

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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NEWS CLIPPINGS

06 June 2017

Tuesday

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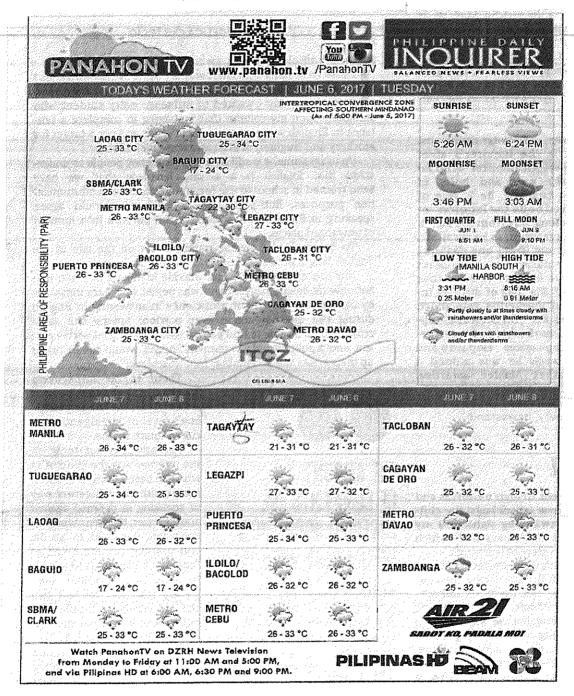
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CARPIO WARNS PH VS BOWING TO CHINA

We may end up just following Beijing's foreign policies, says the Supreme Court senior associate justice

By Nikko Dizon

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The Philippines could see its own "Finlandization" if it does not assert its sovereignty and stand up to China in the territorial dispute in the South China Sea, Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio warned on Monday.

"Unless we do something, we will be like Finland, a nominally independent country. We will have our own political system but when it comes to foreign affairs, we follow the foreign policies of China. That is what Finlandization means," Carpio said at the Meet Inquirer Multimedia forum.

"Finlandization" is the neutralization of a small and vulnerable country in foreign policy to avoid being taken over by a bigger and more powerful neighbor. The term was coined during the Cold War when the Soviet Union rendered Finland, which shares a long border with the communist giant, neutral to enable the smaller country to remain sovereign even just in name.

"[Finland] has been occupied by Russia before. To remain sovereign and independent, it has to be neutral, it has to follow Russia's foreign policies," Carpio said.

Carpio said that with China claiming 80 percent of the South China Sea, it would share a 1,700-kilometer-long boundary with the Philippines, leaving only a "tiny sliver of water" in Manila's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) separating the two countries.

He raised the possibility that China would build up Panatag Shoal (internationally known as Scarborough Shoal) soon, which is why the Duterte administration must assert the Philippines' victory in the UN-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, which last year invalidated China's claim to almost all of the South China Sea and declared Beijing had violated Manila's right to fish and explore resources in waters within its 370-kilometer EEZ.

Carpio stressed the arbitral court's ruling was not a paper

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Carpio warns PH vs bowing to China

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victory for the Philippines.

"It's about time to bring it up now because time is of the essence ... The coast is clear. It can happen anytime," he said, referring to the possibility of China transforming Panatag Shoal into an artificial island and topping it with military facilities.

Once this happens, the Philippines can no longer take back Panatag, Carpio stressed.

Panatag Shoal is a resourcerich fishing ground 230 km west of Zambales province, well within the Philippine EEZ.

China seized Panatag Shoal from the Philippines after a two-month maritime standoff in 2012, prompting Manila to take its territorial dispute with Beijing to the international arbitral court in The Hague.

Beijing refused to take part in the arbitration and rejected the ruling, handed down on July 12 last year, insisting it had "undisputed sovereignty" in the South China Sea.

Last piece of puzzle

Also known as Bajo de Masinloc, Panatag Shoal is the "last piece in the jigsaw puzzle for China to control the South China Sea," where it has developed disputed reefs into artificial islands with air and naval defense systems, Carpio said.

President Duterte practically green-lighted China's reclamation of Panatag Shoal when he recently said he could not do anything to stop China, Carpio said.

He added that the United States under President Donald Trump was unlikely to stop Chi-



Antonio Carpio

na, as it was looking at Beijing for help in reining in North Korea.

Carpio recalled that in March 2016, Chinese dredgers were monitored to be on their way to Panatag Shoal but then US President Barack Obama warned Chinese President Xi Jinping to back off

Control of the South China Sea would give China not only economic control, but also greater military power in the region.

Security specialists in Asia have long expressed concern over China's objective to form an expansive maritime defensive 'perimeter straddling Asian waters and stretching to the Pacific Ocean, using its island-chain defense strategy.

If China succeeds in completing its first island chain in the South China Sea, it will proceed to build a second island chain in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

The Philippines and Japan are in the way of the Chinese defense strategy.

Japan sits above the first and second island chains, while the Philippines lies between the two chains.

"The feeling of being hemmed in, sandwiched, would be our feeling if China goes to the second island chain. If you rise economically, you will also rise militarily in power and gain more strategic advantage over your neighbors," Carpio said.

Anchors of national policy

He said any Philippine leader must follow the "three anchors of national policy" in resolving the South China Sea dispute.

A Philippine leader must be someone who can be friendly and trade with China, but remain steadfast in defending the country's ferritory and maritime entitlements, Carpio said.

The leader must also nurture the Philippines' military alliance with the United States, he added.

Carpio emphasized that the Philippines must continue its engagement with the United States because the Mutual Defense Treaty keeps China's aggression in the South China Sea in check

He said he would give Mr. Duterte an "A++" in his friend-liness to China, but added that the President had yet to prove himself as a staunch defender of Philippine territories and maritime entitlements.

Carpio recently earned the ire of President Duterte for urging the government to enforce the Hague court's ruling.

"If I am called names, that is OK with me because I want to discuss this on [its] merits," he said.

He emphasized that it was "the civic duty of every Filipino to defend our territory, defend our maritime entitlements in accordance with international law and our Constitution." INQ

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450 gambling addicts banned from casinos

By PERSEUS ECHEMINADA

The gunman in the Resorts World Manila rampage last Friday that killed 38, including the assailant himself, and wounded 53 others was among approximately 450 gambling addicts barred from playing in casinos by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

This was revealed by Pagcor chair Andrea Domingo during the launch yesterday of the state-run agency's information campaign on responsible gaming to prevent a repeat of the incident.

Domingo told reporters that Jessie Javier Carlos, a dismissed employee of the Department of Finance, had a "Player Exclusion Order" from March 27, 2017 to March 26, 2018 and was in Pagcor's National Database of Restricted Persons

(NDRP)

Pagcor issued the exclusion order last March 24

Based on a family exclusion application form filed by the gunman's widow Maria Angelita last March 15 and made public yesterday, Carlos was banned from playing in casinos, specifically of the Resorts World Manila in Pasay City and City of Dreams and Solaire in Parañaque City.

The NDRP is an online list developed by Pagcor that Turn to Page 7

450 gambling From Page 1

is accessible to licensed casinos and major operators of electronic gambling.

Exclusion orders are filed by family members of the concerned gamblers and, in some cases, the gamblers themselves who opt for selfexclusion.

Domingo said Pagcor strictly implements its Code of Practice for Responsible gaming in all Pagcoroperated gaming areas to prevent gambling addiction and minimize potential harm to individual players in the community.

The agency has also set up a 24/7 hotline and has partnered with help centers in the country to assist those who wish to be rehabilitated from their gambling problems.

Pagcor has also deployed spotters in casinos to identify gambling addicts. Even casino card dealers are advised to help identify potential addicts in their vicinity.

Casinos have psychiatric clinics, too, to assist potential gambling addicts.

To help heighten awareness on responsible gaming, Pag-

cor has likewise tapped mainstream media, internet and social media to reach its target public.

Signs of gambling addiction

Among the telltale signs of gambling addiction is the daily presence of a player inside the casino, constant transfer from one table to another, heavy losses and large debts from casino financiers.

Carlos reportedly had lost P6 million in one night.

Because of the exclusion order, Carlos was no longer allowed to play in any casino nationwide. On Friday midnight, however, he returned to the casino not as a player but as a troubled gunman.

Domingo noted that aside from being a high roller (high-stakes gambler), Carlos was also a professional gun holder. His license for a 5.56-mm Bushmaster rifle, however, expired on April 19, 2015.

Despite the Resorts World Manila incident, Pagcor is optimistic that it can address

the hazards of gambling addiction.

"It is our hope that gaming in the country-will-remain as a form of entertainment and not as a means to destroy individuals and families," Domingo said.

DNA exam

As part of the investigations, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Director Oscar Albayalde yesterday said elements of the Scene of the Crime Operatives (SOCO) have taken the DNA samples of Carlos and the 37 other fatalities.

The DNA examination for Carlos, according to Albayalde, was conducted to assure his family that it was he who killed himself at the fifth floor of the adjacent hotel. The DNA samples for the 37 others are for record purposes, in case the next of kin would complain someday that the cadaver they received was not their relative.

The DNA tests also came after Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II ordered the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to conduct such.

"I ordered the (examination)... to erase doubts on the identity established by the

(Philippine National Police) through the family," Aguirre said in a text message.

Earlier, the PNP said the gunman appeared to be an English-speaking foreigner who was about six feet tall.

The SOCO said that the DNA result would be out in three days.

Albayalde reiterated that not one of the 37 victims had gunshot wounds.

"Some have head wounds as the burning debris dropped on them, but it was not the cause of their deaths," he explained, stressing that they died of suffocation.

'Get rid of casinos'

While investigations are ongoing, Krusada ng Bayan Laban sa Jueteng (KBLJ) founder emeritus Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz yesterday said the government should stop giving operation permits to casinos in the country because gambling, like illegal drugs, only ruins lives.

Cruz issued the statement three days after the Resorts World Manila attack, hoping to prevent other people from getting hooked on gambling.

"It is quite improbable that

the casinos will close themselves because precisely that is where they get their money from, especially the investors. I think it is only the government that can say what to do with gambling, both legal and illegal," Cruz said.

"The only thing I can say is don't gamble. Gambling is just like illegal drugs - you need more and more drugs the moment you begin taking drugs. The same with gambling: the moment you start, the more money you need for gambling. It is addictive. The loser is not only the gambler, but his family, employment and savings, as well," the prelate said.

De Lima dragged

Meanwhile, Aguirre also said that Sen. Leila de Lima is partly to blame for the deaths of 37 casino patrons and employees of Resorts World Manila in the Friday rampage, citing the legal opinion issued by the detained senator in 2014 when she was still justice secretary, removing the authority of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) to regulate fire security in casino establishments in the country.

Aguirre said De Lima's

of jurisdiction on fire safety regulation in casinos from the BFP to the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA).

"Because of the said legal opinion, it is the PEZA, a government agency without competence and experience in fire protection, that was given the authority to implement the Fire Code and its implementing rules and regulations on PEZA-registered companies, like casinos," Aguirre explained to reporters.

Aguirre said this power was not provided in Republic Act 7916 (Special Economic Zone Act). He believes this could be one of the reasons for the lapses seen in the fire safety measures in Resorts World Manila, But Aguirre quickly clarified in a phone interview that the senator could be liable only if it would be established in investigations that there was irregularity in the issuance of the legal opinion, which he already ordered the NBI to look into.

For now, Aguirre said he would review the legal opinion and would most probably reverse it. - With Non Alguitran, Edu Punay, Evelyn Maopinion led to the transfer cairan, Cecille Suerte Felipe

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Bicolano killed in action given hero's welcome

By RUEL SALDICO

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay — A hero's welcome was tendered by the military for the Bicolano soldier killed in action in an encounter against the Maute Group in Marawi City last June 2 as his remains arrived yesterday at the airport, here.

The remains of Private First Class Reymart E. Carloto arrived at noon in a Fokker Plane 10620 of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) from Iligan City, Lanao del Sur and was awarded military honors at the PAF-Tactical Operation Group 5 (TOG-5) base.

The ceremony was led by Col. Juan Alden C. Masagca, commander of the army's 901st Infantry Brigade of 9th Infantry (Spear) Division, and Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal who chairs the Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC).

The remains of the fallen soldier was then taken to his hometown in Barangay Cogon, Gubat, Sorsogon, accompanied by his mother Maria and sister Rea.

PFC Carloto, 26, single and the youngest among four siblings, was a member of the 51st Infantry Battalion based in Lanao del Sur that fought Maute militants in Barangay Moncado, Kadingilan, Marawi City last Friday.

