

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



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NEWS CLIPPINGS

09 June 2017

Friday

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS
09 JUNE 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A16
HEADLINE NEWS			
2-4	Ex-mayor tagged as Maute financier	Edith Regalado	Phil. Star p.1
5-6	Speaker vows to defy SC	DJ Yap	PDI p.A1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
7	10 BIFF fighters killed in encounter	Francis Wakefield	Mla. Bulletin p.16
8	4 BIFF bandits killed in Maguindanao clash	Dempsey Reyes	Mla. Times p.A7
9	Kalinga: 6 NPA camp nakubkob	Rizaldy Comanda	Balita p.5
10	Go Negosyo kapatids send help to Marawi		PDI p.A4
11	Photo: A soldier takes break...		Phil. Star p.1
AFP RELATED NEWS			
12	AFP told: Don't allow Maute to hide in MM	Delon Porcalla	Phil. Star p.17
13	Rody cancels Marawi visit due to security concerns	Edith Regalado	Phil. Star p.10
14-15	Marawi fighting could turn orphans into terrorists	Jhesset Enano	PDI p.A10
16	Suspected drug lord, Maute backer killed in Lanao Sur	Ali Macabalang	Mla. Bulletin p.16
17-18	Marawi plot video intended for IS leaders in Mideast – AFP chief	Mario Mallari	Tribune p.1
19-20	Food crisis grips Marawi as AFP tightens noose on militants	Genalyn Kabling	Mla. Bulletin p.1
21-22	Defense chief absolves Aquino from 'Marawi'	Joel Zubrano	Mla. Standard p.A1
23	More martial law arrests coming, says AFP	Joselle Badila	PDI p.A4
24-25	230 face arrest for Maute links	Joyce Pangco	Mla. Standard p.A1
26	200 pulitiko, iba pa aarestuhin sa martial law sa Mindanao		Police Files p.2
27	AFP: Ex- Marawi Mayor Salic financier ng Maute – ISIS		Police Files p.2
28	Maute family flown to Manila	Edith Regalado	Phil. Star p.10
29	Mautes nabbed in Davao transferred to Manila	Philip Tubeza	PDI p.A4
30	2 kinds of peace corridors being set up in Marawi	Philip Tubeza	PDI p.A7
31	Fisherman escapes from Abu Sayyaf captors	Roel Pareño	Phil. Star p.A24
32	Photo: Duterte in Sultan Kudarat	Malacañang Photo	Mla. Bulletin p.1

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

33	Photo: Relief	Manny Palmero	Mla. Standard p.A2
EDITORIAL			
34-35	Wild, Wild Phi	Ana Marie Pamintuan	Phil. Star p.12
36	We cry for Marawi	Rina Jimenez-David	PDI p.A15
37-40	Winning the peace: Beyond antiterrorism	Miriam Coronel Ferrer	PDI p.A8
41-42	State of 'war'	Jose Sison	Phil. Star p.13
43	A hard look at marawi crisis	Johnny Dayang	Tempo p.7
44	Pati trahedya sa Marawi ay pinulitika na	Harvey Keh	Abante p.4
45	Founder ng ISIS sa Marawi panagutin	Alvin Feliciano	Remate p.5
ONLINE NEWS			
46-47	Suspected Reds balst mining equipment, attack Lepanto tailings dam in Benguet		www.interaksyon.com
48-49	Aguirre asks intel agencies to probe 'meeting' prior to Marawi attack	Lloyd Caliwán	www.pna.gov.ph
50	AFP now has list of Maute Group supporters	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph
51	AFP denies claims Maute Group weapons, bullets from military stocks	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph
52	PHL military gets 3 brand-new 155-mm howitzers, 9 more en route		www.pna.gov.ph
53-54	Marawi City ex-Mayor Fajad Salic arrested for rebellion		www.rappler.com

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

09 June 2017



Page: 116

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JUNE 9, 2017 | FRIDAY

LOW PRESSURE AREA EMBEDDED IN THE INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
10 KM NORTHEAST OF MARASIN CITY, SOUTHERN LEYTE
(As of 5:00 PM - June 8, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
☀️	🌇
5:26 AM	6:24 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
🌙	🌘
6:11 PM	5:08 AM
FIRST QUARTER	FULL MOON
☾	🌕
JUN 9 6:51 AM	JUN 9 2:05 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
🌊	🌊
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	MANILA SOUTH HARBOR
1:55 AM 0.42 Meter	9:34 AM 1.13 Meter
☁️ Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainbows and/or thunderstorms.	
☁️ Cloudy skies with rainbows and/or thunderstorms.	

	JUNE 10	JUNE 11	JUNE 10	JUNE 11	JUNE 10	JUNE 11		
METRO MANILA	☁️ 26 - 33 °C	☁️ 26 - 35 °C	TAGAYTAY	☁️ 21 - 31 °C	☁️ 21 - 31 °C	TACLOBAN	☁️ 25 - 31 °C	☁️ 26 - 33 °C
TUGUEGARAO	☁️ 25 - 36 °C	☁️ 26 - 36 °C	LEGAZPI	☁️ 27 - 33 °C	☁️ 27 - 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	☁️ 25 - 33 °C	☁️ 25 - 32 °C
LADAG	☁️ 26 - 33 °C	☁️ 24 - 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	☁️ 26 - 34 °C	☁️ 26 - 34 °C	METRO DAVAO	☁️ 26 - 32 °C	☁️ 26 - 32 °C
BAGUIO	☁️ 17 - 25 °C	☁️ 16 - 24 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	☁️ 25 - 33 °C	☁️ 26 - 33 °C	ZAMBOANGA	☁️ 25 - 33 °C	☁️ 25 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	☁️ 26 - 32 °C	☁️ 25 - 32 °C	METRO CEBU	☁️ 26 - 33 °C	☁️ 26 - 33 °C			

SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

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6th June 2017



Page: 1

Ex-mayor tagged as Maute financier

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – In its formative years, the Maute group received financial support from then Marawi City mayor Fajad Salic, now under arrest for rebellion in connection with the militants' siege of the country's only Islamic city.

This was according to reliable sources, who also raised the possibility that Salic's relation by affinity to the Maute clan may have convinced authorities to include him in the list of individuals targeted for arrest for possible involvement in the Marawi siege.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana released the list recently.

Salic – along with three others – was arrested Wednesday night in the town of Villanueva in Misamis Oriental while en route in a Ford Ranger to Cagayan de Oro City from Butuan City.

Reports said one of Salic's wives is a niece of Ominta "Farhana" Romato, the first wife of Cayamora Maute, patriarch of the Maute clan. Salic had also been married to actress Alma Moreno.

Armed Forces Eastern Mindanao

Turn to Page 10

Ex-mayor From Page 1

Command deputy commander Brig. Gen. Gilberto Gapay said Salic is also being investigated for possible direct participation in the siege of Marawi City that started last May 23. Government troops are still ferreting out Maute militants who have been using their Christian hostages as human shields.

"It is the object of the ongoing investigation on Salic," said Gapay, spokesman of the Eastmincom for martial law.

Gapay said that even before the Marawi crisis, Salic was already known as an active supporter of the Maute group, which claimed to have links to the extremist Middle East-based Islamic State of Iraq and Syria or ISIS.

Salic was three-term mayor from 2007 to 2016.

"He was arrested because of an arrest order issued against him by the Department of National Defense, through Arrest Order No. 2, where his name is included for involvement in the

Marawi rebellion," Supt. Lemuel Gonda, spokesman for the Police Regional Office 10, said.

Salic denied the accusation shortly after his arrest. "I am not involved in that (Marawi siege). I've been in Manila even before the trouble in Marawi started," Salic told reporters in Cagayan de Oro City. He also denied being a narco-politician.

He said that when reports linking him to drugs came out, "I personally went to the DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Government) regional office to clear my name. In fact, I signed a waiver that I am willing to be investigated. Until now, I cannot find any reason why I have been implicated in illegal drugs," Salic said in the local dialect.

Arresting officers did not find anything illegal in his possession or in his vehicle.

Salic is currently detained at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group office

at Camp Evangelista, Patag, Cagayan de Oro.

Martial law spokesman Brig. Gen. Resituto Padilla said they are still looking for a suitable detention facility for Salic.

"That is still being determined but for now I don't know yet. Right now he is still detained in Cagayan de Oro City," Padilla told reporters at Camp Aginaldo in Quezon City when asked if Salic would be transferred to Manila.

After more than two weeks of fighting, government troops in Marawi City have succeeded in isolating the Maute terrorists in an area where escape is almost impossible, sources in the military said.

Next week target

In Zamboanga City, Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. said they hope to clear Marawi City of terrorists by early next week.

Galvez said ground forces have penetrated the Marinaut area – one of the strongest points occupied by the mili-

tants – and smashed their logistics capability.

He estimated that 25 to 30 percent of the city has yet to be cleared of militants.

Ground troops, he added, had to tackle three to four strong points held by terrorists.

He lamented, however, that soldiers couldn't just blast their way to terrorist positions as the latter were holding civilian hostages, including a Catholic priest.

"But considering we have paralyzed their logistic capability we're looking at the possibility the end would be near," Galvez said.

He also said Abu Sayyaf extremist leader Isnilon Hapilon is reportedly still inside Marawi City together with Maute militants and that he still poses a threat to troopers or to anyone entering the city. Meanwhile, at least 26 civilians have been rescued from the battle zone.

Information received by The STAR indicated that the terrorists are contained within the city's lower area near Lanao Lake and Agus River.

"Our forces are now on the higher ground while most of the terrorists have withdrawn to their pre-designated withdrawal area which is near the coastal area of the city," a source in the field said.

Another source said he expects fighting to intensify in the coming days if trapped militants would opt to fight it out instead of surrendering.

He said that while the militants had planned to attack an Army headquarters in Marawi, they overlooked the need to establish an escape route, as their withdrawal would take them to Lake Lanao, which is now heavily guarded by security forces.

"While they are currently occupying high rise structures to include mosques minarets, over this low-lying quadrant in the city, the troops will eventually dislodge them," he said.

Reached for comment, Padilla declined to discuss the matter. "I don't want to discuss operational matters as it might jeopardize our ongoing military action," the military spokesman said.

But he admitted the militants had indeed carefully planned their attack in Marawi, judging from their abandoned network of tunnels and alleyways discovered by soldiers.

Padilla said that as of Wednesday evening, government troops have killed 138 Maute fighters since the fighting started two weeks ago.

At the start of the fighting, there were around 500 to 700 Maute terrorists occupying key areas in the city. Intense military operations reduced their number to around 200 to 250 fighters, he said.

But the campaign to dislodge the terrorists from Marawi cost the lives of 39 soldiers and 20 civilians as of yesterday. Remains of more civilian casualties or even those of militants have yet to be recovered.

"While one of our soldiers' mission is to recover these bodies, sustained military actions will continue to liberate the entire Marawi City from the Mautes-IS," Padilla said.

– With Jaime Laude, Roel Pareño

59 June 2017



Page: 41

SPEAKER VOWS TO DEFY SC

Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez said he would not honor any Supreme Court order that would require Congress to convene in a joint session to tackle the declaration of martial law in Mindanao. He even vowed, in jest, that he would tear such an order to pieces.

By DJ Yap
@deejayapINQ

Any order from the Supreme Court for a joint session of Congress to review the declaration of martial law in Mindanao will end up in shreds.

"There would really be a constitutional crisis—and it wouldn't be our fault," Speaker Pantaleon Al-

varez told reporters on Thursday.

The leader of the House of Representatives was asked by reporters to respond to the petitions asking the high tribunal to compel Congress to jointly deliberate on President Duterte's Proclamation No. 216 placing Mindanao under martial rule and suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas cor-

pus after Islamist militants laid siege to Marawi City on May 23.

The petitioners argued that a joint session of Congress was mandated under the 1987 Constitution.

The House and the Senate overwhelmingly approved separate resolutions declaring their support for the martial law declaration just before they adjourned their

session last week.

"They should review their law books. How can the Supreme Court dictate Congress what to do? We're a coequal body," Alvarez said.

Asked what he would do if the court issued a directive for a joint session of Congress, Alvarez said: "I would rip it up."

"That's a joke, right? Like I **A2**

OFFICE

FROM A1



II: 5285, 5295

said, they should study again and review their law books," said the Davao del Norte representative.

Alvarez said he did not understand the logic of the petitioners.

"The majority of the Senate has passed a resolution supporting the declaration of martial law. The House of Representatives has passed a resolution with the majority supporting the declaration of martial law," he said.

All about grandstanding

"Now, if you convene, what else will we talk about? We already know the decision. Maybe they just want to do their grandstanding in that joint session," Alvarez said.

