

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

05 June 2017

Monday

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS
05 JUNE 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A2-3
HEADLINE NEWS			
2-3	1,200 IS operatives in PH, says Indonesia	AFP	PDI p.A1
5	Marawi death toll reaches 188	Lianesca Panti	Mla times p.A1
6-7	179 rescued but fresh battle ends to bit to free more civilians in Marawi	Mario Mallari	Daily Tribune p.1
AFP RELATED NEWS			
8	Gov't accepts Red	Jigger Jerusalem	PDI p.A15
9	Duterte: I want all terrorists dead	Richel V. Umel	Phil. Inquirer p.A8
10-12	Duterte: Marawi crisis over in 3 days	Alexis Romero	The Phil Star p.6
13	SMC assists families of soldiers killed in Marawi		The Phil Star p.1
14	Families of dead soldiers to get P2-M livelihood Aid	Daxim L Lucas	PDI p.A10
15	Maute sniper shoots elderly woman dead	Philip C Tubeza	PDI p.A8
16	Duterte wants public hanging for Nobleza	Christina Mendez	The Phil Star p.2
17	Indonesia: 1,200 IS operatives	AFP	The Phil Star p.1
18	Opposition asks SC to revoke martial law	Nikko Dizon	PDI p.A9
19	Octogenarian beaten up by 2 Abus survives	Leo Udtohan	PDI p.A8
20	Lanao execs seeks swift end to war	Jigger J Jerusalem	PDI p.A12
21	Duterte goes on tour of Japanese warship	Allan Macatuno	PDI p.A12
22	2,000 civilians trapped in Marawi	AFP	The Phil Star p.6
23-24	179 residents rescued in Marawi ceasefire	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B1
25	Maguindanao drug lord joins BIFF – officials	Ali Macabalang	Mla Bulletin p.14
26	Local gunrunner providing guns to Maute	Camcer Imam	Mla Bulletin p.14
27	Angara pushes end to 'child soldiers'	Hannah Torregoza	Mla Bulletin p.14
28	High-powered guns seized from BIFF suspect	Julmunir Jannaral	Mla Times p.a5
29	Children used by Maute Group	Dana Del Rosario	Malaya p.B2
EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY			
30	How can Supreme Court cancel martial law	Oscar Tan	PDI p.A15
31-32	ISA versus IS	Cito Beltran	Phil Star p.13
32-33	Marawi is a king-size headache of Duterte	Elindano Cinco	Mla Bulletin p.12
34	Marawi aftermath	Melito Salazar Jr	Mla bulletin p.10
35-37	The Is claims they did it, but PDU30 denies it, and no one feels any safer	Francisco Tadtad	Mla Times p.A1
38	IS clear, present danger	-	Daily Tribune p.6

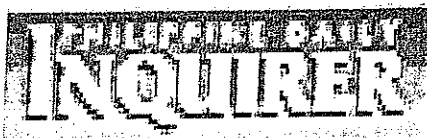
Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

ONLINE NEWS

40-41	Feature: Fighting the plight against the spite of Maute terrorists		www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
42	78 Marawi residents rescued gov't by forces		www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
43	NCMF Caraga leads relief distribution to Marawi families		www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

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

15 June 2017



Page: A2-3

www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JUNE 5, 2017 | MONDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SOUTHWEST MONSOON AFFECTING WESTERN SECTION OF LUZON (As of 3:00 AM - June 4, 2017)

LADAG CITY 26 - 33 °C	TUGUEGARAO CITY 25 - 37 °C
BAGUIO CITY 17 - 25 °C	TAGAYTAY CITY 25 - 31 °C
SBMA/CLARK 26 - 34 °C	LEGAZPI CITY 26 - 33 °C
METRO MANILA 25 - 35 °C	TACLOBAN CITY 26 - 31 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 26 - 33 °C	METRO CEBU 26 - 32 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 25 - 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO 25 - 32 °C
	METRO DAVAO 26 - 33 °C

SUNRISE 5:26 AM	SUNSET 6:23 PM
MOONRISE 2:59 PM	MOONSET 2:24 AM
FIRST QUARTER JUN 1 8:51 AM	FULL MOON JUN 8 8:10 PM
LOW TIDE 12:37 AM 0.26 Meter	HIGH TIDE 7:55 AM 0.81 Meter

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

	JUNE 6	JUNE 7	JUNE 6	JUNE 7	JUNE 6	JUNE 7		
METRO MANILA	25 - 35 °C	25 - 35 °C	TAGAYTAY	21 - 31 °C	21 - 31 °C	TACLOBAN	26 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 37 °C	25 - 37 °C	LEGAZPI	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
LADAG	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	METRO DAVAO	26 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	17 - 25 °C	17 - 25 °C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	26 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	ZAMBOANGA	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	METRO CEBU	26 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C	<p>SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!</p>		

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.

05 June 2017



Page: A1

1,200 IS operatives in PH, says Indonesia

SINGAPORE—There are about 1,200 operatives of the Islamic State (IS) group in the Philippines, including foreigners of whom 40 are from Indonesia, the Indonesian defense minister told an international security forum on Sunday.

Speaking in Singapore amid a bloody standoff between Philippine troops and IS-linked fighters in Marawi City, Indonesian Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu called the Islamist gunmen “killing machines” and urged full-scale regional cooperation against them.

“I was advised last night, 1,200 Isis (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria) in the Philippines, around 40 from Indonesia,” Ryamizard told the Shangri-La Dialogue, using another name for the IS group.

Philippine Defense Undersecretary Ricardo David Jr., speaking at the same forum, said the figure of 1,200 IS fighters in the Philippines reported by Indonesia was new to him.

“I really don’t know, my figure is about 250-400, a lot less,” David told reporters covering the conference that was attended by defense ministers and experts from 39 countries.

In Manila, Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana was asked about Ryamizard’s report. “No confirmation,” he replied.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said the military also had no such information.

The threat of heightened terrorism, including the im-

I really don't know, my figure is about 250-400, a lot less

Ricardo David Jr.
Defense undersecretary



pending return of hundreds of Southeast Asian fighters who fought with IS in Syria and Iraq, has been a hot-button issue at the three-day Singapore summit, which was also attended by US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

Hundreds of Islamist gunmen rampaged through Marawi, a largely Muslim city of 200,000 in Central Mindanao, on May 23 after the government attempted to arrest their leader, Isnilon Hapilon.

Up to 50 gunmen still control the city center nearly two weeks after the start of fighting that has killed about 180 people, including 120 militants.

"How can we tackle these foreign fighters? We have to be comprehensive," said Ryamizard, a retired general.

"We have to find ... complete ways but we must exercise caution, they are killing machines. Their aim is to kill other people so that's why it's our responsibility that we have common understanding, consensus and common proceedings on how to fight these for-

eign fighters," he added.

David confirmed the 40 foreign IS fighters were among those who seized parts of Marawi, eight of whom have been killed by government forces. Earlier, Philippine officials said the slain foreign fighters were from Malaysia, Indonesia, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Chechnya.

"They have a back-channel corridor in our country, probably in the area of Sulu Sea and Celebes Sea, [through which] they can proceed to Mindanao and link with the terrorist units in the area," said the Philippine defense undersecretary.

"That's why they were able to muster the operations in the area of Marawi," David added.

Larger regional effort

Security officials at the forum said on Sunday that joint patrols by three Southeast Asian countries in the Sulu Sea might be the start of a larger regional effort to keep Islamist militants at bay.

The patrols will be conducted by forces from Indonesia,

Malaysia and the Philippines, starting with sea operations this month, and air and land patrols starting at a later date.

The initiative in the Sulu Sea, an area bounded by the Malaysian state of Sabah and Mindanao, is a "collective agreement that is followed by the operational level," Ryamizard said. It will feature joint command posts and exercises between the trio's ground forces.

The so-called joint peace patrols are an attempt "to prevent and protect our border, to close the border so that militants don't go to other areas," Ryamizard said.

"If the situation escalates and extends to other waters, we would like to request other countries to join," he added.

The patrols will not fall under the umbrella of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), of which Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines are part.

"Asean is not a military bloc. It is a defense corporation. If there are any issues, we have to find commonalities" out of the organization, Ryamizard said.

Still, the objectives are aligned.

"The very threat we face is a common enemy. Terrorists are the enemy. Especially in Asean, we don't have any differences. I believe this can be a framework for other countries like the Middle East," he added.

Singapore Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen said that he had offered assistance in the form of an information-sharing center at Changi Naval Base. —REPORTS FROM AFP, AP AND PHILIP C. TUBEZA IN MANILA

June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Duterte: Marawi siege will be over soon

By GENALYN D. KABILING,
ARGYL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS
and CAMCER ORDONEZ IMAM

"This will be over in about three more days."

President Duterte, speaking Saturday night in Cagayan de Oro City, said this as he vowed to end the siege of Marawi City by Maute Group mili-

tants.

After visiting 63 wounded soldiers being treated at the Camp Evangelista Hospital, Duterte said he could have ended the armed conflict that has gripped Marawi in 24 hours if not for humanitarian considerations.

"Were it not because government is bound by rules and the values of civilization, I can end this war in 24 hours.

Bombahan ko lang lahat 'yan, I have 10 new jets. All I have to do is to bomb the whole place and level it to the ground," he said during a media interview in Cagayan de Oro last Saturday.

"But since we are in a civilized society and we are a member of the United Nations and of the Geneva Convention Protocol, nahihirapan ako (I'm having a hard

►4

time) and we had to do it to the least maximum damage of collaterals lalo na civilian," he said.

While he is saddened by the loss of lives in the Marawi rebellion, the President expressed confidence the conflict could be ended soon.

"Kaya itong nahirapan tayo, this will be over in about three more days. At gross disparity, marami talagang patay sa rebelde. Ang gobyerno naman hindi nagkulang (the rebel casualty is bigger. Our government was not remiss)," he added.

The government missed its June 2 deadline to completely clear Marawi City of armed group due to some difficulties, including the rebels' use of civilians as human shields.

"Ang kalaban, they have no compas-

sion. Mamatay 'yung civilian o sundalo o pulis. baliwala sa kanila 'yan (The enemies have no compassion. They don't care about the casualties whether soldiers, police, or civilians)," Duterte explained.

"But we have to align our shots against the enemy. We cannot just press the trigger of a machine gun and just say, 'to whom it may concern, pasensya na kayo (we're sorry)," he said.

Duterte also said he is "sorry" for the recent botched military air strike in Marawi but conceded there is "no guarantee" it won't happen again.

Although he is hopeful there will be no repeat of the incident, the President mentioned the "Murphy's Law" that states anything that can go wrong, will

go wrong.

"We are sorry that it happened and I hope that this will not be repeated but there is no guarantee. Any war, everything is stretched and it can break any moment," Duterte said.

"It is a very sad commentary but this thing will happen again and again and again. It does, it has not happened not only with the Philippine Army, minsan Navy, and then there is what you would call the 'Murphy's Law,'" he said.

"The Murphy's Law states that if anything can go wrong, it will go wrong," said Duterte.

Ten soldiers were killed and several others were injured when a Philippine Air Force plane botched a bombing run in Marawi City last week. A conventional bomb was used in the air strike after they reportedly ran out of supply of precision-guided weapons.

4

June 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A1

MILITARY ORDERS 4-HOUR CEASEFIRE MARAWI DEATH TOLL REACHES 188

At least 30 civilians and 38 government troops have been killed, in addition to 120 terrorists, in the military offensive against the Islamic State (IS)-linked Maute group in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, the Palace said on Sunday.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella announced the latest body count over the state-run *Radyo ng Bayan* on the 13th day of fighting.

"As of 11 p.m., June 3, 2017 in Marawi, there have been 30 civilians that have

been killed by local terrorist groups, and those rescued are 1,271. Government casualties or those killed in action are 38," he said.