Mayor Rosal admired for the gallantry and bravery of PFC Carloto who sacrificed his life fighting for peace in Mindanao.

Having lost "the breadwinner" in their family, Maria Carloto said she wished the crisis in Marawi would end soon.



BICOL'S FALLEN SON — Bravely serving the nation until his last breath, Private First Class Reymart E. Carloto returns to Bicol from the war zone in Marawi City in a casket, awarded military honors at the Philippine Air Force base in Legazpi City, Albay from the war zone in Marawi City in a casket, awarded military honors at the Philippine Air Force base in Legazpi City, Albay from the war zone in Marawi City in a casket, awarded military honors at the Philippine Air Force base in Legazpi City, Albay at noon yesterday. A hero's welcome awaits Carloto in his hometown of Gubat, Sorsogon. (Niño N. Luces)

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The Manila Times

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Soldier slain in Marawi gets hero's honor

LEGAZPI CITY: Army Private First Class Reymart Carloto of Barangay Cogon, Gubat Sorsogon was supposed to go home to visit his family in the next few months

But on Monday, Carloto, 26, went home to Bicol ahead of his visit in a sealed full metal bronze casket with a flag draped on it.

His body was flown by Philippine Air Force Fokker plane from Laguindingan International Airport to Tactical Operations Group 5, Philippine Air Force headquarters in Legazpi City.

Caloto's mother, Maria, went to Zamboanga on May 21 from Bicol to visit his younger son serving the military who has been away for almost two years. She also visited the family of her eldest daughter Ria in Mindanao

Maria and Ria were both crying while Reymart's body was being unloaded from the plane by his comrade-in-arms with full military honors accorded to him.

"I hope that the war in Mindanao will be over. I hope peace will be really attained in Mindanao so that there will be no family left orphan or soldiers killed in the ongoing fighting with the terrorists." Maria told The Manila Times in an interview here.

Carloto was assigned with the Army's 51st Infantry Battalion based in Camarines Sur enlisted as regular force in 2014 and was sent to Marawi City to fight the Maute Group on May 23.

He was the first Bicolano soldier killed in action on June 2 during the Marawi siege.

Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal, concurrent chairman of the Regional Peace in Order Council (RPOC), said during the hero's welcome for Carloto that his death is a wake-up call as the incident in Mindanao might happen in any part of the country.

Army Captain Randy Llunar, spokesman for the Army's 9th Infantry Division, said Carloto was a former ROTC officer at Sorsogon State College taking up a computer course but did not finish schooling and instead joined the military force.

RHAYDZ B. BARCIA

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4 BIFF men, soldier slain in clash

LANAO DEL SUR – Four members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and a soldier were killed in an encounter in Mamasapano, Maguindanao on Sunday.

A certain Cpl Mohammad and other soldiers of the 40th Infantry Battalion were patrolling Barangay Tukanalipao when they encountered the bandits BIFF gunmen Samir Bantuas, Bona Samsudin and Guiapar Angkay died at the scene. A certain Tantung died while being evacuated by his comrades.

- John Unson

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#KapatidForMarawi initiative



Philippine army troops were also given food and drinks from the #KapatidForMarawi initiative.

Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship Joey Conception led the call for #KapatidforMarawi, an initiative created to gather donations for the people of the displaced members of the Marawi community. Right after Concepcion asked for the help of the Go Negosyo Kapatid community, relief goods and donations started to pour in from the following: Concepcion's RFM Corporation, LBC led by Santi Araneta, Asia Brewery of Mike Tan LandRover Club, SM Foundation led by Tessie Sy-Coson, Century Pa-cific of Chris Po, SL Agritech led by Henry Lim Bon Liong, and CDO Foodsphere of Corazon Dayro-Ong.

Business organizations also supported the initiative including Philippine Chamber of Commerce and industry led by its President. George Barcelon, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry led by Rex Daryanani, and the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by Domingo Yap also gathered support from their members

Members of the recently launched Alliance Towards Prosperity for All like Management Association of the Philippines, Financial Executives of the Philippines Bankers Association fo the Philippines. Makati Business Club, and other members support the Kapatid for Marawi initiative as well

The distribution and transportation of goods were made possible with the help of Joseph Castillo. Corporal Maglaum PA, Asec Shalimar Candao, Operation Blessing Angel Brigade, 4th ID Army Brigade Commander Major General Madrigal COS Col Andres Centino, CDO Mayor Oscar Moreno, Office of the CDO City Engineer and Paul Dominguez These efforts are part of the Go Negosyo initiatives to bring peace and prosperity to areas experiencing extreme poverty and conflict. Go Negosyo's Kapayapaan para sa Sulu has been successfully bringing development programs to the province since January 2017

For interested donors, you may get in touch with Go Negosyo coordinator Ginggay, Hontiveros at 0908 898 0428 / 0917 524 9957 or Gelle Jimena 0917 312 7984 or 0999 887 9276.



Saguiran Mayor Macmod Muti (third from left) and Go Negosyo volunteer Joseph Castillo (fourth from left) led the distribution of goods to all evacuees.

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Duterte offers P20M for Hapilon, 2 Maute brods

By Philip C. Tubeza and Ryan D. Rosauro

@Team_Inquirer

President Duterte has increased by P10 million the bounty for the "neutralization" of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, while civic groups in Lanao del Sur province have called for a halt to airstrikes in Marawi to save the city from destruction.

Hapilon has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) group and is allied with the Maute terror group that the military has been battling in Marawi City for 14 days.

A reward of P5 million is also offered for each of the two leaders of the group, Omar and Abdullah Maute.

P17.4M for Hapilon

Gen. Eduardo Año, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said on Monday that Mr. Duterte offered P10 million on top of the P7.4-million bounty that the government earlier put on the head of Hapilon.

The Abu Sayyaf leader is believed to be trapped in the fighting in Marawi after he reportedly went to the city to establish a "wilayat," or a province of IS.

He has also reportedly been declared IS "emir" in the Philipnines

"The President is offering a P10-million reward money for the neutralization of Isnilon Hapilon who is believed to be leading the terrorist Maute-IS group in attacking Marawi City," Año said in a statement.

This amount is also separate from the \$5-million bounty offered by the US government for Hapilon's arrest.

Hapilon, a senior leader of the Abu Sayyaf group, has an outstanding warrant of arrest for kidnapping with ransom and serious illegal detention.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines welcomes the pronouncement of President Duterte. We hope that this will bear significant accomplishments leading to the eventual arrest and neutralization of Isnilon Hapilon and the Maute brothers," Año said.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP public affairs chief, said the increase in the bounty showed the resolve of the administration to

get the terrorists "dead or alive" and end the conflict in Marawi.

"We are positive that through our President's latest pronouncement, we will see the same support and assistance that our people and the local government have given us in our previous accomplishments in the Bohol incident," he said.

The fighting in Marawi erupted on May 23 after the police and military tried to arrest Hapilon.

More than 2,000 residents are trapped in the fighting and military attack planes are hitting terrorist positions with airstrikes

Stop airstrikes

But civic groups have expressed alarm over the destruction the airstrikes are causing in the city.

On Monday, their leaders urged Mr. Duterte to order a halt to the airstrikes to save the city from destruction.

"These airstrikes have proved destructive to public infrastructure and private property in our beloved city, property that took families so much

pain to establish," said Maranao leader Samira Gutoc-Tomawis, who resigned from the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) partly because of the airstrikes.

"Up to now the military cannot give us good assurance that the bombing runs spared civilian targets. Just look at what happened to the 10 soldiers who were killed by a so-called friendly fire," Tomawis added, referring to the accident that happened on Wednesday.

"We have been calling for an end to airstrikes since the early part of the crisis. We are bothered by the thought of Marawi reduced to rubble," she said.

"We cannot allow an Aleppo in Southeast Asia," said Amerodin Cali, a development worker. He was referring to Syria's second largest city that has been ravaged in a protracted civil war.

"If the siege happened in, say, Cebu, will the government do what it has done to Marawi so far?" asked Pendatun Disimban of Bangsamoro Solidarity Network. —with A REPORT FROM FRANCES MANGOSING INQ

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Rody offers P20-M bounty for Hapilon, Maute brods

President Duterte has offered a P10-million reward for any information leading to the capture of Isnilon Hapilon, the Abu Sayyat leader and alleged emir" of the Islamic State (IS) in the country who is believed. to be hiding in Marawi City under the protection of the Maute group

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Eduardo Año said the President also approved a P5-million reward each for the capture of Maute brothers Abdullah and Omar

Año said the new P10-million reward will be in addition to the \$5-million bounty offered by the United States government for Hapilon's head.

Hapilon, a senior leader of the Abu Sayyaf, has an outstanding warrant of arrest for kidnapping with ransom and serious illegal detention.

He also has a P7.4-million standing bounty from the Philippine government

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines welcomes the pronouncement of President Duterte. We hope that this will bear significant accomplishments leading to the eventual arrest and neutralization of brothers," Año said.

AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said. the President's decision to offer a new reward for the terrorist leader's neutralization "reflects the resolve of the administration to get the terrorists dead or alive to finally end the conflict in Marawi City.

"We are positive that through our President's latest pronouncement, we will see the same support and assistance that our people and the local government have given us in our previous accomplishments in the Bohol incident," he said.

Military officials believe that Hapilon would not allow troops to capture him alive.

Duterte also ordered government troops to finish off the Maute terrorists to the last man and bring to him the heads of the gunmen that attacked Marawi City.

'Anong sabihin ng mga tao, mga leaders nila, wala akong pakialam Kaya kayong nandiyan, lumahan na kayo nang husto, kasi ang order ko talaga, dalhin ninyo ang ulo ng mga p.....i... 'yan (what the people will say I don't care, so all of you terrorists should fight because my if I could negotiate. I will tell

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN Israilon Hapilon and the Maute order is to bring me the heads of those sons of b***)," Duterte told soldiers and policemen at the Brig. Gen. Benito Ebuen Air Base, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu last Sunday night

> The President made it clear that he will never talk or negotiate with the Maute group, whose members are still holed up in Marawi City after gunmen attacked the city last

"Marami na akong patay na sundalo pati pulis (Many soldiers and policemen have been killed). I will not talk to you. I will not negotiate. Wala akong pakialam kung anong gawain ninyo ngayon diyan (I do not care what you do there). You do it because pag-abot ng panahon kung nakakaintindi kayo ng (In due time if you understand) Bisaya, I will not spare your life," Duterte said

The President said he is very strict on his order against the IS-affiliated Maute that raided Marawi and the clashes between government forces and terrorists have resulted in the death of almost 200 people.

'Itong ISIS pati 'yang lumaban diyan kasama nila (and those who fought with them), you know I cannot I was asked

you now, patayin na ninyo lahat ng hawak ninyo hindi ako makikipag-usap sa inyo (kill all the hostages but I will not talk to you)," he said.

Duterte said foreign terrorists belonging to IS have come to the Philippines, especially in Central and Northern Mindanao

He warned the foreign terrorists that they would get what they came here for

"Nagpunta kayo dito naghanap ng gulo sa Pilipinas, lalo na kayong mga (you came here just to look for trouble here in the Philippines, especially you) foreigners, you are the extremist guys, you do not want to do nothing with the world except to kill and destroy. Eh kung 'yon ang gusto minyo ibibigay ko talaga sa myo, (if that is what you want, I'll really give it to you,)," Duterte said

The President said he could have easily ended the crisis in Marawi City by bombing everything in sight but that he could not do it because of serious considerations like hitting civilians as collateral damage to the military operation.

"We have to be very careful about it. We are a civilized government," said Duterte, who later joined a boodle fight with sensibility toward other faiths.

soldiers and policemen who fought the Abu Sayyaf bandits that raided Bohol recently.

The Maute group uploaded on social media how they burned the Bible and desecrated religious statues, images and relics of saints during the first hours they laid siege on Marawi City

The more than a minute video footage posted vesterday showed the gunmen toppled the statues of St. Joseph, Jesus Christ, Virgin Mary and a crucifix, smashed these with a sledgehammer and trampled on the relics.

The militants also tore posters of Pope Benedict VI and Pope Francis and later tore pages of the Bible and set these on fire.

It was not clear if the attack was on St. Mary's Cathedral, which the terrorists cased first as they withdrew with hostages that include Fr. Teresito Suganob.

The religious leaders expressed sadness over the incident and condemned the desecration.

