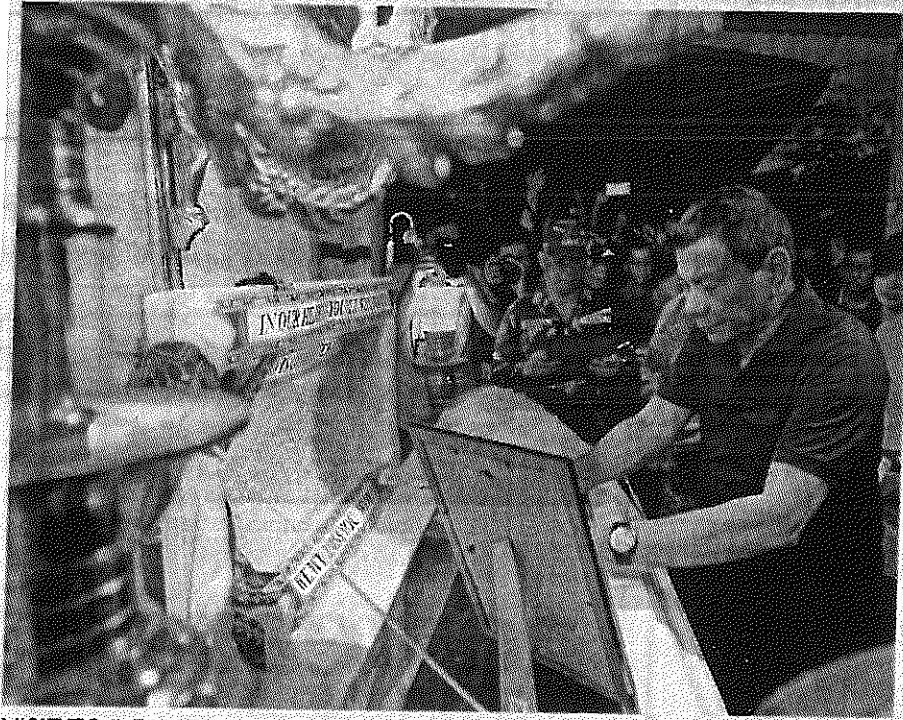
Up to 50 gunmen continued to control downtown Marawi nearly two weeks later with hostages, including a Catholic priest, using some as human shields, the military said.

As many as 2,000 people also remained trapped in desperate conditions in these areas, likely without food and water and with some injured or ailing as security forces mount a relentless assault, the government said.

The military said it was firing artillery and rockets from the air, and dropping conventional bombs, as ground forces in armored vehicles fight their way in dodging sniper fire, improvised explosives and antitank rockets.

At least 70 people were rescued on Saturday as intense fighting continued, including 33 teachers from Dansalan College, who were with a year-old baby, seven other children and seven other adults.

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VISIT TO A FALLEN SOLDIER'S WAKE President Duterte visits the 102nd Infantry Brigade Headquarters in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay, on Friday to pay tribute to soldiers killed by friendly fire in Marawi City. —MALACANANG PHOTO

The teachers recounted to AFP between tears and gulps of coffee and bottled water how they survived on steamed rice and rainwater.

"If it didn't rain we had no water and we didn't eat," said Sedrome's younger sister and fellow teacher, Jane Rose Sedrome, 25.

The elder sister said they secretly communicated with government rescuers by text messages and made their break for freedom when informed the gunmen had been driven away from the bridge.

But they had to go through the sniper alley of Banggolo, the city's old quarter which is one of the targets of the day and night airstrikes.

"We passed through three corpses being eaten by maggots. They smelled really bad," fellow teacher Regene Apao, 23, told AFP. "We knew they were IS because they wore black clothing and black head masks."

Arnold Balo, 28, an ice cream factory worker, said he cradled a boy in one hand and carried a half-meter long machete in the other, their only protection from the gunmen.

At one point during their sprint for freedom, a gunman perched near the top of a building aimed a sniper rifle at him and ordered him to put his weapon on the ground, Balo said.

"I will do as you order sir. Please don't kill us," he said he told the gunman. Balo said he put the machete down and the gunman allowed the group to pass.

Brig. Gen. Rolando Bautista, the commander of Task Force Marawi, said the death of the man who was shot trying to escape brought to 21 the number of civilians killed by the gunmen as of Saturday.

The military reported 120 gunmen had been confirmed killed since the fighting erupted on May 23. The government lost 35 men—including the 10 soldiers who were accidentally killed during a bomb run on Wednesday.

Bautista said 1,236 had been rescued. Those still trapped in the city awaiting rescue included more than 30 in Raya Madaya on Perez St., relatives told the Inquirer.

Mary Joy Marjalino and Aleta Esperat said their respective husbands, Rumar and Jimmy, were among them. Their

husbands last contacted them on May 30, saying their mobile phones' batteries were running low.

Lt Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of the military's Western Mindanao Command, said government forces were committed to rescue all those trapped in Marawi as they cleared the city "street by street, building by building, room by room and inch by inch in order to neutralize all armed threats so that peace will reign in Marawi again."

Lawyer Naguib Sinarimbo, who helps run the operations center of the Lanao del Sur Crisis Management Committee, said a Marawi resident, Norodin Lucman, on his own, had led 71 Christian workers he had sheltered out of Marawi City on Saturday along with dozens of other civilians who were trapped in the eastern side of the city.

He said Lucman braved sniper fire from the gunmen "and [not so] friendly fires from government forces."

Marawi City natives and rights groups have called on the military to stop the airstrikes and expressed fears about the martial law declaration in the whole of Mindanao by President Duterte on the first day of the crisis.

In a forum on the implications of martial law in Quezon City on Friday, Zahria Muti-Mapandi of the Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation Inc., whose family was in Marawi when the siege began, said everyone who had fled the city left a loved one behind.

"All of us want to go back to Marawi after this. Just because of the actions of a small group, the response has been too soon and too harsh," Muti-Mapandi said.

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) supported the proposal at the forum by former CHR chair Etta Rosales to petition the government to end airstrikes.

Jacqueline Anne de Guia, CHR Director for Public Affairs, said airstrikes that killed soldiers showed it was not "a viable option or feasible one."

"Airstrikes were considered to ensure minimal impact. But because of recent casualties, they should revisit the next viable or sound strategy to counter terrorism without sacrificing the lives of soldiers or civilians," De Guia said. —REPORTS FROM RICHEL UMEL, JULIE ALIPALA, JAYMEET. GAMILAND AFP INQ

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VOLUNTEER RESCUERS

'WHITE HELMETS' BRAVE BULLETS TO RESCUE TRAPPED MARAWI RESIDENTS

ILIGAN CITY—For 10 days, Maranao resident Norodin Lucman sheltered 71 Christian workers, whom he managed to lead out of Marawi City on Saturday. He also tagged along dozens of other civilians who were trapped in the eastern side of the city.

Lucman braved sniper fires from militants “and [not so] friendly fires from government forces” to help people out, said lawyer Naguib Sinarimbo, who helps run the operations center of the Lanao del Sur Crisis Management Committee (CMC).

Also plucked out and now at CMC inside the provincial capitol in Marawi City were 33 teachers of Dansalan College, said Sinarimbo, one of the civilian rescue volunteers who had banded together to extract trapped civilians in Marawi.

As of Saturday, the official tally of rescued individuals was 1,236, said Brig. Gen. Rolando Bautista, the commander of Task Force Marawi.

But an unidentified civilian—who was among over 180

people either trapped in the fighting or held hostage by the Maute group in Marawi City’s Banggolo area—was shot dead by the gunmen for trying to escape, said Col. Jo-ar Herrera, the spokesperson of the Army’s 1st Infantry Division.

“One civilian who tried to escape from captivity on Friday was shot dead,” Herrera said.

In a separate statement, the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) said: “A civilian about to be rescued was shot dead by enemy snipers as he was about to approach government troops.”

The fresh civilian death brought to 21 the number of noncombatants killed by the Maute gunmen as of Saturday.

The killing “showed the blatant disregard of this group for the lives of innocent people, the people of Marawi. They attacked the city and put the lives of every one in Marawi in grave danger including women, children and the elderly. It is the people of Marawi who suffered because of their evil un-Islamic deeds,” Bautista said.

Four others, who also escaped, were now among the 184 civilians that soldiers and volunteers had brought to the provincial capitol.

“They were given food and medical assistance by the provincial government of Lanao del Sur,” Herrera said.

Based on its latest bulletin, the International Committee of the Red Cross said it was also continuing with its efforts to rescue more civilians trapped in the crossfire between government forces and Maute gunmen.

The international aid group said that despite the large number of people being led out of the besieged city during the past days, an estimated 2,000 individuals still needed to be plucked out even as the military continued its offensives.

Among them were the more than 30 civilians trapped in Raya Madaya along Perez Street in Marawi City.

Mary Joy Marjalino, whose husband Rumar was among those trapped said she had lost



Trapped civilians after they were rescued by volunteers in Marawi City on Saturday. —PHOTO FROM NAGUIB SINARIMBO'S FB

contact with him. So did Aleta Esperat, wife of trapped construction worker Jimmy Esperat.

The two women said they last contacted their spouses on May 30, during which the men said that bombs were exploding near their location. They also said their mobile phones were running low on battery.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Westmincom commander, said their commitment was to rescue all trapped civilians and those held captive by the gunmen "as we clear the city street by street, building by building, room by room and inch by inch in order to neutralize all armed threats so that peace will reign in Marawi again."

On Saturday, helicopter gunships rained bombs anew on the suspected positions of the extremists.

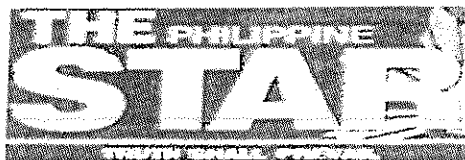
Herrera said 120 gunmen so far had been confirmed killed since the fighting started on May 23.

The government also lost 35 men—including the 10 soldiers who perished in what the military described as "friendly fire."

"The artillery rounds and airstrikes will continue along with ground operations. These will focus on the barangay of Banggolo," Herrera said, adding that the military's operation will be sustained with the arrival of more troops, backed by armored vehicles.

—RICHEL UMEL AND JULIE ALIPALA INQ

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Troops rescue 182 Marawi residents

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Government troops rescued yesterday morning 182 residents who were trapped in two areas taken over by Islamic State-inspired Maute terrorists in Marawi City.

Also yesterday, a Maute sniper shot dead a civilian, a military official said.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Armed Forces Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief, said the fatality was approaching soldiers to seek help when he was shot dead by a terrorist sniper.