"Our troops have killed 120 from
►DeathA2

the terrorist ranks, and that has remained unchanged," Abella added.

Government forces have bombarded Marawi with air strikes and waged fierce street-to-street battles with hundreds of gunmen since the latter began a rampage through residential areas waving the black IS flags on May 22. President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao the day after.

The military on Sunday implemented a four-hour "peace corridor" or ceasefire in fighting until noon that allowed trapped Marawi residents to move to safer ground as well as humanitarian aid to pass.

"This might entail some operational risks to the security forces such as the Maute-ISIS Group also being accorded some sort of a reprieve during the lull. But these initiatives are necessary and called for to allow safe passage to the residents," it said in a statement, using another acronym for IS.

Zia Alonto Adiong, spokesman for the provincial crisis management committee, told Agence France-Presse: "There are 2,000 people who need immediate help [after] 13 days without food."

"We do not know if the ceasefire has been breached," he said, adding that a sudden surge in fighting

had hampered the rescue efforts.

Scores of people made a daring dash for safety on Saturday, including one of Marawi's most respected politicians who had hidden 71 Christians in his home and led 144 people through downtown streets strewn with rotting corpses.

The militants behind the violence in Marawi mostly belong to the Maute and the infamous Abu Sayyaf kidnap-for-ransom gang which had pledged allegiance to IS and rejected official peace talks.

Sunday's ceasefire was initially reached following a meeting last week between President Rodrigo Duterte and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the nation's biggest rebel organization which offered to broker a halt in hostilities using contacts with the fighters in Marawi, Adiong told dzBB radio.

Unarmed MILF rebels took civilians to safety, government rescue coordinator Naguib Sinarimbo said.

But an Agence France-Presse reporter said there was a sudden burst of gunfire and an explosion as rescue teams were entering the city.

A Muslim separatist rebellion in the southern Philippines has killed more than 120,000 people since the 1970s.

The MILF has signed accords with the government aimed at forging lasting peace, giving up their separatist ambitions in return for autonomy.

But small hardline groups,

including the Maute and Abu Sayyaf, have refused to negotiate and sought to united behind IS.

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

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

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

Rep. Tom Villarin called for the lifting of military rule, claiming Mindanaoans were against it.

"Even those from Marawi are calling for the lifting of Martial law. The rest of the Filipinos do not know about the humanitarian crisis in Marawi. Air strikes have victimized civilians; you get flagged at checkpoints and detained if you don't have an ID. And when you are a Muslim, you are automatically a suspect. These are all because of martial law," he said in a radio interview.

Villarin and other lawmakers have vowed to question the martial law decree under Proclamation 216 before the Supreme Court.

LLANESCA T. PANTI AND AFP

05 June 2017



Page: 1

179 rescued but fresh battle ends bid to free more civilians in Marawi

Efforts to rescue up to 2,000 civilians trapped by fighting between troops and Islamist militants in Marawi City failed yesterday when a proposed truce ended in a hail of gunfire and explosions, authorities and witnesses said.

The civilians were pinned down nearly two weeks ago in the besieged city where gunmen loyal to the Islamic State (IS) group are holding out against a military assault.

The government said 178 persons have been killed so far.

Local authorities said government officials, working through

intermediaries, had reached an agreement with the militants to observe a four-hour ceasefire Sunday to let the trapped civilians leave.

But the officials failed to secure agreement from their own military for the truce, provincial crisis management committee spokesman Zia Afonto Adiong told Agence France Presse.

He said the military only allowed rescuers to access areas on the fringes of zones held by the militants, and barred them from entering bombed-out city blocks.

As a result only some 170-plus

turn to page 3

From page 1

trapped residents were led to safety Sunday, according to the military.

"We felt a bit disappointed and betrayed. We're talking about lives of people, my God!" Adiong said.

"There are 2,000 people who need immediate help (after) 13 days without food."

Gunfire and explosions, including from several artillery shells, later forced the rescuers to retreat, AFP journalists saw. There were contradictory reports on who was firing.

"The military... did not approve entry into high-risk areas to avoid putting our humanitarians in danger and any possibility that may complicate the situation," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella, in a statement, said.

The chief delegate for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Mindanao told AFP those rescued yesterday were mostly men and appeared to be in relatively good health.

By contrast, 14 of the nearly 200 rescued on Saturday had to be hospitalized, Roberto Petronio said.

"These were mostly children who were suffering from diarrhea and malnutrition," he added.

Hardline groups

The military has bombarded Marawi with air strikes and waged fierce street-to-street battles with hundreds of gunmen since they began a rampage through residential areas waving the black flags of the IS.

A total of 120 gunmen including eight foreign fighters, 38 soldiers and police and 20 civilians have been killed, officials said, giving lower figures than previously for civilian deaths.

Scores of people made a daring

dash for safety on Saturday, including one of Marawi's most respected politicians who had hidden 71 Christians in his home and led 144 persons through downtown streets strewn with rotting corpses.

Sunday's ceasefire deal was initially reached following a meeting last week between President Rodrigo Duterte and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the nation's biggest rebel organization which offered to broker a halt in hostilities using contacts with the fighters in Marawi, Adiong told AFP.

Unarmed MILF rebels were to have escorted the civilians to safety during a four-hour period ending at 12 noon.

The main Muslim rebel groups like the MILF have signed accords with the government aimed at forging a final peace, giving up their separatist ambitions in return for autonomy.

But small hardline groups, including the Maute and Abu Sayyaf, which are involved in the Marawi battle, have refused to negotiate and sought to unite behind IS.

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

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

Shortly after the violence erupted Mr. Duterte imposed martial law across the southern region of Mindanao, home to 20 million people, to quell what he said was an IS bid to establish a base in the mainly Catholic Philippines. **Marlo J. Mallari and AFP**

June 2017



Page: 10

Gov't accepts Reds' offer to fight Maute

By Karlos Manlupig
Inquirer Midnao

THE NETHERLANDS—The government has accepted the offer of the communist movement to join the fight against the Maute group, as well as to sign a ceasefire agreement.

Government peace panel chair and Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said the government welcomed the "firm commitment to join the fight against the Maute group, the Abu Sayyaf and other terrorist groups in the Philippines."

"We, in particular, view as a positive development the NDFP's (National Democratic Front of the Philippines) offer for a ceasefire agreement with the Philippine government, which will spell out specific ar-

panel to "convene in the soonest time possible and discuss the terms of the ceasefire agreement under direct guidance of panelists, legal and political consultants and other personnel in the peace negotiations."

"Preparations of the bilateral teams may include other matters that need to be discussed by both parties," Bello said.

Fruitful meeting

The NDFP issued a position statement on Thursday after senior communist leaders met with Bello and government negotiator Angela Librado.

The NDFP is represented by Communist Party of the Philippines founding chairman Jose Maria Sison and NDFP chief negotiators Fidel Agcaoili and Benito Tiamzon.



Silvestre Bello III

reas of cooperation and coordination in the fight against terrorism," Bello said.

Ceasefire signing

He said the government was expecting the signing of a ceasefire agreement in the areas where both government and New People's Army (NPA) forces would be working together.

Agcaoili said the three-hour meeting was fruitful, with both parties reaching an agreement to issue separate statements with a common stand against terrorism and a commitment for the continuation of the peace process.

He asserted that the level of counteraction against terrorism including its nature, scope and duration "must be appropriate and proportional to the degree of danger and threat and/or harm" by the groups involved in the siege in Marawi City.

"Upon the success of counterterrorist measures, these must cease to allow normalcy and full respect for human rights as soon as possible," Agcaoili said.

The NDFP earlier said this could mean the redeployment

Bello added that they also acknowledged the offer of the NDFP for the issuance of unilateral ceasefire declarations that were simultaneous and reciprocal.

"We anticipate the immediate signing of the ceasefire agreement, which shall bind both parties pending the issuance of ceasefire declarations that are unilateral but simultaneous and reciprocal, subject to the basic guidelines outlined in the CARHR-IHL (Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law), and under a mechanism implemented by an interim joint ceasefire committee and its local liaison officers," Bello said.

Bello said they expected both the government and the NDFP

of NPA fighters near Marawi and North Cotabato to directly engage terror groups.

Simultaneous, reciprocal

Agcaoili clarified that the NDFP was ready anytime to issue a nationwide unilateral ceasefire as long as it was simultaneous and reciprocal.

While both parties are engaging the Maute and Abu Sayyaf, the negotiating teams could perform preparations for the fifth round of talks through bilateral teams, Agcaoili said.

"In this connection, all panelists, legal and political consultants and other personnel in the peace negotiations must be allowed to return to the Philippines and subsequently attend the fifth round of formal talks," Agcaoili said. INQ

June 2017

INQUIRER

Page: 78

Duterte: I want all terrorists dead

By **Christine O. Avendaño,**
Richel V. Umel
and **Jeffrey Maitem**
@Team Inquirer

Saying he had lost many soldiers and policemen in the operation against the Maute group in Marawi City, President Duterte on Sunday night rejected peace talks and said he wanted all the terrorists holed up in the city dead.

"I will not talk to you. Whatever the leaders of the group say, I don't care. That is why make sure you fight well because I have ordered [the military] to bring the heads of these sons of bitches," Mr. Duterte said in a speech at Mactan-Benito Ebuen Air Base in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu province.

Mr. Duterte said he had or-

The peace corridor was a result of the meeting last week between President Duterte and the MILF.

"We opened that peace corridor and you can see that we were able to accomplish so much in so little time," she said, adding that MILF emissaries persuaded Maute group leader Abdullah Maute to agree to a four-hour ceasefire from 8 a.m. to noon of Sunday.

Santiago said the peace corridor covered the area from Banggolo Bridge up to Quezon Avenue of Marawi, which is about 3 kilometers.

Santiago said the government did not offer anything in exchange for the truce.

She said she hoped that the military and the Maute group could implement another truce

dered troops to "shoot [the enemy] and shoot [them] dead."

Airstrikes on terrorist positions in Marawi resumed on Sunday afternoon after a four-hour humanitarian ceasefire for the evacuation of civilians was marred by terrorist sniper fire.

Military jets and helicopters fired on Maute positions near the city center around 2 p.m., after the expiry of the ceasefire, military officials said.

The evacuation was led by five teams of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) members who went to the war zone to persuade about 2,000 civilians to come out after 13 days in hiding.

"We were able to retrieve 134 children, men, women, elderly and the sick," Presidential for the 1,000 to 2,000 civilians who remained trapped in the war zone.

"We will take it one day at a time," she said as Hermoso thanked the MILF volunteers for their courage.

"We should not forget them. They are the heroes who sacrificed and took the risk of going inside," Hermoso said.

One of the MILF volunteers, Arjani Mimbantas, said he was driven by the thought of helping the civilians who had been hiding without food or water for 12 days.

As of June 2, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao's Humanitarian Emergency Action and Response Team reported a total of 221,275 displaced people.

Of the total number, 58,160

Adviser on the Peace Process Assistant Secretary Dickson Hermoso told reporters.

But one team was not able to evacuate anyone after they were met with sniper fire at Barangay Banggolo, an hour and a half into the truce.

Agakhan Shareif, a Marawi civic leader involved in the rescue plan, said rescuers were nearing Barangay Banggolo when they were fired upon by a gunman from a Maute position.

An elderly woman was killed by the intermittent sniper fire, scaring off most of the trapped civilians to emerge from hiding.

Irene Santiago, chair of the Bangsamoro peace process, said the rescue operation was called off after the MILF ceasefire committee offered to help make a peace corridor for civilians.

people are in evacuation centers while 163,115 are staying with relatives outside Marawi.

Earlier, President Duterte said the siege would be over within days.