Osamiz Archbishop Martin Jumoad said the actions of the terrorists only showed that they have no respect for and

Air strikes continue

Despite the accidental death of 10 soldiers last week, the AFP has not stopped the air strikes against the Maute group in Marawi.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the request for aerial support comes from the ground commander, so he may still call for an air strike or air support on specific targets that he sees as a threat to his forces.

Padilla said the AFP did not stop the air strikes but they are no longer using the Marchetti S-211 jets for aerial support.

On Wednesday last week, 10 soldiers died while seven others were wounded in "friendly fire" in Marawi City where government forces are fighting the Maute group

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the military under AFP chief Año has ordered an investigation into the unfortunate incident.

Padilla said while the military is trying its best to beat the deadline to end the fighting in Marawi, it would be up to ground commanders to determine when the clashes would stop. - With Alexis Romero, Edith Regalado, Roel Pareño, John Unson, Gilbert Bayoran

06 June 2017

SUSUK

Pahina.

Ni Aries Cano

ng buhay ang lider ng nying that. We have gone terror group na si Ismlon all out. We have done Hapilon na tinutugis ng all our best and we have mga tropa ng pamahalaan been operating 24/7 This sa Marawi City.

Forces of the Philippines change that," ayon kay (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen Restituto Padilla Ir., ang patuloy na pag-roon aniyang kum-mamatigas ng grupo ay plikasyon sa operasyon indikasyon na walang balak na sumurender at magpahuli ng buhay ang tions haye been coming mga galamay ng Maute out, and complications. kabilang na ang lider ng what we mean by this terror group na si Hapilon

parang duda no kami diyan. Kasi nanawagan na in their hands, the use of po kami na sumuko sila, places of worship, for one, ibaba ang kanilang armas, walang positibo nagiging going all out, and other response o sagot. at sa factors that complicates patuloy nilang pakiki- the battle because of its pag-away at pananatili urban terrain," sabi ni sa mga lugar na kanilang Padilla. pinanghahawakan ngayon na dinedepensahan nila, naniniwala kami na gusto nila yatang tapusin ito nang hindi magandang pamamaraan," pahayag ni mination of any military Padilla sa Mindanao Hour press briefing sa Malacañang kahapon.

Subalit pursigido aniya ang AFP na tapusin sa lalong madaling panahon ang krisis sa Marawi City at nakahanda sila address those," dagdag ng sa anumang posibleng opisyal. mangyari.

"Determinado tayong BOMBING INAARAL tapusin ito sa mas madaling panahon. Pero duda kami na sila'y lalabas na buhay," pagdidiin pa ni Padilla.

Gayunman, nagpaabot din ng mensahe si Padilla sa mga miyembro ng terror group na gusto nang sumuko

AFPHIRAP **SAMARAWI**

Samantala, kasunod ng sinabi ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na matatapos na ang krisis sa Marawi sa loob ng susunod na tatlong araw, isiniwalat naman ng AFP spokesperson na bagama't pursigido silang abutin ang itinakdang deadline ay nasa kumplikadong sitwasyon ngayon ang isinasagawa nilang opensiba laban sa mga terorista.

"Our commanders have tried to meet the Malabong madakma deadline. There's no deoperation will continue Ayon kay Armed at that phase we will not Padilla

Gayunpaman, mayng military

But again, complicais the continued use of "Tungkol sa paghuli the civilians, potential hostages that may still be which prevents us from

Pero paliwanag ni Padilla, nakadepende pa rin ito sa sasabihin ng mga ground commander

'The basis for deteraction on the ground, will be the call of the commander. They are the ones who are fully aware of the situation, gravity of the they face, as well as the solutions they have to

MOSQUE

Masusing pinagaaralan din ng AFP ang nakapaloob na probisyon sa International Humanitarian Law na nagpapahintulot upang umatake ang tropa ng gobyerno sa mga mosque na pinaglulunggaan o ginawang kanlungan ng mga galamay ng terror group sa Marawi City.

"There are provisions that may allow for us to take action against them (tirahin'yung mosque?),

paghahayag ni Padilla. "Pinag-aaralan naming mabuti, hindi ko sinabing tirahin pero pinag-aaralan namin kasi 5, 5295 may kautusan si chief of staff (Gen. Eduardo Año) that we will avoid doing that as much as possible, dagdag ni Padilla.

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Pahina. _ 2

Air strike vs. Mosque, Simbahan pinag-aaralan ng AFP

Armed Forces of the Philip-pines (AFP) and probisyon sa International Humanitarian Law na nagbibigay ng exemption upang mabomba ang mga Mosque na pinaniniwalaang pinagtataguan ng Maute group sa Marawi Čity

Ayon kay AFP spokes man Gen, Restituto Padilla, may kautusan si AFP chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año na pag-aralan ang pro-bisyon sa Geneva Convention at International Humanitarian Law hinggil sa exemption na puwedeng bombahin ang mga Mosque na ginagawang safe haven ng Maute group sa Marawi City.

Aniya, mahigpit din ang kautusan ni Gen. Año na dapat manaig ang pagliligtas sa mga inosenteng sibilyan at iwasan na magkaroon ng 'collateral damage' sa ginagawang, spokesman na hindi kaka- (Rudy Andal)

Pinag-aaralan ng military operations laban yaning maabot ang tarsa Maute group

Gayunpaman, wika pa ni Padilla na hindi nila isinasantabi ang mga paraang kayang gawin ng militar para tapusin ang krisis alinsunod sa umiiral na batas Geneva convention na may

kinalaman sa giyera "Pinag-aaralan namin mabuti di ko sasabihing titirahin pero pinag-aralan namin mabuti may kautusan si chief of staff we will avoid doing that as much as possible. There are provisions may exemption yun maski sinong taong armado na nagharbor sa isang lugar maging hospital man ito o places of worship kung sila ay nagpupumilit at manatili dun may provision dun internationally na pwede silang gamitan ng karahasan," wika pa ni Padilla sa media interview sa Malacanang.

Inamin din ng AFP

get na tatlong araw para tapusin ang krisis sa Marawi lalo pa at sadyang nagmamatigas ang mga terorista Aniya, nasa pagpapasya ng ground commander ang galaw ng operating troops

Aminado rin si Padiila na ang hindi batid na eksaktong bilang ng mga natitira pang sibilyan sa pusod ng bakbakan ang isa sa nakapag aalinlangan sa tropa ng gobyerno para magpatupad ng full military operations

May mga bahay pa kasi aniyang napupun-tahan sa Marawi city ang mga sundalo na hindi nila inaakalang may nananatill pang mga sibilyan at ngayon lamang na-rescue dahil ngayon lang nagka-kalakas loob na lumabas ng ipatupad kamakalawa ang ceasefire para bigyan daan ang peace corridor

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Bomb Marawi mosques an option vs Maute—AFP

By John Paolo Bencito

THE military said Monday it may be forced to bomb mosques in Marawi City as Maute members have holed up in places of worship amid heavy fighting that has raged for almost two weeks.

"There are provisions that may allow for us to take action against them... We are studying this carefully," said Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, speaking in Filipino.

"I'm not saying we will bomb them, but we're studying this carefully, because AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año has told us to avoid doing that as much as possible," he added.

Padilla said there were specific exceptions to restrictions in the Geneva Convention against attacks on places of worship. One of these is if they are being used to incite violence.

"There are exceptions. Whether the armed combatants force themselves into a

hospital or a place of worship, we can use violence [to drive them out]," he added.

The government previously said that the Maute terrorists were using human shields and turned madrasahs into staging areas and mosques into sniper nests.

According to the AFP Standing Rules of Engagement, "cultural, religious and historical landmarks, civilian population centers, public utilities and other non-military structures, shall be protected and shall not be attacked except when they are used for military purposes."

Padilla admitted that the presence of civilians, whose exact locations were not known, complicated the military campaign to gain full control of Marawi City, which was overrun by Maute terrorists on May 23.

Padilla also said ground commanders were the ones who could determine when the siege of Marawi City would end, despite President Rodrigo Duterte's

Next naai

Bomb...

From &1

estimate of "about three more days" to end the crisis.

"The basis for determination of any military action on the ground, will be the call of the commander. They are the ones who are fully aware of the situation, gravity of the situation they face, as well as the solutions they have to address," Padilla said.

Padilla again urged the Maute group to surrender as other rebel groups were poised to join the war against them.

Government chief negotiator and Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said Sunday night that a ceasefire with communist rebels would soon be ironed out to discuss their offer to help in the war against terrorists.

"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," Bello said

On Friday, communist rebels offered to "cooperate and coordinate" with the Duterte administration in its fight against terrorism should the government return to the negotiating table, but Duterte, who earlier said that he's "not keen" about the idea, demanded they first rescind orders for the New People's Army to intensify attacks on government troops.

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines earlier said the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the NPA may be bound by a ceasefire agreement in specific areas to "counteract the Maute group and the Abu Sayyaf."

On Sunday, Duterte said he accepted the offer extended by Moro National Liberation Front founding chairman Nur Misuari for 2,000 of his fighters to help in the ongoing fight against the Maute.

The President said these fighters would be integrated into the Armed Forces.

But Padilla said Monday no protocols have yet been established for the MNLF to join the fight against the Maute terrorists.

"The mechanisms for this kind of arrangement need to be discussed thoroughly prior to its implementation. Right now, we don't have the appropriate protocols. We don't have the appropriate coordinative elements on the ground to make this happen," Padilla said.

"This may come later, after the resolution of the Marawi incident, but not during this time, because we have not discussed how to implement it yet," he said.

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AFP verifying 1,200 IS agents in Phl

By ALEXIS ROMERO

The disclosure of Indonesian Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu that there are about 1,200 foreign Islamic State. (IS) members operating in the Philippines caught the military by surprise.

Armed Forces spokesman Brig Gen Restituto Padilla said they are still verifying the information as Malacañang affirmed the need to work with Asian

neighbors to combat security threats.

"The revelations of the Indonesian defense minister are something that came as a surprise to us because, as was mentioned by senior defense officials, in truth, we don't have those numbers," Padilla told a press conference yesterday at Malacañang.

He said the Philippine military would ask Indonesia about the source of the

AFP From Page 1

information.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella refused to comment on the specific number, but stressed the need to work with neighboring countries in flushing terrorists out of the country.

"But it is clear that the violence in Marawi is being waged by both Philippine and international criminals, and the southern part of Mindanao has long been used as a refuge by fugitives from Indonesia, Malaysia and other locations," Abella said.

"That is one reason why, as the Indonesian defense minister pointed out over the weekend, regional and global anti-crime efforts must be stepped up. Criminals and rebels do not respect national boundaries," he added.

Ryacudu relayed the information during the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore last Sunday According to him, 40 of the 1,200 IS militants in the Philippines are from Indonesia.

Last week, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said eight foreign jihadists were killed in separate clashes between government forces and Maute terrorists in Marawi City.

Of the slain foreign militants, two were Saudis, two were Malaysians, two were Indonesians, one was a Yemeni and one was a Chechen Officials believe the foreigners entered the Philippines through backchannels in the Sulu and Celebes Seas.

A total of 120 Maute members and 38 government troopers have been killed in

clashes in Marawi City as of 6 p.m. Sunday. Nineteen civilians have been killed by the terrorists while 1,467 others have been rescued.

The military could not say how many Maute members are still in the conflict area

"We have not paid particular attention to the exact figures of the enemy on the ground, except that we have general estimates and our commanders on the ground have shared this repeatedly," Padilla said

He added that the entry of sympathizers and the release of some prisoners from the city jail increased the number of Maute forces during the first few days of encounters.

Padilla claimed that the number of terrorists "continues to dwindle by the day."

Meanwhile, at least 17 Indonesian missionaries or "tabligh" were able to escape from Marawi City and return safely to Indonesia over the weekend

Armed Forces Eastern Mindanao Command deputy commander Gilbert Gapay told The STAR that the Indonesians were in an international Islamic conference in Marawi City, considered the Islamic capital of the country where conferences or meetings of Islamic missionaries or preachers are often held, when the Maute group attacked the town.

"We processed them and checked on everything about them before they were turned over to their consulate here," said Gapay, who is also the spokesman for the Eastmincom on martial law.

- With Edith Regalado

06 June 2017



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AFP verifying Indonesian info about 1,200 IS militants in PH

By GENALYN D. KABILING

The Philippine military plans to coordinate with Indonesia about its report on the presence of 1,200 Islamic State (IS) militants in the country after being surprised by such information.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Armed Forces spokesman, said the country has defense cooperation ties with the Indonesia to address the reported threat posed by foreign militants.