Some 20 civilians have been killed by Maute bandits since the gunmen attacked Marawi last May 23.

Brig. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista,

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Troops From Page 1

commander of the Joint Task Force ZamPelán, condemned the Maute snipers for shooting civilians.

Bautista said the act of the terrorists is proof of their blatant disregard for the life of innocent people.

"They attacked the city and put the lives of everyone in Marawi in grave danger including women, children and the elderly. It is the people of Marawi who suffered because of their evil un-Islamic deeds," Bautista said.

He called on the people of Marawi to stand united against terrorism.

"The fight against terrorism is not the sole duty of the security sector but the responsibility of everyone," Bautista added.

Galvez said there are 1,236 civilians trapped in the city.

The military official said the rescued

civilians endured hunger, thirst and sleepless nights.

According to the military, one of the victims said they could not go out from where they hid as the terrorists might see and kill them.

"They killed civilians, even their fellow Maranaws who cannot recite the prayer or even the Shahada, with even one wrong word. Do they expect someone to recite the prayer while they poked guns at you?" the soldiers quoted some of the civilians as saying.

"The terrorist snipers have no heart, they kill civilians who just want to live," the rescued victims told the soldiers.

Galvez said the troops are committed to exert all efforts to rescue those civilians still trapped in Marawi.

He said military units were conducting clearing operations street by

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street and enter buildings and rooms to rescue residents.

"While at the same time the troops clear the city street by street, building by building and room by room and inch by inch to neutralize all the armed threats so that peace will reign in Marawi again," Galvez said.

He hopes for an early resolution of the conflict so the people of Marawi could return to their homes and live normal lives.

The military said 120 terrorists have so far been killed, with 42 bodies recovered and the rest of the Maute fatalities confirmed by eyewitnesses.

Galvez said that many terrorists have recently surrendered and turned over to soldiers 98 high-powered firearms.

The military officials also said government forces suffered 38 killed in action and scores wounded in the continuing efforts to remove the terrorists from Marawi.

With many residents still trapped in Marawi City, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has offered to become the "neutral intermediary" for their evacuation.

In a statement, ICRC head of delegation Pascal Porchet said almost two weeks have passed since the clashes in Marawi City erupted and the number of casualties continues to grow.

"We are extremely concerned about the residents who could not leave their homes because of the fighting and also those who are reportedly being held against their will. We are also deeply worried about reports of civilians being killed," he noted.

ICRC has transported nearly 600 people from Marawi City to the Sa-



Villagers who were trapped in the fighting between Islamist militants and government forces jubilate following their successful escape to freedom in Marawi City. EPA

guaran evacuation center or even as far as Iligan City.

The Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) has donated an initial P1 million worth of medicine for the displaced residents in Marawi.

Coursed through its corporate social responsibility arm PHAPCares Foundation, PHAP sent the first batch of medicine to Iligan City via the Philippine Air Force. It will be for the use of the Department of Health (DOH) and the DOH-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The donations will help complement the government's stock of medicine and resources for disaster response and will help them immediately respond to the medical needs of evacuees. – With Sheila Crisostomo, Jaime Laude

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Maute snipers targeting civilians; 182 trapped Marawi residents rescued

By **AARON B. RECUENCO** and **NONOY E. LACSON**

Maute Group snipers are now targeting civilians who are attempting to escape from conflict-stricken Marawi City, the military said yesterday.

One civilian was approaching rescuing government troops when he **▶6**

Maute snipers targeting... ◀1

was fired upon by a maute sniper. "That terrorist sniper has no heart. We just want to live. He killed a helpless civilian," said Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, commander of the Western Mindanao Command, quoting a rescued resident who narrated the incident in between sobs.

On Saturday, a total of 182 local residents were rescued by soldiers and workers from the provincial capitol and non-government organizations (NGO) in two separate conflict areas in Marawi City. This brought to 1,236 the total number of civilians rescued since the start of the clashes Tuesday last week, Galvez said.

"It is the commitment of our troops to exert every effort to rescue all those trapped in Marawi as we clear the city street by street, building by building, room by room, and inch by inch in order to neutralize all threats," said Galvez.

He said part of the rescue operations are the risk of being hit by the Maute snipers, similar to the fate of the local resident who was killed.

"We hope for the early resolution of this conflict the soonest time possible so that our people in Marawi can go back to their homes and live a normal life again," Galvez said.

For his part, Brig. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, commander of Task Force Marawi, condemned the Maute-Daesh inspired group for killing the trapped civilian while in the process of being rescued.

"This shows the blatant disregard of this group for the life of innocent people, the people of Marawi. They attacked the city and put the lives of everyone in Marawi in grave danger, including women, children, and the elderly. It is the people of Marawi who suffered because of their evil un-Islamic deeds," Bautista said.

"We call on our people to stand and unite against terrorism. The fight against terrorism is not the sole duty of the security sector but the responsibility of everyone," Bautista added.

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Heartless

It takes a lot of hardship to survive while trapped in Marawi City, according to rescued residents.

Residents, according to military reports, have to endure hunger, thirst, and sleepless nights as they hide or move from one place to another to find a safe place.

Maute gunmen, the rescued civilians said, are very strict among the residents, killing those who could not even recite an Islam prayer.

This makes rescue operations very difficult, according to military officials.

Aside from the threat of Maute snipers, trapped residents have been hiding for fear of either being trapped in the clashes or seen by the terrorists.

Once civilians are seen by the Maute gunmen, they are allegedly being forced to recite an Islam prayer. Failure to do so would mean death, according to military reports based on the interviews on rescued civilians.

Meanwhile, a total of 120 Maute gunmen have been killed in the latest tally of the military but only 42 bodies have so far been accounted for. Nine others surrendered.

On the government side, the death toll rose to 38, including the 11 soldiers who were hit by friendly fire during an airstrike.

Marawi City has virtually turned into a ghost city as thousands of residents had earlier fled while the rest living in conflict areas were rescued.

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The Manila Times

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JESUIT SCHOOL TEACHERS RECOUNT SPRINT TO FREEDOM

182 rescued in Marawi as battle continues

BY AL JACINTO AND
MOH SAADUDDIN

ZAMBOANGA CITY/MARAWI CITY: Security forces battling Islamic State-linked fighters rescued 182 civilians trapped in the war-torn city of Marawi in Mindanao on Saturday, but one villager was shot dead by a sniper while running to his freedom, officials said.

The total number of civilians rescued has reached 1,236, but 20 people, mostly Christians, have been killed by the Maute terrorist group since fighting began on May 23 after militants occupied the city in an effort to establish a "wilaya" or province of the Islamic State in the restive region.

One of those rescued told soldiers: "We cannot get out, we are afraid of the

terrorists who might see and kill us. They killed civilians, even their fellow Maranao who cannot recite the prayer or even the Shahada, with even one wrong word. Do they expect someone to recite the prayer while they poked guns at you? That terrorist sniper has no heart, we just want to live. He killed a helpless civilian."

Zia Alonto Adiong, spokesman of the Provincial Crisis Management Committee, said 33 of the rescued survivors included teachers and staff of Dansalan College, where a church and school buildings were torched by the Maute men last May 23. The group also included a year-old baby and seven other children.

Dansalan is run by the Jesuit order of the Catholic Church, and all the teachers were Christians.

► Marawi A2

■ MARAWI FROM A1

182 rescued

The survivors were brought to the Provincial Crisis Management Committee Operations Center in Marawi for medical treatment.

The rescue operation was launched on Friday evening and many of the rescued civilians were residents of Bangolo, the old center of the Marawi City where Maute snipers were perched. Rescuers were tasked to pick up the civilians on Saturday morning at designated safe zones.

Army Captain Jo-ann Petinglay, spokeswoman for the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), said troops braved the dangerous streets of the Islamic city to rescue the civilians, who were handed over to local authorities.

"Rescued civilians said they had to endure hunger, thirst and sleepless nights as they feared for their lives," Petinglay said.

The plight of trapped civilians in the battle zone amid air strikes continued to raise concern among different sectors.

Abdullah Mamao, presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers and Muslim concerns, urged the Maranao people that compose the wider Lanao region to support the government offensive.

"The conflict already happened, we don't know yet what will be our future in Marawi, Lanao del Sur. It could be the start of our dream of peace and order in our beloved homeland," he said.

Hundreds of gunmen rampaged through the city of 200,000, the Islamic capital of the mainly Catholic Philippines, on May 23 after government forces attempted to arrest their leader, Isnilon Hapilon.

Up to 50 gunmen continued to control downtown Marawi nearly two weeks later with at least 15 hostages including a Catholic priest, with some being used as human shields, the military said.

As many as 2,000 people remained trapped in desperate conditions in these areas, the government said, likely without food and water and with some injured or ailing as security forces mount a relentless assault.

Run for freedom

A group of 38 civilians said they ran from their hiding place in a part of Marawi city controlled by Maute gunmen as soldiers seized a key bridge in the area to give the civilians safe passage.

"We lay on the floor in the dark each night whenever we heard gunshots or explosions. We barricaded the doors with furniture and a refrigerator," high school teacher Jerona Sedrome, 27, told Agence France-Presse.

"The ISIS tried to force their way into the house and got in at the second attempt, so we hid in a tunnel beneath the house," she

added, using the acronym for an alternative name for IS

The Dansalan College teachers recounted between tears and gulps of coffee and bottled water how they survived on steamed rice and rainwater.

"If it didn't rain we had no water and we didn't eat," said Sedrome's younger sister and fellow teacher, Jane Rose Sedrome, 25

The elder sister said they secretly communicated with government rescuers by mobile phone text messages through their ordeal, and made their break for freedom when informed the gunmen had been driven away from the bridge.

But they had to go through the sniper alley of Bangolo, the city's old quarter which is one of the targets of day and night air strikes.

"We passed through three corpses being eaten by maggots. They smelled really bad," fellow teacher Regene Apao, 23, told AFP

"We knew they were ISIS because they wore black clothing and black head masks."

Arnold Balo, 28, an ice cream factory worker, said he cradled a boy in one hand and carried a half-meter long machete in the

other, their only protection from the gunmen.

At one point during their sprint for freedom, a gunman perched near the top of a building aimed a sniper rifle at him and ordered him to put his weapon on the ground, Balo said.

"I will do as you order sir. Please don't kill us," he said he told the gunman. Balo said he put the machete, and the militant allowed the group to pass.

Fighting enters 12th day

Petinglay said troops continued battling militants and were searching house-to-house for jihadists and civilians still trapped as fighting entered the 12th day.