On Monday, seven opposition congressmen who call themselves the "Magnificent 7" filed a petition in the Supreme Court questioning the constitutionality of Mr. Duterte's martial law proclamation.

The high court, moving swiftly on Tuesday, directed the government to reply to the petition and set oral arguments for three days next week.

Later on Tuesday, Florin Hilbay, former President Benigno Aquino III's solicitor general, along with other lawyers allied with the previous administration, filed a petition in the high tribunal seeking to compel Congress to hold a joint session to review Mr. Duterte's proclamation, citing "the clear constitutional requirement for Congress to convene and vote jointly."

Separate issue

On Wednesday, another group of petitioners, led by former Sen. Wigberto Tañada and Catholic bishops, likewise urged the high court to direct Congress to comply with the constitutional requirement.

Theodore Te, the Supreme Court's spokesperson, on Thursday said the two mandamus petitions separately

filed by the groups of Hilbay and Tañada would probably be consolidated because they involved similar issues.

Unconstitutional

But the two petitions would be treated differently from the one lodged by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman and six other opposition congressmen, who said Mr. Duterte's Proclamation No. 216 was unconstitutional.

"They differ from the petition challenging the factual basis for martial law in Mindanao and will thus not be consolidated with the martial law petition," Te said in a statement.

"[They] will not be covered by the court's instructions given last Tuesday for preliminary conference and oral arguments," he added.

Te noted that the two petitions regarding the joint congressional session were filed after the magistrates had adjourned their weekly full-court session last Tuesday.

"The petitions will most likely be consolidated and will be dealt with separately," he said.

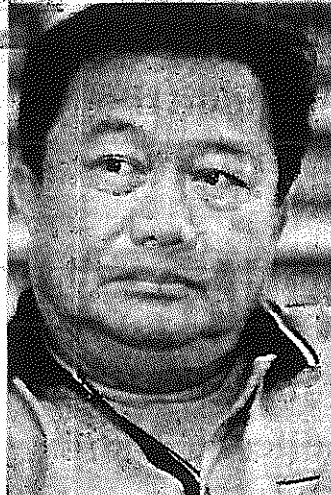
'Fearless guess'

Sen. Panfilo Lacson told a news forum on Thursday his "fearless guess" was that the court would not issue such a directive to a "coequal branch of government."

"If at all, the court could resolve the other issue, which is whether there was basis for the martial law proclamation," the senator said.

Lacson was one of 12 senators who voted to junk the Senate resolution, filed by Aquino allies, seeking a joint session to review the proclamation of martial law in Mindanao.

He also was among 17 senators who voted for another Senate resolution stating there



Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez

was no need to revoke the martial law declaration for now.

Lacson said the Constitution was clear that Congress would only hold a joint session to discuss a martial law proclamation if the two chambers would revoke it.

Flexibility

He said that during interpellation of the Senate resolution seeking a joint session of Congress, it was pointed out that former Constitutional Commission member Christian Monsod argued in 1986 that the President should be given flexibility to exercise emergency powers under martial law unless revoked by Congress.

He said Monsod was one of the petitioners now in the high court. "Where is the consistency?" he asked.

Asked what would happen if the high court ruled that the proclamation had no factual basis and President Duterte refused to follow it, Lacson said there would be a constitutional crisis.

He said he did not think the President would disobey the court despite "all the bravado pronouncements."

"We have seen how he would say things but in the end he will take a different action and follow the law," Lacson added. —WITH REPORTS FROM MARLON RAMOS AND CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO INQ

5285, 5295

OFFICE O

50. June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 16

10 BIFF fighters killed in encounter

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Ten members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) were killed following a clash in Maguindanao on Tuesday, a report from the military said.

Reports disclosed that troops of the 601st Infantry Brigade encountered the BIFF members in Brgy. Pusao, Shariff Saydona Mustapha, Maguindanao.

The troops were on a military operation at the SPMS (Salvo-Pagatin-Mamasapano-Shariff Aguak) Box following the encounter in Tukanalipao Detachment last Sunday.

Captain Arvin G. Encinas, the chief of the 6th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office, said the encounter resulted in the death of Badrodin Haron, alias Tro, Ali Abdul Malik, Badrudin Kalun Mabang, and Mohaiden Mando. Haron was reportedly holding a black flag.

When the bandits withdrew, they brought along six other casualties in the fierce firefight, Encinas said quoting reports from civilians who saw the fleeing men.

"We will continue to conduct focused military operations and we will exhaust all means to prevent these terrorists to thrive in the communities," Major General Arnel Dela Vega, the chief of the 6th ID, said.

June 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A7

4 BIFF bandits killed in Maguindanao clash

BY DEMPSEY REYES

FOUR members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) were killed in an encounter with troops of the Philippine Army's 601st Infantry Brigade, the Philippine Army's 6th Infantry Division reported on Thursday.

The slain BIFF members were identified as Ali Abdul Malik, Badrunin Kalun Mabang, Mohaiden Mando and a certain Badrobin Haron, who was left behind by his companions carrying a black flag.

The gunbattle took place at Barangay Pusao, Shariff Saydona Mustapha in Maguindanao on

Wednesday, or three days after a clash between the Army and the BIFF on Sunday.

The bandits withdrew after four hours of firefight with government troops.

Based on the Army's information from civilians, six soldiers were also killed during the Wednesday clash.

June 2017

Balita

Page. 5

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BARSA ₱8.00

Kalinga: 6 NPA camp nakubkob

BAGUIO CITY - Anim na pinaniniwalaang kampo ng New People's Army (NPA) ang nakubkob ng militar, kasabay ng pagkakatiskubre sa mga gamit sa paggawa ng pampasabog sa Kalinga.

Sa buubunduking lugar sa masukal na kagubatan ng Balbalan sa Kalinga nadiskubre ng mga tauhan ng 50th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army ang isa sa anim na kuta ng mga rebelde.

Nadiskubre sa lugar ang walong fuse at iba pang gamit sa paggawa ng pampasabog.

Ayon kay Lt. Colonel Gulliver Senires, commanding officer ng 50th IB, may kabuuang anim na kampo ng NPA sa Balbalan at Pinukupuk ang kanilang nakubkob at sinira noong nakaraang linggo.

Rizaldy Comanda

04 June 2017



Page: AL

GO NEGOSYO KAPATIDS SEND HELP TO MARAWI



Philippine army troops were also given food and drinks from the #KapatidForMarawi initiative (left); Saguiran Mayor Macmod Muti (in blue) and Go Negosyo volunteer Joseph Castillo (in orange) led the distribution of goods to all evacuees (right)

Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion led the call for support for the people of Marawi. #KapatidforMarawi is 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 started pouring in. Donations came 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 Pacific of Chris Po, SL Agritech led by Henry Lim Bon Liong, and CDO Foodsphere of Corazon Dayro-Ong.

Aside from private companies, business organizations also supported the initiative. 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.

Other organizations who are members of the recently launched Alliance Towards Prosperity for All like Management Association of the Philippines, Financial Executives of the Philippines, Bankers Association for the Philippines, Makati Business Club, and other members are all supporting the Kapatid for Marawi initiative as well.

The distribution and transportation of products would have not been possible without 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.

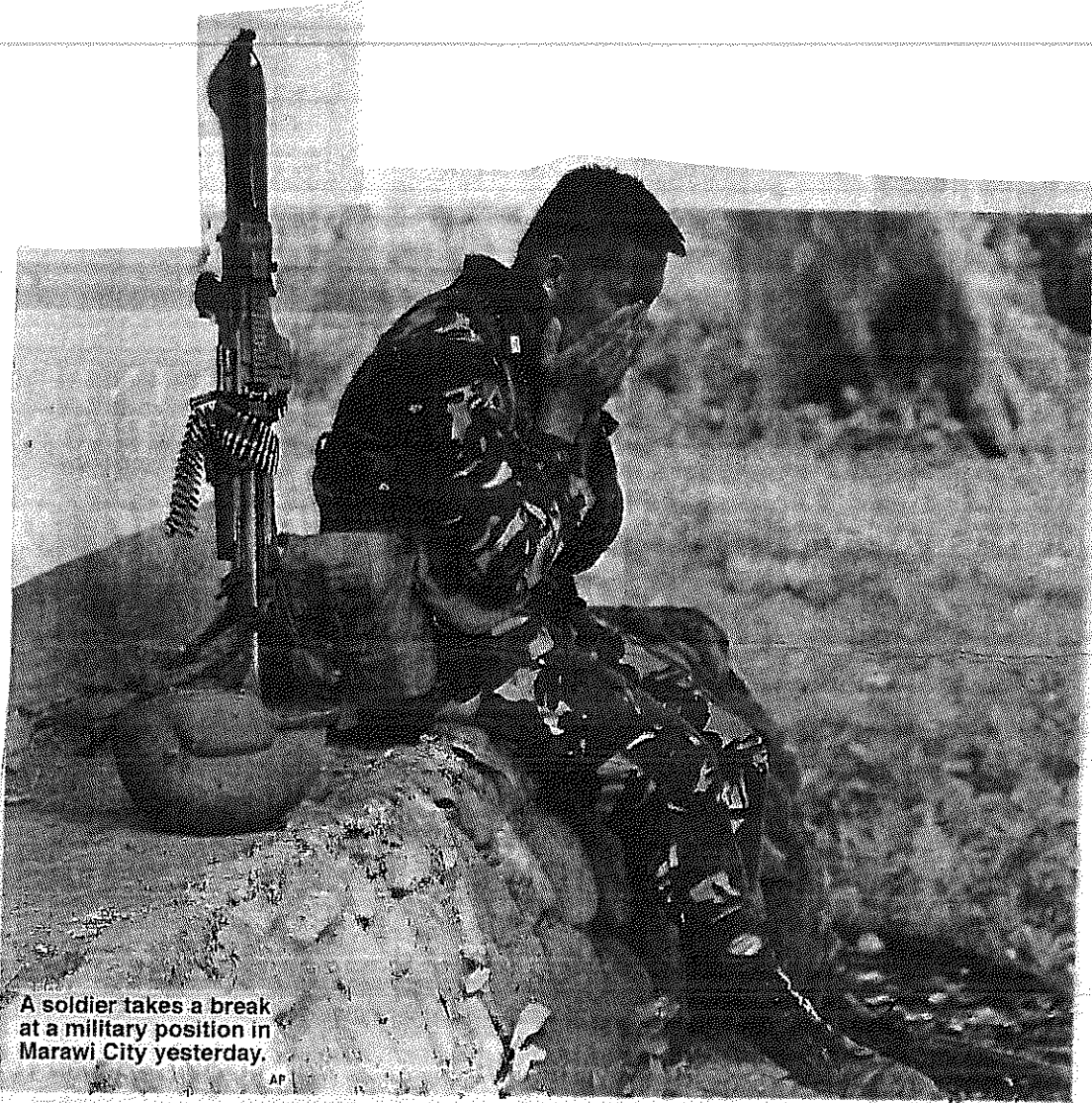
These efforts are part of the Go Negosyo initiatives to bring peace and prosperity to areas experiencing extreme poverty and conflict. Go Negosyo's Kapayapaan para sa Sulu has been successfully bringing development programs to the province since January 2017. Concepcion added, "With the support of our Kapatids, we aim to help our brothers in Marawi suffering from the distress they are experiencing right now. We are one with the government in providing peace and comfort in the area"

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.

90 June 2017



Page: 1



A soldier takes a break at a military position in Marawi City yesterday.

AP

09 June 2017



Page: 17

AFP told: Don't allow Maute to hide in MM

Security forces should make sure that clashes with the Islamic State-linked Maute group in Mindanao will not spill over to Luzon, where the seat of power is located and where it is much easier to hide, lawmakers said yesterday.

Quezon City Rep. Winston Castelo said it would help the military and police to tap intelligence information from the ground.

"Community intelligence works through peoples' vigilance and the immediate response of authorities. The government's job is to feed the public with adequate and accurate information," he said.

"This way, Metro Manilans could recognize threat and immediately report such to the nearest barangay hall or police detachment," Castelo, chairman of the House of Representatives' Metro Manila develop-

ment committee, said.

He said making the public aware of the identities of the Maute, Abu Sayyaf and IS leaders who led the bloody Marawi City siege could significantly reduce their chances of regrouping in Metro Manila to resume their operations.

Photos and other pertinent information about the terrorists should be displayed in barangay halls, transport terminals and service institutions

like hospitals, Castelo said.

His colleague Rep. Alfred Vargas, also of Quezon City, lauded the security forces' swift action on the Marawi siege, as well as President Duterte's earlier decision to cut short his trip to Russia in order to deal with the terrorist situation in Mindanao.