"This needs to be subjected

to inquiry on the other side, kung saan nakuha ng Indonesia so we may address this because we have networks with the nations who are fighting against terrorism," Padilla said during the "Mindanao Hour" briefing in Malacañang yesterday

"We will reach out, we will inquire, the possible sources of this information and how they may have come across it because for all we know, this may prove helpful in our campaign against all these terrorists or these criminals," he added

Earlier, Indonesian Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu announced there are around 1,200 IS operatives in the Philippines, including 40 from Indonesia, amid the ongoing siege in Marawi City. The Indonesian official called for intensified regional cooperation to curb the terror threat.

4 Padilla admitted the reported presence of the hundreds of foreign militants came as a surprise for the military. He said they have yet to still account for the number of foreign fighters helping local militants in Marawi City.

"The revelations of the Indonesian Defense Minister is something that came as a surprise to us because as was mentioned by senior defense officials, in truth, we don't have those numbers," he said

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The Manila Times

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PH to verify presence of 1,200 IS fighters

THE Philippine government is verifying the alleged presence of about 1,200 Islamic State (IS) operatives in the country as reported by Indonesia's defense minister in Singapore.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesman for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), on Monday admitted that the military has no idea on the number of foreign fighters helping local militants amid ongoing operations against members of the Maute Group in Marawi City.

"The revelation of the Indonesian Defense Minister is something that came as a surprise to us because in truth, we don't have those numbers," Padilla told reporters.

Indonesian Defense Minister General Ryamizard Ryacudu told an international security forum in Singapore on Sunday that there are about 1,200 ISIS sympathizers in the Philippines, 40 of whom are from Indonesia.

Padilla said the military is yet to

PH to verify presence of 1,200 IS

VERIFY FROM A1

obtain "specific" grounds to verify the report. He said ground commanders had reported that there are only about 50 foreign terrorists spotted in Marawi City.

He said the Philippine government will ask Indonesia where it got the information on the purported presence of foreign Islamist extremists.

"This needs to be subjected to inquiry on the other side, kung saan nakuha ng [to know where] Indonesia [got the information]. So we may address this because we, have networks with the nations who are fighting against terrorism. We have diplomatic relations with Indonesia. We have military relations with their armed forces," Padilla said.

"So we will reach out, we will inquire, the possible sources of this information and how they may have come across it Because for all we know, this may prove helpful in our campaign against all these terrorists or these criminals," he added.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said that while the Palace cannot comment on the exact number of ISIS fighters in the country, "it is clear that the violence in Marawi is being waged by both Philippine and international criminals."

"The southern part of Mindanao has long been used as a refuge by fugitives from justice, from Indonesia, Malaysia, and other locations," he said

The Palace official added that this is why regional and global anti-crime efforts should be bolstered.

"Criminals and rebels do not respect national boundaries. They are a challenge for our region and for the international community and our government is committed to doing our part to bring these people to justice, as part of the global war on terrorism, extremist efforts, and our own effort to promote peace and order in the Philippines," he said.

Last week, the government announced that among those killed in the Marawi City clashes were eight foreign fighters who supposedly came from Malaysia, Indonesia, Yemen and Chechnya.

Col Edgard Arevalo, head of the AFP Public Affairs Office, said it is possible that the 1,200 include "local terrorists."

"We don't have the specific number with the exact picture but we are looking somewhere in between 30 [to] 35 of foreign terrorists based on the information and reports we received." he added.

"Whether these are armed terrorist groups, regular terrorist themselves and their supporters and sympathizers, our objective will always pursue, to end the conflict so they can no longer pose any threat in our country," Arevalo said

CATHERINE S. VALENTE AND DEMPSEY REYES

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'No mechanism yet to allow MNLF to fight with AFP'

There is no protocol yet that would allow Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) members to fight alongside government forces, an official said yesterday.

"Mechanisms for any kind of this arrangement need to be discussed thoroughly prior to implementation Right now, we don't have the appropriate protocols," Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman, told a press briefing at Malacañang

yesterday

Padilla said the issue might be discussed after the resolution of the crisis in Marawi

MNLF chief Nur Misuari offered to deploy 5,000 of their combatants in military operations against Maute militants and other terrorists in Mindanao. President Duterte was quoted as saying that he had accepted the offer.

When asked if the MNLF offer is not doable, Padilla said, "for the moment, that is

the way we see it."

"We'll require a process of sorts of consultation and discussions in order to resolve certain issues, to lay down parameters and protocols for interoperability and the like," he said.

Government forces have clashed with Maute terrorists in Marawi City since May 23 after the militants with links to the Islamic State attacked the city, prompting the declaration of martial law in Mindanao. — Alexis Romero

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The Manila Times

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AFP cool on MNLF offer to help fight Maute Group

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is not keen on accepting the offer of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to help the government fight members of the terrorist Maute

Group in Marawi City.

Lawmakers also warned against accepting the offer, saying it would only complicate combat operations

OFFER FROM A1

AFP cool on MNLF offer to help fight

against the terrorist group AFP spokesman Brig Gen Restituto Padilla Jr. said that before MNLF members can help quell the Marawi crisis, mechanisms for any kind of arrangement should be discussed.

'Right now we don't have the appropriate protocols and coordinative elements on the ground to make this happen," he said.

Representatives Gary Alejano of the Magdalo party-list and Rufino Biazon of Muntinlupa City questioned the statement issued by chief government negotiator and Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello 3rd that the government welcomes the "firm commitment of the Abu Sayyaf and other terrorist groups in the Philippines to join the fight against the Maute Group."

"Having these communists and other rebel groups on board will just complicate the combat operations against. Maute which runs on coordination, communications, intelligence and logistics. I believe that our Armed Forces are capable of

solving the conflict in Marawi even without the help of the NPA and the MNLF," Alejano, a former Marine captain, said in a statement.

"Receiving help from these groups or seeking their help is as good as admitting that our military is not capable of beating Maute," he added

President Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday said he is willing to accept the offer of MNLF founding chairman Nur Misuari to allow 2,000 of his fighters to help government troops fighting the Maute militants.

"I'm willing to take in 2,000 as regular troops of the Armed Forces of the government," Duterte said.

But Padilla said the military may no longer need help from the MNLF because the conflict in Marawi City is almost over.

"For the moment, that is the way we see it. And if this prolongs a little bit more, then perhaps we can do it, but hopefully not," he said.

Padilla added that enlisting

MNLF fighters as integrees is possible but this can only happen after Marawi City has been cleared of militants.

"If it will really push through, many issues have to be discussed so it will be settled accordingly and will not cause any complications," he said

Meanwhile: Alejano called on the NPA and other rebel groups to help by providing information on the Maute and Abu Sayaff.

Biazon, vice chairman of the House Committee on National Defense and Security, echoed Alejano's statement.

"While we appreciate the offer of help by the NPA, allowing them to join the fighting might cause complications in how the operations are conducted. For one, will they allow themselves to fall under the authority and command of the Armed Forces? How will they fit in to the tactics and strategy being employed by the Armed Forces?" Biazon said.

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9 miembro ng Maute

BUKAS ang loob ng pamahalaan para sa mga miyembro ng teroristang grupong Maute na nagbabalak nang sumuko.
Sa pulong balitaan sa Malakanyang, kinumpirma ni Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Restituto Padilla na sa kasalukuyan ay nasa siyam na Maute members na ang sumuko sa mga otoridad, sa kasagsagan ng sitwasyon sa Marawi City.
Sinabi ni Padilla na duda sila na kusang susuko ang karamihan sa mga terorista.

Naniniwala rin ang opisyal na gusto ng Maute na tapusin ang bakbakan sa Marawi City sa hindi magandang paraan.

Pero patuloy aniyang nananawagan ang mamahalaan sa iilan na nais sumuko sa sandatahang lakas.

Sa naturang press conference, ini-report ni Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella na mahigit P45 milion na ang inilaangpundo para sa ayuda sa mga apektado ng gulo sa Marawi City.

Nasa 1.467 na ang nailigtas na mga sibilyan, habang nasa 20 na sibilyan ang napatay ng mga terorista

sibilyan ang napatay ng mga terorista.
Sa panig ng Maute, 120 na ang napaslang habang sa tropa ng gobyerno, umabot na sa 38 ang nasawi.

Magdadalawang linggo na mula nang atakihin ng Maute group ang Marawi City.

10 June 2017



Page: AJ

US turns over new ons to Marin

By Philip C. Tubeza and Ryan D. Rosauro @Team_Inquirer

The United States turned over to the Philippine Marines on Monday hundreds of new weapons two days after President Duterte said he would no longer accept secondhand equipment from Washington.

Officials from the US Embassy's Joint United States Military Assistance Group turned over the equipment during a ceremony at the Marines headquarters in Taguig City.

The weapons included 300 M4 carbines, 200 Glock 21 pistols, four M134D Gatling-style machine guns and 100 M203 grenade launchers.

"We will give this to our troops. The priority is our troops in Marawi," said Marines commandant Maj. Gen, Emmanuel Salamat, referring to the ongoing battle with Maute group terrorists.

"This equipment will enhance the [Marines'] counterterrorism capabilities, and help protect [troops] actively engaged in counterterrorism operations, a US embassy statement said.

The weapons are part of the US Counterterrorism Train and Equip program under which P7.3 billion, or about \$150 million, worth of weaponry has alPhilippines since 2007.

The Armed Forces has also procured small arms, watercraft, unmanned aerial vehicles and personal protective equipment as part of the US Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program.

Philippine officials, however, have criticized the FMS program under which the country had been repeatedly given incomplete or secondhand equipment.

"I will not accept anymore military equipment that is secondhand. The ones the Americans are giving, I do not want that anymore," Mr. Duterte told troops on Friday.

Duterte made the remark as

ready been delivered to the some 4,0000 troops struggled to contain Maute group militants flying black Islamic Stategroup flags in Marawi City.

The fighting has left at least 178 people dead with hundreds still being held hostage.

One of the hostages is popular Catholic priest Teresito "Chito" Suganob.

Moro Islamic Liberation Front leader Ghazali Jaafar has asked the Maute group to release the priest and more than 200 civilians.

"We appeal to those who are still holding captive Fr. Chito (Teresito Suganob) to release him in the name of peace," Jaafar said. INQ

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AFP gets new weapons from US

The United States military yesterday gave 625 new firearms to the Philippine Marines to help in the ongoing operations against the Maute group in Marawi City.

Marine commandant Maj Gen. Emmanuel Salamat received the new counterterrorism weapons and equipment from US embassy military representatives during simple ceremonies at the Marine headquarters in Taguig City.

Officials from the Joint United States Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) turned over the weapons and equipment delivered recently under the US government's Counterterrorism Train and Equip Program.

Among the weapons and equipment turned over to the Marines were 300 M4 carbines, 200 Glock 21 pistols, four M134D Gatling-style machine guns and 100 M203 grenade launchers delivered last month at Clark Air Base in Pampanga

JUSMAG delivered 25 new Combat Rubber Raiding Craft_ with outboard motors to the Marine headquarters last week

The Marines' Inshore Boat Battalion and Marine Special Operations Group have utilized previous US Counterterrorism Train and Equip gear in ongoing combat operations in Mindanao.

The new weapons are expected to enhance the Marines' counterterrorism capabilities and help protect troops engaged in military operations in Mindanao.

Since 2007, representatives



from JUSMAG have delivered and programmed P7.3 billion in military equipment to the Philippine Marine Corps and other branches of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to enhance counterterrorism capabilities.

In addition, the AFP has procured small-arms weapons, watercraft, unmanned aerial vehicles and personal protective equipment as part of the US government's Foreign Miltary Sales system and other programs.

Over the last five years, the US embassy said its government has allocated P15 billion in grant funding to provide the AFP with equipment, includ-

ing corresponding upgrades and training.

The equipment transfers and continued bilateral training and exercises demonstrate the commitment of the United States to working with the Philippines towards building safer communities and eradicating global terror networks.

Salamat said the new guns will be given to ground troops and the priority is to use the same in Marawi City where soldiers are still trying to retake the locality from the Maute group.

Two US senators filed a bill last month seeking to restrict the export of arms from the US to the Philippine National

Police amid growing international concern over President Duterte's bloody war against illegal drugs.

Sens. Ben Cardin and Marco Rubio cited the alarming number of deaths under Duterte's drug war in filing the bill, as they instead called for a public health approach to the problem.