Brig. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, commander of military forces fighting the militants, urged citizens to help authorities fight terrorism. "We call on our people to stand and unite against terrorism. The fight against terrorism is not the sole duty of the security sector but the responsibility of everyone," he said.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Westmincom chief, assured the public that

military would "exert every effort" as troops clear Marawi "street by street, building by building, room by room and inch by inch," of terrorists.

"We hope for the early resolution of this conflict the soonest time possible so that our people in Marawi can go back to their homes and live a normal life again," he said.

Troops have killed at least 120 militants, but recovered only 42 bodies, and 98 assorted weapons—from automatic rifles to machine guns—left behind by the Maute fighters and members of the Abu Sayyaf group.

Thirty-eight soldiers were also killed in the violence with dozens more injured in fierce urban and close-quarter clashes.

In Maguindanao province, the military seized a small cache of weapons owned by a supporter of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, an ally of the Maute group. Troops raided the house of Tunga Pindilang in the village of Meta in Datu Unsay town and recovered the weapons. Pindilang was not in the house at the time of the raid.

**WITH DEMPSEY REYES
AND AFP**

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RESCUED A volunteer doctor gives the thumbs up to 2-year-old Manequin Lasola who was trapped for 11 days with her father Julio Lasola at Pangarungan Village in Marawi City. Below, another doctor tends to a man who was also trapped in the same village. AFP PHOTOS

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Clearing Marawi taking longer than expected

By Alfred Dalizon

SECURITY forces are still locked in a tight battle with more than 200 heavily-armed members of the ISIS-inspired Maute Group in Marawi City and cannot bomb their positions for fear of hitting civilians being held hostage by the extremists, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana admitted yesterday.

Describing the bandits as still "a strong force," Lorenzana said movement of soldiers and policemen are being hampered not only by Maute snipers but by the fact that they are using civilians as human shields.

"The first time that we talked about this, we only estimated about 100 to

200 people at the initial stages of the conflict. Then we revised the number to a higher number. Because if there are only 200 of them and we were able to kill already close to 200 how come they are still strong?" Lorenzana said in Marawi City.

"Maybe we're looking at another 200 to 250 still holed up there... they can still put up a good fight. That's why it's giving us difficulty in clearing the areas... There are civilians trapped there, we don't want to endanger the lives of civilians," he explained.

Armed Forces spokesman, Brigadier General Restituto Padilla Jr. earlier admitted that Marawi City is still not 100-percent Maute-free since there are still gunmen up there.

"We committed that we could finish this yesterday, Friday but it turned out we could not. There are some problems along the way. First, there are people there still there that are trapped and we cannot just go there endangering their safety. Second, the Maute-ISIS group occupied some mosques and you know it's very difficult to bomb these mosques," Lorenzana said.

"As of now, the central business district is surrounded by troops. Hope-

fully none of those fighters inside that we're trying to neutralize can get out. So our troops under the direction of General (Rolando) Bautista and Lt. Gen. (Carlito) Galvez are going to do this slowly," he added.

The AFP leadership had stressed that the safety of the remaining hostages remain their utmost priority. "The primary concern of the military right now is the rescue of hostages, eventually we will see to it that all hostages will be rescued. Then that will be our basis to really clear the area without any damage or injuries on the civilians in the area. So when we talk of the ending of this conflict, we cannot give any exact date and time but we assure you that we will finish this to the fullest," he said.

The AFP's Western Mindanao Command yesterday said that the number of civilians killed by Maute gunmen have already risen to 20, the latest of them a man shot dead by a Maute sniper as he was about to be rescued by soldiers.

Government troops have already recovered the bodies of 42 of the more than 120 extremists shot dead in heavy fighting since last week. The gun battles however have left 38 soldiers and policemen dead.

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PHILIPPINE ARMY INQUIRER

Page: AK

DAY 12

LORENZANA: ISLAMIC STATE BACKING FIGHTERS IN MARAWI SIEGE

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Saturday said the government now believed the hundreds of gunmen who besieged Marawi City were being backed by the Islamic State (IS) because of the manner by which they fought.

Lorenzana told reporters in Marawi City that gunmen from the Maute group and the Abu Sayyaf led by Isnilon Hapilon appeared determined to fight to the last man.

"Yes, we believe this is ISIS, because you know normally in this kind of conflict, the local armed groups will just scamper away and maybe hide in the mountains. But surprisingly, this group just held out there and were waiting to fire it out, maybe to the last [bullet]," he said, using another acronym for IS.

Lorenzana said the involvement of foreign fighters was another evidence of IS backing and that the government had obtained "some info" on the foreigners—two Saudi nationals, two Indonesians, two Malaysians, one Yemeni, one Indian and one Chechen. More foreign fighters could have been killed, he added.

He said the entry into Marawi of non-Asian foreign fighters was puzzling and he had asked officials how this might have happened. Malaysians and Indonesians look like Filipinos so it would not be surprising if they came in undetected, he said.

Lorenzana said the response he got was that the non-Asian fighters could have entered the city through the aid of some locals during the Tabligh, referring to a convention held by a group of Sunni Islamic missionaries in Marawi, which ended a day before the clashes began.

The Tabligh Jamaat is a global nonpolitical movement that aims to convince Muslims to return to the practice of primarily Sunni Islam.

Lorenzana said the IS was able to connect with the Maute group through Hapilon, a Basilan-based leader of the Abu Sayyaf and reportedly the acknowledged leader of all IS-inspired groups in the country.

"Part of [the] instruction that Hapilon got from [IS] in Middle East is to come to Lanao and establish a *wilayat* or a province. That's why he was elevated to the rank of emir by [IS]," he said.

Lorenzana said the government would "try to contain" Isnilon's fighters in Marawi but could not say how much longer the fighting would go on.

He said 200 to 300 gunmen were contained in Barangay Banggolo, Marawi's central business district surrounded by troops.

In Manila, presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said on state-run Radyo ng Bayan there was no information that the gunmen were continuing to receive assistance from the outside.

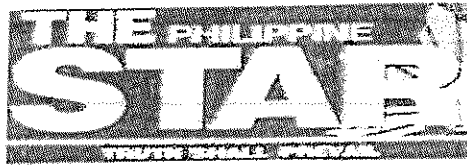
He said the gunmen had a "well-planned" siege and made "adequate preparations," which explained why they did not seem to run out of provisions and ammunition.

Abella said the gunmen also collected ammunition and firearms during their raid on the city jail and from the armories they had ransacked. They also deliberately retreated to the commercial areas of the city where they could get provisions they needed.

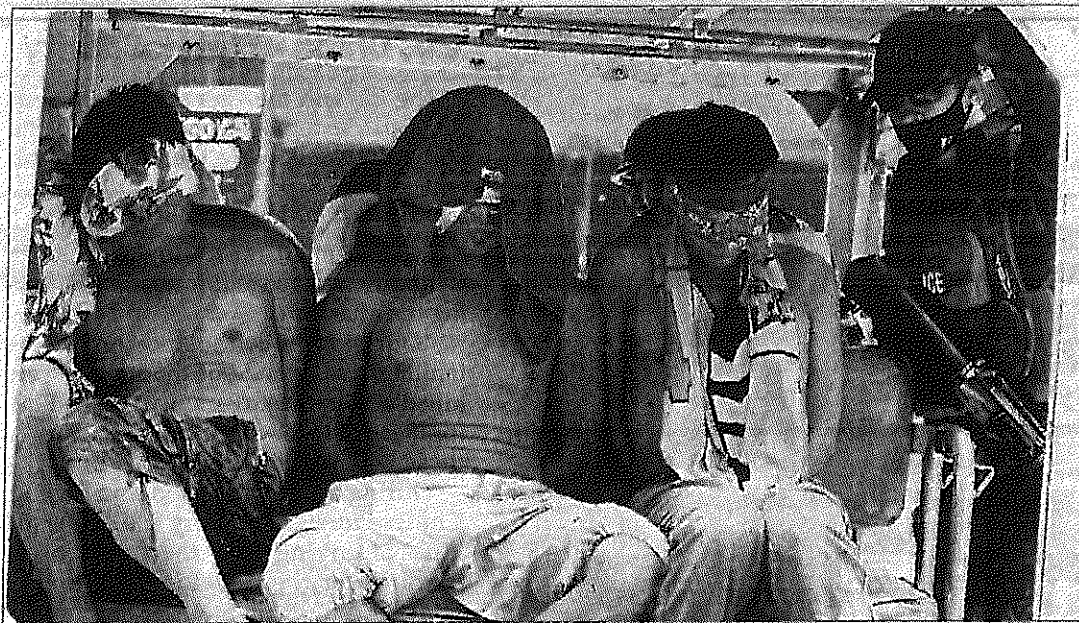
"The enemy is turning out to be more well-entrenched than initially thought, which shows that putting Mindanao under martial law was a wise decision," Abella said. —WITH

REPORTS FROM ALLAN NAWAL AND
LEILA B. SALAVERRIA INQ

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Suspected members of the Maute group are transported in a police vehicle following their capture in Marawi City yesterday. AFP

Military still fighting strong Maute force – DND chief

By **JAIME LAUDE**

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana disclosed yesterday that about 200 to 250 Maute and Islamic State (IS) rebels continue to fight gov-

ernment troops in Marawi City.

With this development, Lorenzana, despite declaring in the initial stages of the fighting that the conflict would be over in five days, is no longer

giving a deadline for when the conflict would be resolved.

However, he assured the people that everything is being done to end the fighting and to stabilize the situation

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Military From Page 1

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in Marawi as soon as possible after the Maute group attacked the city last May 23.

"We talked about an estimated 100 to 200 in the initial stage of the conflict, then we revised that to a higher number because when we were able to kill more than 100 of them, the Maute is still strong," the defense chief said in a telecast press briefing during his visit to the troops in Marawi City yesterday.

He said the focus of the current military offensive is Barangay Banggolo that has been surrounded by government forces.

Banggolo is one of three areas where government security forces are facing difficulty clearing, with civilians still trapped inside their houses and work places.

"Maybe they still have sufficient ammunition, the reason why they are still putting up a good fight," Lorenzana said in a televised media briefing from Marawi.

The defense chief also said he is not discounting the possibility that on top of the slain foreign IS fighters, there are still other foreign terrorists who are fighting alongside the Maute group.

The military said the foreign terrorists killed so far include two Saudi Arabians, two Indonesians, two Malaysians, a Yemeni, an Indian and a Chechen.

"There are others there who were killed but we don't know yet their nationalities. And there might be some who are fighting alongside with the Mautes," Lorenzana said.

He added that the foreign terrorists could have converged in Marawi City, being an Islamic city in Mindanao, passing themselves off as Muslim religious teachers.