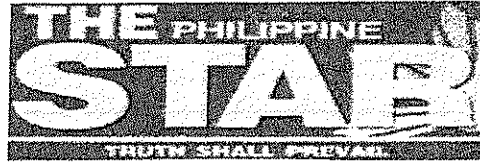
"This will be over in about three more days," Mr. Duterte said on Saturday after visiting a Cagayan de Oro hospital where wounded soldiers were being treated.

"I can end this war in 24 hours," the President said. "All I have to do is bomb the whole place and level it to the ground."

But he said he feared an increase in civilian casualties, which authorities said had reached 38 deaths as of Sunday.

—WITH A REPORT FROM
EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ AND RYAN D.
ROSAURO, INQUIRER MINDANAO INQ

June 2017



Page: 6

Duterte: Marawi crisis over in 3 days

The government now believes the terrorist Islamic State (IS) is behind the Marawi City siege because of the manner by which the militants have been fighting, according to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

"Yes, we believe this is IS 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," Lorenzana said in a press conference in Marawi City on Saturday night.

He noted that one proof that IS is behind the Marawi siege is the entry of foreign fighters, which he said is puzzling. Two Indonesians, two Malaysians, two Saudi nationals, one Yemeni, one Indian and one Chechen were said to have linked up with the local Maute group.

Lorenzana also said he got information that some locals could have helped foreign fighters enter Marawi during the Tabligh, a convention of Sunni Islamic missionaries in Marawi that ended a day before the battle started. Tabligh Jamaat is reportedly a movement that calls on Muslims to

return to Sunni Islam.

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

Authorities said they were taken by surprise when many gunmen from the IS-inspired Maute group emerged to protect Hapilon and then went on a rampage through Marawi.

Lorenzana said Hapilon helped IS communicate with the Maute group. Hours after the violence erupted,

President Duterte placed the entire Mindanao under martial law to quell what he said was an IS bid to establish a base in the country.

Duterte: Siege to end in 3 days

Duterte said the clashes in Marawi would be over in "about three more days."

He also admitted that ensuring the safety of civilians while running after the terrorists poses a challenge to security forces. The government could have ended the clashes in 24 hours if it did not follow the "rules and values of civilization."

"This will be over in about three more days. At a gross... disparity. Many rebels have died. But the government did not fail to do what it was supposed to do," the President told reporters in Cagayan de Oro Saturday night.

"I could have bombed everything there. I have 10 jets. All I have to do is to bomb the whole place and level it to the ground. But since we are in a civilized society and we are a member of the United Nations and of the Geneva Convention Protocol, I am having dif-

iculties and we had to do it to the least maximum damage of collaterals especially civilians," he added.

MNLF to help soldiers, MILF back ceasefire

Duterte also said yesterday that about 2,000 forces of the Moro National Liberation Front would join the fight in Marawi.

Duterte said he has accepted MNLF founder Nur Misuari's offer to provide additional troops.

"He (Misuari) has offered 2,000 and I said I'm willing to take in 2,000 as regular troops of the armed forces of the government. That offer also goes to the NPA (New People's Army)," he told reporters in Olongapo City.

"If you no longer want to fight, I'm not asking you to join my force. You just surrender and I'll give you the houses and I will expand the land reform program of the government. I will find the money," he added.

While Duterte is ready to talk peace with the MNLF and the NPA, he insisted that he would not negotiate with the Maute terrorists.

"It's too late to be talking peace. I will not be talking to you," the President said in a speech before soldiers in Cebu City.

"You fight with all your strength because my order is to bring to me the heads of those sons of b*****... You started the ruckus. We did not ask for it," he added.

Security officials originally sought to end the clashes with the Maute militants Friday last week. The military previously said the bandits were using civilians as human shields, making it difficult for ground forces to launch offensives.

Authorities had finally been able to negotiate a ceasefire in war-torn Marawi to rescue up to 2,000 civilians trapped for nearly two weeks in areas held by Maute militants.

Over 60 civilians were reportedly rescued from different villages amid sporadic gunshots from Maute snipers yesterday.

Zia Alonto Adiong, spokesman for the provincial crisis management committee, said yesterday's ceasefire was initially reached following a meeting last week between Duterte and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which offered to broker a halt in hostilities using contacts with the fighters in Marawi.

Unarmed MILF rebels had a four-hour window until noon to take civilians to safety, government rescue coordinator Naguib Sinarimbo said.

But journalists heard a sudden burst of gunfire and an explosion as rescue teams were entering the city.

"There are 2,000 people who need immediate help (after) 13 days without food. We do not know if the ceasefire has been breached," Adiong said, adding that a sudden surge in fighting had hampered the rescue efforts.

Lt. Col. Gerry Besana of the Army's 6th Civil-Military Operations Battalion said he and his men cried

when they saw dozens of trapped Christians being escorted by Muslim elders who provided them sanctuary for almost two weeks.

"We have documented stories telling that the trouble created by these terrorists have opened the hearts and minds of people with different religions in Marawi City and those in other areas outside, to the reality that only by helping one another can we defeat terrorists," Besana told **The STAR**.

On Saturday, at least 185 people also made a daring dash for safety, including one of Marawi's most respected politicians who had hidden 71 Christians in his home and led 144 people through downtown streets strewn with rotting corpses.

The MILF is a breakaway group from the MNLF. The MILF has signed accords with the government aimed at forging lasting peace, giving up their separatist ambitions in return for autonomy. But small hardline groups, including the Maute and Abu Sayyaf, have refused to negotiate and sought to unite behind IS.

Prayers called, Marawi school opening delayed

Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle yesterday called on the Catholic faithful to pray for Muslim brethren in Marawi affected by ongoing clashes between government troops and local terror group Maute.

In a statement posted on the website of Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines yesterday, Tagle said residents of the predominantly Muslim city need prayers that are equally important as relief goods.

"They may have not experienced a super typhoon but they are now encountering a different kind of humanitarian crisis not brought by typhoon but by violence," he added.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development sent an additional 10,000 family food packs for displaced residents staying at evacuation centers.

The Department of Education said the opening of classes in Marawi would be delayed.

"For obvious reasons, Marawi City and eight districts of Lanao del Sur will be delayed by two weeks. Schedule of classes will be adjusted so these will start early and dismiss early," DepEd said in a statement.

"The usual documents which are required will be dispensed with in the case of children from displaced families. We are also making adjustments for schools which will have increased enrollments and those which will have lesser students," it added.

Meanwhile, senators push for stronger policies and amendments to existing laws to ensure protection of children in conflict areas.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III and Sen. Sonny Angara expressed alarm over reports of the presence of child combatants in Marawi City. – Alexis Romero, John Unson, Gerry Lee Gorit, Paolo Romero, Edu Punay, AFP

June 2017



Page: 1

SMC assists families of soldiers killed in Marawi

San Miguel Corp., through the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), will take an active role in rebuilding conflict-affected communities in Marawi City, SMC president

and chief operating officer Ramon Ang said yesterday.

He initially pledged start-up business opportunities for families of soldiers killed in action. The start-up package,

estimated at P2 million per family, is meant to ensure that families will have a sustainable source of income for the long-term.

"All of us Filipinos are

in awe of the courage and heroism of our soldiers. Our soldiers deserve our deepest respect and gratitude. It's very unfortunate that we have lost

Turn to Page 7

many of them in this conflict. We mourn with their families and the whole nation," Ang said.

"The best way we can honor our fallen soldiers is to try and help their loved ones have a chance at a better future. For our part, San Miguel commits to provide their families the means to put up their own start-up businesses. We will assist them, and help their commu-

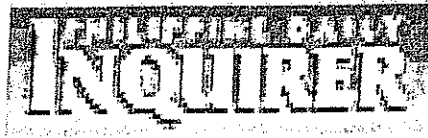
nity recover sustainably," he added.

Ang said that the company's San Miguel Foundation and the AFP will

finalize the particulars of the assistance package and rebuild program for the affected communities.

13

05 June 2017



Page: A10

FAMILIES OF DEAD SOLDIERS TO GET P2-M LIVELIHOOD AID

By **Daxim L. Lucas**
@DaxINQ

The chief of one of the Philippines' largest corporations on Sunday pledged to aid families of soldiers who have been killed in action (KIA) in Marawi City, by providing them income-generating businesses.

Ramon Ang, president of San Miguel Corp., said the company would give each family of soldiers killed in action a business startup package worth P2 million.

The grant will "ensure that families will have a sustainable source of income for the long term," Ang said in a statement.

"All of us Filipinos are in awe of the courage and heroism of our soldiers," Ang said. "Our soldiers deserve our deepest respect and gratitude. It's very unfortunate that we have lost many of them in this conflict. We mourn with their families and the whole nation."

38 killed in action

As of the weekend, 38 soldiers have been killed in action in the government's campaign to crush the Maute group terrorists

linked to the Islamic State (IS) group which have besieged Marawi City, according to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"The best way we can honor our fallen soldiers is to try and help their loved ones have a chance at a better future," Ang said.

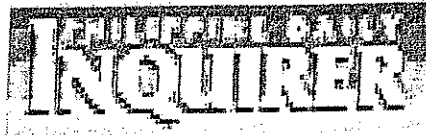
"For our part, San Miguel commits to provide their families the means to put up their own startup businesses. We will assist them and help their community recover sustainably," he added.

Ang said San Miguel Foundation and the AFP would work out the particulars of the assistance package and a rebuilding program for the affected communities.

Apart from this business grant for the families of fallen soldiers, San Miguel has also donated the equivalent of P2 billion to the government's crackdown on narcotics through the construction of drug rehabilitation centers around the country.

San Miguel has also made a substantial donation to a housing program for soldiers and policemen in Davao City. INQ

05 June 2017



Page: 7B

TRAPPED RESIDENTS

MAUTE SNIPER SHOTS ELDERLY WOMAN DEAD

By Philip C. Tubeza
@pctubezaINQ

An elderly woman was shot dead on Saturday by Maute terrorists in Marawi City as she was about to be rescued after being trapped between clashes of the extremists and government troops, a military official said on Sunday.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson, said the military was being "very careful" as it tried to neutralize the remaining rebels in the city because they planned to use their hostages as human shields.

"We were rescuing an elderly woman, if I'm not mistaken she was 70 years old, but she was hit by sniper fire from the

enemy," Padilla said.

"So instead of her getting rescued, this elderly woman was hit and she died," he said.

Padilla said the clearing operation in Marawi was slowing down because the extremists planned to use "human shields."

"We want to make sure that the city is cleared of armed elements, particularly of Maute members, but this is not being done quickly now because we learned that they might use their hostages and residents trapped in the fighting as human shields," Padilla said.

"So, we will do this slowly to make sure that the civilians who are trapped in the areas where [the extremists] are holed up will be freed," he added.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Saturday said there were still around 200 to 300 gunmen surrounded in Barangay Banggolo, Marawi's central business district.

Padilla advised trapped civilians in the area to look for a white cloth in their homes and wave it once government troops reached their houses.

"When you see soldiers around your home, look for a white cloth that could be used as a flag and wave it outside," Padilla said.

"Once you get the attention of the soldiers, the women, elderly and men should come out with their hands held high. And then, wait for instructions from our soldiers," he said.
INO

15 June 2017



Page: 2

Duterte wants public hanging for Nobleza

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

For aiding the terrorist Abu Sayyaf group, President Duterte wants sacked Superintendent Maria Cristina Nobleza hanged in public along with other traitors in government.

Duterte said investigators have uncovered the money trail from abroad to Nobleza, whom the Chief Executive believes played a major role in the operations of the Abu Sayyaf prior to her arrest in Bohol last April.

Nobleza, a former deputy director of the Philippine National Police crime laboratory in Davao, was arrested along with her alleged lover Abu Sayyaf bomber Reenor Lou Dungon.

"The name of that woman, Nobleza, always crops up. The cop was a recipient of huge cash from a group that is part of the terror groups fighting in the Middle East. She is really the lady that is a traitor to her country," Duterte said in a press briefing after visiting wounded soldiers at Camp Evangelista hospital in Cagayan de Oro last Saturday.