But in the same bill, Cardin and Rubio reiterated US commitment for defense and counterterrorism efforts in the Philippines, as well as an enhanced ability to provide humanitarian assistance to the disaster-prone country.

– Michael Punongbayan, Pia Lee-Brago



Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Salamat, commandant of the Philippine Marines, inspects an M134D Gatling machine gun as Col. Colonel Ernest Lee, head of the joint US Military Assistance Group looks on during a handover of weapons from the US military at the Marine headquarters in Taguig City yesterday. Story on Page 4.

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SOUTHEAST ASIA

US, AUSTRALIA, IRAN WARN OF RETURNING IS FIGHTERS

SYDNEY/TEHRAN—Top US and Australian officials warned on Monday that battle-hard-ened and angry foreign fighters of the Islamic State (IS) group may return to Southeast Asia from the Middle East and take up arms in their own countries.

IS fighters will "come back with battlefield skills, they'll come back with hardened ideology, they'll come back angry, frustrated, and we need to be very aware of that," Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne said at an Australia-US ministerial summit, which was also attended by US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and his Australian counterpart, Julie Bishop.

In Tehran, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei made a similar warning on Sunday: "Today, Daesh (IS) is being pushed out from its birthplace in Iraq and Syria and is moving to other countries—Afghanistan, Pakistan and even the Philippines and European countries."

"This is a fire that [Western powers] themselves ignited and now has backfired on them," Khamenei told a gathering of senior officials in Tehran at a ceremony marking the anniversary of the death of revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1989.

Also on Sunday, Indonesian Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu told an international security forum in Singapore that there were about 1,200 IS operatives in the Philippines, including foreigners of whom 40 were from Indonesia.

Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue as fighting between Philippine troops and IS-linked gunmen continued to rage in Marawi City for the second week, Ryamizard urged full-scale regional cooperation against what he described were IS "killing machines."

Still, top Philippine officials said Ryamizard's report about 1,200 IS fighters in Mindanao was unconfirmed. "We don't have those numbers," Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesperson for the Armed Forces, said in Manila.

Several senators, however, supported joint patrols planned by Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines in the Sulu Sea to kick off a larger regional effort to keep Islamist militants at bay.

—REPORTS FROM AFP AND CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO IN MANILA INQ

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OPPOSITION LAWMAKERS ASK SC TO RESCIND MARTIAL LAW DECLARATION

By Marion Ramos @MRamosINQ

Seven opposition lawmakers on Monday petitioned the Supreme Court to rescind President Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao, arguing that it was based on "patent falsities" and was unconstitutional.

Led by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, the group went to the high tribunal after a failed effort last week to convene a joint session of the House of Representatives and the Senate to review Mr. Duterte's imposition of military rule and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in Marawi City on May 23 following an attack by Maute group gunmen.

The effort came a day after the Indonesian defense minister said 1,200 Islamic State (IS) operatives were in the Philippines—a statement that the country's officials said was unconfirmed.

"The President's proclamation of martial law in Mindanao has no sufficient factual basis as it is feebly based on mostly contrived and/or inaccurate facts, self-serving speculations, enumeration of distant occurrences and mere conclusions of fact and law," read a portion of the 28-page petition.

'Magnificent Seven'

Besides Lagman, Ifugao Rep.
Teddy Baguilat, Caloocan City
Rep. Edgar Erice, Northern Samar
Rep. Raul Daza, Akbayan Rep.
Tom Villarin, Magdalo Rep. Gary
Alejano and Capiz Rep. Emmanuel
Billones signed the petition.

The petitioners call themselves the "Magnificent Seven."

Named respondents were Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Gen. Eduardo Año, Armed Forces of the



Edcel Lagman

Philippines chief of staff.

Under Section 18, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution, the 15-member court is mandated to resolve the petition within 30 days.

The group stressed that the constitutional requirements for the proclamation had not been met, among them the existence of rebellion or invasion in any part of the country.

They said the violence perpetrated by the local terrorists could not be considered a crime of rebellion under the Revised Penal Code.

The petitioners said Maute gunmen raising the IS flag in Marawi was not a form of rebellion, but "at most, a cheap propaganda."

They noted that Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II himself had told a House briefing that "acts of terrorism do not automatically constitute rebellion."

In addition, they said Lt. Gen. Salvador Mison Jr., AFP deputy chief of staff, had "unqualifiedly admitted" that the firefight in Marawi was "government-initiated"—triggered by the military operation to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, a dreaded Abu Sayyaf leader who had pledged allegiance to IS

"There is no revolution or invasion where the public safety requires the declaration of martial law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in Marawi City or

elsewhere in Mindanao," they maintained.

"Consequently, it is clear that the armed resistance by the Maute group was not to lay 'siege' on Marawi City, but to shield terrorist leaders Hapilon and the Maute brothers," they added

The group noted that Mr. Duterte erroneously claimed that the Maute group took control of a local hospital, ransacked a govemment-owned bank, burned down two schools and beheaded the police chief of Malabang town in Lanao del Sur province.

'No legal pedigree' less conclusion of fact and law has no legal pedigree," the group said, stressing that military officials did not recom- tive power and discretion to mend the imposition and that proclaim martial law," Panelo Mr. Duterte "acted alone."

Presidential Chief Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo slammed the petition as part of the "baseless, malicious and divisive motive to spread black propaganda against the administration."

Panelo stressed that the President's report to Congress showed his actions were based on military intelligence reports.

He shrugged off the petitioners' claim that no one in the AFP or the defense department had recommended the emergency measure.

"What the Constitution clearly provides is that, as the Commander in Chief of the \searrow :-- Armed Forces and as the sole "An unwarranted and base-" repository of executive powers, the President, not his security advisers or other government officials, has the sole and execusaid in a statement. -with a RE-PORT FROM CHRISTINE O. AVEN-DANO INO

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Lawmakers ask SC to strike down martial law

By EDU PUNAY

The Supreme Court (SC) was asked yesterday to strike down President Duterte's Proclamation No. 216 placing Mindanao under martial law following attacks by the Islamic State-inspired Maute terror group in Marawi City last month.

In a 28-page petition, members of the minority in the House of Representatives led by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman asked the high court to exercise its power under Article VII. Section 18 of the Constitution to review the martial law declaration.

The petitioners argued that there was no factual basis to justify the proclamation of martial law and suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

Under the Constitution, the President may declare martial law and suspend the writ of habeas corpus only "in cases of invasion, rebellion or láwless violence and when public Republic." safety requires it."

"There is no rebellion or invasion where the public safety requires the declaration of martial law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in Marawi City or elsewhere in Mindanao," the petition read

The petitioners alleged that the facts cited as basis of the proclamation were "inaccurate, simulated, false and/or hyperbolic and the list of terrorist acts or incidents of violence are either distant or have been earlier solved with the apprehension and prosecution of the suspected culprits."

They claimed that the siege in Marawi is not rebellion or invasion, but an "armed resistance by the Maute group to shield high-profile terrorist commander Isnilon Hapilon from capture, not to overrun Marawi and remove its allegiance from the

"No less than the military has admitted that the armed conflict in Marawi City was governmentinitiated and the armed confrontation was precipitated by the military operation to neutralize Hapilon, which was resisted by the Maute group," Lagman said.

Lagman was joined by Reps. Tomasito Villarin of Akbayan party-list, Gary Alejano of Magdalo party-list, Emmanuel Billones of Capiz, Teddy Baguilat Jr. of Ifugao, Raul Daza of Northern Samar and Edgar Erice of Caloocan.

The petitioners believe that the Marawi siege may be considered as an "imminent danger, which has been obliterated from the 1987 Constitution as an alternative ground for the declaration of martial law."

They questioned why President Duterte acted alone in declaring martial law without any recommendation

> from or consultation with the defense and military authorities as reportedly admitted by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana when he briefed members of the Senate and the House.

Martial law backed

Solicitor General Jose Calida downplayed the filing of the petition as he expressed confidence it would be dismissed by the high court.

"Who are these rabblerousers to say that there is no factual basis for the declaration of martial law?" Calida

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (0 said in a statement.

He said the petitioners' denial of the existence of rebellion is like saying that the "sun does not rise from the east. This is a symptom of psychosis since they are detached from reality."

"Nowhere in the Constitution does it state that the President's declaration of martial law needs the recommendation or concurrence of the defense secretary, or any Cabinet official," he said.

Senators belonging to the majority bloc shrugged off the move of opposition lawmakers in the House of Representatives to question the declaration of martial law in Mindanao before the SC.

Sen. Francis Escudero said while it was the opposition congressmen's right and prerogative to file such a petition, "it seems quite obvious, based on media reports alone, that there is an ongoing rebellion in Marawi City."

Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito said while anyone has the right to question the factual basis of the proclamation, "I urge our citizens to rally behind the commander-in-chief and the brave men and women of the Armed Forces."

Ejercito expressed confidence the SC would uphold Duterte's martial law proclamation.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said the opposition congressmen were "obviously wrong," pointing out that other governments in the region were confirming the presence of IS members in the country.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, a member of the minority bloc, said they support efforts to get a factual determination as to the grounds of the

declaration.

Ilocos Norte Gov. Imee Marcos, daughter of the late strongman, supported President Duterte's martial law declaration in the south.

"When it comes to matters of national security, we should always defer to the executive," Marcos told reporters.

Former senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr. earlier issued a similar opinion, saying martial law was necessary to put an end to the terror threat in Mindanao.

The SC is set to tackle the petition when it resumes session today after a month-long break.

'Black propaganda'

The President's chief legal counsel dismissed as "black propaganda" the move of opposition lawmakers to challenge the declaration of martial law in Mindanao before the high court.

"Every Filipino citizen has the right under the Constitution to file a petition before the Supreme Court to question the sufficiency of the factual basis of the President for declaring martial law. The Duterte administration welcomes the exercise of the said right as part of our democratic system," Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo said in a statement.

"It is apparent, however, that the filing of the petition is part of the baseless, malicious and divisive motive to spread black propaganda against the administration by the same critics of the President," he added.

- With Delon Porcalla, Paolo Romero, Alexis Romero

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The infraculture behind Abu Sayyaf, Maute

Thus did police spokesperson Senior Supt. Dionardo Carlos echo his Commander-in-Chief and give voice to why many—especially those in Mindanao—silently acquiesce to the declaration of martial law there. Four decades of armed secessionist movements, and now the threat of a link to the Islamic State through small bands of terrorists like the Maute and the Abu Sayyaf, have sapped the long-suffering patience of the people of Mindanao with the violence and mayhem that characterize their lives.

But worth asking is whether the all-out military solution will actually end this protracted state of war and disorder. The Estrada administration tried it at the turn of this century, and failed. The various armed elements and the socioeconomic forces that support them have proven resilient, and the rivalry for hegemony among them has been a factor in stalling or spoiling efforts at a political settlement. Adding now to the mix is the naked ploy to appeal for support from the ummah, whose presence on the world's stage is unfortunately being increasingly defined by extremist elements.

Many studies have shown that conflicts that start out as wars of grievance, like the separatist movements in the South, are complex and require winning hearts and minds more than strength of arms. Moreover, hot spots like Syria or older flashpoints like the Horn of Africa soon mutate into a multisided war of free-forming alliances with global power interests that

COMMENTARY

MELBA PADILLA MAGGAY

profit from the perpetuation of the conflict.

In the case of Mindanao, we need to factor into the analysis the subterranean infraculture that explains, for the most part, the futility of a merely military or political solution.

A local source tells me of the layers of power that operate in Mindanao and serve as an enabling environment for the continuing conflict. The most visible are those who carry arms and engage the government in open conflict, namely the MILF/MNLF and their marauding offshoots like the Abus and the Maute But behind these is the old tribal system, where the authority of the datus or the imams parallels that of formally elected officials, and is often more compelling. At the base is the support of grassroots communities whose loyalties, based on kinship networks, interlock with those of rebel elements.

This infraculture has yet to be sufficiently engaged. Government attempts to negotiate a peace agreement fail partly because of the tribal undercurrents that continually serve as static between the Maguindanao-based MILF and the mainly Tausug faction of Nur Misuari.

As well, behind the scenes are traditional leaders with enough clout to broker a political settlement, but do not figure at all in official negotiations. I got to see the force of this kind of authority while work-

ing among the Tinggian in Abra who were cut off by landslides during the great earthquake of 1990. Since all hands were needed to clear the roads, the tribal elders admonished members of the New People's Army, most of whom were relatives, to come down from the mountains and help.