'Jailed forever'

President Duterte ordered last night the arrest of all narco politicians whom he threatened to lock up beyond the 60-day limit of the current martial law being implemented in Mindanao.

In a speech before wounded soldiers at Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro, Duterte said he wants to detain these narco politicians "forever."

The President earlier revealed that drug money was being used by the Maute group in pushing forward their goals to make Mindanao part of an Islamic State caliphate.

He described them as "traitors in government," citing as example now detained police colonel Maria Cristina Nobleza, who allowed herself to be used by the Abu Sayyaf.

— With Christina Mendez

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIR

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'MAUTE STILL A FORCE TO RECKON WITH'

By John Paolo Bencito and Francisco Tuyay

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Saturday said that the ISIS-inspired Maute group in Marawi City remained a force to reckon with and expressed disbelief that the terrorists' ranks were growing.

"The first time that we talked about this, we only estimated about 100 to 200 people at the initial stages of the conflict. Then we revised the number to a higher number. Because if there are only 200 of them and we were able to kill already close to 200 how come they are still strong?" Lorenzana said in Marawi City during a press briefing.

"Maybe we're looking at another 200 to 250 still holding out there... they can still put up a good fight. That's why it's giving us difficulty in clearing the areas. There are civilians trapped there, we don't want to endanger the lives of civilians," he added.

The Defense chief added that they are having a hard time neutralizing the rebels who were still

Turn to A2

in control of Marawi's central business district and other vital areas in the city.

"We committed that we could finish this yesterday, Friday but it turned out we could not. There are some problems along the way. First, there are people there still there that are trapped and we cannot just go there endangering their safety. Second, the Maute-ISIS group occupied some mosques and you know it's very difficult to bomb these mosques," Lorenzana added.

The military vowed to trace the source of the Maute group's high-powered firearms and ammunition once Marawi City has been cleared of terrorists.

"On the firearms they are using against government security troops, it looks like they have stockpiled them for some time, and we have captured a lot of them in the past few days. We will know where they acquired them once our investigation starts," Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

While he did not identify any possible supplier, Padilla said they are not discounting the possibility that the group's weapons and ammunition are sourced from the black market or from undisciplined government security force personnel.

Some of these weapons could have come from police and jail facilities that they attacked, looted and set on fire after freeing the prisoners last week.

Malacañang, however, downplayed Lorenzana's claim, saying that Marawi

city is already nearing normalcy.

"At the moment, the remaining terrorists' pockets of resistance were contained and any help from the outside... into the areas of resistance. Our forces are determined to finish off the enemy should they continue to refuse to surrender," Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella told state radio dzRB.

Abella likewise flaunted that placing Mindanao under martial law has been effective in freeing Marawi City from extremists.

"The enemy is turning out to be more weaker, which shows that putting Mindanao under martial law was a wise decision," Abella said.

"Our military offensive will go on as long as [unclear] of threats. As we contain and destroy the enemy, we assure our people of every measure to make the country safe for them and to everyone abroad who wants to visit the land," he added.

The military earlier admitted that it would be hard-pressed to meet the original June 2 deadline to normalize the situation in the area despite continued military air strikes against Islamist gunmen nearly two weeks after the Maute group occupied Marawi.

One hundred ninety-nine residents, who had been trapped in Marawi City, have been rescued by the military from Friday night until early Saturday morning, Abella said.

Civilians killed as a result of the more than two week firefight reached 20.

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Pahina. 2

MAUTE-ISIS GROUP DUMARAMI

Posibleng tumagal pa ng ilang araw o higit pa ang krisis sa Marawi City, Lanao del Sur na pumalo na sa ika-12 araw dahil sa halip na mabawasan ay dumarami umano o nadagdagan pa ang bilang ng mula 200 hanggang 250 ang Maute-Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terror group na sinasagupa ng puwersa ng pamahalaan.

Ayon kay Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, nagpapahirap sa operasyon ang pagdami ng mga kalabang terorista.

Sa unang pagtaya ng

Joint Task Force (JTF) Marawi Brig Gen Rolando Josecito Bautista, tinatayang nasa 40 terorista na lamang sa tatlong Brgy sa Marawi ang kanilang target malipol pero habang papalapit ang security forces sa pinagtatagan ng mga ito ay napapansin ng tropa ng mga sundalong sumasabak sa bakbakan na dumarami ang mga kalaban.

Dahil dito, humingi ng palugit na ilang araw pa si Bautista para matuldukan ang krisis sa Marawi City matapos na mabigong matapos ang krisis sa lung-

NI JOY CANTOS

sod sa loob ng isang linggo o hanggang nitong nakalipas na Biyernes (Hunyo 2) na siyang itinakdang palugit ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Una nang napaulat na tinatayang 40 dayuhang terorista ang nasa Mindanao kung saan mayorya sa mga ito ay kasama sa pakikipagbakbakan ng Maute terror group. Bukod dito ay sumama na rin sa bakbakan ang mga presong pinakawalan ng Maute terror group sa kulungan.

Base sa report ang mga Maute terrorist ay nagsisipagtago sa mga gusali at bukod dito ay may mga tunnel din na pinagkukublihan ang mga ito na hanggang ngayon ay nagmamatigas pa ring magsisuko at pinaniniwalaang binibigyang proteksyon ng mga ito si Abu Sayyaf Commander Isnulon Hapilon.

Aminado naman si AFP Spokesman Brig Gen Restituto Padilla Jr. na nahihurapan ang tropang gobyerno na tapusin kaagad ang krisis sa Marawi City dahilang gi-

nagamit ng mga terorista na 'human shields' laban sa tropang gobyerno ang mga hostage ng mga itong sibilyan partikular na ang mga bata.

Samantala, 182 pang sibilyan na naupit sa bakbakan ang nasagip nitong Sabado ng umaga ng tropa ng militar pero isa ang nasawi matapos na barilin ng sniper ng Maute-ISIS terrorist. Nasa 1,236 ng mga hostages at na-trap na mga sibilyan ang nasagip ng security forces at 20 namang residente ang brutal na pinaslang ng mga terorista.

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Palace: Martial law effective vs Maute

Malacañang said yesterday that President Duterte made a wise decision in declaring martial law in Mindanao as it has been effective in fighting the Maute Group despite not meeting the June 2 deadline to flush them out of Marawi City.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella assured that government forces will not rest until the terror threat in Marawi has been completely stopped.

"The enemy is turning out to be more restrained, which shows that putting Mindanao under martial law was a wise decision," Abella said during the fourth Mindanao Hour press briefing over Radyo ng Bayan.

According to the Palace official, the Army is now able to contain the terrorists' remaining pockets of resistance, disabling them to get outside support.

"Our forces are determined to finish off the enemy should they continue to refuse to surrender," he said.

"As we contain and destroy the enemy, we assure our people of every measure to make the coun-

try safe for them and to everyone abroad who wants to visit the land," Abella said.

He said that the activities of the Maute Group have been well-planned and that they have made adequate preparations before attacking Marawi.

"The enemy deliberately chose to retreat to the commercial area of the city so they can sustain themselves and their ammunition, so they could forage from there," Abella said.

"It is definite, however, that they will not be able to sustain it for long."

According to Abella, the terror group most likely stocked up on ammunition they got from the city jail and armories that they ransacked. They have also recovered government items they foraged from other areas of the city, where they obtained their supply.

Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao and suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus for 60 days following the attacks in Marawi last May 23. **(Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)**

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No loyalty check for troops – Rody

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – President Duterte said there is no need for a loyalty check among members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as long as the soldiers remain loyal to the Constitution.

“I am not appealing for personal loyalty. *Hindi ko type yung ganon* (I don’t like that). I just want you to fight for the republic and maintain your loyalty to the Constitution, period,” Duterte told soldiers in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay last Friday afternoon.

The President assured the military men that he will attend to their needs and that he will be there for them, especially during the implementation of martial law in Mindanao.

Loyalties of those in the AFP have been questioned after 10 soldiers were killed in an accidental air strike by the Air Force on ground troops in Marawi last Wednesday.

“During my time, as your President, I can give you only

the inspiration and the protection that you would need. And I will attend to your needs and during my time, you will have the best,” Duterte said.

Meanwhile, AFP Eastern Mindanao deputy commander Brig. Gen. Gilbert Gapay told **The STAR** there is no need for any loyalty check as all the men and women in the AFP are solidly behind the President.

“There is no question about loyalty. We are all behind the President,” said Gapay, who is the spokesman for martial law in the eastern part of Mindanao.

Gapay said that everyone should just wait for the investigation of the AFP Board of Inquiry that was formed to look into the incident last Wednesday.

Now on its second week, the crisis in Marawi has reportedly claimed close to 200 lives and displaced thousands of civilians caught in the crossfire between the military and the Maute group.

– With Evelyn Macairan

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Lacson seeks quick resolution of Marawi, RWM incidents

By MARVIN SY

A quick resolution of the crisis in Marawi City as well as the incident at Resorts World Manila casino would help bring back confidence in the government by the public and also foreign tourists and investors, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said yesterday.

The conflict in Marawi City that started on May 23 and the subsequent declaration of martial law by President Duterte in the whole of Mindanao shook the entire nation and caused jitters among the country's foreign visitors and expatriates alike.

Then came the attack by a lone gunman on the Resorts World Manila (RWM) complex in Pasay City last Friday, which resulted in the deaths of 38 individuals.

It did not help that United States President Donald Trump referred to the RWM incident as an act of terrorism, something that local authorities have ruled out.

Lacson, a former Philippine National Police (PNP) chief, said that the fast action by the government in ending the crisis in Marawi and solving

the RWM incident "would be reassuring to both Filipinos and foreign tourists and investors as well."

"Given the fact that a determined terror attack is almost impossible to prevent, recent events in Europe, particularly France and England, will tell us that the confidence level goes back to normal very quickly if government shows determination and efficiency in resolving the crisis," Lacson said.

Lacson, who gave his support to the declaration of martial law by the President, said that it is imperative that the conflict in Marawi is resolved quickly so that there would no longer be any reason to prolong martial law in Mindanao.

He said that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the PNP should utilize all of its resources, "both in terms of equipment and the competence of their personnel, to restore normalcy in Marawi."

"While martial law in Mindanao is a boost to the AFP's efforts, (President Duterte) should seriously consider lifting the same at the first sign that it has outlived its necessity," Lacson said.

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DUTERTE SAYS ISLAMIC STATE NOT BEHIND CASINO TRAGEDY

Terror attack? Speaker and Palace, AFP disagree

HOUSE Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez insisted on Saturday the attack at the high-end Resorts World Manila casino and entertainment complex was a terrorist attack, not a case of robbery as earlier claimed by the police, military and Malacañang.