If he would have his way, Duterte would want to hang Nobleza for everyone to see.

"I will not hesitate to do it if it comes to that. I will hang every traitor in the government," the President said.

As martial law continues to be imposed in all of Mindanao, Duterte said he wants the Armed Forces to take a lead role in destroying the finance apparatus of the terror groups Abu Sayyaf and Maute.

Duterte said the Mautes that laid siege to Marawi City had connections with Middle East-based groups.

Turn to Page 9

"The Maute brothers went to the Middle East to study terrorism. When they went back here, they built the biggest (shabu) laboratory and it was really to fund terrorism," the President said.

He pointed out that freeing Marawi City from the clutches of terrorists could have been done in a day as, being commander-in-chief, he could have easily ordered the military to conduct rampant bombings to flush them out. But then he ordered the forces to minimize the casualties on both soldiers and civilians.

"And that is why we are also suffering great losses," he lamented.

Duterte said he already ordered his men to arrest all personalities involved in the illegal drug trade and helping the Maute group.

"In the days ahead we will arrest all of them (starting with the producers and financiers). They will all be arrested, whether politicians or not," he said.

June 2017



Page: 1

Indonesia: 1,200 IS operatives in Phl

There are about 1,200 Islamic State (IS) group operatives in the Philippines, including foreigners of whom 40 are from Indonesia, the Indonesian defense minister told an

international security forum yesterday.

Phl, Malaysia, Indonesia to jointly fight IS. See Page 14.

Speaking in Singapore amid a bloody standoff between sol-

diers and the Maute militants fighting under the IS flag in

Marawi City, Defense Minister Rymazard Ryacudu called the

militants "killing machines" and urged full-scale regional cooperation against them.

"I was advised last night, 1,200 IS in the Philippines,

Turn to Page 8

around 40 from Indonesia," Ryacudu told the Shangri-La Dialogue.

The threat of heightened terrorism, including the impending return of hundreds of Southeast Asian fighters who fought with IS in Syria and Iraq, has been a hot-button issue at the three-day Singapore summit also attended by US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

Hundreds of Maute fighters rampaged through Marawi City on May 23 after government forces attempted to arrest their leader, Isnilon Hapilon.

Up to 50 gunmen are still controlling the city center nearly two weeks after the start of fighting that has killed 177 people, including 120 militants.

"How can we tackle these foreign fighters? We have to be comprehensive," said Ryacudu.

"We have to find... complete ways but we must exercise caution, they are killing machines. Their aim is to kill other people so that's why it's our responsibility that we have common understanding, consensus and common proceedings on how to fight these foreign fighters," he added.

Philippine Defense Undersecretary Ricardo David said in the same forum that the 1,200 figure for total IS fighters in the Philippines was new to him.

"I really don't know, my figure is about 250-400, a lot less," he told reporters.

But David said there were 40 foreign IS fighters among those who seized parts of Marawi, eight of whom have been killed by government forces.

Earlier, Philippine defense officials said the slain foreign fighters were from Malaysia, Indonesia, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Chechnya.

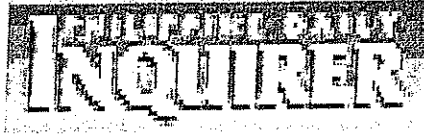
"Our intelligence estimates that there are about 40 foreigners that fought in the Marawi incident," David said.

The Philippine official added that the foreign fighters used "back channels" in the Sulu and Celebes Seas near the borders of the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia to enter the southern island of Mindanao and link up with local terror groups.

"That's why they were able to muster the operations in the area of Marawi," David said.

- AFP

June 2017



Page: 19

Opposition asks SC to revoke martial law

By Nikko Dizon
@NikkoDizonINQ

Opposition lawmakers will ask the Supreme Court (SC) this week to revoke President Duterte's martial law declaration, arguing that there was not enough justification for the Commander in Chief to impose direct military control in the entire Mindanao only to run after "terrorist bandits" in Marawi City.

Akbayan Rep. Tom Villarin said his group, the independent minority bloc led by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, and other organizations, will file a petition for certiorari against Proclamation

No. 216 and convince the high court that it should be revoked.

President Duterte and Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea were among those named respondents in the petition, Villarin said.

"We want [martial law] lifted and stopped. Martial law will be implemented for 60 days but given the situation, because there is no substantive basis and in terms of justification [which is rebellion or invasion], there really is no invasion happening, and the process of [review] was not completed because Congress did not convene for a joint session," Villarin said over dzBB.

Government forces have

been fighting Maute rebels protecting Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon for two weeks now.

Mr. Duterte announced that he was declaring martial law in Mindanao to stop the Maute group that was backed by the Islamic State from establishing its presence in Marawi City.

Villarin said that despite the six-hour hearing by the House committee of the whole on Monday, he and his fellow congressmen-petitioners remained unconvinced that Mr. Duterte's martial law declaration was justified.

Villarin said for one, "there was never a recommendation from the security [officials]."

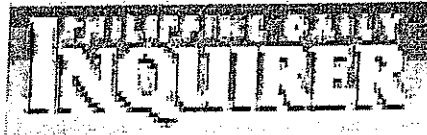
He said even the Armed Forces had said the situation in Marawi was under control.

Most importantly, Proclamation No. 55, declared by Mr. Duterte in September last year after the Davao City blasts, has placed the country under a national state of emergency, Villarin said.

"The President really has the calling out powers [under Proclamation No. 55] so that the AFP could address all national emergencies," the lawmaker said.

Villarin said the Maute group was made up of "plain bandits, who just like the Abu Sayyaf, do kidnapping for ransom." INQ

05 June 2017



Page: AB

BOHOL INCURSION
OCTAGENARIAN
BEATEN UP BY 2
ABUS SURVIVES

By Leo Udtohan
@leoudtohanINQ

TAGBILARAN CITY—Porferio Gosenas spoke as if he was being strangled. He walked slowly since his groin was still aching.

Cosenas, 82, also known as Lolo Peryong, suffered from severe beating in the hands of two Abu Sayyaf bandits, minutes before they were killed by soldiers on Pangangan Island, Calape town, last May 15.

His back, chest and groin remained painful even if it had been two weeks since he was beaten up.

On Tuesday, Lolo Peryong was accompanied by his daughter, Rodelita Granaderos, to Tagbilaran City for check-up. They also dropped by radio station dyRD to air an appeal for financial assistance from the government to buy medicines for his wounds.

Granaderos, 49, said she could not afford to buy the medicines her father needed.

Police reports said the elderly chanced upon Abu Ubayda, who was armed with an M-16 rifle, while he was trying to escape from government troopers.

He tried to fight Ubayda off using his bolo but was overpowered and beaten up.

Ubayda was later killed by government troops, along with his companion, Abu Asis, in Barangay Lawis on Pangangan Island.

The two were with Abu Sayyaf members who tried to set up a base in Barangay Napo, Inabanga town, on April 10. All were killed in separate operations.

According to Lolo Peryong, the two attacked him and even threatened to kill him.

One of the armed men hit the elderly with the rifle butt while the other jumped on top of him and choked him.
INQ

15 June 2017

Page: 12

INQUIRER

LANAO EXECS SEEK SWIFT END TO WAR

ILIGAN CITY—Fearing the fighting in Marawi City would spread to the entire province of Lanao del Sur, local officials pleaded to President Duterte for a swift and successful end to the campaign to finish off terrorists who had laid siege to Marawi.

The provincial government of Lanao del Sur also appealed to the military to minimize damage on infrastructure and civilian casualties.

According to Zia Alonto Adiong, spokesperson for the provincial government's crisis management committee, the sooner the fighting ends in Marawi, the better for the province.

President Duterte had declared martial law in Mindanao in response to the attempt by members of two local terror groups, Abu Sayyaf and Maute, to take over Marawi to establish a caliphate of the Islamic State there.

Practical

Alonto said declaring martial law in Mindanao was a "practical solution."

But he said the fighting should not spill over to other towns. "We need to contain it," he said.

Adiong said the longer the conflict took, the more health problems could arise in evacuation centers.

He said some civilians staying in temporary shelters had contracted common illnesses like fever, colds and cough due to lack of nutrition, sleep and stress.

The diseases could spread, he said. —JIGGER J. JERUSALEM INQ

05 June 2017



Page: A12

4-DAY GOODWILL VISIT

DUTERTE GOES ON TOUR OF JAPANESE WARSHIP

By Allan Macatuno
@amacatunoINQ

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT— President Duterte on Sunday set foot on one of two Japanese warships that had docked at Alava Pier here for a four-day goodwill visit.

Mr. Duterte boarded the Japanese warship JS Izumo (DDH-183 and seen in photo above) and met with Katsuyuki Kawal, special adviser to the prime minister and member of the Japanese delegation, at 4 p.m.

At the vessel's hangar, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force accorded arrival honors to Mr. Duterte, who was later accompanied by Japanese Navy officers as he toured its medical room, combat information center, flight information center and storage.

JS Izumo and Japanese guided-missile destroyer JS Sazanami (DD-113) arrived at this free port early morning of Sunday.

The two Japanese naval ships carried about 800 troops

who would join their Filipino counterparts in a series of engagements in Zambales province, said Capt. Lued Lincuna, head of the Philippine Navy's public affairs office.

Lincuna said the Japanese vessels' visit was expected to enhance maritime cooperation with Japan.

The Philippine Navy vessel BRP Raja Humabon escorted the two vessels to the berthing area.

"The visit is expected to enhance maritime cooperation between the two countries to help maintain peace and stability in the region," Lincuna said.

Japanese Navy officers and enlisted members will pay a courtesy call on Rear Adm. Gaudencio Collado Jr., commander of the Philippine fleet, and participate in a joint fun and sport fest with their Filipino counterparts in Zambales province.

Japanese defense forces are on high alert following a series of tests by North Korea that sent missiles landing in the Sea of Japan. INQ

21

June 2017



Page: 0

2,000 civilians trapped in Marawi

MARAWI CITY – Efforts to rescue up to 2,000 civilians trapped by fighting between troops and Islamist militants here failed yesterday when a proposed truce ended in a hail of gunfire and explosions, authorities and witnesses said.

The civilians were pinned down nearly two weeks ago in the center of this city on Mindanao island, where gunmen loyal to the Islamic State group are holding out against a military assault.

The government said 178 people have been killed so far.

Local authorities said government officials, working through intermediaries, had reached agreement with the militants to observe a four-hour ceasefire yesterday to let the trapped civilians leave.

But the officials failed to secure agreement from their own military for the truce, provincial crisis management committee

spokesman Zia Alonto Adiong told AFP.

He said the military only allowed rescuers to access areas on the fringes of zones held by the militants, and barred them from entering bombed-out city blocks.

As a result, only some 170-plus trapped residents were led to safety yesterday, according to the military.

"We felt a bit disappointed and betrayed. We're talking about lives of people, my God!" Adiong said.

Gunfire and explosions, including from several artillery shells, later forced the rescuers to retreat, AFP journalists saw. There were contradictory reports on who was firing.

"The military... did not approve entry into high-risk areas to avoid putting our humanitarians in danger and any possibility that may complicate the situation," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a statement.

International Committee of the Red Cross southern Philippines chief delegate Roberto Petronio said those rescued yesterday were mostly men and appeared to be in relatively good health.

By contrast, 14 of the nearly 200 rescued on Saturday had to be hospitalized, according to Petronio.

"These were mostly children who were suffering from diarrhea and malnutrition," he added. – AFP

27

June 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B1

179 residents rescued in Marawi ceasefire

BY VICTOR REYES

THE military yesterday observed a four-hour "humanitarian pause" or ceasefire in Marawi City, leading to the rescue of around 179 civilians who were trapped in the ongoing fighting between government forces and the Maute Group.