Similarly, no amount of bombing in Marawi City can flush out the Abus or the Maute who are embedded in their communities by ties of blood or marriage. Mr. Duterte's call to the MILF/MNLF to join forces with the government in stamping out the runaway lawlessness of the Abus and the Maute smartly engages the realities on the ground. The Maute brothers-Abdullah and Omar-were once members of the MILF, and are first cousins to the wife of the MILF vice chair for military affairs, now dead. But such fies can be double-edged. While useful in connecting with these intractable cells of terror, blood usually runs thicker than watery sentiments about right and wrong, and there is no telling which way their loyalties will go when push comes to shove.

Ideologically, Muslims in this country have never felt part of that construct called the "Filipino nation." Globalization has all the more sidelined nationality and given rise to primal identities—usually culturally or religiously defined. The Abus and the Maute are instinctively riding this wave.

Dr. Melba Padilla Maggay is a social anthropologist and author of "Rise Up and Walk, Culture and Religion in Empowering the Poor," published in Oxford, UK.

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POSTSCRIPT

FEDERICO D. PASCUAL Jr.

Moro separatists as peace partners?

NTIL yesterday, we saw President Rodrigo Duterte still clutching at straws to end quickly the two-week-old battle between Maute terrorists and government forces in Marawi City and limit to the "least maximum" (his term) the collateral damage.



Upon learning on May 23 of the outbreak of fierce fighting, the

Commander-in-Chief's reflex reaction was to impose martial law on all of Mindanao. That came fast, probably because iron rule had been playing on his mind for some time, occasionally surfacing in his public remarks.

Resort to martial law – a silver bullet seldom fired by seasoned shooters – indicates that the Chief Executive was not sure he could maintain order and enforce the law without taking that extreme measure reserved in Section 18, Article VII, of the Constitution.

Sensing that even martial law may not be enough to subdue Maute terrorists, the President has sought the help of two secessionist forces—the Moro National Liberation Front and its splinter the Moro Islamic Liberation Front—plus the communist New People's Army

Mr. Duterte and MNLF founder Nur Misuari have agreed that 2,000 Moro fighters would join government troops fighting Mautes. It was not clear when this would happen, if it would, as past attempts to integrate Muslim rebels into the armed forces had failed.

As for the MILF, which has been negotiating a Bangsamoro Basic Law to establish a federated setup for Muslim Mindanao, Mr. Duterte said the group promised to help convince the Mautes to open a corridor where civilians trapped in the fighting could walk to safety.

Those monitoring battle updates have been disturbed by reports that the MILF-managed walk to safety had been disrupted by bursts of gunfire and explosions, sending evacuees scampering. Is the MILF really in control of the corridor?

The NPA's role in the fight against the Mautes, on the other hand, is also not clear as the basic issue of a ceasefire before resumption of peace talks has not been threshed out. But the communists in the Cabinet are reportedly pushing for a "cameo role" for their comrades. The President has sweetened the pot for NPAs returning to the folds of the law. As in the open-arms program for Huk returnees in the late 1950s under then President Ramon Magsaysay, Mr. Duterte is offering NPAs land, housing and aid to shift to a peaceful and productive life.

Mautes driven out by tonight?

WHILE a measure of relief may be felt soon in battle-scarred Marawi, assuming the Mautes move out, would martial law's imposition and the collaboration with Moro secessionists contribute to peace and progress over the long term?

It would help clarify this point if the administration showed via mass media its post-martial law road map to peace unity and prosperity in Mindanao

to peace, unity and prosperity in Mindanao.

By President Duerte's own three-day timetable announced Saturday, the Maute marauders whose battle with government forces has left Lanao del Sur's capital city ravaged and smelling of death should have been wiped out or driven out by tomorrow morning.

By that time also, the administration should be able to prove its claim that the Mautes are actually fighting for ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). Has ISIS officially acknowledged them as its own, fighting under its black flag?

Or is the administration merely going by the Maute claim that they are "ISIS-inspired"? It could happen that the local terrorists are playing to the hilt their violent characterization to catch the eye of ISIS and thereby gain recognition and assistance.

There are intelligence reports that the Mautes (like other terrorist groups in the South) are receiving materiel and funds from outside interests – a few of them supposed official friends of the Philippines – wanting to carve out that part of the Philippines into a client

When the 60-day emergency declared after May 23 ends, Filipinos are entitled to know Is martial law the key to the preservation of Marawi and Mindanao? Or, on the contrary, did martial law simply add fuel to the violence that escalated after Proclamation 216 was issued?

Moro integration a big gamble

ON OTHER Duterte experiments: Will the proposed integration of MNLF fighters and the peace partnership with the MILF work despite the deep-seated mistrust simmering through decades of strife? As for the NPAs, will they walk into the open arms of the administration?

President Duterte is taking a big gamble showing himself to the armed forces and the national police embracing Moro warriors who throughout history have fought government forces ruthlessly and clamored openly for a separate Muslim state.

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When he told the press in Olongapo City over the weekend that 2,000 MNLF fighters would take their place as regulars in the armed forces, while many people were willing to listen and give the Commanderin-Chief the benefit of the doubt, questions lingered.

The same offer of integration has been extended to NPA cadres, he added, and there is the same hopeful

watching among the public.

To the NPA fighters, the President said. "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." We hope the rebels believe him

It would be interesting to hear from AFP foot soldiers and their unit commanders what they think of the proposed integration into the armed forces of former adversaries coming from another cultural background. and who have been trained and motivated differently.

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Legal issues about martial law in Mindanao



BECAUSE of the rampant lawlessness in Mindanao, in Marawi City in particular, President Rodrigo Duterte last week issued Proclamation No. 216 which placed Mindanao under martial law

Under Section 18, Article VII of the Constitution, the president has the power to place the entire country, or any part of it, under martial law, when there is an invasion of the Philippines, or when there is rebellion taking place. The Constitution also explicitly provides that when martial law is resorted to, public safety must demand it

The mere mention of the phrase "martial law" triggers fear among many because of past experiences, real or imagined, during the martial law administration of President Ferdinand Marcos.

Nonetheless, it must be emphasized that the state of martial law contemplated under the current Constitution is a diluted version of martial law under the 1935 and 1973 charters. For example, martial law in the past meant the automatic suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, Moreover, the factual basis for the proclamation of martial law was considered beyond the Supreme Court to look into. In fact, martial law could remain in force for an indefinite period.

All that changed under the 1987 Constitution, the present charter. The 1987 Constitution is "reactionary" because, unlike in earlier charters, its "commander-in-chief

clause," or the provisions on martial law and habeas corpus, recites many details. The clause itself consists of six paragraphs, and its first paragraph is one of the longest in the entire charter.

Anyway, under the 1987 Constitution, the proclamation of martial law may be revoked by Congress or reviewed by the Supreme Court. The revocation by Gongress and the review by the Supreme Court, however, are not mandated by the Constitution. They are discretionary powers, because the charter uses the modal "may," which denotes an option, as opposed to the modal "shall," which denotes a duty.

In addition, martial law under the 1987 Constitution has a duration of no more than 60 days, and any extension of martial law will need the approval of Congress.

Evidently, if Congress refuses to revoke Proclamation No. 216, that is the prerogative of Congress, and the Supreme Court cannot compel Congress to perform a purely discretionary act. Likewise, the separation of powers doctrine disallows the Supreme Court, in the absence of a clear constitutional mandate, from ordering a co-equal branch of the government to perform an act.

A perfect illustration is provided by the constitutional ban against political dynasties. Although the Constitution mandates that the State shall prohibit political dynasties, it left it to Congress to first provide a legislative definition of the term. Unfortunately, vested interests in Congress, particularly those of well-entrenched political families, have rendered the antipolitical dynasty provision in the charter inutile. Attempts to convince the Supreme Court to compel Congress to define the term

"political dynasties" have been unsuccessful

Congressional review of Proclamation No. 216 has become moot because just a few days ago, Congress expressed its support for the proclamation. That should not be a cause for immediate alarm or anxiety because, as pointed out earlier, martial law has a duration of no more than 60 days, and any extension of martial law requires the blessings of Congress.

Surprisingly, the news media recently reported that two ex-officials of the past administration have urged their fellow lawyers to oppose Proclamation No. 216 through both the congressional process and the judicial alternative. They likened opposition to martial law with opposition to dictatorship.

Equating martial law under Proclamation No. 216 to dictatorship is unfounded.

In the first place, martial law is not synonymous to dictatorship because, as discussed above, martial law under the 1987 Constitution is for a limited duration, and fundamental freedoms like resort to the writ of habeas corpus remain in force during the emergency. The charter further provides that civilians arrested in the wake of martial law cannot be tried by military tribunals, and that civilian authority remains supreme over military authority at all times.

Secondly, how can the proclamation of martial law be deemed a dictatorial act when it is explicitly allowed by the 1987 Constitution, which is supposed to be an anti-dictatorship charter? Pro-Aquino minions opposing Proclamation No. 216 should take note that the 1987 Constitution was written by appointees of President Corazon

Cojuangco Aquino

As for the review by the Supreme Court of the factual basis of the proclamation of martial law, the power is conceded. How that power will be exercised, however, is another matter.

How will the justices of the Supreme Court, who are all civilians and who have never been in active military duty, be in a position to ascertain with accuracy and meticulous exactitude if there is "factual" basis for Proclamation No. 216?

In the end, the justices will have to rely on information and data provided by the military establishment—the government agency that knows what is really happening in Mindanao at the moment.

If the justices disagree with the information and data provided to them, they will need very good reasons for supplanting the official findings of the military establishment—which under the rules on evidence carry a presumption of regularity—and substituting their own judgment for that made by the military experts. That will be a very hard task, indeed.

That is why the jurisprudence on the "commander-in-chief clause" of the Constitution provides that when the judiciary is called upon to review the exercise of presidential power under the said clause, the standard to be observed is not whether the president acted correctly in proclaiming martial law (which the courts cannot ascertain with precision), but whether the president acted arbitrarily in doing so (which the courts are capable of doing).

With what happened in Mindanao last week, Proclamation No. 216 will pass the test of judicial scrutiny.

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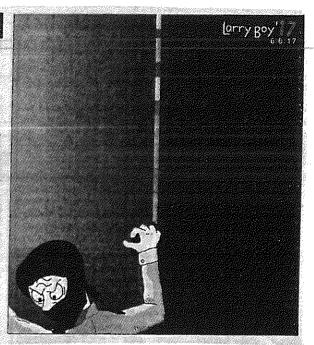


Pahina. 3

Editoryal

Nakapasok na ang mga terorista?

AKABABAHALA ang sinabi ng Indonesian defense minister Ryamizard Ryacudu na 1,200 Islamic State (IS) groups ang nasa Pilipinas. Ayon kay Ryacudu nang magsalita sa isang forum sa Shangri-La, Singapore noong Linggo, na 40 sa 1,200 IS ay mga Indonesian. Tinawag niyang "killing machines" ang IS group na nasa bansa at kailangan ang puspusang pagtutulungan ng Indonesia, Malaysia at Pilipinas para madurog ang mga ito. Ayon pa kay Ryacudu, kailangang maging comprehensive para magapi ang IS groups. Kailangan din daw na magkaroon ng kaukulang pag-iingat laban sa grupo sapagkat "killing machines" ang mga ito. Ang kanilang layunin o



hangarin ay pumatay ng mga tao. Ito lamang ang kanilang minimithi kaya kailangang magkaroon ng ekstrang pag-iingat ang lahat. Responsibilidad umano ng bawat bansa na labanan ang grupong ito.

Ang paghahayag ng Indonesian delense chief ay nataon naman sa nangyayaring kaguluhan sa Marawi City na umabot na sa 13 araw ang bakbakan. Patuloy ang pakikipaglaban ng tropa ng gobyerno sa Maute group. Iniulat ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na may dayuhan silang napatay nang isagawa ang air strike. Kabilang umano sa mga napatay ay Indonesians, Malaysians, Saudi, Indians at Yemeni.

Maaaring may katotohanan nga ang sinabi ng Indonesian defense minister na may nakapasok ng teroristang IS. Nararapat paigtingin ng AFP ang pagbabantay sa Mindanao lalo pa't doon nagdadaan ang mga terorista. Pagiging alerto ang dapat pairalin. Maging mapagmatyag ang lahat sapagkat walang nakakaalam kung nakahalo na ang mga terorista na ang layunin ay maghasik ng lagim.