Alvarez issued the statement as the Islamic State (IS), through its Amaq news agency, claimed responsibility for the Resorts World attack for the second time and even identified the assailant.

"With God's help, our brother Abul Khayr al-Arkhabili managed to hide with his machine gun among a group of Christians, who fight Islam, inside a Resorts World resort in Manila, Philippines, where he opened fire on them, killing and injuring about 100 of them, until he, eventually, died as a martyr," the international terrorist group said.

IS first claimed responsibility on Friday night, with a report on Amaq news agency saying its "fighters" carried out the attack.

But President Rodrigo Duterte said it was not the handiwork of IS, telling reporters in Cagayan de Oro the suspect didn't kill and merely took gaming chips.

► Palace **A8**

Malacañang also stood by the police findings that the incident at Resorts World Manila on Friday was an isolated criminal case and not a terrorist attack, even as the identity of the gunman had yet to be established.

"They (IS) may claim credit but according to our evidence, it is not so," Palace spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a radio interview, as he urged the police, the media and the public to avoid speculations.

"It's not a terrorist. The evidence at this stage points to the actions of an emotionally disturbed person who was apparently engaged in criminal actions," Abella told government-run dzRB radio.

But Alvarez said in his statement "This is a clear example of a lone-wolf terrorist attack targeting civilians to inflict maximum loss of life and damage to property, as what has happened in other countries."

He expressed his condolences to the families of victims, particularly commiserating with Pampanga Rep. Aurelio Gonzales whose wife, Elizabeth, was among the fatalities.

"Our authorities should get their act together and put in place the highest level of security measures to prevent this from happening again, here or elsewhere in the country," Alvarez said.

Police said 38 people died in the incident, 37 of them suffocating from the fire believed to have been started by the suspect. The attacker was believed to have killed himself by setting himself on fire and then shooting himself with a gun.

'Propaganda'

Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla also said the IS group's pronouncement "does not corroborate the facts" gathered by the Southern Police District and the National Capital Region Police Office.

"As it is, the [Resorts World] incident has the signature of a criminal act that needs deeper investigation to ascertain the real motive behind. It does not have the slightest signature of terrorism whatsoever," Padilla said in a statement.

Padilla said that the IS was 'prone' to claiming responsibility for every major terrorist attack, such as the bombing of US pop singer Ariana Grande's concert at Manchester Arena in the United Kingdom last May 22.

"As in previous incidents this group

is prone to claim and admit every criminal incident and label it as its own, clearly indicative of its pure penchant for propaganda," he said

'Secure govt, business centers'

Alvarez also urged the police and the military to work closely to safeguard the country's government and business centers from terrorist attacks

"This incident should be a wake-up call for the police and the military to cooperate closely in making the seat of government and our financial and business center safe from any terrorist attack, whether by 'lone wolves' or heavily armed terrorist contingents, as what happened in Marawi City," the House leader said.

He called for "a clear and better plan" to secure Metro Manila and other urban centers from groups linked to the IS

The private sector can "actively help the government fight terrorism in all its forms by providing information to authorities on suspicious or unusual activities in their communities," he said.

Alvarez called on business establishments to ensure that closed-circuit television or CCTV cameras and similar security monitoring equipment are in working condition, and that their security personnel are properly trained.

Deputy Minority Leader Luis Campos Jr. likewise appealed to establishments to review and improve evacuation procedures.

Campos filed a bill last month seeking to reorient firefighters as certified paramedics who can help respond to medical emergencies such as smoke inhalation injuries.

The bill follows the "American model" where a 911 distress call, regardless of the nature of the emergency, triggers the arrival of three first responders on the scene – a fire engine, an ambulance and a police car.

"We should adopt this highly effective American model here, but we can only do this once we have firefighters who are either paramedics or certified first responders, and once our fire engines are fit not only to suppress blazes, but also to deal with other emergencies," he said.

**CATHERINE S. VALENTE,
DEMPSEY REYES AND
REINA C. TOLENTINO**

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AFP, itinangging may kinalaman ang ISIS sa RWM incident

SINUPALPAL ng Armed Forces of the Philippines ang international terrorist group na ISIS sa agarang pag-aangkin sa insidente sa Resorts World Manila kung saan tatlumpu't walong katao na ang nasawi.

Ayon kay AFP spokesman Brigadier General Restituto Padilla, wala ni katiting ng bakas ng terorismo ang nangyari sa Resorts World.

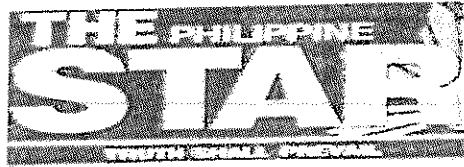
Sa inisyal na imbestigasyon ng Philippine National Police, isang lalaki na may dalang baby armalite at gasolina ang pumasok sa Resorts World.

Pagpasok sa hotel, kinuha ang casino chips na nagkakahalaga ng 113 milyong piso at nang tugisin ng mga pulis ay pumasok sa room 510, binalot ang sarili ng kumot, binuhusan ng gasoline, sinilaban at nagbaril sa sarili.

Ayon kay Padilla, isang criminal act lamang ang nangyari sa Resorts World na kinakailangan ng malalimang imbestigasyon.

Sinabi pa ni Padilla na gaya ng mga nakaraan, walang ibang ginawa ang ISIS na agad na umako ng responsibilidad sa mga kaguluhan para maisulong lamang ang kanilang sariling propaganda.

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Palace to CPP-NPA: Show sincerity

By **CHRISTINA MENDEZ**

Malacañang wants to see the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing New People's Army (NPA) to show sincerity by ending atrocities in the country.

The Palace made the comment yesterday following National Democratic Front (NDF) peace panel chairman Fidel Agcaolli's offer for the NPA to help the military fight the Maute group, which has links to the terrorist group Islamic State (IS). The NDF is the political and negotiating arm of the CPP.

In a radio program, presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella reiterated President Duterte's call for the communist rebel group to show sincerity by putting into writing their intent to strike a peace agreement with the government and to stop atrocities while the peace negotiation is ongoing.

"The communists' gesture may be a sign of goodwill. However, the President is not keen on the offer. They first have to reciprocate the

government's sincerity and cease fighting (while the peace talks is ongoing)," Abella said over state-run *dzRB*.

"They must halt their attacks on government forces. They must end their atrocities and they must stop extortion activities that contribute to our people's misery," he added.

In a speech last Friday in Ipi, Zamboanga Sibugay, Duterte said he is rejecting the communist group's offer although he considers it a "sign of goodwill."

Duterte also said that unless the CPP and NPA put into writing their commitment to stop atrocities, he would not allow government peace negotiators Jesus Dureza and Silvestre Bello III to push through with the peace talks in Norway.

"The government hopes to see them sign a unilateral ceasefire agreement for us to go back to the negotiating table. Beyond words and gestures and offers, let's talk concrete action that must be sincere and authentic. Only then can peace have a chance," Abella said.

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NO HAND-ME-DOWNS

MARINES TO GET ANTITERROR GEAR FROM US; DIGONG WANTS 'EM NEW

The Philippine Marines will get additional antiterror equipment from the United States government on Monday.

A turnover ceremony will take place at the Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Marine spokesperson Capt. Ryan Lacuesta said on Friday.

"The United States Government will formally hand over various equipment to the [Marines]. These equipment will further enhance the capabilities of the [Marines'] counterterrorism units in addressing different threats posed by different terrorists and other groups," he added.

Equipment to be turned over to the Marines include 300 M4 carbines, 200 Glock 21 pistols, 25 units of combat rubber raiding craft, 100 M203 rail mounted grenade launchers, 30 outboard motors and four M134D Gatling-style machine guns.

Later on Friday, President Duterte promised to buy brand-new military equipment to fight twin Maoist and Muslim rebellions, and no longer accept secondhand weapons from the United States.

Over the last two weeks, some 3,000 security personnel have been battling about 400 pro-Islamic State terrorists who had taken over Marawi City. The forces are using refurbished US planes, armored vehicles and assault rifles.

"I will no longer accept secondhand military equipment," Mr. Duterte told soldiers at an Army base in Zamboanga del Sur. "I do not want those given by the Americans. During my time, I will not have secondhand ships. It has to be brand new."

Mr. Duterte said he would acquire new and modern weapons systems "even if I have to spend double the money," and would look at buying equipment such as planes, boats, drones and guns from China and Russia.

Since 2000, Washington has given Manila nearly \$800 million worth of drones, helicopters, assault rifles and combat gear including tactical radios, night-vision devices and spares.

The Philippine budget allocates more than P100 billion to modernize the military's equipment under a five-year plan, spending P25 billion this year on acquisitions from South Korea and Israel.

Manila has ordered two large strategic sealift vessels from Indonesia and 12 FA-50 light fighters from South Korea.

"By the time I am out of office, you will have about 24 jet planes," Mr. Duterte said. "I will acquire 12 more." —RE-

PORTS FROM PNA, REUTERS

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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PH, Malaysia, Indonesia to counter threats with joint patrols off Mindanao

SINGAPORE (AFP) – Joint patrols to counter threats from Islamic State group militants will be launched this month off Mindanao by the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia, Malaysia's defense minister said Saturday.

Hishammuddin Hussein made the comments at a security conference in Singapore as Philippine troops continued to battle self-styled Islamic **►4**

PH, Malaysia, Indonesia... ◀1

State group gunmen who attacked the city of Marawi on Mindanao island nearly two weeks ago.

Hishammuddin said joint sea patrols in the waters bordering the three nations would kick off on June 19, with air patrols starting at a later date.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has declared martial law in Mindanao in response to the crisis, describing the attack on Marawi as the start of a major campaign by IS to establish a foothold in the Philippines.

Security analysts say IS is planning to establish a "province" in the southern island of Mindanao as part of its efforts to set up a caliphate in Southeast Asia.

"If you talk about Sulu Straits (it) would involve Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines," Hishammuddin told delegates to Shangri-La Dialogue, an annual security summit.

"So within ASEAN, we decided at least these three countries, to avoid being accused of doing nothing, the three

of us took the initiative to have the joint patrol initiatives in the Sulu Straits," he added, referring to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Hishammuddin said Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore have carried out successful joint patrols in the Malacca Strait bordering their countries to fight maritime piracy.

Analysts have said the porous maritime borders between the three countries make it hard to detect the movement of militants.

Mindanao is "the primary area in the region where Islamist militant groups are still able to operate with

some freedom of operation, run training camps, and conduct frequent attacks," said Otso Iho, senior analyst at IHS Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre (JTIC).