But as far as Surigao del Sur Rep. Johnny Pimentel, a member of the House committee on national defense

and security, is concerned, having a protracted and extended battle with the Maute group would be "very dangerous." He warned the military to nip problem in the bud before local terrorists get to "rouse" foreign reinforcements.

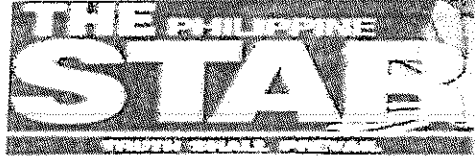
Pimentel urged the Bureau of Immigration and the Philippine Coast Guard to be on the lookout for possible foreign-based IS backers who

might be emboldened to go to Mindanao to aid local terrorists in Marawi.

"These IS sympathizers, including those radicalized online, could come from everywhere – from as far as Europe or to as near as Indonesia. They may try to legally come in through our regular ports of entry, or illegally by way of Mindanao's vast coastline," he added.

– Delon Porcalla

30 June 2017



Page: 16

Rody cancels Marawi visit due to security concerns

DAVAO CITY – Security concerns have forced President Duterte to cancel his visit to Marawi City scheduled yesterday afternoon.

"Really, *hindi kaya* (Can't do it). The security of the President could not be assured by those on the ground there. That was why the visit to Marawi had to be cancelled," a source close to the President told **The**

STAR.

But Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said it was bad weather that prompted the cancellation of the trip.

"The weather is bad, raining with poor visibility," Lorenzana said in a text message when asked why the visit did not push through.

Palace sources said Duterte visited wounded soldiers in

Cagayan de Oro City yesterday but the event was closed to media.

The Presidential Security Group reportedly prevailed upon the President not to push through with his trip to Marawi City.

The same source said armed members of the Maute group still pose a big threat to the President and to other people

who venture into Marawi City, despite the ongoing government offensive.

While only 30 percent of Marawi City remains in the hands of the Maute militants, officials said it would still be very risky for the President to proceed with the visit.

The President has been here since Sunday overseeing developments in Marawi as

well as the overall situation in Mindanao under martial law.

He has been visiting various military camps where troops fighting the Maute militants were based.

Reporters in Marawi City were notified of the cancellation of the visit just minutes before his supposed time of arrival.

According to an advisory

from the Media Accreditation and Relations Office, the President was supposed to visit Campo Ranao in Marawi City at around 1:30 p.m.

Part of the President's activities in Camp Ranao yesterday – based on an earlier plan – was his usual "pep talk" with soldiers.

– Edith Regalado, Alexis Romero, Cecille Suerte-Felipe

09 June 2017



Page: 110

Marawi fighting could turn orphans into terrorists

By **Jhesset O. Enano**
@JhessetEnanoINQ

The conflict in Marawi City and the declaration of martial law in Mindanao could produce a new generation of war orphans taking up arms against the government, a Muslim professor and researcher warned on Thursday.

"Emerging rebels are mostly youth who are orphans of war," Darwin Absari, a professor of the Institute of Islamic Studies of the University of the Philippines, said in a press briefing conducted by an alliance of educators that had called for the lifting of martial law in Mindanao.

"[They have] no ideology, no direction. They don't know anything but carry arms and shout 'Allahu Akbar' (Allah is great), even without the understanding of Islam," Absari said.

He cited the declaration of martial law by President Ferdinand Marcos in 1972, which he said spurred the increase in the number of rebels in Mindanao

after the military targeted Moro communities on the island.

"The wounds have not yet healed, and we are [repeating] it," he said.

Breeding more enemies

"In this campaign, we are breeding more enemies instead of bringing down the rebellion," Absari said, referring to the military campaign to dislodge fighters from the Maute terror group holed up in Marawi City.

Nearly 200 people have been killed in the fighting, more than 130 of them gunmen from the Maute group and its ally Abu Sayyaf group.

Thomas Koruth Samuel, director of research and publications of the Southeast Asia Regional Center for Counterterrorism, said there was little doubt the youth were beginning to play a significant role in terrorism.

In his report, "The Lure of Youth into Terrorism," posted on the center's website, Samuel

cited the involvement of youth in the growth of the Abu Sayyaf group.

For instance, he said, Abdurajak Janjalani was only 27 when he formed the bandit group.

Khadaffy Janjalani was 22 when he took over as leader of the group in 1998 after his brother Abdurajak was killed in a police operation.

Absari said most of the new generation of rebels never went to school.

Displaced students

Statistics from the Department of Education (DepEd) showed that the fighting in Marawi had displaced more than 22,000 students.

Partial reports gathered by the DepEd showed that as of Tuesday, only more than 2,400 displaced students had been enrolled in other regions of the country, including 171 in Metro Manila.

Benjamin Valbuena, president of the Alliance of Con-

cerned Teachers, said 132 schools remained closed despite the start of the new school year, affecting more than 2,200 teachers who had been displaced by the conflict in Marawi.

"Our worry is that the schools are so destroyed that our youth cannot study anymore," Absari said. "[Those sent to other regions], imagine coming from war and being sent far away from their families. I don't think they can study well."

Absari said it was not enough for the government to expel the gunmen from Marawi, it must also deal with the roots of the conflict, particularly poverty and underdevelopment in Mindanao.

"While we wait, younger generations [of rebels] emerge," he said. "Even if we bring down [the] Maute [group], there will always be a new breed of Moro fighters unless we put a solution to the problem." —WITH A REPORT FROM PAULINE FAYE TRIA INQ



Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. inspect firearms captured from the Maute-IS group during a visit to Camp Ranao in Marawi City on Thursday. —BARRY OHAYLAN

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June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 6

Suspected drug lord, Maute backer killed in Lanao Sur

COTABATO CITY — An alleged drug lord and financier of the Maute terror group was shot and killed by government forces during a law enforcement operation in Malabang, Lanao del Sur before dawn Wednesday.

The Maguindanao-based 6th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army identified the fatality as Nago Balindong, one of top 10 wanted drug dealers in Lanao del Sur, a component province of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Combined elements of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency-ARMM, the Army's 6th Infantry Battalion and the local police cornered Balindong in his hideout at Barangay Jose Abad Santos in Malabang.

Instead of surrendering, however, Balindong reportedly pulled out a gun, which prompted the authorities to shoot him.

The 6th ID, citing intelligence information, said Balindong had links to the Maute terror group, which raided Marawi City on May 23 and prompted the declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

Balindong's wife, Noraya Santican Balindong, an incumbent barangay official, was arrested after the brief shootout.

The raiding operatives recovered shabu, a pistol and two fragmentation grenades from the couple's house.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, public affairs officer of the Army's 6th ID, which has jurisdiction over the Malabang-based 6th IB, said the operation also resulted in the arrest of three of Balindong's henchmen, Bocari and Camaloden Balindong, and Tingaraan Boro-Boro. (Ali G. Macabalang)

50 June 2017



Page: _____

Marawi plot video intended for IS leaders in Mideast – AFP chief

By Mario J. Mallari and Charlie V. Manalo

The military leadership yesterday said the video of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and some of his Islamic State-inspired followers plotting to occupy Marawi City, was part of the terrorists'

documentation that they would send to IS leaders in the Middle East.

"It's part of the documentation for propaganda purposes... proof for their comrades in the ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) in the Middle East of what they are doing," Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff

Gen. Eduardo Año yesterday stressed. The video, however, did not reach its intended audience after government troops recovered it following an intense firefight last May 23 – the day Hapilon and his followers launched massive atrocities in Marawi City.

Turn to page 7

Gov't custody

Among those already arrested were Cayamora Maute, the father of Omar and Abdullah Maute, leaders of the Maute group, and Fahad Salic, who were intercepted in separate checkpoint operations in Davao City and Misamis Oriental, respectively.

Salic is the former mayor of Marawi City.

Año said the owner of the house where the meeting among the Maute group leaders and Isnilon Hapilon was held was also included in the lists of wanted persons.

"We have identified the owner of the house but I'd rather not reveal the identity...he is included in the list," he stressed.

In what the military said was a significant development, Salic was arrested on charges of rebellion on Wednesday.

"Even before the Marawi crisis, there were reports that he was a staunch supporter, he has been providing logistics and finances during the formative years of this Maute-ISIS group," regional military spokesman Brig. Gen. Gilbert Gapay, for his part, told reporters.

Salic was included in President Rodrigo Duterte's list of incumbent and retired local government officials, policemen and others who are allegedly involved in illegal drug trade.

The military also hailed the capture of the father of the Maute

Local: 5285, 5295

From page 1

According to Año, Hapilon and his followers plotted to occupy the city on May 26, or the first day of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

"They wanted to time the attack of Marawi during the first day of Ramadan, just like (Abu Bakr) al-Baghdadi did in June 2014 when they occupied Mosul and Iraq," he said.

Año added the video could have been taken two or three days before the siege started last May 23 when government troops raided the safe house where Hapilon was reported sighted.

"After subduing the enemy, we recovered many materials inside the safe house. Included is that video of Hapilon," the military chief said.

Año cited that the Hapilon shown in the latest video was different from the Hapilon the military knew prior to the report that he was seriously wounded during an air strike in Butig, Lanao del Sur province, last January.

Año himself then said Hapilon was rendered on a makeshift stretcher being carried by four of his followers.

"He was wounded in our operations in Butig but somehow has recovered. But in the video, he was only sitting, he was not seen walking or standing or walking straight because from our sources... Hapilon is still recuperating," he said.

Also, the AFP chief claimed that more than 200 individuals, either active members of the Maute group or supporters including politicians, have been included in the wanted list of the AFP in connection to the ongoing siege in Marawi City.

Año, in a broadcast interview, said there are more than 200 persons included in the arrest orders issued by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

"It's a combination of names of politicians, private citizens, members of the Maute, the leaders...there are two lists," he added.

"We are actually now implementing the serving of the arrest warrants on these people," Año said.

brothers.

"As the patriarch of the Maute clan, Mr. Cayamora Maute is considered as one of the brains of the Maute-ISIS terror group," he said.

The elder Maute was taken to Manila yesterday because of the possibility militants may try to break him out of jail in the south, Gapay said.

Weakening resistance

Año said that as of yesterday resistance from Hapilon's group which is now confined in Bangolo area "is getting lesser."

"I think we have already weakened the amount of their resistance. In a few more days, it will be over. We'll be able to clear all these areas," he added.

He said the military is very careful in conducting both air and ground assault to minimize destruction to private properties and spare the lives of innocent people.

"We are very careful in selecting targets, in conducting air strike, ground assault and even artillery fires. We can easily clear this area if we hit indiscriminately but we want to minimize the destruction," Año stressed.

"Rest assured that we will do everything to recover this the soonest possible time," he added.

Lengthy battle 'very dangerous'

But Surigao del Sur Rep. Johnny Pimentel has warned that a prolonged armed conflict in Marawi City could enable local terrorists to muster, mainly via the Internet and social media, foreign reinforcements from IS fighters around the world.

"This is why the Armed Forces should swiftly demolish the terrorists in Marawi – and nip the problem in the bud – before it develops into something larger," said Pimentel, a member of the House committee on national defense and security.

"We do not want the clashes there to drag out, because this is precisely what the enemy wants. The longer the fighting, the more they'll be celebrated before the eyes of IS followers abroad who might be roused to join a warped glorious struggle in Mindanao," he stressed.

This early, Pimentel urged the Bureau of Immigration and the Philippine Coast Guard to be on the lookout for possible foreign-based IS backers who might be emboldened to go to Mindanao to aid the local terrorists in Marawi.

"These IS sympathizers, including those radicalized online, could come from everywhere – from as far as Europe or to as near as Indonesia. They may try to legally come in through our regular ports of entry, or illegally by way of Mindanao's vast coastline," he said.

The two-week-old battle in Marawi has given rise to fears that the conflict in the predominantly Islamic city could drag out longer than originally expected.

According to a formal report sent by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to members of Congress, the skirmishes in Marawi have so far "internally displaced" 20,049 families, or 100,530 persons.

DSWD Secretary Judy Taguiwalo said 25 evacuation centers are open with 3,026 families, or 14,229 persons.