The ceasefire, which started at 8 a.m., was marred by enemy fire which wounded two persons, said AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Resituto Padilla. He could not immediately say if the injured were soldiers, rescue workers, or trapped civilians.

"There were skirmishes that occurred during the humanitarian pause this morning," he said adding the Maute "did not cooperate 100 percent" and fired at rescue workers in at least two areas.

Despite this, Padilla said the ceasefire was successful and there are plans to replicate the measure in the coming days.

"It helped because it resulted in the rescue of 170 plus civilians. Each life that is saved by any kind of effort is a very important step towards the liberation of Marawi," he said.

He said the humanitarian pause allowed the entry of "humanitarians" from local government units, non-government organizations, and civil society groups to reach trapped residents and those needing assistance in the area of conflict.

He said the "humanitarian pause" was initiated and led by Irene Santiago, chairwoman of the government implementing panel for the government-Moro Islamic Liberation Front peace accord. The initiative was approved by AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año.

Santiago, appointed by President Duterte to organize the "peace corridor," said the effort had been a success, noting the fighting was several kilometers away from where the evacuation took place.

She said negotiations were continuing with the Maute for another temporary ceasefire on Monday.

MILF cadres organized the ceasefire, which was to run from 8 am until noon. They roamed the streets with loud hailers urging residents to leave.

But by 9 a.m., gunfire had broken out, apparently deterring residents from joining a mass exodus.

Marawi City's mayor Majul Gandamra, told reporters on Sunday morning he was expecting "more or less 1,000 plus to be rescued today."

Padilla said members of the humanitarian mission were escorted by soldiers so they would not be abducted by the Maute and used

See 179 RESIDENTS ► Page B3

23

179 RESIDENTS

as “bargaining chip or hostages.” The members were not allowed to go to “high-risk areas.”

The conflict broke out last May 23 when Maute members and supporters prevented soldiers from arresting senior Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon who was then with the group. Hapilon is described as the “emir” or leader of the Islamic State of Isis and Syria in the Philippines.

The Maute men occupied structures in the city, leading to the protracted fighting.

As of yesterday, 120 Maute members, 38 government troops, and 20 civilians have been killed in the fighting. At least 79 other troopers were wounded.

Earlier yesterday, Padilla said government troops rescued 95 trapped civilians.

The total 274 civilians rescued yesterday, including those during the four-hour humanitarian pause, brought to 1,545 the number of civilians rescued since the fighting broke out. As of Saturday, the number of rescued civilians was pegged at 1,271.

Padilla could not say how many civilians are still trapped in the city. He said there could be a “lot” of civilians still trapped in the city’s inner areas and “who are afraid to come out.”

MAUTE DEFEAT ‘IMMINENT’

Padilla said the conflict is still confined in four areas or barangays. “We are still clearing these areas but we are proceeding slowly because it’s getting complicated. They are at the edge,” he said.

“Their defeat is already imminent so they are already fighting for survival.

We are very careful because they may seize hostages, which will complicate the situation,” he said.

“Our continuing appeal is for them to surrender. Do not insist (on fighting government forces), otherwise you will end up dead,” Padilla. He first made the appeal to the group to surrender on Tuesday last week.

1,200 ISIS FIGHTERS?

Indonesian Defense minister Ryamizard Ryacudu was quoted in reports as saying there are about 1,200 ISIS fighters in the Philippines, including 40 Indonesians.

“No confirmation,” said Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Padilla said: “I cannot comment for the meantime. His figure of 1,200 fighters, including 40 Indonesians, may be too much. I have no basis to make a comment.” – *With Reuters*

June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 14

Maguindanao drug lord joins BIFF – officials

By ALI G. MACABALANG

BULUAN, Maguindanao – A wanted high profile illegal drug trader in this province has joined the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and has embarked on recruiting armed followers to make up for many of his henchmen killed or captured in the series of government operations, according to authorities.

The entry to the BIFF of fugitive Abdullatip Pentaliday alias “Kumander Grasscutter” was confirmed by officials led by Maguindanao Gov. Esmel “Toto” Mangudadatu, Maj. Arnel dela Vega of the Army’s 6th Infantry Division and provincial police director Senior Supt. Agustin Tello at the recent emergency meeting here of the provincial peace and order council (PPOC).

“Grasscutter is now leading a faction of the BIFF and is, in fact, having his own new recruits of armed followers,” Gov. Mangudadatu told the PPOC meeting.

The outlawed BIFF, which is one of extremist groups in Mindanao linked to the Daesh or ISIS, had suddenly slowed down its religious propaganda “because of Grasscutter’s affiliation,” he told reporters after the PPOC meeting.

But the affiliation of Pentaliday with the BIFF made him “more interesting” to capture or neutralize in joint military and police operations, local

authorities said.

Several of Pentaliday’s close-in followers including his son and other family members were either killed or captured in recent operations in Datu Paglas and Pandag towns in Maguindanao, said Lt. Col. Cacunoc, head of the Army’s 33rd Battalion, which joined most of the raids.

Pentaliday, who earned his alias as “grasscutter” for his alleged bold involvement in drugs trade and other organized crimes, has pending arrest warrants for murders.

His confirmed affiliation with the BIFF gives credence to government assertions that local terror operations have been partly funded by drug money.

Meanwhile, the Army’s 6th Infantry Division reported yesterday the seizure by its troops of assorted guns and ammunitions from a suspected BIFF follower in Datu Unsay, Maguindanao on Friday.

Gen. Dela Vega, in a report, said Army troops recovered one M16 rifle, two M203 grenade launchers, a Carbine and a 12-gauge shotgun from the house of BIFF member Tunga Pendilang in barangay Meta.

In Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, security forces swooped down on a suspected hideout of BIFF and seized arms cache in Datu Unsay, Maguindanao last Saturday. (With a report from Joseph Jubelag)

25

June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 14

Local gunrunner providing guns to Maute

BY CAMCER ORDONEZ IMAM

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – The local terrorist Maute Group fighting government forces in Marawi City has bought firearms from a local gun-runner a few days before taking over some parts of the now besieged city.

This was revealed by a member of the Sautol Haqq (Voice of Truth), a group of Maranao leaders, who earlier called on President Duterte to suspend airstrikes in the ongoing fight with the Maute group.

Atty. Ganie Abubacar, former president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Lanao del Sur Chapter, also revealed that their source told them that the armed group bought firearms using US dollars.

Abubakar said the gunrunner is a police character who reportedly used to repair firearms for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"This gunrunner was previously arrested by the police and NBI (National Bureau of Investigation) operatives for gunrunning," Abubacar said.

The transactions took place days and even during the siege in Marawi City, according to Abubacar.

The group of civic, religious, women and youth leaders, Sautol Haqq, led by

Atty. Salic Dumarpa, on Sunday called on President Duterte to stop the aerial bombings in Marawi City effective immediately.

They cited the following as the bases for the suspension of the aerial attacks: Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana's claim that the AFP is in full control of 95 percent of Marawi City's land area, as only sporadic resistance was coming from the terrorists groups of Maute, Abu Sayyaf and Bangsa Moro Islamic Freedom Fighters; the unquantifiable consequential damages of the war befall upon the shoulder of each and every resident of Marawi City, a great majority of whom are die-hard supporters and advocates of the policies of the Duterte administration; the poor people of Marawi cannot sustain a long stay at the different evacuation centers and friendly accommodations due to lack of heavy firing and; and with only sporadic resistance from the bandits, the Armed Forces can easily liberate Marawi from the barbaric attack.

The group also called on the President to create an independent commission that will conduct a thorough and exhaustive investigation on the Marawi incident. The same commission will be tasked to come up with a rehabilitation plan for Marawi City and its residents.

Ab

June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 27

Angara pushes end to 'child soldiers'

By HANNAH L. TORREGOZA

Senator Sonny Angara yesterday called on authorities to stop terrorist groups from using children in armed conflict.

Alarmed by reports on the presence of child combatants amid the clash between the Maute fighters and government troops in Marawi City, Angara urged the government to make a "concerted effort" to prevent "child soldiers" from participating in hostilities.

"This is truly alarming that even innocent young children are unwittingly involved in the fight. Our children are the most vulnerable in times like these, and I call on our government agencies, local officials and military personnel to make a concerted effort in ensuring the protection and care of our children affected by the armed conflict," Angara said in a statement.

Officials on the ground earlier reported that the Maute Group is using children, as young as four, to fight as soldiers on the frontline, and even filming them for propaganda.

Reports stated that the Maute is recruiting children through Quranic study sessions, enticing young Muslim men to join the fight as a way to heaven or martyrdom. Many are reportedly seized and recruited by force, targeting orphans whose rebel parents were killed in combat.

The senator stressed that children must be prioritized during evacuation, and delivery of basic social services such as education, nutrition and healthcare to children should not be hampered.

Recently, UNICEF Philippines estimated that around 50,000 children

have been displaced by the conflict within Marawi City or other cities in Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte.

Angara said Republic Act 7610, known as the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act, prohibits children to take part in the fighting during armed conflicts.

RA 7610 also provides that children who have been arrested for reasons related to armed conflict are entitled to a separate detention from adults, and immediate free legal assistance.

Within 24 hours of recognizance, the child must be released to the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development or any responsible member of the community as determined by the court.

The lawmaker likewise, reminded that the Philippines is signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and has vowed to eradicate the proliferation of child soldiers.

"The law declared children as zones of peace. But for the longest time, the rights of our children are being violated especially in conflict areas," the senator said.

"They are being used as combatants, informants, as human shield against government forces, and now as propaganda tools. We must put an end to this," he lamented.

The senator said he would file a resolution to see if there is a need to strengthen existing policies to finally abolish the practice of using child soldiers:

"We must ensure that appropriate measures will be taken to promote physical and psychological recovery, and social reintegration of the child victim," Angara said.

June 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A5

High-powered guns seized from BIFF suspect

CAMP SIONGCO, Awang, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao: Combined troops of the 57th Infantry Battalion and the 21st Mechanized Company of the 2nd Mechanized Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army seized assorted high-powered firearms in Barangay Meta, Datu Unsay, Maguindanao on Friday, a military spokesman said on Sunday.

Capt. John Arvin Encinas, spokesman for the 6th Infantry Division, said the soldiers confiscated one M16 rifle, two M203 grenade launchers, one Carbine, one 12-gauge shotgun and assorted magazines at the house of Tunga Pindilang, an alleged supporter of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, a terrorist group operating mainly in southern Mindanao.

Encinas said a military operation was launched after concerned civilians reported to the military the presence of Pindilang and Kaliong Pansadalan Limba in the area.

Major General Arnel de la Vega, 6th Infantry Division commanding general, commended the troops involved in the operation.

De la Vega thanked members of the community for information that led to the seizure of the firearms and magazines from Pindilang's house.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

June 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: BS

• READERS FORUM •

Children used by Maute Group

It is very said to hear that the self-imposed deadline given by the AFP and the DND to end the Marawi City siege failed to materialize because the ISIS-inspired Maute Group are using children and other civilians as shield to prevent soldiers from running after them until they flee or be killed. Based on what I heard and saw in the TV news, the military is still applying commensurate military power against the threats and pockets of resistance being put up by the Maute Group, including the airstrikes. The AFP says it has already has full control of 90 percent of all areas of Marawi City and that only 5 to 10 percent remain at the bandits' hands.

Although it failed to meet its deadline, the AFP and its men should be commended for doing all it can to free Marawi City as soon as possible despite some little stumbling blocks in their effort. AFP spokesman Gen. Restituto Padilla said that the goal of the military offensives was to clear Marawi from armed elements, rescue trapped residents, recover civilians victims and other potential casualties, and assist LGUs as well as civil society and non-government organizations conducting relief operations. The leaders and members of the Maute Group should all be blamed for what has happened to Marawi City and its residents, and they all deserve to be annihilated. – DANA R. DEL ROSARIO, Camarines Norte

29

June 2017

INQUIRER

Page: 15

How can Supreme Court cancel martial law?