"This level of lawlessness and the fact that the space is difficult for government forces and institutions to effectively govern makes it the most likely place for a declaration," he told AFP.

"It's also the location where the vast majority of Southeast Asian groups that have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State are based."

Hishammuddin and other defense

ministers who spoke at the conference also warned of the threat posed by returning Southeast Asian militants who are fighting with the IS in Iraq and Syria where the group is losing territory.

"This however then gives rise to the disturbing prospect that the Asia-Pacific is now in DAESH's crosshairs," he said, using an alternative acronym for the group.

The threat is "real and multidimensional, whether from returning fighters, regional franchises or more disturbingly, from self-radicalised lone wolves," he added.

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Balita

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ANG NANGUNGUNAN NG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSÀ ₱8.00

3 Abu Sayyaf sumuko sa Basilan

Dala ng matinding takot sa pinaigting na operasyon ng militar, tatlong miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group mula sa Tipo-Tipo, Basilan ang napilitang sumuko sa mga awtoridad nitong Huwebes, ayon sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Ayon sa report na tinanggap ni Brig. General Restituto Padilla, tagapagsalita ng AFP, sumuko

kay Tipo-Tipo Vice Mayor Tong Istarul ang tatlong bandido na kinilalang sina Tarsan Pimping Tong, Otsoy Hamsul Subhan, at Teban Pasalun Abdulaji.

Kasama ang iba pang lokal na opisyal, iniharap ni Istarul ang mga sumukong miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf militar at pulisya, na kasama ring isinuko ang kani-kanilang baril.

Hindi pa matukoy ng mga

awtoridad kung kaninong grupo nakaanib ang tatlo, na pawang bagitong bandido.

Isasailalim sa documentation at interrogasyon ang tatlong bandido.

Sa kasalukuyan, umaabot na sa 67 ang mga sumukong miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf sa tropa ng pamahalaan.

Fer Taboy

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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The Isis in our minds

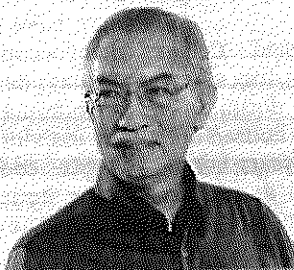
Even as we grieve and condole with the families of the victims of the attack by a lone gunman at the Resorts World Manila casino and hotel, the question that will linger in our minds is what we ourselves would have done if we had been there on that fateful evening. Would we have rushed to the nearest exits at the first burst of automatic gunfire? Or would we have retreated into our hotel rooms, or sought refuge in the nearest restroom, upon hearing the word "Isis" shouted in panic by terrified guests?

At the Resorts World the other night, the best course of action for the guests would have been to get out of the building as soon as the gunman started shooting and setting fire to the place. But, that's all in hindsight—only because we now know the gunman did not aim his gun at anyone, and that he was alone. In other words, he couldn't have been a terrorist. It would have made perfect sense to get out of the place at the first sign of trouble.

And that's exactly what Department of Health spokesperson Eric Tayag, in the aftermath of this tragedy, advises the public to do in case of fire. "Just go out because the fire consumes oxygen and emits carbon monoxide or toxic gases. Do not have second thoughts, just go out. Don't waste time."

This, indeed, is what commonsense dictates—in a preterrorist world. The same advice could get one killed in a real terrorist attack. In past terror incidents abroad—at airports, concert venues, and other public places where many people are gathered—people have been observed to instantly flee if they could, or to drop to the ground and not move, aware that any movement could be a magnet for gunfire.

At the Resorts World complex, the guests behaved precisely according to their perception that this was a terrorist attack. They panicked at the sound of the word "Isis." Those who were near the exits quickly made their way to the street outside, unmindful of the possibility that gunmen could be waiting for them at the ground floor exits. Those who were caught inside froze where they were and sought safety in the company of others, behind the illusory



PUBLIC LIVES

RANDY DAVID

security of locked restroom doors. Little did they suspect that the whole place would soon be plunged in darkness and enveloped in thick toxic smoke. Most, if not all, of the 37 dead victims died from suffocation.

The terrorist network Isis has taken responsibility for the attack, claiming the solitary gunman as one of its own. But Philippine security officials are one in saying this was not an act of terrorism. The gunman didn't fire at the guests, or at anyone for that matter. He burned a few gaming tables as though in fury, and raided the room where the casino kept the gambling chips. According to the police narrative, he then entered one of the hotel rooms on the fifth floor, and—in what seemed like an act of madness—wrapped himself in a petrol-soaked blanket, and set himself on fire. All this, according to the police, doesn't fit the portrait of a typical terrorist.

But, what is a typical terrorist? Everywhere in the world nowadays, we hear of the most bizarre and outrageous attacks being committed by individuals who employ the oddest means imaginable to inflict the greatest harm on innocent people. They may or may not have been ordered, prompted, or inspired by the Isis. Their connections to the Isis or any other terror network may be real or imagined. It makes no difference anymore.

Whether we like it or not, the Isis has succeeded in lodging itself in our minds like a worm. The enormous fear we associate with it now inescapably frames our experi-

ence of the everyday world. Governments invoke its dark menacing presence to justify further restrictions on fundamental freedoms, or to use repressive measures to go after the state's perceived enemies.

It is encouraging to hear the Philippine National Police immediately discount terrorism as a motive in the Resorts World attack. Perhaps this is its way of calming down a public that has just been introduced to the threat of a looming Isis caliphate in Marawi City. Or, maybe this is an attempt to stem the negative publicity that turns tourists away from the gigantic gambling and entertainment havens that have become the vanguard of the modern tourism industry. Whatever the reason might be, it hasn't erased the Isis from our minds.

Over in Mindanao, President Duterte is making the case that terrorism and drugs are now conjoined as a twin evil, thus implying the necessity of conflating the war on drugs with the war on terror. If true, this makes everyday police operations an integral part of a permanent war without boundaries. It also makes the assertion of human rights and civil liberties in the face of a grave national security threat seem selfish and misplaced.

Writing one year after the 9/11 attacks, the American philosopher Richard Rorty warned against the dangers posed by an undeclared national security state that has grown in response to the terrorist threat. "We may have the strength to keep our democratic institutions intact even after realizing that our cities may never again be invulnerable... But we shall only do so if the voters of the democracies stop their governments from putting their countries on a permanent war footing—from creating a situation in which neither the judges nor the newspapers can restrain organizations like the FBI from doing whatever they please, and in which the military absorbs most of the nation's resources."

Rorty didn't live long enough to see the worst of his fears confirmed—the election of Donald Trump as US president, and the rise of strongmen who ride on the wave of populist paranoia.

public.lives@gmail.com

04

June 2017



Pahina. 5

EDITORIAL

MAGSANAY VS TERORISMO

NAUUSO ang terorismo sa kahit saang lugar at magpapasalamat tayo sakaling hindi konektado rito ang naganap na trahedyang sa Resorts World Manila.

Magkagayunman, hindi nangangahulugan na basta na lang tayong magrelaks.

Sa halip, dahil sa nasabing trahedyang, at sa naganap sa Marawi City, dapat tayong maging alerto sa lahat ng oras.

Isa siguro sa mga dapat nating bigyan ng pansin ang kakayahan ng bawat mamamayan na tumulong laban sa trahedyang na katulad sa nasabing hotel casino at sa Marawi City.

Sa ibang salita, panahon na para mag-sagawa ang pamahalaan ng mga pagsasanay sa hanay ng mga mamamayan laban sa salot na terorismo.

Totoo na dapat tayong magtiwala sa mga alagad ng batas gaya ng mga pulis, militar, National Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Fire at iba pa, subalit dapat samahan ang mga ito ng pwersa ng mamamayan.

Mungkahi natin na makatutulong nang husto ang pagsasanay sa antas ng mga barangay na roon nakapaloob ang milyong milyong mamamayan.

Kung masasanay ang mga ito, halimbawa, sa pagkilatis sa mga terorista, makipag-ugnayan nang mabilis sa mga awtoridad, tumulong sa mga biktima sa mga panunog, pagpatay at ibang pamimerhuwisyo ng mga terorista, malaking bagay na 'yan.

Isa pang mahalagang bagay ay ang pagsasanay sa mga dapat gawin habang wala pa ang mga mapagpasyang pwersa ng pamahalaan laban sa terorismo.

Alalahanin na ang pwersa ng mamamayan, kung maipon, mapalakas at magkaroon ng sapat na kaalaman sa problema ay napakalaking tulong mismo sa mga awtoridad.

04 June 2017

NGAYON

Pahina. 4



Namatay sa kamay ng kakampi

SA kaguluhan at kalituhan na nagaganap sa isang digmaan, hindi malayo ang mangyari ang hindi inaasahan. Ayon kay Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana, 11 sundalo ang namatay, dahil sa airstrikes laban sa Maute. Pito ang nasugatan. Dahil dito, binawasan na muna ang airstrikes "Friendly fire" ang tawag diyari. Parang kabalintunaan nga. Malungkot at namatay ang mga sundalo mula sa kamay ng kakampi. Sila ang nabagsakan ng bomba sa kabila ng pahayag na mga "precision and surgical airstrikes" ang ginagawa sa Marawi, para hindi mapahamak ang mga sibilyan.

Ang "friendly fire" ay nagaganap kahit sa pinaka-modernong hukbong sandatahan sa mundo, tulad ng US. Sa lahat ng naging digmaan sa Mideast, may mga insidente ng "friendly fire" sa panig ng Amerikano. Mga nababagsakan din ng bomba, mga natatamaan ng

kanilang sari-ling kanyon, kahit napaka hi-tech na ng kagamitan ng US. Kadalasan, nagkakaroon ng maling koordinasyon sa pagitan ng mga sundalo at mga piloto. Baka mali ang naibigay na lokasyon ng target sa piloto o sa mga kanyon, o baka hindi naman nakaalis kaagad ang mga sundalo nang ibagsak na ang mga bomba. Puwedeng nagkamali rin ang piloto. Hindi naman tayo naninisi. Lahat ng ating mga sundalo mula sa apat na sangay ng AFP ay mga bayani sa kanilang mga ginawang sakripisyo sa Marawi. limbestigahan ang insidente, para malaman na rin kung paano maiiwasang maulit ang malungkot na kaganapan.