She added 17,023 families, or 86,301 persons "are staying outside evacuation centers with relatives or friends" in various cities and municipalities in Northern Mindanao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Pat C. Santos and AFP

09 June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Food crisis grips Marawi as AFP tightens noose on militants

By DENALYN D. KABILING, PNA and REUTERS

A “food crisis” has erupted in the conflict-torn Marawi City, prompting the government to step up humanitarian assistance to the affected residents

Another “Peace Corridor” has been opened to send more food and other relief aid amid reports of soaring food prices in the area, according to Irene Santiago, chair of government's ►6

Food crisis grips Marawi... ◀1

implementing panel for the Bangsamoro accords

“There is a rising food crisis. One sack of rice is now P5,000,” Santiago revealed during the “Mindanao Hour” briefing in Davao City.

“So it is important that we secure the passageway around the lake so that we can bring food assistance in and we can bring food prices down,” said Santiago, who is spearheading the “Peace Corridor.”

The Peace Corridor is a joint project of the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) peace panels to hasten the rescue and humanitarian efforts for civilians affected by the Marawi conflict. President Duterte earlier gave his approval to the creation of the “Peace Corridor” after top officials of the MILF offered assistance to address the humanitarian crisis following the siege.

The peace panels are working on another truce to rescue trapped civilians in the conflict zone. Santiago said they are just waiting for their emissary to recover from an illness to seek arrangements for the resumption of the Peace Corridor.

Dangerous mission

“The idea of the peace corridor is really a safe passageway to save

lives, whether it's trapped civilians in Marawi City or opening a passageway so that food and other medicines and other assistance can come through,” she added.

On concerns some Maute members might use the Peace Corridor to escape, Santiago said there is “always a possibility for escape.”

“There's always that possibility of course but whether it happened or not we have no evidence,” she said.

She assured though that the military has established a vetting process to ensure the safe operations of the peace corridor. She said they continue to respect the decision made by the ground commanders to ensure a safe and orderly humanitarian mission.

When the Peace Corridor opens anew, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Assistant Secretary Dickson Hermoso said they will prioritize the sick, wounded, children, women, and the elderly.

It is the second attempt of government and the MILF through its Joint Coordinating, Monitoring and Assistance Center (JCMAC) to free the remaining trapped civilians since the fighting erupted on May 23.

Last June 4, the JCMAC was able to rescue 134 trapped civilians after convincing the military and the Maute

group for a four-hour ceasefire to allow rescue operations

The three-kilometer "Peace Corridor" stretches from the Banggulo Bridge to Quezon Avenue inside the conflict zone in Marawi City.

But two soldiers were killed during Sunday's rescue operation when the militants fired sporadically despite the ceasefire agreement.

Alternate route opens

On Wednesday, the JCMAC also opened a 73-kilometer alternative route from Malabang, Lanao del Sur to Marawi City to facilitate the delivery of emergency relief assistance.

"The second peace corridor is now open in Lanao del Sur. The first corridor was to rescue trapped civilians. Yesterday, we opened the peace corridor between Malabang area to Marawi City. Unknown to many, this route has been unsafe and unsecured, food and other humanitarian aid have not be able to pass through," Santiago said during the press briefing.

Yesterday, members of the JCMAC which military, police, and MILF have secured the alternative route as relief goods from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao's Humanitarian Emergency Action Response Team (ARMM-HEART), United Bangsamoro Humanitarian Assistance (UBHA), MILF's Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA) were

transported to evacuation sites.

The government and MILF peace-keepers have also secured the deployment of physicians and supplies from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Tamparan, Lanao del Sur.

"We were able to establish the JCMAC to open a mobility corridor from Malabang (town) to the municipalities along the Lake Lanao because there are so many evacuees affected by the conflict here in Marawi (City) that runs towards the southern part of the province," Hermoso said.

End it

Surigao del Sur 2nd district Rep. Johnny Pimentel has urged the AFP to end the Marawi crisis as soon as possible.

Pimentel said the longer the crisis persists, the bigger the chance that it might receive international terror support.

Pimentel, who chairs the House Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, said the militants can muster "foreign reinforcements" via the Internet and social media in case of a prolonged conflict.

"This is why the Armed Forces should swiftly demolish the terrorists in Marawi — and nip the problem in the bud — before it develops into something larger," said Pimentel, who is also a member of the House Committee on National Defense and Security.

"We do not want the clashes there to drag out, because this is precisely what the enemy wants. The longer the fighting, the more they'll be celebrated before the eyes of IS followers abroad who might be roused to join a warped glorious struggle in Mindanao," he explained.

Few more days

But Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año said the militants have been reduced to a "small resistance" after troops crippled their logistics and some fighters have fled from the battle.

"In a few more days it could be over," Año told ANC on the 17th day of a siege.

The battle for Marawi City has raised concern that Islamic State, on a back foot in Syria and Iraq, is building a regional base on the Philippine island of Mindanao that could pose a threat to neighboring Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore too.

Officials have said that, among the several hundred militants who seized the town on May 23, there were about 40 foreigners from Indonesia and Malaysia but also fighters from India, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Chechnya.

The seizure of the town suggested to many that pro-Islamic State factions wanted to establish it as a Southeast Asian "wilayat" — or governorate — for Islamic State, a fear reinforced by video footage the military found last week showing the fighters plotting to seal the town off completely.

Major General Carlito Galvez, head of military command in the region, said government troops had entered three neighborhoods from which the militants had pulled back after two weeks of defense that relied heavily on snipers.

"We saw food, IEDs, mobility assets. Considering we have paralyzed logistics capability, we are looking at the possibility that the end will be near," he told a news conference in Marawi, referring to improvised explosive devices, or bombs.

With their ability to fight "degraded", some of the militants have fled, military spokesman Restituto Padilla said in a radio interview, adding that nine had surrendered and were providing "good intelligence."

Transfer

Meanwhile, Padilla said Cayamora Maute, the patriarch of the Maute clan was airlifted to Manila yesterday for his own safety along with his second wife Kongan Alfonso Balawag, daughter Norjannah Balawag and her partner Benzarali Tingao.

They were whisked to Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig City upon arrival for their own protection and security (With reports from Yas D.Ocampo, Ellson A. Quismorio, Ali Macabalang, Francis Wakefield, and Antonio Colina IV)

June 2017



Page: A1

Defense chief absolves Aquino from 'Marawi'

By Joel E. Zurbano

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Thursday described rumors linking Senator Paolo Benigno Aquino IV to the Marawi terrorist attack as “too absurd to be believed.”

In his exchange of text messages with the senator, Lorenzana assured Aquino that he “never gave credence to rumors about the lawmaker’s presence in Marawi” days before the skirmish between the government troops and members of the Maute group, as they were “too absurd to be believed.”

On Wednesday, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre III repeated these rumors and suggested Aquino and other anti-Duterte politicians were seeking to destabilize the government, only to retract his accusation on the same day.

In a radio interview Thursday,

Aquino said Lorenzana also absolved him and other members of the opposition of any involvement in the Marawi attack during a closed-door briefing on martial law.

“During the briefing, I asked Secretary Lorenzana about the fake news being spread, but he laughed and said there was no truth to it,” Aquino said in Filipino.

Aguirre earlier said Aquino was in a meeting with influential Moro clans in Marawi City on May 2, but the senator was actually the commencement speaker at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Pasay City, then attended a session of the Senate.

On May 19, Aquino was in Marawi City for the inauguration of the first Negosyo Center in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao with the vice governor and several Armed Forces officers. *Next page*

Defense...

From A1

“Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez has already publicly clarified and confirmed that I was in Marawi City for the Negosyo Center launch. These are easily verifiable for anyone who cares to find the truth,” said Aquino.

He maintained that it would be prudent for Aguirre, as Justice secretary, to clarify dates, seek evidence and request official statements from legitimate government agencies before he makes more false accusations.

“This tragedy could have been an opportunity to unite the Philippines against a common enemy. Instead, it’s being used to further political interests and further divide our country,” the senator said.

Despite his retraction, Aguirre said he would still order intelligence agencies to investigate a possible destabilization plot.

On Thursday, Aguirre admitted that the information about the May 2 meeting and a photo allegedly showing it were erroneous, but said they did not come from him.

“I’m not spreading fake news.

The photo did not come from me. And the information was just given to me so I am having it investigated,” he said.

Aguirre apologized to Aquino and the two clans he mentioned.

A photo he showed during a press briefing Wednesday purportedly showing the May 2 meeting turned out to be a photograph from 2015.

“For the record, I did not say there was a meeting between the two families and some lawmakers prior to the Marawi siege. The said meeting never took place and no member of both

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families ever met with Senator [Antonio] Trillanes [IV], congressman [Gary] Alejano and Ronald Llamas,” he said in a retraction issued later Wednesday.

He apologized to the two families for the confusion that he attributed to “misquotations by the media.” He also called Aquino to apologize and clarify his statements.

Despite Aguirre’s role in spreading false rumors, Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella said the Justice secretary was doing “an excellent job.”

He added that Aguirre was

just doing his job and continued to enjoy President Rodrigo Duterte’s trust and confidence.

“I am sure he is fully aware of what he needs to do and how to address the matter,” the Palace spokesman said.

Contrary to Aguirre’s suggestion of a destabilization plot by anti-administration politicians, Abella said the ongoing strife in Mindanao was caused by extremist organizations.

“We go by what the President has said that the troubles are directly due to the ISIS [Islamic State],” he added.

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June 2017

INQUIRER

Page: AC

More martial law arrests coming, says AFP

DAVAO CITY—Martial law administrator Delfin Lorenzana's Arrest Order No. 2 would be followed by many more.

The military's Eastern Mindanao Command said it expected to make more arrests under martial law following the capture on Wednesday of a former Marawi City mayor suspected of supporting the Maute group.

Supt. Lemuel Gonda, spokesperson of the police in Northern Mindanao, said the former mayor, Fajad Salic, was aboard his vehicle when it was flagged down by operatives of the Police Public Safety Company manning a checkpoint in Barangay San Martin, Villanueva town in Misamis Oriental on Wednesday.

Salic was among those named in the Arrest Order No. 2

issued by Lorenzana, who is also defense secretary.

President Duterte had declared martial law in the entire Mindanao on May 23, suspending the writ of habeas corpus and other laws that protected citizens from warrantless arrests.

Salic was suspected of involvement with the Maute group, which had declared itself to be a follower of the Islamic State, a terror group that had established caliphates in Iraq and Syria.

Brig. Gen. Gilbert Gapay, deputy commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command and spokesperson for the martial law enforcement, said even before the Marawi fighting broke out "there were reports that he (Salic) was a staunch supporter [of the Maute]."

"[That] he was providing lo-

gistics and finances during the formative years of this Maute group," Gapay said.

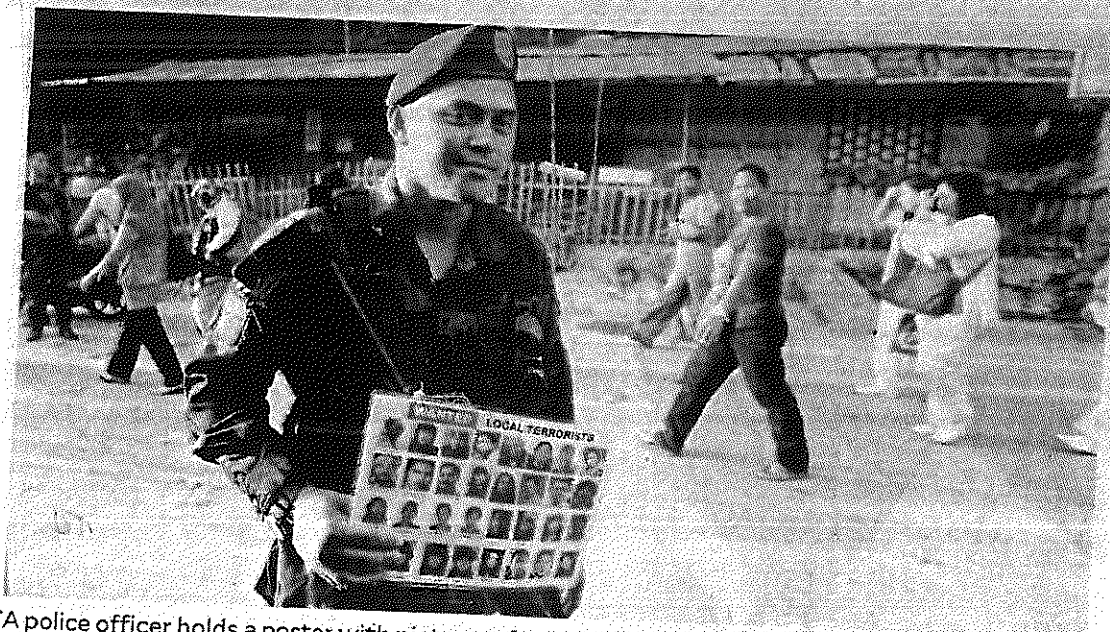
Gapay said the military would be more aggressive "Expect more arrests in the coming days," Gapay said.