Singapore—Sen. Franklin Drilon never thought he would lead the Resistance. Instead of slowly fading into the Force after topping the 2016 Senate elections and four terms as Senate president, he debates the revered retired justice Vicente V. Mendoza on prohibited warrantless arrests and stresses that not even Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana thought martial law was necessary.

A judicial attack is as tricky as a Death Star trench run.

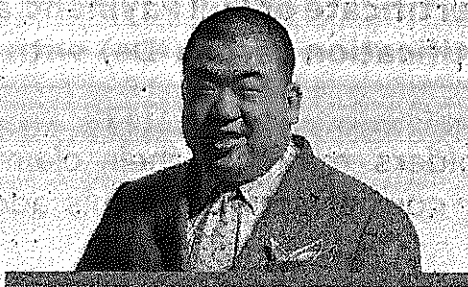
Plan A is to force a Congress joint session. The Constitution's spirit demands one, both to check the president and to ensure martial law's basis is publicly debated.

"Congress, voting jointly... may revoke such proclamation," under Article VII, Section 18. The president must send a report to Congress within 48 hours. It must convene in 24 hours if in recess. Its review is surely as urgent.

But then Justice Artemio Panganiban ruled in *Defensor vs Guingona*: "[Under] separation of powers, courts may not intervene in the internal affairs of the legislature; it is not within the province of courts to direct Congress how to do its work."

Section 18 has no explicit procedure for not revoking martial law. Ask the Supreme Court to force a vote, with no explicit constitutional rule, after the House and Senate separately voted to support martial law? It may well wait 47 more days, when Congress must vote to extend martial law or it expires.

Plan B invokes Section 18: "The Supreme Court may review, in an appropriate proceeding filed by any citizen, the sufficiency of the factual basis of the proclamation of martial law." It may review factual basis only, not recklessness or necessity.



SISYPHUS' LAMENT

OSCAR FRANKLIN TAN

This allows two attacks. First, Section 18 only allows martial law for rebellion or invasion. Did the Maute group raise IS flags and intend to create a new government? A million armed terrorists cannot justify martial law unless they are rebels.

Second, every Supreme Court case requires "actual" rebellion, not just threat. If they attacked only Marawi, is there factual basis in Davao or Zamboanga, more so Cebu or Manila?

But reviewing a commander in chief's discretion is delicate. Unelected justices require plausible basis only, not absolute proof, because merely disagreeing is not a judicial ground to revoke martial law.

On martial law in 2009, Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio powerfully dissented, in the 2012 *Fortun* case, that the Ampatuan private army was fleeing prosecution, not rebelling. But the Supreme Court declined to rule and may again decline to question IS flags.

Lorenzana's opinion is not the factual basis itself. Nor is the allegedly beheaded police

chief's survival and other discrepancies in President Duterte's report to Congress. Factual basis must be reviewed as a whole.

In any case, a Supreme Court challenge is a valuable venue to ensure martial law's basis is publicly scrutinized.

Plan C is to attack the shield generator, supply lines or Darth Vader's shuttle en route. Instead of challenging martial law as a large, abstract fear, one may always question specific acts. This changes the doctrinal battlefield and avoids the inherent topographical disadvantages in Plans A and B.

As I wrote last week, martial law is governing an area through the military when the civilian government cannot function. So why is martial law necessary, given that the government has not exercised any power that could only be done under martial law? All acts so far may be done without martial law (such as deploying troops) or may not be done even with it (such as warrantless arrests not for rebellion).

In a May 26 *Davao Today* report, Davao police threatened: "organizers of groups that will stage protests or rallies will be arrested if caught making the public nuisance." A court challenge here would be an automatic win. The Ombudsman has threatened to prosecute officials who perform acts prohibited even under martial law. The Commission on Human Rights has promised to monitor these.

Readers agonizing over the President's threat to ignore the Supreme Court recall that rebellions are built on hope. The Death Star blueprints lie in Carpio's *Fortun* dissent.

React: oscarfranklin.tan@yahoo.com.ph,
Twitter [@oscarfbtan](https://twitter.com/oscarfbtan), facebook.com/OscarFranklinTan.

70

June 2017



Page: 13

CTALK

CITO BELTRAN

ISA versus IS

How can the government have its cake and eat it to when it comes to counter-terrorism?

Given how the declaration of Martial Law is the legal equivalent of Chemotherapy that hurts both the good and the bad, the government needs something that will allow them to deal with enemies of the state without having to observe certain legal protocols such as the "Writ of Habeas Corpus," search warrants, warrants of arrests etc. What comes to mind is something similar to the Internal Security Act or I.S.A that I first heard about while visiting Singapore many years back.



Perhaps it is a piece of legislation that can be written or improved upon in order to give the government the basic power it needs to deal with enemies of the State without having to rock the boat, affect tourism and investments and the over-all sense of well being of the public. In a time when terrorists of all sorts and sizes now roam the world, all governments need to have a perpetual document that gives them the right and the power to counter enemies but not alarm the public. A single piece of legislation (I.S.A) would surely be helpful in fighting groups like IS.

One thing that the Resorts World Massacre and the invasion of Marawi City taught us is that we seriously need to fast track our National Identification Cards. At a time when Identity Verification is the norm globally, we are so behind in terms of having a single National Identification card. Those fleeing Marawi City found themselves having to fall in lines that stretched as far as the eye could see because authorities had to compare actual faces with printed images of terrorists.

Beyond our recent crisis, the country needs to step up into the modern world and conveniences that come from having a National Identity Card. I believe it was Senator Ping Lacson who first attempted to legislate it and now would be the time to resurrect his idea. We need it and we need it now.

That 36 innocent people reportedly suffocated to death in a World Class facility such as Resorts World borders on the unbelievable. That a gunman can waltz in with an assault weapon in a country where billions of pesos is spent on security is so bizarre. But it all happened and all that will come into the accounting once lawsuits start piling up against the establishment. To their credit, Resorts World Management stepped up immediately and even (reportedly) gave 1 million to each victim's family as immediate assistance.

That's certainly all good, but this is one situation where one has to wonder if the house can still win this one? Given the tragedy and ugly memories, chances are the place is going to literally have to rebuild everything, building and all because people are just too superstitious and fearful of ghosts. What I'm afraid of is that everyone will conveniently "dump" on Resorts World while overlooking recurring lethal incompetence of certain authorities. Independent investigators must find out if everything was in order in terms of fire and safety or did someone from the Bureau of Fire and the City Engineer sign off on the paper without checking or testing the design and installations.

Another thing that also got peoples' attention during the Resorts World tragedy were the statements of certain police officials that they will crack the whip or tighten up on security officers of hotels and malls etc. It seems that the PNP officials have gotten so used to, or have become dependent on force extenders that they have forgotten it's their job and their responsibility to maintain peace and order both in public and private areas but especially in high traffic areas such as hotels, malls, airports etc.

The security guards are in their words "Force multipliers" or "Extenders." The Resorts World tragedy clearly shows why we need more real cops with real guns and not Barong clad Blue guards. The world has changed; terrorism comes from all sides and all sorts. We either fix the problem or suffer the tragic consequences.

Whenever I travel abroad I see police patrols on foot inside these places and it is quite reassuring to see them in Blue and not SWAT black and in good shape not chubby and making *tambay*. If the PNP wants to crack the whip, they should do it to themselves because they dropped the ball in Marawi City and they dropped the ball in Resorts World. They should be in the middle of things not surrounding it. They should man-up not cop-out or blame security guards!

I recently commented on how the Supreme Court TRO on the Reproductive Health Bill has been placed on deep freeze to the point that supplies of contraceptives have started to go low. It seems that there will be an additional delay as the SC asked the FDA to check “whether or not contraceptives are safe, efficacious, and not abortifacient” and were given 60 days to find out.

During the same week, I happen to pick up several stories about graft charges and court cases being dismissed or requested to be dismissed “citing the inordinate delay in the investigation of cases” that took 10 years to investigate, while another case involving the mother of Manny Pacquiao got thrown out because she never got to tell her side of the accounting before the case was filed. In the mean time prisoners at the state penitentiary are getting sick and dying in prison in spite of the fact that we don’t have the death penalty all because of delayed cases and inhuman conditions.

Yes President Rodrigo Duterte was right. Our Judicial system is indeed broken and those who have the power to fix it continue to be deaf.

E-mail: utalk2ctalk@gmail.com



15 June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 2

Marawi is a king-size headache of Duterte

By **ELINANDO B. CINCO**

THE widely media covered siege of Marawi City, now on its 14th day, has long-lasting adverse repercussions that President Duterte does not deserve. The more days it takes to contain the insurrection by the Maute terror group, the more his problems will escalate into a full-blown headache of leadership.

First, the assault is an indication that he may not be the Mindanao kingpin that his handlers in Davao City and in Malacañang are telling the astonished public.

Second, the Maute's storming right in the heartland of Islam in Mindanao is an affront to him who always takes pride of the fact, in public speeches, that 25 percent of the blood running in his veins is Maranaw.

Third, his fans among the heads of state in the ASEAN region who look up to him like a newly found rock star are beginning to entertain doubts as to his prowess as an administrator.

Fourth, his regional and international admirers have become uncomfortable by his proclamation of martial law, questioning his executive skills as a ruler by his asking of succor from the military.

Fifth, big businesses located in provinces known for industrial peace are reportedly angered by President Duterte's use of extraordinary power of martial law throughout Mindanao even if the site of insurrection is hundreds of kilometers away from their concession.

In essence, these industrialists are wary, especially if he institutes curfew hours that will dislocate workers in three-shift work.

Ostensibly, the major downside of the whole situation that is happening there now is the possible erosion of public admiration and confidence for the Chief Executive. For, as many observers note, he has nowhere to go but up.

As to why DU30 is not deserving of those five adversities enumerated above, it is because he is not a provocateur in the conflict. He is being challenged.

The Mautes, in cahoots with the dreaded international terror group known as ISIS, and supported by remnants of Abu Sayyaf from Sulu and Basilan, are testing the President's mettle by provoking his strength as a national leader. And evaluating his skills to crack the whip to get the Muslim population to his side.

Reports gathered by nearly a

hundred media personalities in the battle field said there are almost 200 military, police, and civilian casualties.

Those, plus, the devastation of the summer capital of Mindanao are just too heavy to bear for a man who was perceived as a mystic leader by Filipinos during last year's presidential elections.

Today, DU30 faces his adversaries using aerial bombardment, artillery cannons, and machinegun fire.

Neutral observers are in doubt as to the statements issued by defense and military officials that the siege will be over in 14 days in favor of the government forces.

The front-page story in The Manila Bulletin's issue of June 2 said there were still 100 Maute combatants in the embattled city.

Last Wednesday a black footprint of the Davao legend was deemed uglier by observers. An Air Force plane mishit its target and dropped a bomb on a group of Army soldiers preparing to assault a reported Maute hideout in the city. Killed were 11 enlisted men and scores of others.

Earlier on the same day, TV film clips showed three battalions of Marine reinforcements were flown to Marawi City.



PS June 2017

1984 1988 1992

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 10

BUSINESS BEAT

Marawi aftermath



By MELITO SALAZAR JR.

WHILE there are still pockets of resistance in Marawi, we expect that these will be overrun by superior government forces and the remnants of the terrorists will sneak out in the dark. They will leave behind destroyed buildings and grieving families of their victims. More than these, they will leave behind the lingering fear that the incident could happen again, if not in Marawi, in other parts of Mindanao.

While Marawi was a predominantly Muslim city, there was understanding and peace between Christians and Muslims. There was a strong sense of neighborliness and friendship between the two groups despite the divergent religious beliefs. The challenge is to make sure that things go back to normal – not just the physical environment but the relationships that matter. Christian and Muslim leaders of Marawi should take the lead in repairing the shattered spirit of Marawi and together unite in strongly condemning the terrorism that has hurt both Christians and Muslims.