Maaaring labanan ang mga terorista kung magkakaisa laban sa mga ito. Makipagtulungan din naman sana ang mga rebeldeng MNLF at MILF laban sa mga "mamamatay-tao".

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Pahina.

P-Digong, pikon na sa Maute, magkakaubusan na!

UNG noon, willing pa ang pangulo na kausapin ang Maute Group, iba na ang ihip ng hangin ngayon.
Dahil ang pangulo ay mukhang napipikon na sa Maute Group na patuloy pa ring nakikipagbakbakan sa ating mga sundalo.

Kaya si P-Digong, naging matigas na sa pahayag na wala na siyang balak makipag-usap pa sa Maute Group.

Giit ni P-Digong, masyado na raw maraming nalagas sa kanyang mga sundalo at pulis at huli na para sa pag-uusap.

At ang bilin niya sa militar, dapat walang rebeldeng Maute ang makalusot sa kanila.

Dahil kahit ano pa raw ang sabihin ng mga pinuno ng Maute ay sarado na talaga siya sa pakikipag-usap dito dahil naiutos na raw ng pangulo na dalhin sa kanya ng militar ang mga ulo nito.

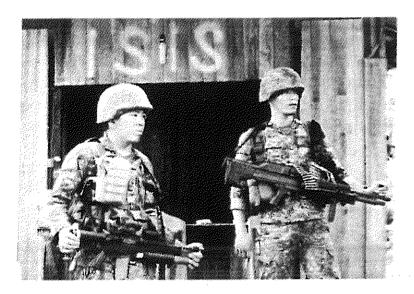
Tutal, sila naman daw ang nagsimula ng gulo, wala siyang balak na hayaan lang ito at magkaubusan na lang daw at wala ng atrasan nang matapos na ang gulo.

Malinaw na wala ng lugar ang second chance sa salot na Maute Group dahil kung gaano sila katapang na manggulo sa ating bayan ay ganundin katapang ang ating mga awtoridad para lipulin sila, tutal, ayaw naman yatang magsisuko, eh, 'di, dahasin na at ubusin na sila sa mabilis na paraan.

ONLINE NEWS (06 JUNE 2017)

Military unsure of meeting Du30's 3-day deadline to end Marawi crisis; 20 more foreign 'terrorists' aiding Maute

From InterAksyon (Jun 5): Military unsure of meeting Du30's 3-day deadline to end Marawi crisis; 20 more foreign 'terrorists' aiding Maute



Soldiers stand guard along the main street of Mapandi village as government troops continue their assault on insurgents from the Maute group, who have taken over large parts of Marawi City, Philippines June 2, 2017. REUTERS/Romeo Ranoco

The military is unsure if it would be able to meet the three-day deadline imposed by President Rodrigo Duterte to get rid of terrorists in Marawi City.

Armed Forces spokesperson Brigadier General Restituto Padilla on Monday said meeting the deadline by Tuesday, June 6, would be based on the assessment of those on the ground.

"The basis for determination of any military action on the ground will be the call of the commander. They are the ones who are fully aware of the situation," Padilla told reporters.

"Complications have been coming out. And complications, what we mean by this is the continued use of civilians, potential hostages that may still be in their hands – the use of places of worship for one which prevents us from going all out and other factors that complicates the battle," the military spokesperson added.

On Saturday, Duterte promised that by Tuesday, government forces would be able to quash Marawi's Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

takeover by members of the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups.

But presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said on Monday that while "the President has promised to end the Marawi conflict within the shortest possible time," his vow was "consistent of course with due regard for the protection of innocent lives and avoid of abuses."

On Sunday, thousands of civilians hoping to flee fighting in Marawi remained trapped after a four-hour truce to evacuate residents was disrupted by gunfire. Only 134 were freed on Sunday, less than on previous days, despite government hopes that more than 1,000 would be able to leave a city battered by 13 days of intense fighting.

Last Friday, Padilla said rebels had continued to "occupy commercial buildings as their defensible enemy lairs," which he said "is the subject of military action being conducted for the past few days until now."

Earlier, Defense chief and martial law administrator Delfin Lorenzana said government troop movements in Marawi were being hampered by difficult enemy terrain and rebels who frequently moved and changed positions within concrete houses and other structures that were close to each other.

"They are actually holed up in reinforced buildings. And pati 'yong mga kanyon natin parang hindi tumatalab eh. So 'yon ang hirap doon [And even our cannons don't seem to take effect. So it's difficult there]," Lorenzana said on Thursday.

"(I)t is a built-up area and kung minsan 'yong line of fire ng ating mga kanyon hindi rin makita dahil na-o-obstruct ng ibang building 'yon eh [It is a built-up area and there are times we can't see our cannons' line of fire because it's being obstructed by buildings]," he added.

Also, according to residents, enemies can easily get off the hook because they have built tunnels as escape routes. The Defense chief likewise said Maute "have so many snipers around shooting at our soldiers" and mosque were also being used as "nests" of these snipers.

Worsening problems in troop movement is the Maute Group's use of civilians, including children, to deter attack by government forces.

"Compounding the situation on the ground is the use of these forces, these armed elements, of children and civilians as human shields," said Padilla.

20 more foreign terrorists aiding Maute

On Monday, during a separate press briefing in Lanao del Sur capitol building, Armed Forces Western Command chief Lieutenant General Carlito Galvez, Jr. said there were 20 more alleged foreign terrorists aiding Maute rebels in fighting against government troops in Marawi.

Galvez said this was in addition to the eight other foreign rebels from Malaysia, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Chechnya believed to be members of ISIS, who died during earlier clashes with the military.

The foreign terrorists were able to enter the Philippines during the Ramadan period, according to Galvez.

Meanwhile, the Westmincom chief denied reports quoting Indonesian Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu that there were about 1,200 ISIS operatives in the Philippines, who came from Indonesia. Galvez said these ISIS terrorists went to Syria.

For his part, Padilla said "the revelations" of the Indonesia defense minister "is something that came as a surprise to us because as was mentioned by senior defense officials, in truth, we don't have those numbers."

He said the claim of the Indonesian official "needs to be subjected to inquiry. "We may address this because we have networks with the nations who are fighting against terrorism."

Padilla added that Maute rebels might have been reinforced by "sympathetic individuals and groups" whose numbers could have "swelled" because of the "release of the prisoners from the city jail."

"So this was something that we are mentioning all along as potential sources of warm bodies," he said.

http://www.interaksyon.com/military-wont-meet-du30s-3-day-deadline-to-end-marawi-crisis-20-more-foreign-terrorists-aiding-maute/

AFP: Gov't-MNLF alliance vs Maute 'unlikely' to happen

From the Sun Star-Manila: AFP: Gov't-MNLF alliance vs Maute 'unlikely' to happen

THE possible coalition of Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) fighters with government forces to combat members of Maute terror group in Marawi City is unlikely to happen, the spokesperson of Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said Monday.

Speaking to reporters, AFP spokesperson Restituto Padilla Jr. explained that both parties have to first thoroughly discuss the appropriate parameters and protocols before they could join forces in quelling Marawi crisis.

"The mechanisms for any kind of this arrangement need to be discussed thoroughly prior to its implementation. So right now, we don't have the appropriate protocols, we don't have the appropriate coordinative elements on the ground to make this happen," Padilla said.

"So this may come later after the resolution of the Marawi incident but not during this time because we are not able to sit down and talk how it will be implemented," he added.

Padilla's statement came after President Rodrigo Duterte said last Sunday in Subic Bay, Olongapo City, that he is willing to accept the offer of MNLF founding chairman Nur Misuari to allow 2,000 of his fighters to help in the ongoing fight against Maute militants.

The President said he sees no problem if thousands of MNLF fighters will serve as "integrees," bandits who will be enlisted to the AFP.

"I'm willing to take in 2,000 as regular troops of the Armed Forces of the government," Duterte said. Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella, who was with Padilla in the press conference, said the government welcomes support from the MNLF as it goes about the "long-term cleansing and rebuilding effort" in Marawi City.

"We welcome the continuing support of the MNLF, the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front), and other civil society groups now finding common cause with the government in fighting a terror threat to all Filipinos," Abelia said.

Padilla said the Moro combatants can only aid assistance to government troops if the situation in Marawi City "prolongs a little bit more."

"For the moment, that is the way we see it – [it's not going to happen]. And if this prolongs a little bit more, then perhaps we can do it, but hopefully not," he said. "During this period, yes [the MNLF cannot join state forces]. It could be because it is already ongoing and it's almost nearing to solution."

Padilla said the Chief Executive's intent to enlist MNLF fighters as integrees is still possible but only after the government forces is able to totally wipe out the lawless activities in Marawi City. "If it will really be pushed through, many issues have to be discussed so it will be settled accordingly and will not cause any

complications," he said.

http://www.sunstar.com.ph/manila/local-news/2017/06/05/afp-govt-mnlf-alliance-vs-maute-unlikely-happen-545758

Air Force C-130 provides aero-medevac for soldiers wounded in Marawi

From Update Philippines (Jun 4): Air Force C-130 provides aero-medevac for soldiers wounded in Marawi



One of the five military transport C-130 aircraft of Philippine Air Force operating under 220th Airlift Wing (220AW) has provided aero-medical evacuation for soldiers who sustained wounds from the ongoing operations against Maute terrorist group in Marawi City.

Twenty wounded troops from Laguindingan airport in Misamis Oriental were transported to Colonel Jesus Villamor Air Base in Pasay City midnight of June 2.

"The aircraft was instantly reconfigured for aeromedical evacuation," 220AW said. "The patients were transferred to military treatment facilities in Manila where it housed advanced equipment and specialized doctors."

220AW said much of the improvement in the aeromedical evacuation survival rates can be attributed to the very quick response time of the C-130 aircrew including the member of the S-7 team on-board to support similar missions.

"The significant impact of these airlift missions will result to the increased morale of our troops, knowing that in these unfortunate circumstances, your airlifters will provide the fastest possible means of air evacuation to ensure that our injured troops will receive the best medical care they deserve," 220AW said.

https://www.update.ph/2017/06/air-force-c-130-provides-aero-medevac-for-soldiers-wounded-in-marawi/17968

NPA- Maute alignment denied

From the Visayan Daily Star (Jun 5): NPA- Maute alignment denied

The 303rd Infantry Brigade yesterday said there is no truth to reports of an alleged alignment between a group of New People's Army and the Maute terror group in the Negros Island Region.

Capt. Eduardo Precioso, 303rd Infantry Brigade Civil Military Operations officer, said yesterday "The current security situation in Negros Island Region is manageable".

"We do not have reports of terror groups in the NIR, nor an alliance of NPA and terror groups". Precioso stressed.

"However, as part of our additional preemptive security measures in the region against terror attacks, we have been enhancing our security patrols, particularly in the coastal and maritime areas," he said.

Senior Supt. Henry Biñas, provincial police director of Negros Oriental, described as "false" a report noted to have circulated during the first and second weeks of May.

Binas said it was further verified by the municipal officials of Basay City in Negros Oriental, that the alleged group of NPA and the personalities mentioned, did not exist.

Meanwhile, Precioso said that, coordinating conferences with the different security sectors, local government units, and government agencies, as well as civil organizations are being conducted to further enhance the preemptive measures against terrorism and lawless activities in the region.

At the same time, Precioso also said he was not the source of the information, that was published in a local newspaper, quoting him as saying that the NPA faction had pledged allegiance to a faction of the Maute Group under a certain Commander Ayman Salaam in Basay City, Negros Oriental.

"These statements are not true, nor are they being confirmed by the Army," he said.

Precioso lamented that the statements attributed to him had brought confusion and alarm in Negros.

He also said that the state security forces in Negros are only confronting NPA groups.

But with the ongoing government actions against terror groups in Mindanao. Precioso said "We cannot discount the possibility that terrorism might spillover to the region or they might create a scenario to divert the attention of the government".

We are appealing to the public to take part in monitoring any unusual activities in the region as part of their social responsibility.

http://www.visayandailystar.com/2017/June/05/topstory7.htm

Negros, Panay soldiers killed in Marawi battles, Army says

From the Visayan Daily Star (Jun 5): Negros, Panay soldiers killed in Marawi battles, Army says

Four Army soldiers from Negros and Panay, have died in the series of gunbattles with the Maute terror group in Marawi City, Lanao del Norte.