In a previous interview with Inquirer, Salic denied involvement in the attack on Marawi, saying he would be risking the lives of his own family if he did so.

"I can't possibly cause the destruction of Marawi City, where my family and relatives live," Salic said.

Salic's elder brother, Solitario Ali, also denied any links to the Maute group.

He said he got in touch with Maute leaders thrice only for the government. —JOSELLE R. BADILLA AND JIGGER J. JERUSALEM INQ



A police officer holds a poster with pictures of wanted members of the Maute group which had declared itself as a follower of the Islamic State and had laid siege to the predominantly Muslim Marawi City. —AP

60 June 2017



Page: A1

230 face arrest for Maute links

DND list includes local pols, persons of influence

By Joyce Pangco Pañares and Francisco Tuyay

THE government is hunting down 230 individuals—including incumbent and former politicians—who supported or financed the Maute terrorist group that attacked Marawi City and led President Rodrigo Duterte to declare martial law in Mindanao.

"These are local politicians. Some of them were defeated in the 2016 polls. Others are persons of influence," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told *Manila Standard*.

These individuals form part of some 230 persons of interest whom Lorenzana, as martial law administrator, ordered arrested.

"The first list is about 130 individuals. The second one is about

100. But we have arrested only three as far as I know: Cayamora [Maute], his daughter and Pre Salic," Lorenzana added.

Cayamora Maute, father of brothers Omar and Abdullah who are fighting government troops in Marawi City, was arrested on Tuesday at a checkpoint in Toril, Davao City. He was arrested with his daughter, Norjanah Maute. *Next page*

230 face...

From A1

Former Marawi Mayor Fahad Salic was nabbed at a checkpoint Wednesday evening for rebellion. Lorenzana said Salic was connected to the terrorist group "by affinity" as his wife, Rasmia, is a cousin of the Maute brothers.

In Arrest Order No. 1, Lorenzana directed the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation to arrest more than a hundred individuals for "killing, kidnapping, [and] bombings in Marawi City, sowing terror to the populace."

Among those on the first list are Eyemen Alonto and Azam Ampatua, both members of a local carjacking group who were later linked by authorities to the Maute group. Ampatua was killed during a shootout with local police in Iligan in February while Alonto, who was then driving the getaway vehicle, was arrested.

Others on the lists include:

Fahad's brother Solitario Salic and his son Wahad. Solitario also previously served as Marawi City mayor and was a former commander of the Moro National Liberation Front; Samer Salic, a former city market head of Marawi City; Abu Dar, who allegedly coordinates with foreign terrorists, and bomb expert Najib Pundog, who were both able to escape when the military overran a Maute-Abu Sayyaf encampment in Lanao del Sur in April;

Hashim Maute (alias Apple Je-

had), Hata Macabanding Lantud and Omar Khalil, also known as Umair Pacora Khalil, who were arrested in August last year in Marawi City. Khalil was positively identified by the police as being the same Umair who held the decapitated heads of two abducted sawmill workers in April 2016.

They were freed by their comrades in a jailbreak four days after they were arrested; Junaid Kiram Undac, allegedly a member of another ISIS-inspired group, Khilafah Islamiya Movement, and who was arrested in June 2015 when he and his men attacked a soldier in Marawi City; Edris Bao and Nassif Macadato, who both ran and lost for mayor of Butig, Lanao del Sur in the 2016 polls;

Joselito Meloria, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf Group who was killed in Bohol in April, former Marawi city engineer Talib Bayabao; Muslim cleric Jamil Yahya, a former member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front; Jang Pagayao, one of the suspects in the Davao night market blast who was not indicted for lack of probable cause;

Former Binalbagan vice mayor Samuel Gavaran; former Butig Mayor Ibrahim Macadato, whose wife is the sister of the mother of the Maute brothers; and Esmael Abdulmalik, alias Abu Toraype, allegedly the founder of the new terror group Dawlah Islamiyah Maguindanao and a brigade commander of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters. The military claimed he was killed during air and ground as-

saults in two Maguindanao villages in March this year.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Gen. Eduardo Año said the names on Lorenzana's list were based on documents seized during a raid aimed at capturing top Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon in a hideout on the outskirts of Marawi City on May 23.

The raid triggered widespread attacks on the city by the Maute group.

Año said the house was the same spot where top terrorist figures, including Hapilon, met, as seen on a video found on a mobile phone.

"We have identified the owner of the house, but I'd rather not reveal the identity. He is included in the list. We are identifying the supporters of this group," Año said.

Año said the video showed Hapilon meeting with his cohorts and plotting to occupy Marawi City.

"It's part of the documentation for propaganda purposes and at the same time as a proof to their comrades in the ISIS in the Middle East about what they are doing. What they did was deliberate," Año said.

Although the military said Hapilon was wounded during attacks in Butig, Lanao del Sur in January, he did not seem to be ailing in the video.

While Maute group terrorists were still holed up in the financial district of Marawi City, Año said resistance was weakening.

"In a few more days, it will be over. We'll be able to clear all these areas," Año said, without giving any specific target date.

50 June 2017

POLICE FILES

Page. 2

200 PULITIKO, IBA PA AARESTUHING SA MARTIAL LAW SA MINDANAO

AABOT sa dalawang daang pulitiko at iba pang personalidad ang kasama sa arrest order na ipinalabas ni Defense Secretary at martial law administrator Delfin Lorenzana.

Ayon kay Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff at martial law implementor General Eduardo Año, kasama rin

sa listahan ang ilang barangay officials.

Paliwanag ni Año, dawit sa rebelyon ang mga personalidad na nasa arrest

order dahil sa pagsuporta sa grupong Maute na ngayon ay pasimuno ng kaguluhan sa Marawi City.

Gayunman, tumanggi si Año na isapubliko ang pangalan ng mga nasa arrest order.

Matatandaang kama-

kailan lamang, naaresto na ng tropa ng pamahalaan sina Cayamora Maute, ang ama ng magkapatid na Abdullah at Omar Maute pati na si dating Marawi Mayor Fajad Salic dahil sa pagbibigay ng suporta sa local terrorist group.

09 June 2017

POLICE FILES

Page. 2

AFP: Ex-Marawi Mayor Salic financier ng Maute-ISIS

KINUMPIRMA ng militar na sentro sa ginawang imbestigasyon kay dating Marawi City Mayor Fajad Pre Umpar Salic ang pagiging mahigpit na supporter, financier at taga-bigay ng logistics sa Maute-ISIS terro group.

Sinabi ni Eastern Mindanao Command deputy commander Brig. Gen. Gilbert Gapay, batay sa kanilang impormasyon, noong nagsisimula palamang ang Maute ay tumutulong na si Salic sa pinansya at kagamitan ng grupo.

Samantala, ipinaliwanag

din ni Gapay na security concern ang dahilan ng paglilipat sa Metro Manila kay Maute patriarch Cayamora Maute.

Inihayag ni Gapay na bilang pinuno ng angkan, security risk si Cayamora at hindi maiiwasang marami ang magtatangkang itatakas siya.

Si Salic ay naaresto kamakalawa sa Barangay San Martin, Willanueva, Misamis Oriental dahil sa kinaharap na kasong rebellion sa korte habang si Cayamora ay naaresto sa Davao matapos maharang ang sinakyatang van.

09 June 2017



Page: 10



Handout photos show Cayamora Maute and his family being escorted to a C-130 plane that brought them to Manila on Wednesday night.

Maute family flown to Manila

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – The military has transferred custody of Cayamora Maute and three other family members to Manila, citing security concerns.

Authorities have been bracing for the possibility that the Maute group might try to rescue Cayamora and the three others if they would be kept in custody here.

Armed Forces Eastern Mindanao deputy commander Brig. Gen. Gilbert Gapay said the Mautes were transferred early yesterday morning to Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig after they underwent inquest proceedings before the Davao City Prosecutor's Office and charged with rebellion and illegal possession of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

Cayamora, father of the Maute brothers fighting government forces in Marawi City, was apprehended at a checkpoint in Barangay Sirawan

by the military-led Task Force Davao last Tuesday.

The elder Maute was with his daughter Norjannah Bala-wag, son-in-law Benzarali Ting-gao and Kongan Alfonso Bala-wag, believed to be his wife, when their vehicle, driven by Aljon Salazar Ismael, was stopped at the checkpoint on the road to Davao City.

Gapay said the police had released Ismael. "The driver was released because there was nothing that would prove that he was linked to the Mautes," he said.

Gapay stressed the military is bracing for possible retaliatory attacks following the arrest of the elder Maute and family members.

"We are also prepared in the event of retaliatory or diversionary attacks here in the area of eastern Mindanao," Gapay said in a press conference yesterday.

"We haven't received direct reports on plots to rescue but

if we look at how the Maute group operates, there was an instance when they rescued ordinary members of the group in Marawi. What more Cayamora, who is the head of the clan? It's not a remote possibility in Davao while he is detained here," he said.

Gapay said the military would not risk having custody of the elder Maute and family while a war is ongoing against the extremist group led by brothers Omar and Abdullah.

"We cannot discount the risk. Wherever he is, the risk is there. We know how the Maute group operates. Our security forces are preparing for any eventuality," he added.

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the C-130 plane flying the elder Maute and his family landed at Villamor Air Base early yesterday.

– With Alexis Romero, Jaime Laude, John Unson, Non Alquitran

30 June 2017

INQUIRER

Page: A1

'SECURITY REASONS' MAUTES NABBED IN DAVAO TRANSFERRED TO MANILA

By Philip C. Tubeza
@pctubezaINQ

Four arrested members of the Maute clan, including patriarch Cayamora Maute, were transferred from Davao City to Metro Manila on Wednesday evening, acting Interior Secretary Catalino Cuy said on Thursday.

Cuy said the father of Maute terror group leaders Omar and Abdullah is now detained at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig City.

Cayamora was arrested with his second wife Kongan Balawag, daughter Norjanah, son-in-law Benzarali Tingao and driver Aljon Ismael. Ismael was later released.

"They were transferred for security reasons. They are relatively safer here," Cuy said.

Checkpoint arrest

Cayamora was arrested on Tuesday morning at a checkpoint in Sirawan, Toril, Davao City. Task Force Davao discovered a grenade and a .45-cal pistol in their vehicle.

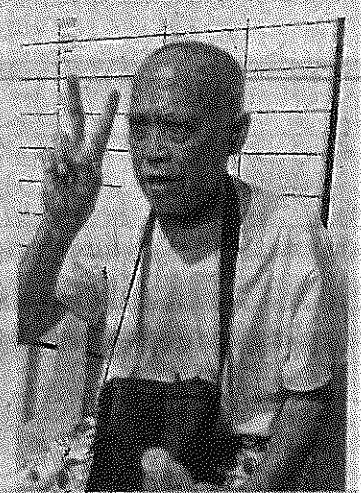
"It's confirmed that those arrested at a checkpoint in Davao are now in Manila. They were turned over to the BJMP at around 1 a.m. (Thursday)," said Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson.

"They were transferred for their safety because we can guard them securely here. In Mindanao, we are implementing martial law and we might not have all the necessary forces to ensure their security. We can do that here in Manila," he said.

Father's support

Padilla said Cayamora was seen supporting activities of Maute rebels in Marawi.

"Because he is the patri-



Cayamora Maute, father of the Maute brothers and allegedly one of the leaders of the Maute terror group, flashes the peace sign at the Davao City police station where he was presented to media following his arrest.

—JOSELLE BADILLA

arch, he supported some of the activities of the Maute group. And based on the report that we saw, he was seen in Marawi directing operations during the clashes there," he said.

BJMP spokesperson Senior Insp. Xavier Solda said Cayamora and three relatives were brought to Camp Bagong Diwa after midnight on Thursday.

"I can confirm that they are now under our custody. They were turned over to us in the early morning hours for safekeeping," Solda said.

Solda guaranteed Cayamora's safety after a riot erupted at the Metro Manila District Jail in Camp Bagong Diwa on Tuesday, leaving two inmates dead.

"It is a [prison] complex and they will be detained in another area and not where the riot happened," Solda said.

The Maute clan members were brought to Manila on board a Philippine Air Force C-130 plane. INQ

09 June 2017



Page: A7

SAFE PASSAGE FOR CIVILIANS, AID

2 KINDS OF PEACE CORRIDORS BEING SET UP IN MARAWI CITY

By Philip C. Tubeza
@pctubezaINQ

One corridor for the living and the dead. Another for aid.