Nang magtungo si Pres. Rodrigo Duterte sa Russia, isa sa nais niyang magawa ay makabili ng mga modernong "smart bombs" mula sa kanila, dahil mahigpit at puro kundisyon umano ang US. Ang Russia ay handang magbenta umano nang walang kundisyon. Ang "smart bombs" ay mga bomba na eksaktong bumabagsak sa mga target na tinutukoy ng mga sundalo sa baba. Sa pamamagitan ng laser, "iniilawan" ng mga sundalo ang target. Kapag nakuha na ng bomba ang "ilaw" o laser na ito, lilipad na ito at eksaktong babagsak sa tinukoy na target. Malaki sana ang tulong ng sandatang ito sa ating mga sundalo. Mas eksakto talaga ang bagsak ng mga bomba. Sa ngayon, ang ating mga bomba at rockets ay kailangang asintahin ng piloto sa target. Wala nang kontrol ang piloto kapag pinakawalan na. Makikita na

(Sundan sa pahina 5)

K KA LANG?... Mula pahina 4

ang mga sistemang ito ay maaari talagang magkaroon ng pagkakamali. Wala pang balita kung makabili na nga ang bansa ng "smart bombs" sa Russia. Baka naman umangal ang China kapag nakabili na

tayo. Baka ayaw nilang magkaroon ang bansa ng mga sandata na maaaring magamit sa kanila, kung sakaling maging mainit na ang isyu ng teritoryo sa South China Sea.

04 June 2017



Pahina. 4

PRANGKAHAN



Ni Ellen Tordesillas

Magdahan-dahan sa pagkunekta ng anumang gulo sa ISIS

Ang pangamba ng karamihan habang pinapanood ang balita sa nangyayari sa Resorts World na malapit sa NAIA 3 noong lampas ng hatingsabi ng Biyernes (Hunyo 2) ay baka gamitin itong dahilan ni Pangulong Duterte sa pagdeklara ng Martial Law sa buong bansa.

Ang mga unang balita kasi ay sumigaw daw ng ISIS ang mamang sumugod sa casino na may

baril.

Lalo pa itong si President Donald Trump, nagsalita sa White House mga tatlong oras ang nakalipas at tinawag na 'terror attack' ang nangyari. Sabi niya sa kanyang pagharap sa media sa White House:

"I would like to begin by addressing the terrorist attack in Manila. We're closely monitoring the situation, and I will continue to give updates if anything happens during this period of time. But it is really very sad as to what's going on throughout the world with terror. Our thoughts and our prayers are with all of those affected."

Kinaumagahan, mga alas-siete ng umaga, sinabi ng mga opisyal ng pulis na nandu'n na sa hotel na malabo na kumektado sa ISIS ang may kagagawan ng gulo na hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa nakikilala dahil nasunog daw.

Sabi ni National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Oscar Albayalde ang tingin nila mukhang may dipensya sa pag-iisip ang mama. Mag-isa lang siya pumasok sa hotel na may bitbit na armalite. Nanguha pa ng mga casino chips na nagkakahalaga ng P113 milyon na hindi naman niya magagamit 'yun.

Sabi ni Albayalde, "Kung terorista 'yun, bakit hindi siya nagdala ng maraming bomba? Bakit hindi siya nambaril at pinasabog ang sarili?"

Sabi ni PNP Chief Ronald dela Rosa, "Humiga siya sa

bed, kinoveran niya sarili niya ng makapal na kumot, and apparently nagbuhos siya ng gasolina sa kumot at nagsindi sa sarili. Sunog siya. so nakikita natin dito, binuhusan niya yung sarili niya ng gas he covered himself with a blanket at saka may mga foams du'n, and he ignited himself. And then he shot himself. Binaril niya bago masunog totally yung katawan niya.

Pinipilit naman ng ISIS na ang nangyari sa Resorts World ay kagagawan nila, sabi ni AFP spokesperson Brigadier-General Restituto Padilla "Dapat alam n'yo ngayon na ang organisasyon na 'yan ay aako ng kung anong (gulo), kaliwa't kanan, kahit ano. Miski may natalisod diyan ikeclaim nila."

Ganyan talaga ang mga tao o grupo na gustong pasikatn ang sarili nila, sabi ni Press Secretary Ernesto Abella.

Walang pang sinasabi si Pangulong Duterte tungkol sa Resorts World.

Kasi nga ang kaba ng marami na gagamitin niya ito para magdeklara ng Martial Law sa buong bansa. Nang magdeklara kasi siya ng Martial Law sa buong Mindanao noong Mayo 23, na ang dahilan ay ang kaguluhan na idinulot ng pag-atake ng Maute Group na may kuneksyon sa ISIS sa Marawi City, nagbanta siya na baka isali niya ang Visayas dahil baka raw tumakbo doon ang mga terorista dahil malapit lang.

Kung makapasok daw ang ISIS sa Luzon, magdeklara daw siya ng Martial Law sa buong bansa. "If I think that the ISIS has already taken foothold also in Luzon and terrorism is really not far behind, I might declare Martial Law throughout the country to protect the people."

Naku po. Grabe ngayon ang paghihirap ng mga taga-Marawi. Pag-isipan sana nang husto. Huwag atat na atat sa Martial Law.

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June 2017



Page. 4

Why fault our pilots over unfortunate death of 11 Marawi troops?

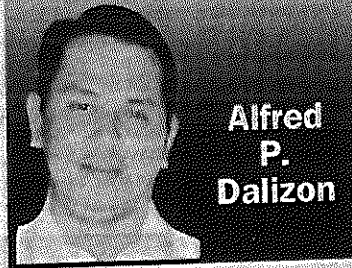
ASI join the whole nation in paying tribute to those who have perished in Marawi City as a result of the atrocities committed by the ISIS-inspired Maute Group. I also fully support those who believe that the killing of 11 Army soldiers as a result of friendly fire should not be used as another opportunity by some lawmakers to grandstand again.

I fully agree with Senator Ping Lacson when he said that the 11 soldiers should be hailed as 'heroes' instead of resorting to the usual fault-finding. "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," the former PNP chief-turned lawmaker said.

With at least 175 persons dead already as a result of the Maute attacks—36 of them soldiers and policemen, 19 are civilians and the rest belong to the terror group—all of us should first allow the Defense department and the Armed Forces to accomplish their mission in Marawi City, one of which is to find out what really happened in the deadly aerial assault in the city.

Incidents of friendly fire is not uncommon in every war and other battles, prompting wartime leaders to invent the term 'friendly fire' which means that soldiers died at the hands of their own comrades. What we should

CRAME FILES



Alfred P. Dalizon

look for is an assurance that similar tragic incidents that will cost the lives of young and brave soldiers in the field won't happen again. An official told me that during their combat days, there is an allowed '5 percent casualty rate' in the field and they include victims of friendly fire.

Records will show that friendly fire has been a part of warfare as long as it has existed. However, in more recent times, the growing destructiveness of modern weapons has contributed to making friendly fire more devastating than ever before. Despite the concurrent advance of IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) technology and other gadgets to reduce the likelihood of this, simple human error means friendly fire is a problem that is unlikely to disappear.

Records will show that there have been thousands of friendly fire incidents in recorded military history, accounting for an estimated 2

percent to 20 percent of all casualties in battle. In fact, the rate of friendly fire has remained remarkably stable over the past 200 years. During the Vietnam War alone, there were as much as 8,000 friend fire incidents in Vietnam and they even inspired the book and film called Friendly Fire.

In most cases, no charges were filed against troops, but some wrote written confessions read only after their death, due to guilty feelings. Some investigation also showed that some accused were unclear about the rules of engagement. Did you know that in World War 2, United States Army Lieutenant General Leslie McNair was killed when an errant Allied bomb struck his position in Normandy?

In Vietnam, helicopter gunships were known to have killed U.S. troops on Hamburger Hill, thus the challenge remains the same for ground and air troops: how to distinguish between friend and foe? A military friend told me that despite much improved training and the availability of high-technology, cases of friendly fire in combat cannot be completely eliminated.

As a retired US Army official had said, "war is a very human endeavor, and mistakes inevitably will occur." Apart from the Marawi City incident, let me refresh you on some cases of friendly fire incidents in recent history. On March 23, 2003, 10 U.S. Marines were killed by U.S. airstrikes ordered by a Marine air controller in Iraq who

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Why.... FROM PAGE 4

mistook their vehicles for enemy forces.

Reading from Wikipedia, I found out that a Pentagon investigation showed that "communications problems throughout the battalion" triggered the unfortunate incident. "While under heavy fire from Iraqi artillery, rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and small arms, Charlie Company requested close air support, and two A-10 attack planes responded to the call. The Marine forward air controller cleared the A-10s to fire on the vehicles, not realizing they were from Charlie Company. The attack planes made multiple strikes until they were eventually told to cease fire," Wikipedia said.

In April 2002, four Canadians died when an American pilot dropped a 500-pound bomb near where the troops were apparently conducting a live-fire exercise. The pilot blamed the bombing on the "fog of war," saying he mistook the Canadians' gunfire for an attack by Taliban forces. On December 5, 2001, three American soldiers and five Afghans died when Special Forces troops escorting Hamud Karzai's fighters called in an airstrike meant to hit Taliban positions.

"Instead, a B-52 bomber dropped a 2,000-pound satellite-guided bomb on a battalion command post occupied by the American forces and Afghan allies, including Karzai, the future president. Pentagon officials later said the bomb went astray, because

the Air Force combat controller who set the coordinates for the attack had changed the batteries on his GPS receiver, which reset the coordinates back to the user's own location rather than the Taliban position."

Then there was this incident in April 1994 which has been recorded as "one of the worst self-inflicted losses in U.S. military history." It occurred when F-15 fighters shot down two U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopters in the "no fly" zone over northern Iraq. Twenty-six people were killed, including 15 Americans, military officers from Britain, France and Turkey and five Kurdish workers. They were supporting U.N. humanitarian relief efforts on behalf of Kurds in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War. The F-15 pilots thought the Black Hawks were Iraqi craft violating

the restricted zone.

Wikipedia said that General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, gave this summary in releasing a 22-volume Pentagon report on the incident: "In place were not just one, but a series of safeguards — some human, some procedural, some technical — that were supposed to ensure an accident of this nature could never happen. Yet, quite clearly, these safeguards failed." No one was found criminally responsible.

Then there is also the case of nine British soldiers who were killed on February 17, 1991, when two U.S. Air Force A-10 attack aircraft fired on their armored personnel carriers in southern Iraq, mistaking it for an Iraqi target the Americans were trying to destroy 13 miles to the east. In all, 35 Americans and nine British troops were killed by friendly fire in the Gulf War. The Americans killed represented nearly one-quarter of the total of 148 U.S. combat deaths.

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04 June 2017



Pahina. 5

FILIPINOS UNITE!