The 15th Infantry Battalion, that had been dispatched by the 3rd Infantry Division to Mindanao several years ago, suffered three casualties in the ongoing clearing of Marawi City of ISIS-inspired Maute terrorist group.

Killed were SSgt. Joseph Villanueva of Brgy.Puso, La Castellana in Negros Occidental, Sgt. ThrolenLago of Mambusao, Capiz and PFC Anthony Capulot of Leon, Iloilo, all members of the 15th Infantry Battalion, military records show.

A C-130 Air Force cargo plane delivered the bodies of the three slain Army soldiers to Negros Occidental, Iloilo and Capiz on Saturday. They are now with their families.

The three Army soldiers, as well as Army 2Lt. MacGlenAbuyabor, a member of the elite Light Reaction Company, of Bais City, Negros Oriental, died in the Marawigunbattle, that has been raging for more than a week now.

Aside from the 15IB, the 11th Infantry Battalion had also been dispatched last year by the 3rd Infantry Division to Zamboanga City, as ordered by the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Ma. Gen. Jon Aying, 3ID commander, however, said that there is no advice to pull out more troops from Negros Island Region, to be displayed inMarawi siege.

Late last year, the the 302nd Infantry Brigade and the 47th Infantry Battalion were also pulled out from Negros, as the 3ID area of operations was expanded to Central Visayas, including Cebu and Bohol.

This prompted the 3ID to organize the 1st and 2nd Negros Island Geographical Battalions, that are composed of about 1,000 members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit and Philippine Army reservists, to augment regular Army soldiers in the conduct of non-traditional military activities.

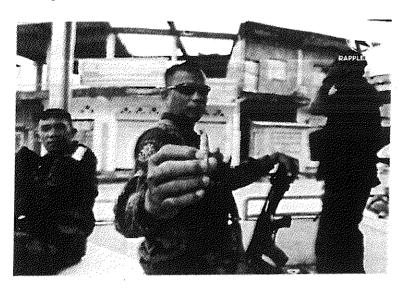
The dates of that burials of the four Army soldiers have yet to be determined. But they are expected to be accorded full military honors, the 3ID Public Affairs Division Office said.

http://www.visayandailystar.com/2017/June/05/topstory5.htm

Terrorists wound 2 soldiers during Marawi 'humanitarian pause'

From Rappler (Jun 5): Terrorists wound 2 soldiers during Marawi 'humanitarian pause'

During the 4-hour humanitarian pause, 179 civilians are rescued from Marawi City



ONGOING CLASHES. A policeman shows a .50mm caliber bullet from the Maute Group sniper who fired at them. Photo by Bobby Lagsa/Rappler

Terrorists in Marawi City wounded two soldiers during the 4-hour humanitarian pause declared by the government on Sunday, June 4.

"It is saddening to note that, despite the efforts of 3rd party facilitators, there were violations committed by criminals in the area. They caused the wounding of two of our men who were escorting the humanitarians into the area," said Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brigadier General Restituto Padilla on Monday, June 5.

He was holding a press conference at the Palace alongside Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella.

The humanitarian pause from 8 am to noon on Sunday was facilitated by Bangsamoro peace process government panel chairperson Irene Santiago, with the help of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The pause is an implementation of the "peace corridor" established by President Rodrigo Duterte.

According to Abella, during the pause, 179 civilians were rescued from Marawi City where Maute Group members continue to hold certain areas.

There was never a "100%" guarantee that armed elements of the group would respect the Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

humanitarian pause, said Padilla.

"The risks are really high so we salute all the men and women involved in the humanitarian pause yesterday," he said.

The military will continue helping aid groups reach civilians in need of rescue and assistance.

Abella said that, as of 6 pm on June 4, the government has provided P45.3 million worth of food and non-food assistance to those affected by the Marawi crisis.

A total of 37,640 families or 185,878 persons have been displaced in Northern Mindanao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Of these, 3,768 families or 18,065 persons are in 29 evacuation centers.

Civilian casualties rose to 20 as of June 4, after a terrorist sniper shot a civilian on Saturday, June 3. The number of enemies killed remains at 120 while the number of government casualties is at 38. Ten of the casualties on the government side were soldiers killed in a botched military air strike.

Padilla said the Maute Group holds only around 10% of the city. Efforts of the military to flush them out completely are being hampered by the terrorists' use of civilians as human shields and mosques and madrasas as attack staging areas. (READ: Military won't meet June 2 deadline to end Marawi siege)

AFP chief General Eduardo Año has instructed ground commanders to "do everything to avoid" bombing these mosques.

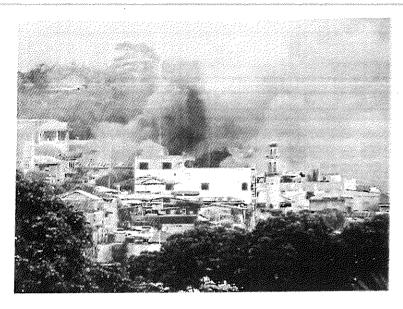
The clashes in Marawi City began on May 23 and prompted Duterte to declare martial law in the entire Mindanao that same day. The 1987 Constitution states martial law must not exceed 60 days and any extension has to be approved by Congress. (READ: Martial Law 101: Things you should know)

http://www.rappler.com/nation/172006-terrorists-wound-soldiers-humanitarian-pause-marawi

Military studying possibility of attacking Marawi mosques

From Rappler (Jun 5): Military studying possibility of attacking Marawi mosques

Maute Group members continue to stage attacks from Marawi mosques and madrasas, which are protected by international laws on cultural property during armed conflict



MARAWI CRISIS. Smoke rises near a public market after military attack helicopters fired rockets on the positions of Muslim extremists in Marawi City on May 25, 2017. Photo by Ted Aljibe/Agence France-Presse

The Philippine military is considering bombing mosques where Maute Group members are staging attacks on troops as pressure mounts for them to end the Marawi crisis.

"That is a matter we are studying carefully," he said on Monday, June 5 during a chance interview in Malacañang.

The use by terrorists of mosques and madrasas as areas from which to stage attacks on government forces is a major reason why they continue to hold around 10% of the city under their control, said Padilla.

Some of these religious buildings are being used as "sniper nests" by terrorists, affording them good vantage points and protection, given the international laws against attacks on places of worship and other cultural property.

These same conventions are why the military is considering targeting mosques as a last resort.

"Our Chief of Staff has instructions to ground commanders to do everything to avoid this course of action," said Padilla.

The military continues to call on terrorists to surrender and avoid occupying places of worship.

There are exceptions to the rule against attacking cultural property during an armed conflict, said Padilla.

"Any person who is armed who harbors a certain area, be it a hospital or places of worship, if they insist on staying in that place there are provisions internationally that say they can be targeted," said Padilla.

<u>The 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict calls on countries to refrain from "any act of hostility directed against such property."</u>

However, the accord, signed by the Philippines, says such a rule can be waived in cases of "imperative military necessity."

This waiver can only be invoked if an officer commanding a force the size of a battalion or larger determines there is imperative military necessary to target a cultural property.

Haque Convention rules also require that the military give advance warning when the cultural property will be attacked.

The Marawi crisis enters into its 14th day on Monday, June 5. The martial law in Mindanao declared by President Rodrigo Duterte due to the crisis also enters into its 14th day.

http://www.rappler.com/nation/172014-military-possibility-mosques-attacks-marawi

PHP20-M bounty offered for Hapilon, Maute brothers — AFP

MANILA, June 5 - A cool PHP20 million awaits anyone who can give vital information that could lead to the arrest and neutralization of Abu Sayyaf leader and ISIS "Emir" in the Philippines, Isnilon Hapilon and Abdullah and Omar Maute, the heads of the terror group now being cornered by security forces in Marawi City.

The money will come from President Rodrigo Duterte, said Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año on Monday.

The PHP10 million is allotted for Hapilon and PHP5 million for each of the Maute brothers.

"The President is offering PHP10 million-reward money for the neutralization of Isnilon Hapilon who is believed to be leading the terrorist Maute-ISIS group in attacking Marawi City," Año disclosed.

Fighting in Marawi City started last May 23 when government troops tried to arrest the wounded terrorist leader.

The amount is aside the USD5 million-bounty offered by the US government for Hapilon.

The latter, a senior leader of the Abu Sayyaf, has an outstanding warrant of arrest for kidnapping with ransom and serious illegal detention.

He also has a PHP7.4 million standing bounty from the Philippine government.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines welcomes the pronouncement of President Duterte. We hope that this will bear significant accomplishments leading to the eventual arrest and neutralization of Isnilon Hapilon and the Maute Brothers," Año said. (PNA)

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ISIS figures in PHL being validated — AFP

MANILA, June 5 -- The Armed Forces of the Philippine (AFP) is validating reports regarding claims that 1,200 ISIS operatives are currently in the country.

This was stressed by AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo Monday even as he announced that these figures did not come from the military.

"And if there is such a number, it might include all the local terrorists in the Philippines," he added in Filipino.

"We are going to validate that number, we can't say that it is wrong (for now as) it has to go through a process of validation," Arevalo stressed.

These figures make it more relevant that focused military operations against the Maute Group terrorists and their allies in Marawi City be conducted until all of the lawless elements are neutralized.

"Our objective now is to neutralize them and to ensure (that) after this incident or the conflict in Marawi City, they will lose their capacity to mount another terror act or rebellion against the government," he noted.

Earlier, Indonesia Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu claimed there 1,200 ISIS fighters in the Philippines, of which 40 are Indonesian.

He added only cooperation, understanding and consensus can prevent these terrorists from setting up roots in Southeast Asia. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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Marine troops in Marawi City to get first track in US donated anti-terror weapons, gear

MANILA, June 5 --- Marine units, currently engaged against the Maute Group remnants in Marawi City, will be among the first recipients of the brand-new anti-terror weapons and equipment donated by the US Government.

This was bared Monday by Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) head Major Gen. Emmanuel Salamat at the sidelights of the turn-over ceremonies held at Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Handed by US Joint Military Assistance Group representatives were 300 M-4 carbines, 200 Glock 21 pistols, 25 units combat rubber raiding craft, 100 M-203 rail mounted grenade launchers, 30 outboard motor, and four M-134D Gatling-style machine gun.

Salamat said the transfer of the weapons highlights the long-standing cooperation with the US.

"We are just continuing our cooperation and engagement and this is also a product of long years of hard work, this agreement has been worked on since 2013 so its a product of a long cooperation even before my predecessor," the PMC chief added.

When asked on what units will get first crack on the US donated weapons and gears, Salamat said PMC units now in Marawi City are the priority in the distribution.

"We will give this (weapons and equipment) to our troops in Marawi City," he said. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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Marines receives counter terrorism equipment from US

ropped by **Lui Claudio** en logge p. Zovin et e Zhiff

Manila — Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Salamat accepted new counter-terrorism weapons and equipment from United States Embassy military representatives during a transfer ceremony at PMC Headquarters in Taguig, June 5.

Officials from the Joint United States Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) turned over weapons and equipment delivered recently under the U.S. government's Counterterrorism Train and Equip Program at a ceremony at PMC Headquarters. This equipment will enhance the PMC's counterterrorism capabilities, and help protect Philippine Marines actively engaged in counterterrorism operations in the southern Philippines.

The weapons and equipment include 300 M4 carbines, 200 Glock 21 pistols, 4 M134D Gatling-style machine guns, and 100 M203 grenade launchers delivered May 18-22 to Clark Air Base. JUSMAG also delivered 25 new Combat Rubber Raiding Craft (CRRC) with outboard motors May 30 to PMC Headquarters. The PMC's Inshore Boat Battalion and Marine Special Operations Group have already employed previous U.S. Counterterrorism Train and Equip gear in ongoing combat operations in the southern Philippines.

Since 2007, representatives from JUSMAG have delivered and programmed Php7.3 billion of military equipment to the Philippine Marine Corps and other branches of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to enhance counterterrorism capabilities. In addition, the AFP has procured small-arms weapons, water craft, unmanned aerial vehicles, and personal protective equipment as part of the U.S. government's Foreign Military Sales system and other programs.

Over the last five years, the U.S. government has allocated Php15 billion of grant funding to provide the AFP with equipment, including corresponding upgrades and training. The equipment transfers and continued bilateral training and exercises demonstrate the commitment of the United States to work with the Philippines towards building safer communities and eradicating global terror networks.

Attached is more information on the U.S. Counter-terrorism Train and Equip Program. Please follow this link for photos and videos of the transfer and turnover ceremony.

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