The Marawi incident has left many

training and arming of civilians (how I wish ROTC had not been clipped by then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo) would mean a reservist force that could immediately respond to terrorist activities as well as disaster situations. A city or municipality wide intelligence network needs to be created all the way down to the barangay level to monitor entry of strangers, suspicious activities of groups, etc.

It is also time to go back to the concept of integrated command. While the police and the military are constitutionally mandated to be separate, given the urgency and seriousness of the threat of terrorism, the President may create unified commands for certain areas so that operations of both forces can be planned and implemented effectively and efficiently. One can name a series of incidents starting with the SAF 44 that could have been avoided by an integrated command. It is time to eliminate the military and police rivalry and competition as well as their non-cooperation in sharing intelligence and in operations. The terrorists are united; so too should the government forces.

Terrorism will not be defeated by force alone. Unless poverty and inequality are eliminated, the roots

of terrorism will burrow deep and the branches of destruction will spread beyond Mindanao to other parts of the archipelago.

lessons and challenges for the Duterte administration. It will be recalled that the beginning of the fighting was the attempt of government forces to capture Isnilon Hapilon, the leader of Abu Sayyaf and Maute terrorist groups. That the arresting force was outnumbered does not reflect well on the intelligence capability of the government group. That it took some time for government forces to counter-attack or even not to be in a position to repel the terrorist does not reflect well on the preparedness of the government both local and national. One would have expected that there was some kind of defense plan to prevent, contain, or repel these kind of forces.

Given that President Duterte's proclamation of martial law hinges on the assumption that the Maute forces are capable of striking in any part of Mindanao, there is the urgency for local governments to strengthen Peace and Order councils and redirect their focus on anti-terrorist programs. Cities and municipalities should be considered as bastions of safety and tranquility where weak points are identified and properly reinforced. Areas for evacuation should already be pinpointed with adequate inventories of provisions. The

of terrorism will burrow deep and the branches of destruction will spread beyond Mindanao to other parts of the archipelago.

The Duterte administration is right to initially focus on infrastructure as this is the foundation on which investments and jobs will rely on. But the bulk should be outside of Metro Manila and preferably in Mindanao. Imagine if the road and bridges network will radiate from the coastal areas into the hinterlands of Mindanao; development will surely follow – schools, businesses, agri-enterprises.

The Duterte administration should consider having military battalions advance into terrorist territory accompanied by engineering battalions. As the armed forces move forward, the army engineers are building roads, bridges, school buildings, houses. community is made more vibrant as other government departments follow – education, health, other social services, police, and judiciary.

While we mourn the sufferings brought by the Marawi incident, let us strive to learn the lessons from the crisis and move forward to eradicate terrorism from the Philippine archipelago.

June 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A1

The IS claims they did it, but PDU30 denies it, and no one feels any safer

WHETHER or not the Islamic State (IS) actually staged the June 2 attack on Resorts World Manila, the upscale hotel-casino-shopping mall complex next to Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, where 38 people died and 54 others were injured in a fire during the attack, the fact is that, against the Philippine National Police denial, backed now by President Rodrigo Duterte's own statement, and the "identity"



FIRST THINGS FIRST
FRANCISCO S. TATAD

of the dead assailant, the jihadist militant organization has claimed official responsibility for it. And many people tend to believe they did. A message in Arabic, distributed on Telegram, said

► **TatadA5**

"IS fighters (plural) carried out the attack" and that a Filipino IS operative who had provided daily updates on the ongoing armed clashes in Marawi City—which had prompted President Duterte to proclaim martial law in Mindanao—had identified the group fighter behind the attack.

"With guidance from Allah and his granting of success, the brother Abu Khayr al-Arkabli—may Allah accept him—was able to immerse with his machine gun amidst a gathering of Christian combatants in the resort "Resorts World" in the city of Manila in the Philippines. He took action inside it, inflicting death and causing harm, until he dismounted as a martyr, as we consider him and Allah is his advocate. The outcome of the attack amounted to nearly one hundred killed and wounded among the Christians, and unto Allah is all praise and gratitude," the statement said.

The IS claim

I do not necessarily put more value to this statement than to that of the PNP, and the President's. All terrorist actions try to derive as much propaganda advantage from the media space and public recognition they are able to create. In this case, the IS must have decided it could advance its cause if it claimed authorship of the Resorts World carnage. And so it did. On the other hand, this claim seems to make better sense than the police narrative. The claim was put out by Amaq, the IS news agency, and quoted in her blog by Rukmini Maria Callimachi, a fairly well-known Romanian-American journalist on *The New York Times*.

Amaq speaks for itself, while Callimachi is a 47-year-old journalist, educated at Dartmouth College and Exeter College in Oxford, and specializing in Islamic extremism for the *NYT*. She has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting, and for the Emmy Award for outstanding TV interview. She seems credentialed enough.

Although Amaq says it was a terrorist attack, while the police and the President claim it was a botched robbery attempt, both theories seem agreed on the alleged facts, except for the news agency's suggestion that more than one gunman were involved. In any case, at least one hooded gunman entered the casino hotel carrying a long weapon, shot at the gaming tables and set fire to the VIP gaming room without shooting at any player—all the fatalities died from smoke inhalation—grabbed gambling chips worth P113 million and put them inside his backpack, then moved to a room on a higher floor which he set on fire, sat on a bed and then shot himself to death.

If it was a robbery, as the police claimed, why did the gunman kill himself after getting all the chips he could lay his hands on, instead of trying to make a clean getaway from the crime scene? The reports did not suggest he had been cornered and was about to be overwhelmed by the security force. On the other hand, if it was a terrorist strike, as Amaq says, why did he not use his weapon to fire at people indiscriminately as other jihadists elsewhere have done? If he was an IS fighter, loyal to Allah, why didn't anyone hear him shout "*Allahu Akbar!*" (Allah is the greatest!) before the carnage? Wasn't that the standard mantra for such occasions? Somehow, it doesn't quite add up.

Despite the seeming inconsistency, if the Amaq post is to be believed, the IS has officially claimed credit for the attack. It will not be easy for the PNP or PDU30 to dispute or ignore that. However, DU30 has declared categorically the attack was "not the handiwork of IS," but merely that of a "crazy guy who was after plastic chips." The National Capital Region police chief has identified the dead attacker as a former government employee who had become a gambling addict. This allows us to conclude that DU30 will not use the incident as a basis for proclaiming martial law all over the Philippines.

Why police think differently

But the public seems divided. Some tend to believe DU30, others the IS. In the long history of terrorism, no terrorist claim of responsibility for any incident has ever been contradicted by the police, nor has any police claim of terrorist involvement ever been denied by the terrorists. There's hardly any disagreement between the two parties. In the Resorts World attack, there is obvious disagreement. Why is this?

There are two possible explanations. One, the IS claimed credit for the attack, even if it had nothing to do with it, because it was to its advantage to be known as having hit the capital of the Philippines. Two, the PNP and the President had to describe it as a botched robbery because an admission of IS terrorist strike could wreck the multi-billion-dollar gaming industry, which is run by some of DU30's biggest financial supporters, not to say the rest of the economy. The casinos are among the country's biggest moneymakers, even if they are suspected to be money-laundering machines for drug lords and crime lords. They attract high rollers from China, Taiwan, Malaysia, and other parts of Asia, and have helped their Filipino owners to hold their places in the Forbes magazine's annual listing of the world's dollar billionaires.

Finance Secretary Sonny Dominiguez has surmised that the incident could adversely affect tourist arrivals, but not foreign investments. What else could he say? But it seems like whistling in the dark. It would not be easy to predict the full impact of the incident. This is why the police have been extremely cautious in their diagnosis of the unexplained and unsolved bombing incidents in Quiapo, close to where the informal Muslim settlers are concentrated. But the Resorts World incident has changed all this. To many Filipinos, despite the President's statement,

the IS has now penetrated Manila, although maybe not in the same way it has penetrated Brussels, London, Paris, Berlin, Stockholm, Manchester and other world capitals.

Not from Syria but from Marawi

Many seem to believe that Manila has been penetrated not directly from Syria or Iraq, but from Marawi, where unconfirmed reports say Filipino Islamic extremists and some foreigners who have trained with IS in Syria or Iraq have already laid the groundwork for the creation of an "eastern province" of the Islamic Caliphate. They even identify their leader as one Isnilon Hapilon of the Abu Sayyaf Group. The apparent objective is to render obsolete the insurgency of all previously known Moro insurgent groups, and to bring the conflict to an entirely new level. The IS is at war not only with Christian infidels but also with Muslims who have the "wrong" interpretation of the Qu'ran and Islam's fundamental practices.

We do not know enough of the IS, and no one in the DU30 government may know much more either. In 2004, as Wikipedia records, the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria emerged from the radical Sunni jihadists who fought under the banner of al-Qaida in Iraq. Al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, on whose head the US State Department had placed a bounty of \$25 million, disowned it for being excessively hardline. In April 2010, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi became the leader of IS; on his head, the State Department placed a bounty of \$10 million.

In April 2013, the group created the Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham, the historic Arabic name for Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine, known in English as the Levant—(ISIL).

In June 2014, the group announced it would be known simply as the Islamic State (IS), and declared itself a Caliphate, a state governed in accordance with Islamic law by a Caliph,

seen as the successor to the Islamic prophet Muhammad. IS demanded that all Muslims swear allegiance to its leader al-Baghdadi, defend the Muslim community (umma) against apostates and infidels, and migrate to the territory under its control. The Caliphate erased all state borders, making al-Baghdadi the self-declared authority over 1.5 billion Muslims. In reality, IS controlled 34,000 square miles in Syria and Iraq, from the Mediterranean coast to south of Baghdad in 2014. By 2016, the territory had shrunk to 23,320 square miles.

The Armageddon?

For the IS, one of the most important places, if not the most important, is Dabiq, Syria, where Muhammad reportedly predicted the Christian and Muslim armies would meet for the final battle to usher in the end of time and the triumph of true Islam. IS has conducted a hundred or so terrorist attacks in more than 20 countries. And it has grown in strength; according to a 2014 CIA estimate, IS fighters have grown thrice its original number. In 2015, as the Caliphate announced its expansion to Western Africa, the State Department described it as a far greater threat than al-Qaida, and then President Obama asked Congress to formally authorize the use of force against IS.

The US has bombed some IS military targets in Iraq, but its disdain for the government of Bashar al-Assad has restrained its involvement in Syria. Russia, Iran and Turkey on the other hand have had no such inhibitions in supporting Assad's war against the IS.

For DU30, the most important question now is, will his martial law proclamation be an adequate response to the IS presence and violent regime in Mindanao? While many Filipinos may be prepared to support martial law as a possible solution to the violence, DU30 himself and the entire Congress have shown no desire to comply with the constitutional

requirements that such proclamation, which includes the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, should have the approval of a majority of all the members of Congress, within 48 hours from its issuance, otherwise it is null and void, *ab initio*.

The entire govt vs the Constitution

Without Congress approving or rejecting the proclamation, it is at best half-baked, incomplete and unenforceable. It is a patent violation of the Constitution, which says "a state of martial law does not suspend the operation of the Constitution," and both the Executive and Congress, except the Supreme Court, would be trampling upon the Constitution.

Any attempt to expand this half-baked proclamation to cover the entire country for any reason whatsoever would simply enlarge the constitutional violation. DU30 would then become a much bigger problem for the nation, probably much bigger than the IS, even if DU30 refuses to recognize its presence outside of Mindanao. The people would then be facing two fronts—martial law which seeks to give DU30 absolute and unaccountable political power, and the Caliphate, which could bring in foreign fighters to help it Islamize this predominantly Catholic Christian nation.