Irene M. Santiago, newly appointed head of the initiative, said there are now two kinds of peace corridors in Marawi City—one for rescued civilians and passage of corpses and the other for humanitarian aid.

Santiago, who also chairs the government's implementing panel for Bangsamoro accords, said it was possible the peace corridors may be used by terrorists but there had been no evidence on this.

She said several groups had already sent food, medicines and other aid to residents trapped in Marawi.

Humanitarian teams used the peace corridor to send aid to civilians displaced by the siege who fled to the towns of Malabang, Madamba, Bubong, Masiu, Marantao and Ditsaan-Ramain in Lanao del Sur, said a statement from the govern-

ment-Moro Islamic Liberation Front peace implementing panels.

Several organizations deployed vans and trucks carrying food, medicines and other aid.

The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Regional Command Center facilitated the deployment of doctors and supplies from the International Committee on the Red Cross in Ganassi, Lanao del Sur.

The United Bangsamoro Humanitarian Assistance distributed food aid to the municipalities around Lake Lanao while the Bangsamoro Development Agency of the MILF also coordinated the movement of humanitarian aid.

President Duterte approved the creation of the peace corridor to ensure safe and secure passage for the elderly, women, men and children fleeing the crisis in Marawi and to establish a secure route for humanitarian assistance. INQ

June 2017



Page: 124

Fisherman escapes from Abu Sayyaf captors

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY
– A Filipino fisherman kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf bandits last year has escaped from his captors.

Officials of Barangay Lagtoh in Talipao, Sulu rescued Roy Ramos yesterday morning, said Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Joint Task Force Sulu (JTFS) commander, quoting Talipao Mayor Sitti Raya

Tulawie.

Ramos told barangay officials that he escaped on Tuesday and wandered for about two days before he was rescued.

Ramos and three other crewmembers of *F/B Ramona* were taken while fishing in Celebes Sea on Dec. 20. The bandits also took boat captain Noel Esconde, marine diesel mechanic Reyjim Rocabo and crewmember Roel Liones, all residents of Tukuran, Zambo-

anga del Sur.

Sobejana said Ramos underwent medical examination at the headquarters of JTFS in Barangay Bus-bus, Jolo.

The Abu Sayyaf is still holding more than a dozen foreign and local hostages, who they reportedly divided into groups to evade military operations.

Military officials expressed confidence they can beat the June 30 deadline to finish off the Abu Sayyaf,

with the success of military operations and the surrender of more bandits. They said surrenderees provide information on the location of their cohorts.

On Wednesday, suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits kidnapped a nine-year-old boy in Barangay San Raymundo, Jolo, Sulu.

The family of the victim said they have yet to receive any ransom demand from the kidnapers.

50 June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: _____



DUTERTE IN SULTAN KUDARAT – President Duterte joins soldiers of the 1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade in a 'boodle fight' at brigade headquarters in Camp Leono, Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat, on Wednesday. The President is visiting military camps around Mindanao to spend time with the troops. (Malacañang photo)

09 June 2017

Manila Standard

Page: A2



RELIEF. Members of the Philippine Air Force load relief goods onto a military cargo plane at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City for distribution to Marawi war victims on Thursday June 8, 2017. The goods are prepared by the Cabinet Spouses Association Inc. headed by its executive director Ricky Reyes. **Manny Palmero**

00 June 2017



Page: 12

SKETCHES

ANA MARIE PAMINTUAN

Wild, Wild Phi

With its bullet-riddled buildings and toppled lampposts, poor Marawi City is starting to look like the Afghan capital Kabul after the US bombardment to flush out the Taliban.



This is an entire city displaced. Because of lingering security concerns, it could take longer and prove tougher to rebuild Marawi than post-Yolanda Tacloban City.

It's a humanitarian and economic disaster that the nation is ill-equipped to handle. Unlike in Tacloban and parts of Samar and Leyte after Super Typhoon Yolanda, there isn't going to be the same avalanche of assistance from the international community, whether for the evacuees or for the Philippine government. Not that the Duterte administration cares, it thinks it can rely mainly on Beijing and Moscow for all sorts of assistance.

In the Yolanda-devastated areas, the mantra was building back better. As experts in post-disaster reconstruction cautioned, the work would take many years. Building back is not yet complete in the typhoon-hit areas.

It would be even more complicated in Marawi, a city that will likely continue for a long time to be a battleground between the government and violent groups trying to set up a base in the Philippines.

With Marawi now looking like a ghost town, government forces can flush out the Maute and Abu Sayyaf militants. Once residents start returning and the city tries to get back on its feet, however, it is both the strength and weakness of democracy that troublemakers can trickle back into the city, hiding in plain sight and preparing to again sow deadly mayhem.

Keeping out the troublemakers should be a sustained effort with grassroots support. But recent developments indicate that the Mautes and Abu Sayyaf in fact enjoy a measure of support from political and moneyed individuals who have their own followers at the community level in Marawi. The terrorists are also known to have extended family networks. They buy public support using their impressive finances – raised mostly through criminal activities such as kidnapping and drug trafficking, with additional funds possibly sourced overseas.

Marawi is a prize catch for any self-respecting Islamist terrorist group trying to set up a base of operations in Southeast Asia. It is the capital and largest city of Lanao del Sur, and one of the few predominantly Muslim cities in this country. It is far more prosperous and developed economically than any city in Sulu and Basilan, island-provinces where the Abu Sayyaf operates.

With some effort from the local government and support from national agencies, pre-siege Marawi could have positioned itself as a unique tourist destination in Catholic-majority Philippines, and as a center for the peace effort with Islamic groups.

Economically, it could have been developed as the country's center for halal food production and export. There is a massive global demand for halal food products.

The potential is still there, of course. But first, this battle has to be out of the way, with some reassurance that no armed conflict of the same scale can happen again in the city at least in the near future.

That reassurance is needed if rebuilding and commercial activity are to resume in the devastated city.

The damage extends even outside Marawi. I've been told that tourism outside Mindanao has taken a hit.

Tour cancellations started when several countries issued travel warnings about the risk of kidnapping by the Abu Sayyaf in Cebu and Bohol. This was during the peak of the travel season earlier this year.

Before the country's travel industry could catch its breath, the Marawi crisis erupted.

Reliable sources told me that even the bizarre attack on Resorts World Manila by a casino addict prompted tour cancellations from several of the Philippines' top sources of foreign visitors. Never mind if it turned out that the Islamic State had nothing to do with Jessie Carlos' rampage. The lax security in an upscale hotel complex, which made the tragedy possible, has spooked foreign visitors. Our tourism authorities need to work double-time to reassure the world that what happened was an exception and measures are being undertaken to ensure that it doesn't happen again.

What sort of reassurance might work? A foreign diplomat suggested a strong display by the government of tighter gun control. The diplomat noted that among Southeast Asian countries, the Philippines is the most lax in gun ownership, and it's no coincidence that we have one of the highest homicide rates.

Apart from the Mautes, Abu Sayyaf, New People's Army, Moro Islamic and Moro National Liberation Fronts and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, crime rings easily build private arsenals. Drug dealers, carjackers, *jueteng* lords, kidnapers and smugglers have amazing firepower.

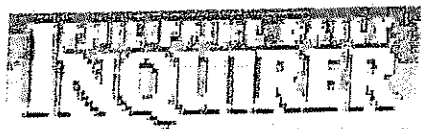
I told the diplomat that unfortunately, holders of loose firearms in this country also include politicians who want to surround themselves with heavily armed private armies. Any attempt to part them with their guns will die a natural death, whether in Congress or local government councils.

With the exception of Corazon Aquino, all our presidents since Ferdinand Marcos were gun aficionados. Clint Eastwood will feel right at home in the Philippines.

And we will always have the image of a Wild, Wild West in the Asia-Pacific. Marawi is just reinforcing that image.

★

09 June 2017



Page: 15

We cry for Marawi

If I were a reporter covering Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre, I would stop attending his press conferences. Because I know my colleagues and I would end up holding a bag of sh_t, when the Wiggled One denies the statements he has made, before TV cameras at that, knowing he would be recorded, and blames the "fake news" he had peddled on the media.

What? The reporters made up the words spewing from his mouth?

Aguirre has apologized to Sen. Bam Aquino, whom he linked to the Marawi crisis simply because the senator was in Marawi a day or so before the fighting broke out. He also alleged that other opposition figures, notably Sen. Antonio Trillanes and Rep. Gary Alejano of the party list Magdalo had met with members of prominent Moro political clans to "plot" the destruction of Marawi. But while "Wiguirre" has likewise apologized to the Lucman and Alonto families for dragging their names into the mess, he has yet to issue an apology to Trillanes and Alejano.

News footage not only recorded Aguirre making his sly insinuations, but also holding up a cell phone that showed, he said, Trillanes, Alejano, former presidential adviser Ronald Llamas in a meeting to plot with the Moro terrorists.

While apologizing to Aquino, Aguirre supposedly excused his lapse by saying he was so "confused" by many conflicting reports surrounding the events at Marawi. But as Aquino, Trillanes and Alejano have shown, it should have been fairly easy for Aguirre or his staff to check their whereabouts on the dates he alleged they had been in Marawi plotting the



AT LARGE

RINA JIMENEZ-DAVID

Maute/Abu Sayyaf incursion. He could have verified his "facts" before presenting them to the media. Instead, caught in a lie, Aguirre turned around and blamed the media for "misquoting" him. As I said, I'd boycott him from now on, if I were assigned to cover him.

Such stupidity, carelessness and dishonesty from the justice secretary himself, it must be said, is all of a pattern among administration officials. Especially, we might add, officials assigned (and paid by our taxes) to disseminate information, but who instead engage in reckless speculation and accusations and harebrained "symbolism."

The photo peddled by Aguirre, it turns out, was taken more than a year ago and in a coffee shop at the Iloilo International Airport, according to Ace Cerilles who also appears in the picture.

It should have been enough of a clue to Aguirre that he took the airport photo from a Facebook Duterte fan page, and the allega-

tions about Aquino from other sites created by pro-Duterte trolls. Or is the secretary so enamored of administration propagandists that he takes their pronouncements as absolute truths without bothering to do basic checks before going public? If he still had a bit of honor and honesty in him, Aguirre should follow up his apologies with an offer to resign his post. After all, if we can't trust his ability to deliver the most basic requirement of truth-telling and honesty, can we expect him to expedite the calls for justice?

Still, we cry for Marawi. We cry with the women—the mothers, especially—who not only need to flee their homes but also expose their children and elderly to unknown dangers. We cry for the spirit of harmony that marked life in Marawi among Muslims and Christians both, as witnessed by the heroic efforts of Muslim employers helping their Christian workers escape by lending them Muslim garb and teaching them basic Maranao phrases.

We cry for the city itself, which I remember from a visit many years ago as a remarkable landscape of mosques and minarets, especially against the backdrop of Lake Lanao. I weep beholding photos of its now-devastated infrastructure, wondering how and when or even if the townsfolk lucky enough to return will be able to rebuild and start anew.

And I weep for the divisions this conflict has reopened, deepened, and allowed to fester. This precisely is what the terrorists wish to happen, and to which our own armed forces have been forcibly conscripted. We cry and pray for peace, for understanding. We cry for Marawi, and for all of us.

59 June 2017



Page: 18

Winning the peace: Beyond antiterrorism

COMMENTARY

By Miriam Coronel Ferrer
@mcoronelferrer

(Editor's Note: The writer served as chair of the government panel in peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front during the Aquino administration. She is also a political science professor at the University of the Philippines.)

On Nov. 25, 2015, Mohager Iqbal, chair of the peace panel of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and I wrote an open letter to Congress appealing to the lawmakers to fast-track the passage of the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

"Some say that the next administration and Congress will have more time," we said in our letter. "Our fear is that it would have lost precious time too—precious time that would have closed the door to extreme, violent movements that recruit followers by exploiting the alienation of segments of the population from the government and society at large."

When we wrote that letter, 120 people had just been killed in the Paris shootings that began at a concert hall, a hotel in Mali's capital city of Bamako had just been attacked, and two suicide bombers had just struck in a Beirut suburb.

The letter was titled, "Let us not lose time." We cited then National Security Adviser Cesar P. Garcia's statements when he spoke at the House of Representatives committee hearing the draft law.

Legislating the proposed BBL, Garcia said then, would help in curbing the spread of extremism in Mindanao. The Bangsamoro government that would be created through the BBL would enable moderate Islamic leaders to counter the extremism, and steer the Muslim community away from the influence of the Islamic State (IS) group.

Garcia added that completing the agreement would settle the more serious internal armed conflict in the country and free up the Armed Forces of the Philippines, enabling the AFP to shift its resources to other urgent concerns, notably the threats to our external territorial integrity and maritime domain.