MARTIAL LAW sa buong Mindanao. Kung sakali, bakâ maging buong bansa. Iyan ang nasa isip ni Pangulong RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE. Depende iyan. Kung hindi itigil ang mga miron at mga walang kuwentang politiko at kritiko ng bansa.

Kaysarap isipin na ang pagbiyahe ni Pangulong Duterte sa Russia ay magkakaroon tayo ng bagong kulay sa buhay.

Mismong si Russian President Vladimir Putin ay nangako na ibigay niya ang lahat na tulong para sa bansa. Ekonomiya, pulitika at tulong sa ating Sandatahang Lakas at Pambansang Pulisya (AFP-PNP)

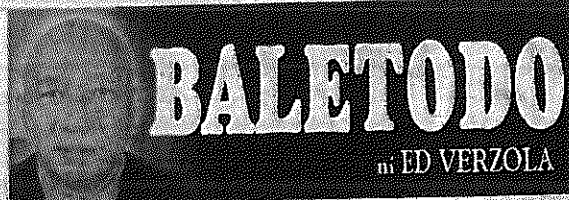
Masakit ang sana ay 4 na araw na pagbisita ni KA DIGONG ay naudlot isang araw pa lamang dahil sa paghasik ng gulo ng teroristang grupo

ng Maute sa Marawi City!

Naudlot ang munting pangarap ng pagbabago sa nangyari. Dahil diyan, nagdeklara ng martial law si Pangulong Rody at kaagad umuwi para personal niyang makita at magabayan ang nangyayari sa Marawi.

Habang ang mga sundalo at pulis natin ay nagtatanggol sa dahas ng paninira at pagpatay ng grupong Maute, narayan na naman ang mga kritiko at oposisyon, kasama ang mga dating opisyal ng gobyerno na nagmamagaling. Hindi daw kailangan ang martial law para matapos ang problema sa Mindanao?

Maingay ang oposisyon. Sana, bigyan sila ng papel ng administrasyon. Libre ang tiket sa eroplano o barko. Bigyan sila ng puting bandila at makipag-usap sa teroristang grupo para itigil ang kanilang



dahas kontra bayan at mamamayan

Patunayan nila na hindi nga kailangan ang martial law at sa laway nila ay mapasunod ang mga bandido.

Iyan ang mahirap sa ating mga kababayan na mahilig pumostura na may alam at matalino. Gagawin ba nila kung sila at uutusan bilang mga tagapamayapa doon?

Ang digmaan sa Marawi City ay hindi biro. Kaya ninyo?

Mas maganda marahil na tumahimik na lang kayo kung wala kayong maitutulong. Maski ang taho! at alulong ng Commission on Human Rights (CHR) ay imposible. Mas

nakatingin sila sa maaaring pag-abuso raw ng military at pulisya? Punyeta naman kayo!

Sa nakararaming Filipino na suportado ang desisyon ni Pangulong DU30, tumulong tayo sa pagpapaliwanag sa iba nating kababayan. Huwag makipag-away maski pa sa social media.

Kailangang maunawaan nila ang giyera sa Mindanao.

Remain calm. Let us all UNITE that the problem will be resolved at the soonest. Help our soldiers, our policemen and the people of Marawi City and nearby areas to be safe and recover their loses.

04 June 2017



Pahina. 4



PAKUROT

ni LEA BOTTONES

TULOY-TULOY pa rin ang kaguluhan sa Marawi City na sinasabi ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na kagagawan ng terror group na Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) na naging daan upang ideklara ang Martial Law sa Mindanao.

Maging ang kaguluhan sa iba't ibang panig ng bansa ay sinasabing kagagawan ng ISIS kung saan iniuugnay ang Maute Group na pinangungunahan ng magkakapatid

na Maute na sinasabing nagtungo sa Libya upang makipag-alyansa sa grupong terorista.

Planado ang mga aksyon at pananakop ng Maute group sa Marawi City at hindi lang naman lokal na grupo ang sumusuporta sa terrorist group kundi ang mas malalaking bansa na ang nais ay patuloy na maging magulo ang "Pilipinas Kong Mahal" para patuloy na maisagawa ang kanilang negosyo.

PILIPINAS KONG MAHAL

Biglang-bigla naman kasi ang pangyayari sa Marawi City kung saan noong naganap ay nasa bansang Russia si Presidente Duterte.

Posible kasing kinabahan ang "totoong financier" ng Maute Group na may mapirmahang kontrata si Pangulong Duterte na bumibili ng iba't ibang armas mula sa Russia.

Kaya naging mabilis ang kanilang hakbang na manggulo ang terror group upang maalarma si Pangulong Digong at umuwi sa "Pilipinas Ninyang Mahal."

Pero posibleng tama si Presidente Du30 na ga-

ling sa "drug money" ang ginagamit na pinansya ng Maute Group kung kaya't tuloy tuloy ang ginagawa nilang panggugulo sa Mindanao.

Ano pa man ang dahilan ng kaguluhan sa Mindanao, hindi dapat nagkahiwa-hiwalay ang mga Filipino sa kanilang adhikain at layunin na tapusin ang problema at palaganapin ang kapayapaan at kaayusan sa "Pilipinas Nating Mahal."

Kaso, kanya-kanyang pagmamagaling ang ginagawa ng marami at kanya-kanyang paninira at paninisi sa pamahalaan ang nangyayari sa halip

na makipagtulungan para mabigyan ng maayos na solusyon ang problema sa bansa.

Subalit dahil may kani-kanyang pakinabang at adhikain ang bawat isa nagkakaroon ng kontrahan sa magkabilang panig na ang naapektuhan ay ang mga mamamayan na walang kinalaman sa kaguluhang nagaganap.

Kung talaga at totoong nagmamahal tayo sa ating "Inang Bayan" dapat ay hindi Filipino sa kapwa Filipino ang nagpapatayan at nagbabakbakan para lang sa interes ng ilan at interes at kapakanan ng ibang bansa.

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

ONLINE NEWS

(04 JUNE 2017)

Terrorism and ISIS at Resorts World attack?

From Rappler (Jun 3): **Terrorism and ISIS at Resorts World attack?** (By Maria A. Ressa)

Key to analyzing the threat accurately is understanding terror networks in the Philippines and Southeast Asia

The gunman enters the casino, shoots indiscriminately, then sets fire to the gambling tables. Ultimately, smoke from the fire kills at least 36 people.

Philippine police quickly discount terrorism: "We cannot relate it to terrorism because he did not shoot anybody," National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Director Oscar Albayalde told reporters on Friday, June 2. (READ: Police: Resorts World Manila shooting not act of terrorism)

Yet, instead of escaping with a backpack of casino chips worth P113 million, the gunman killed himself in a manner reminiscent of suicide attacks.

"He burned himself inside the hotel room 510," Philippine police chief Ronald dela Rosa told reporters. "He lay down on a bed, covered himself in a thick blanket and apparently doused himself in gasoline."

Hours before authorities spoke, however, alleged ISIS member Semion Almujahed, a member of the group that has taken parts of Marawi, claimed responsibility on a pro-ISIS channel.

This is the same account that posted the video of a priest held hostage in Marawi appealing for a troop pull-out on Tuesday, May 30.

Written in English and repeated in Arabic, the post said: "The lonewolf soldiers of the Khilafah attack the heart of Kufar city of Manila in Resort World."

When asked about this, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana contradicted police statements, telling Rappler that "the police and intel people are investigating." He added, "We are not yet ruling out that this is an ISIS act."

Key to analyzing the threat accurately is understanding terror networks in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

Lorenzana explained that in 2016, ISIS in Syria recognized Filipino groups as part of the terror group, the Islamic State, also known as IS. ISIL or Daesch.

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As early as January 2016, Rappler outlined the consolidation of extremist groups pledging allegiance to ISIS in the Philippines under the leadership of former Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, then based in Basilan.

"He was ordered to Lanao del Sur in early January to set up a *wilayat* (Islamic province) there," Lorenzana told Rappler. "ISIS thought that Lanao del Sur was a better place for expansion because the area is bigger than Basilan, and there are more Muslims there. Since their recognition as part of ISIS, Hapilon has received funds from ISIS."

In 2016, the groups consolidated in central Mindanao with a direct link to Syria.

Classified documents obtained by Rappler name the Filipino in ISIS in Raqqa: Mohammad Reza Kiram. In June 2016, he appeared in a video released in pro-ISIS telegram accounts. Kiram, along with a Malaysian and an Indonesian, beheaded 3 Caucasian males, and told jihadists that "if you cannot go to [Syria], join up and go to the Philippines." (READ: Filipino millennial joins ISIS in Syria)

Capturing territory

Intelligence reports from the Philippines and at least two other nations show that foreigners and others who came to the Philippines in response to ISIS' calls converged around the Butig area. Some of the foreigners were already in the country as part of what was then known as Jemaah Islamiyah, once al-Qaeda's arm in Southeast Asia.

What separates ISIS from al-Qaeda is its successful capture of territory – a physical caliphate. As its forces weakened in Iraq and Syria, its propaganda pushed homegrown groups in other parts of the world to take territory.

The Maute Group, which calls itself "IS Ranaw" held territory twice in 2016:

- From February 20 to March 1, it attacked a military camp and established 3 strongholds in Lanao del Sur, displacing nearly 30,000 people
- On November 26, they again occupied Butig, Lanao del Sur, removing the Philippine flag from the old town hall and replacing it with the ISIS flag

This set the stage for the taking of parts of Marawi, prompting the Philippine government to declare martial law in Mindanao on May 23. The Philippine military still has to regain full control of the city after more than 10 days of fighting.

"This is not a failure of intelligence; this is a failure to appreciate intelligence," Rohan Gunaratna told Rappler. Gunaratna, the author of *Inside al-Qaeda*, is the head of the International Centre for Political Violence & Terrorism Research Centre in Singapore.

"We have written many reports about the developments of ISIS in Mindanao," he said. "it's time to plan, prepare, and to build a strategy to control, contain, isolate, and eliminate ISIS."

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From 2012 until today, we've shown the evolution of terror networks in the Philippines – from its links to al-Qaeda and evolution to ISIS.

Rappler documented ISIS' moves in the Philippines, including ISIS-style beheadings of Filipinos, prison escapes, bomb plots, assassination attempts, and recruitment in universities in Marawi.

By early 2017, Filipinos and foreign nationals were training in the Butig area. By March, former Abu Sayyaf spokesman Muammar Askali, who had also pledged allegiance to ISIS, had moved from Jolo to central Mindanao. From there, a joint group traveled by sea to Bohol to try to mount an attack last April, coinciding with high tourist arrivals and an ASEAN meeting. That was foiled by authorities.

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