This is the worst possible fix for the nation. We must now think together and act as one, summon the best reserves of our moral strength and patriotism, and the vitality of what remains of our institutions. This crisis will not solve itself. Neither will an unconstitutional martial law, backed by fake news from the front, using images of the Honduras police and Vietnamese soldiers, solve it for us. We must find our own way out, as a people.

June 2017



Page: 6

EDITORIAL

IS a clear, present danger

What has emerged thus far after more than one week of clashes in Marawi City is disturbing in that the Islamic State (IS) appears determined to set up its Southeast Asian post in the Philippines.

The events that have transpired are also assuring, on the positive side, since it is clearly emerging that the government had taken the correct steps to address the threat.

The Marawi City siege was the result of the serving of a warrant of arrest on Isnilon Hapilon that triggered the launch of the assault of IS sympathizers.

The attempt to arrest Hapilon preempted what could have been a more coordinated plan to take over Marawi City.

Rody's swift response in declaring martial law on the entire Mindanao turned out to be crucial in containing the threat, thus far, to within Marawi City.

Terrorism experts point to the IS' intent on setting up a caliphate in the country through Marawi City, which is the sole predominantly Muslim city in the country.

Hapilon was supposedly tasked to unite all Islamic groups that pledged allegiance to IS and lead them in taking over Marawi City.

Rody's word was prophetic "the IS is already here."

The military's denial that the IS orchestrated the attack on Marawi City and that it was local militants competing to gain the notice of IS was hard to believe primarily due to the admission from military officials on the presence of foreign jihadists.

The police are currently investigating the perpetrator of the Resorts World Manila shooting who has been described as an English-speaking Caucasian.

Authorities brushed off suggestions that it was a terrorist attack but the IS issued a statement that one of its fighters was behind the attack that killed 36 individuals. IS is also known to claim responsibility for propaganda purposes.

The coordination of the groups involved in the Marawi City siege also pointed to a unified command structure that would have not been possible if the Islamic groups are merely competing against each other for IS notice.

An expert said the siege marks a shift in Southeast Asian terrorism and clearly demonstrates IS' ambition to expand in the region as it incurs losses in the Middle East.

Dr. Rohan Gunaratna, the head of the S. Rajaratna School of International Studies' International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research in Singapore warned the "attack was distinct in scale, magnitude and intensity."

He said Islamist terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia hitherto did not attempt to control territory and to build a state.

Gunaratna said the attack in Marawi clearly demonstrates that the Islamic State, by placing fighters on rooftops, by placing its flag on top of buildings and by commandeering vehicles with loud speakers urging people to join, want to control Marawi.

On the political front, the initially loud noises from Rody's critics against the martial law imposition died down and have been replaced by calls for Congress to deliberate on Rody's declaration.

28

The opponents of Rody realized they will be going against the tide of public opinion if they insist on connecting the martial law imposition with dictatorial rule that was the stigma that the Marcos martial law acquired.

Singapore-based regional expert Joseph Liow Chin Yong said the appeal of IS could well outlive the actual organization.

“In other words, even if IS central is defeated and the ‘Islamic State’ retaken by Syria, the ideology will still be able to perpetuate and spread. We must be alert to this,” he said.

Yong expected the defeat of the Marawi City marauders in the encounters “will once again cast light on the real depth of the problem that the Philippine government faces with regard to counterterrorism in Southeast Asia.”

He said it will demonstrate how far Philippine security forces are from the operational state that is required to competently deal with and defeat the militant groups in the region.

As a caveat he said it should also awaken the region to the need for even greater cooperation, which is sorely required.

There were suggestions that the crisis be raised to Asean level which Rody should consider as an option.

Published daily
by The Tribune
Publishing Co.,
Inc. with
editorial offices
at Unit 102, 1020
Bel-Air
Apartment, Roxas
Boulevard,
Ermita, Manila.
Tel. Nos.
Trunkline: 5234634;
Advertising
(5234650/5215584);
(Circulation) 521-
5511.

Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR

Ninez Cacho-Olivares, Publisher and Editor in Chief

Chito Lozada, Deputy Editor

Cris Martinez, Associate Editor

Don Cervantes, Assistant News Editor

Jaimes R. C. Sumbilon, Junior Deskman

Caesarson Bismonte, Art Director

Jing G. Santos, Advertising Manager

Lito B. Tugadi, Circulation Manager

Tess Z. Sorsogon, Advertising Coordinator

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

ONLINE NEWS

(05 JUNE 2017)

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Feature: Fighting the plight against the spite of Maute terrorists

From the Philippine Information Agency (Jun 4): **Feature: Fighting the plight against the spite of Maute terrorists**

The untroubled and typical daily grind of life among the ordinary people who were working in Marawi City from different neighboring towns was put to test when violence broke out caused by the Islamic-State-linked Maute group on May 23, 2017.

For an 18-year old lad, Tito Abringab, who labored as a gasoline boy in Gadungan, Marawi City, it was a breakneck instance when a horrible scene exposed before his eyes at around 2:00 p.m. of that day.

"I had witnessed the hostile acts of the terrorists while I was doing my usual job. They flagged down the vehicles along the lanes and aggressively made harassments to the fearful civilians," expressively recalled Abringab.

Adrenaline made his shake harder at the thought of getting his life into undeserved trouble. But with the mindfulness of Abringab's employer, he and his co-workers were immediately brought to the former's residence to take safe refuge.

As the worst situation progressed, the Philippine Army troupe was in swift response. In less than a day, Abringab heard them knocking the door where he hid and helped him withdraw from that dangerous spot. He was brought to the detachment of 103rd Brigade for safekeeping.

The rescue operation was even strengthened when President Rodrigo Duterte declared the Martial Law over Mindanao.

The same help was accorded to the family of Arman Suoong, his wife Lyn-Lyn and five months old daughter.

"In our eight years of habitation in this city, this is the first time when we are terror-struck at the apprehension of losing not only the humble and tangible properties we gained out from our hard work but of losing our lives," he admitted.

Suoong sadly described their fate of keeping awake in a pitch-black experience while hearing the ear-piercing shriek of his hungry baby in the midst of power outage.

"We are very thankful to the government and Army forces for faithfully doing their job to assist us in this time of crisis," he said.

Meanwhile, Lina Cabanilla, a 28-year old mother of a 2-year old child, expressed her indebtedness to 2nd Lieutenant Junrey Villamor and his troupe for providing them food and granting them appropriate treatment during their stay in the detachment.

"I salute our soldiers for protecting us and upholding our human rights," said Yuri Cabanilla, a rice mill worker and husband of Lina.

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

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

Public servants at work

In the midst of continuing state of conflict and tragic rebellion, the innocent civilians' ordeal was quelled after temporary taking shelter at the Army detachment for eleven days.

On Saturday morning of June 3, the successful coordination of the Naawan and Initao local disaster risk reduction and management office (LDRRMO), its local government unit (LGU), Philippine Army and PNP personnel, the civilians were rescued after experiencing the terrible fright from the violence and inhumane acts of the Maute.

Given the clearance for safe passage, they were transported at around 10:30 a.m. traversing a safe route in going back to their respective town of origin.

They also claimed that they were given sacks of rice for consumption by their thoughtful rice mill employer as they have lost their jobs due to the prevailing situation in Marawi City.

According to Naawan Municipal Mayor Jaime Roa, they are working hand-hand to help save and secure the lives of their affected constituents.

"We cannot afford to abandon our brothers and sisters and deprive them from their right to be defended by the rightful authorities," enunciated Roa.

At around 10:00 p.m. a convoy of two forward cargo trucks safely arrived in Iligan City, an area free from Maute infestation, and proceeded directly to Naawan and Initao, all of Misamis Oriental.

"We are relieved to see them arrived and we promptly look after their needs by providing them food for dinner from a long travel. We deeply appreciate the good-hearted employers who lend their vehicles to be used in transporting them. After the profiling of these 14 displaced individuals, we will endorse them to the Municipal Social Welfare and Development for debriefing," said PSInsp Jay Francis Estigoy of Naawan, Municipal Police Station.

More or less 87 individuals were rescued and were sent back to their respective municipalities and more are still to be rescued.

"Coordination is still ongoing to our counterparts. It's good to note that none of them has sustained injuries," said Paul Cezzane Abrea, Naawan Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer.

For the displaced individuals, survival from the warfare can be made possible by risking without firing a bullet against the enemy.

The administration is incessantly directing its efforts toward relieving the plight and fright from the terrorist attacks in parts of the country.

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

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

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

78 Marawi residents rescued by gov't forces

From the Philippine Information Agency (Jun 4): 78 Marawi residents rescued by gov't forces

About 78 individuals from Marawi City were rescued on Saturday night, June 3, 2017 by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and fetched by the local government unit of Naawan thru the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC), together with the Philippine National Police (PNP).

The evacuees arrived in Iligan City at around 10:00 p.m. and immediately proceeded to Naawan and Initao Municipal Police Stations while others went to their respective municipalities.

The PNP personnel have also conducted profiling of the evacuees.

It was learned that out of the 78 rescued evacuees, 14 were able to get back home in Naawan, and more than 20 individuals in the municipality of Initao, while others were from the different areas in Mindanao.

Naawan Mayor Jaime Roa of Naawan relayed that the rescued evacuees were provided with food packs and other assistance. Some of the evacuees were lactating mothers.

Paul Cezzane Abrea, MDRRM officer of Naawan also shared that the evacuees from Marawi City have sought refuge from a detachment of the 103rd Brigade, Philippine Army for days and wanted to move out from Marawi City.

They also claimed that they were given sacks of rice for consumption by their thoughtful rice mill employer as they have lost their jobs due to the prevailing situation in Marawi City.

Also, Lina Suong, one of the rescued evacuees and a mother of a 2-year old girl expressed that the existence of the Maute group in Marawi City has forced them to leave their homes, along with their relatives.

She further elaborated that they have been hearing gunshots from outside the detachment, but decided to take the risk and move out from the area.

"Pila mi kaadlaw nag-stay sa sulod sa detachment sa Philippine Army para lang masegurado among safety. Pasalamat mi sa mga army nga nag-atiman namo maski paman sa delikadong kahimtang namo sa Marawi (We stayed for days in a detachment of the Philippine Army just to ensure our safety. We are thankful that the army in-charge accommodated us well despite the risk in Marawi)," prompted Suong.

It was also learned from the statements of the evacuees that there are still several individuals and families left to be rescued in Marawi City until this time.

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

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

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

NCMF Caraga leads relief distribution to Marawi families

From the Philippine Information Agency (Jun 4): **NCMF Caraga leads relief distribution to Marawi families**

Heeding the call for assistance by the Muslim brothers and sisters in Marawi City, the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) Caraga led the distribution of relief goods to some 420 families affected by the armed conflict between the Maute local terrorist group and the Philippine Army.

NCMF Caraga regional director Atty. Nadzma Ameril-Naga, who led the team from Caraga, bared that this is their first time to conduct relief goods distribution to the affected families of Marawi City and other parts of Lanao del Norte.

"We were able to gather and prepare some 420 relief goods for our Muslim brothers and sisters consist of canned goods, detergent bars/soap, coffee, noodles, biscuits, and a kilo of rice, among others. We have coordinated with other government agencies and more donations are expected to come," underscored Naga.

Atty. Naga also expressed that the commission is saddened with the crisis that the Muslim community and Christians are facing right now who are greatly affected by the shameless acts of the Maute group.

"We may be in Caraga region, but we feel the same way that our brothers and sisters in Muslim community are feeling. We Filipinos have established close family ties, that's why we also expect that more of the evacuees would want to stay in their relatives' houses outside Marawi City while others will stay in the evacuation centers that are provided by the government," Naga underlined.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph/article/view/2041496556328/ncmf-caraga-leads-relief-distribution-to-marawi-families->

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