Work with Moro detainees

By then, China had fortified its presence on the Spratly Islands, prompting the Aquino administration to file a case in the international arbitral tribunal in The Hague.

But as we know, Congress failed to pass the law, and the opportune moment was lost.

At that time, we knew other efforts were needed to address the alarming developments worldwide.

The government peace panel and our secretariat thus be-

gan work on Moro detainees at the Bicutan maximum security compound. Our staff, among them Tausug speakers, discussed the Bangsamoro peace process with them, with the aim to inform, but also to convince and give hope.

Most of the detainees were alleged members of the jihadist groups. They were joined by those arrested in the two deadly events of 2013: the attacks in Lahad Datu, Sabah, in February led by Esmail Kiram, an heir of the Sulu sultanate, and the Zamboanga siege in September. The detainees have been there for years, their court cases hardly moving.

In Bicutan, we found that most of detainees have had no contact with their relatives for years. We secured a donation for a computer that would facilitate communication, an arrangement that the warden welcomed as it fell in line with the Bureau of Jail Management's e-visit program.

Plans were set afoot for the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) and the Department of Education to provide skills training and alternative classroom programs to the Bicutan detainees.

Given the security considerations, the training/education opportunity may be passed on to a family member to help alleviate their social situation. Poverty and pent-up

anger over the fate of a faraway kin had driven many of the detainees' kin to extremism.

These measures were hardly novel. Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore have similar programs that sought to stop the spiral of hate of detainees and restore their trust and confidence in the government and society.

Antiterrorism efforts

In the Philippines, it is the Anti-Terrorism Council that is primarily tasked to come up with a comprehensive antiterrorism plan in accordance with the 2007 Human Security Act. But after several administrations, the council has yet to produce and implement such a plan.

The burden of countering terrorism has fallen on the shoulders of the AFP and the Philippine National Police. The national security adviser consolidates all intelligence reports and provides the President with policy guidance.

To their credit, hundreds of notorious personalities including foreign jihadists have been neutralized in the last 20 years. Several attempted bombings have been foiled. Other aspiring groups have been nipped in the bud. Almost all of the founding fathers and second-liners of Mindanao's Islamist groups have gone to the afterlife.

These battle successes were achieved without need for a

state of emergency nor a declaration of martial law—and despite the operational lapses of the AFP and PNP, which were paid for by the lives of their men.

Beyond military solutions

The tragedy that has befallen Marawi City begs the question: How come, despite AFP-PNP successes and the asymmetrical nature of this type of armed conflict in Mindanao, the problem has persisted? Emptied of its 200,000 residents and large swathes of infrastructure in rubble, why has Marawi crumbled before our eyes?

Evidently, the problem cannot be solved by standard antiterrorism measures alone. Kill this batch of terrorists, another batch would step in—third-liners such as the Maute brothers and Abu Sayyaf Group's Isnulon Hapilon who picked up the pieces.

A host of other nonmilitary interventions responsive to the social, political, historical context of the rise of radical Islamist movements in the country would be needed.

In this vein, David Campbell, British independent reviewer of antiterrorism legislation, noted in a Time magazine interview after the May 22 suicide bombing in Manchester that "the best way to fight terrorism successfully is not by overreaction but by bearing down hard on dangerous criminals without alienating the communities."

Martial law reifies the ugly side of the state exercised through its gun-toting uniformed personnel. It will only beget more problems—human rights violations, deep-seated perceptions of injustice, destruction, absence of the rule of law.

Wasn't it said before that the martial law imposed by dictator Ferdinand Marcos was the best recruiter of rebels?

The people who best realize this are none other than the military generals themselves. They, too, are exasperated with the lack of a cohesive and comprehensive action plan that mobilizes the rest of the state agencies. Not just for relief and rehabilitation, but for preventive action. Not under their command, but under civilian hands (local and national) to whom the mandate to govern, and the duty to govern well, belongs in the first place.

Saving Marawi

Two weeks since martial law was declared on May 23, President Duterte stayed on the same militaristic track. He invited the communist New People's Army to assist in the fighting. He welcomed Nur Misuari's offer of 2,000 men from the Moro National Liberation Front to help out in the assault against the jihadists.

All these off-the-cuff pronouncements were made without considering the difficulties in operational control it would create for the AFP and overall

long-term impact.

By now, saving the people held hostage or trapped in the fighting in Marawi as well as preventing the further destruction of the city should be paramount.

A modicum of control that would enable a transition to rehabilitation must be achieved immediately and sustained through security patrols, instead of high-intensity warfare. In this regard, the assistance of the government and the MILF panels and ceasefire committees in creating a humanitarian corridor and eventually supporting a monitoring system is laudable and deserves all our support.

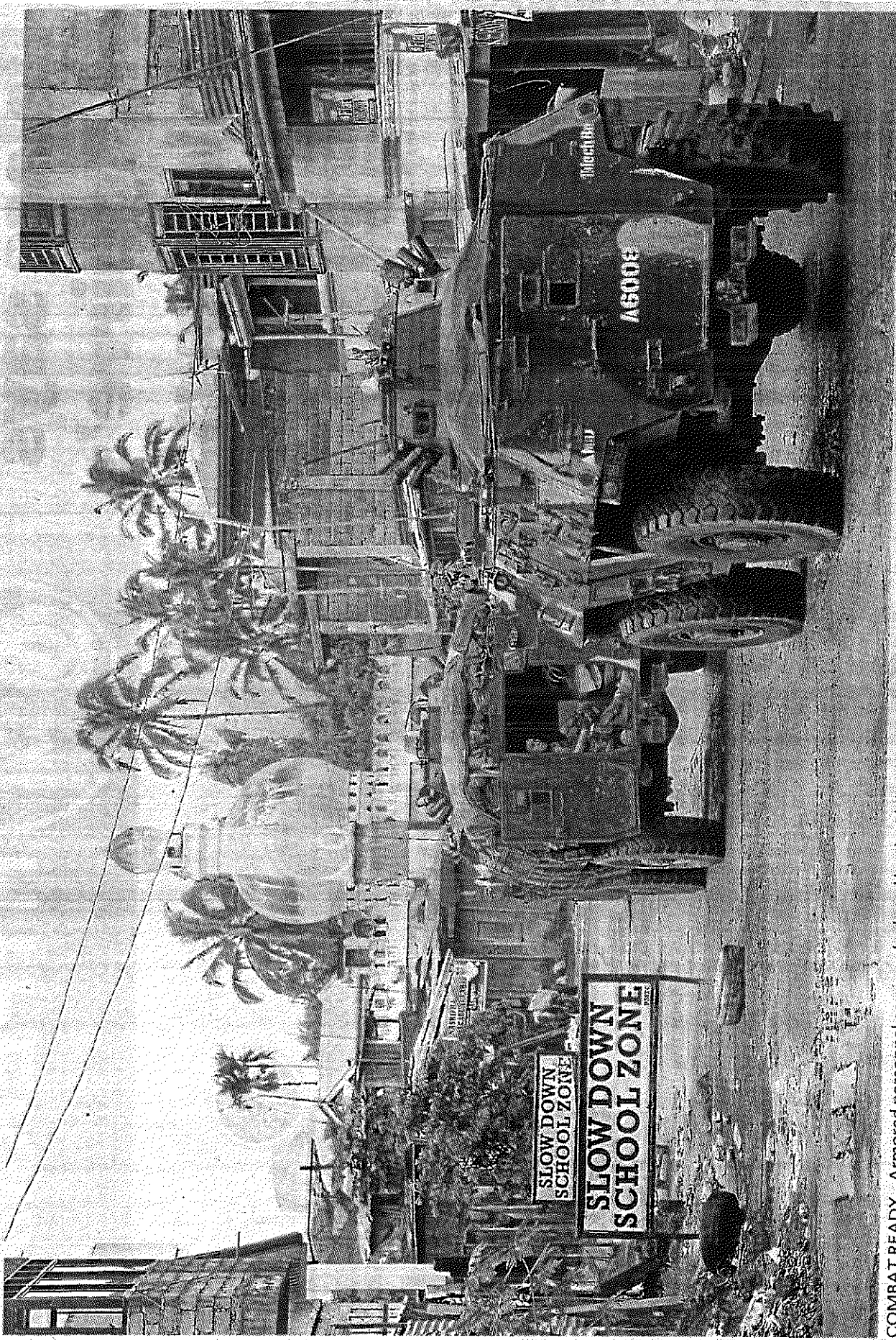
Marawi is home to many—including students from other parts of Mindanao. Its destruction has caused a deep pain that could again find expression in violent forms and serious misunderstandings between the AFP, the face of the government on the ground in these areas and the local citizens.

Gradually, the civilian arms of government, with the help of homegrown civil society organizations, networked and assisted by national and international partners, should take over the work of rebuilding. This necessarily includes putting back the Bangsamoro road map in place as one plank of a larger peace-building program for Mindanao.

Let us not again lose time.

—CONTRIBUTED INQ

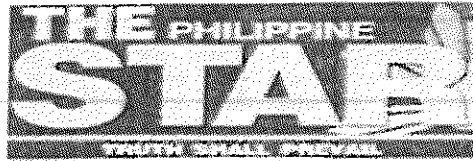
OFF



COMBAT READY Armored personnel carriers deployed by the Philippine Army drive down a village road in Marawi. —AFP

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

09 June 2017



Page: 13

A LAW EACH DAY [Keeps Trouble Away]

JOSE C. SISON

State of 'war'

The situation in our country now seems so disturbing and worrisome. The prevailing atmosphere creates some kind of fear and apprehension that we are headed into a state of war and lawless violence. Since this administration took over, several "wars" have already been launched that entail a lot of killings, shootings and bombings the latest of which happened in Resorts World casino.



We have the war on drugs, the war against terrorism, the long-standing war against the New People's Army (NPA) and against various Muslim groups in the south particularly the Abu Sayyaf, the Maute group, and lately, against the Islamic State (IS) that triggered the declaration of martial law in Mindanao. Then we also have a war against corruption which appears to be on paper only.

There is even a "war" happening in social media between netizens who are diehard supporters of Duterte and those who disagree with his actions and pronouncements. The sad part in this social media war is the personal attacks and character assassinations employed by the Duterte trolls against his critics, instead of simply answering the various issues being raised. Obviously such attitude is due to an extreme sense of self-righteousness.

Apparently, this present state of the nation is new to us. And it appears to be caused by the belligerence, aggressiveness, arrogance and antagonism now prevailing in our society ever since this administration assumed power more than a year ago. Invectives and insults are being thrown almost daily. Soldiers and policemen are ordered to shoot to kill mere suspects if they resist arrests or fight back. Citizens are told to hurl insults on government officials or employees who are trying to ask for grease money in the performance of their duties (*murahin mo or sampalin mo*).

Of course, these wars now being waged may have laudable purposes as they are seemingly aimed towards the improvement of the citizens' way of life and social welfare. But because of the means employed, they may all bring more harm than good to our people. So it is about time for this administration to pause and reflect on changing the means and methods used as well as to find out whether we are winning or losing in any of them.

Firstly, in the war on drugs, it seems that we have not gained enough grounds to prevent and repel their rampant use and trafficking. What has been done so far is the killing of numerous suspected drug addicts, users and pushers mostly coming from the poor sector of our society who are easy preys because of their situation in life. These killings have even caught international attention because they are apparently carried out in disregard of due process of law and in violation of the human rights. This is in effect eliminating only the victims instead of rehabilitating them. The more effective strategy is to eliminate the root cause of the many ills caused by these dangerous drugs more specifically the drug lords and distributors of dangerous drugs. The government has repeatedly and publicly shown a long list of these drug lords, drug manufacturers and other sources of drugs both here and abroad especially in China, only a few have actually been arrested or eliminated. One of them, a town Mayor in Leyte was even murdered inside his jail cell by policemen who have not been charged and remain scot free. It cannot be claimed therefore that this government is winning or will win this war on drugs unless it shift its attention to their root cause. It is really quite puzzling why it has not done so up to now.

The harsh truth in this connection is that PRRD himself claims that terrorism in this country especially in Mindanao has grown because the terrorist groups are being "funded by narco-politicians." With such information, he should have gone after these narco-politicians or the drug lords and narcotics manufacturers and distributors, much earlier than the supposed rebellion staged by the Maute and IS terrorist groups in Marawi City that prompted him to declare martial law on May 23, 2017 while still in Russia. The big question mark here is, with this information why was no action been taken earlier to prevent and repel these groups from staging a rebellion in Marawi City?

Indeed, so many doubts and questions are now cropping up regarding the Constitutionality of the declaration of martial law in Mindanao. Under the Constitution, Congress should have immediately assembled in joint session upon receiving the report of Duterte to determine whether there are factual bases in declaring martial law in the entire Mindanao. But both houses of Congress did not do so and just gave its separate imprimatur to its validity and constitutionality. Thus some private sectors including Bishops had to petition the Supreme Court asking that Congress be ordered to meet in joint session pursuant to Section 18, Article VII of our Constitution.

Assessing this war on terrorism therefore, it appears that we are not likewise winning it. In fact the Department of National Defense recently admitted that it cannot meet its deadline of three days to repel and suppress the supposed rebellion as the Maute-IS groups tenaciously hold on to their hideouts. But the biggest casualty in this war against terrorism is still the adherence to the rule of law particularly by Congress which refuses to do its duty under the Charter.

Then of course in the war against corruption, it seems that we are not winning or losing against it. This is the current situation simply because it has not even started. The "whiffs of corruption have already permeated and wafted through several government offices especially in the Bureau of Immigration and the Department of Justice, but so far, no heads have rolled. So far only announcements and press releases have been made but no concrete actions taken. In fact there is lack of transparency on how the taxpayers' money are spent thus prompting the Senate to probe the expenses in the various travels of PRRD to different countries.

* * *
Email: attyjosesison@gmail.com



09 June 2017



Page. 7



Echoes From

Johnny Dayang

A hard look at the Marawi crisis

TWO weeks after violence engulfed Marawi City that compelled President Rodrigo Duterte to declare martial law in Mindanao, new development and concerns have emerged that may change our perspective how things are shaping in southern Philippines.

Already regarded as a nightmare for displaced residents, Marawi City's invasion is decidedly anti-Islamic as pointed out by rational Muslims themselves. The fact remains, however, that what transpires in Marawi undermines our government's capacity to preempt such tragedy.

The Maute-ISIS attack now appears like a result of primary omissions by our security officials that allowed state enemies to upstage our supposed military superiority. The disturbing propaganda by the rebels has also greatly jeopardized our country's image.

A hard look at the Marawi crisis reveals very interesting twists we did not see when Nur Misuari's MNLF forces undertook the Zamboanga siege.

First, the attack on Marawi took on a religious flavor early in the conflict when Maute-ISIS rebels desecrated a Catholic church, killed non-Muslims and hostaged a Catholic priest. They obviously wanted to portray the conflict as a 'jihad' or religious war.

Second, the invaders were ob-

viously well prepared. The prolonged fight suggests they had stocked up on guns and ammunition. The discovery of ₱52 million in cold cash and ₱37 million in checks inside a Maute-ISIS safehouse confirmed suspicions the assault was well funded.

Third, for the first time in all Mindanao conflicts, drug money figured prominently in the invasion. The authorities identified narco-politicians and drug lords as financiers of the rebel group so they can secure adequate firearms, food, and other needs.

Fourth, the presence of foreign fighters from different countries provided a disturbing dimension angle to the conflict initiated by militants that started as a mere criminal gang. With Abu Sayyaf leader and ISIS titular head in Mindanao Isnilon Hapilon leading the charge with the help of alien mercenaries, the war in Marawi has assumed a global face.

Other intriguing twists, however, should not escape our attention, such as the role the MNLF played in the 'peace corridor' and the approval by the President for Muslim rebels to fight side by side with our soldiers in flushing out the terrorists.

Whatever these adjustments imply, let's hope peace will return soon and Marawi City will be rebuilt. Elsewhere in Mindanao, everything seems normal.

09 June 2017



Pahina. 4



Pati trahedyang sa Marawi ay pinulitika na

Noong nakaraang Miyerkules ay nagpahayag si Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre na may kinalaman daw sina Senador Bam Aquino, Senador Antonio Trillanes at Cong. Gary Alejano sa nangyayaring kaguluhang ngayon sa Marawi City. Ang kanyang ebidensya? Isang litrato na magkakasama sina Trillanes at Alejano na sinabi niyang kinunan noong nakaraang Mayo lamang pero noong usisang mabuti ay ang litratong 'yun pala ay kinunan noong taong 2015

pa. Wala tuloy maipakitang matibay na ebidensya si Aguirre kaya pinaulanan na naman ng batikos ito at tinawag na simungaling. Saan kaya nakukuha ni Aguirre ang kapal ng mukha para magsinungaling at mag-imbento ng mga kwento para lamang idiin ang mga nasa oposisyon? Sabi tuloy ng marami na malamang ay sa mga pekeng balita sa internet at Facebook nakukuha ni Aguirre ang mga ganitong mga balita at paratang na wala namang basehan. Sana ay mas dumami pa ang mga Pilipino na magiging sa katotohanan na niloloko na tayo ng taong ito. Ang mas lalong nakakalungkot dito ay pati ba naman ang paghihirap ng ating mga kababayan doon ay ginagamit pa nila para sa kanilang pamumulitika.

Ang sa totoo n'yan, malaking kapalpakan sa intelligence ng ating pamahalaan ang nangyari sa Marawi. Papaano nahayaan ng administrasyong ito na makapasok ang mahigit na 100 Maute terrorists sa loob ng siyudad ng Marawi nang hindi niton nalalaman? Noong nalaman nilang nakapasok na ang mga ito ay huli na ang lahat at ayun, sumiklab na ang nangyayaring

gulo roon. Mas nakakamis pa rito ay napakalaki na ng binigay na intelligence fund sa ating Pangulo.

Mas mataas ito ng 400% kumpara sa pondo dati ni dating Pangulong Noynoy Aquino pero bakit sila nalusutan pa rin ng mga teroristang ito? Kung hindi ako nagkakamali ay umaabot na sa mahigit P2 bilyon ang intelligence fund ngayon ni Duterte. Bakita naman kasi sa halip na gamitin nang maayos ang intelligence fund laban sa mga terorista ay mas ginagamit pa ito para pambayad ng mga online trolls na nagkakat ng mga kasinungalingan at paninira laban sa kanilang mga kaaway sa oposisyon.

Kung ganito nga ang ginagawa, hindi katakataka kung bakit nalusutan tayo ng mga teroristang ito. Ano sa tingin ninyo mga kasama?



FOUNDER NG ISIS SA MARAWI PANAGUTIN

BILANG na ang mga araw ng Maute Group na naghahasi ng kaguluhan sa Marawi City na ikinamatay ng mga sibilyan, sundalo at pulis na naging dahilan din kung bakit nagdeklara ng martial law si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Desidido si Pangulong Duterte na lipunin ang mga miyembro ng Maute Group at hindi rin ito pumapayag sa gustong mangyari ng ilan na magkaroon ng pansamantalang peace talk dahil marami na rin ang naapektuhan sa sinimulang kaguluhan ng mga terorista na sinasabing may kaugnayan sa ISIS.

Kamakailan lang ay nakumpiska ng tropa ng gobyerno ang pera at tseke ng bandidong grupo na aabot sa P79 milyon na sinasabing pondo ng Maute Group sa kanilang pianong pagbagsakin ang kasalukuyang administrasyon.

Hanggang sa kasalukuyan ay inaalam pa ng pamahalaan kung tunay o peke ang mga nakumpiskang pera at tseke at kanino ito nanggaling na siyang nagpopondo sa bandidong grupo para lamang gumawa ng kaguluhan.

Hinihintay din ng mga mamamahayag na pangalanan ang mga taong signatory sa mga nakuhang tseke na posibleng magbigay ng impormasyon kung sino ang mga taong nagbibigay ng pondo sa Maute Group.

Nasa pangangalaga na rin ng mga sundalo ang sinasabing ama ng magkakapatid na Maute na si Cayamora na naaresto



sa isinasagawang checkpoint ng mga sundalo at pulis sa Davao City habang lulan ito ng isang sasakyan, kasama ang isang asawa nito at iba pa.

Nakuha sa pag-iingat ng mga ito ang ilang pampasabog, cash money na aabot sa P363,000 kung saan ay dinala ang mga ito sa Davao City Police Office habang inihahanda ang kasong isasampa sa mga naaresto.

Malaking bagay ang pagkakaaresto sa matandang Maute dahil posibleng ito ang maging dahilan upang mapanghinaan ng loob ang mga anak nito na patuloy na naghahasi ng kaguluhan sa Marawi City.

Naniniwala tayo na hindi na magtatagal ay maaayos na ng mga tropa ng gobyerno ang kaguluhan sa naturang lugar at muling maibalik sa mga residente ang katahimikang kanilang inaasam-asam.

Sa pagtatapos ng kaguluhan, dapat lamang na panagutin ang mga may pakana ng kaguluhan, partikular na ang mga namumuno sa Maute Group at masampahan din ng kaso ang mga taong nagpopondo sa kanilang panggugulo sa Marawi City.

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ONLINE NEWS

09 JUNE 2017

Suspected Reds blast mining equipment, attack Lepanto tailings dam in Benguet

From InterAksyon (Jun 8): Suspected Reds blast mining equipment, attack Lepanto tailings dam in Benguet



Suspected communist rebels struck in Mancayan town, Benguet province late Wednesday night, blasting the equipment of a foreign ore processor with explosives and attacking the tailings dam of the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company where they were foiled by Army troops.

Mankayan Mayor Materno Luspian confirmed receiving a call shortly past midnight Thursday about explosions and the sounds of a firefight but said he has yet to receive confirmation from the police if fighters of the New People's Army's Jennifer Cariño Command, which operates in the province, were involved.

The Mankayan police confirmed receiving a call around 10 p.m. Wednesday that the tailings dam in Barangay Cabiten was being attacked.

The rebels have yet to issue a statement acknowledging or denying responsibility for the attacks.

Police reports said a backhoe and a lime slaking machine at a "carbon in pulp" facility operated by a Korean investor in Cabatuan, Barangay Colalo were blasted by what workers said were seven heavily armed men and a woman. The facility processes leftover ore that the investor buys from Lepanto.

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A police outpost in the village was also destroyed.

Police also said the security division of Lepanto reported that the attempt by the rebels to blast heavy equipment parked on the tailings dam was foiled by the arrival of soldiers.

A construction worker was reportedly grazed in the leg by a bullet during the firefight.

Two unexploded bombs were later found planed on a backhoe and a dump truck.

The Police Regional Office-Cordillera said the incident is still being investigated and clearing operations are underway.

Last month, guerrillas of the Jennifer Cariño Command raided a police substation in Loo, Buguias town, disarming the personnel on duty without a single shot fired.

<http://www.interaksyon.com/reds-blast-mining-equipment-attack-lepanto-tailings-dam-in-benguet/>

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Aguirre asks intel agencies to probe 'meeting' prior to Marawi attack

June 8, 2017

MANILA, June 8 -- Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II on Thursday will ask the government's intelligence agencies to investigate the alleged meeting of some lawmakers prior to the terror attacks in Marawi City which was perpetrated by the Maute group which he described as possibly a part of the destabilization plot against President Rodrigo Duterte's administration.

Aguirre said the investigation should push through despite criticisms for what appeared to be false information about a supposed meeting between two opposition senators and several Muslim clans in Marawi City two weeks before the Maute attack.

Aguirre said that the information as well as the photo showing the alleged meeting - which turned out to be from a fake news item - did not come from him.

"I'm not spreading fake news. The photo did not come from me and the information was just given to me so I am having it investigated," he explained.

During the press conference on Wednesday morning, Aguirre said it was possible that the May 2 meeting which, according to him, was also attended by Magdalo party-list Rep. Gary Alejano and former presidential adviser on political affairs Ronald Llamas could have "sparked the terrorist attack" in the city.

"Senator Aquino, he went to Marawi on April 24 and April 28 and they stayed, they had a meeting at Lake View Resort Hotel on May 2. Present were Senator Aquino, Trillanes Alejano and Llamas and some clans in Marawi city. They met with the people there they met with several families there. I don't know why after they went there, these things happened," Aguirre told reporters adding the information was provided to him by an informant.

When asked on who are the families who were present in the meeting, Aguirre said it include members of the Lucman and Alonto clans, two of the prominent families in the area.

He said it was possible the meeting could have "agitated" groups in the city, adding it could even be part of the moves to destabilize the Duterte administration, though he admitted that facts and evidences were needed to support this.

However, Aguirre issued a statement late on Wednesday afternoon denying his earlier remarks.

"I did not say there was a meeting between the two families and some lawmakers prior to the Marawi seige. The said meeting never took place and no member of both families ever met with Senator Trillanes, Congressman Alejano and Ronald Llamas. Governor Soraya Alonto Adiong invited Senator Bam Aquino to be their guest of honor during the launching of the Lanao del Sur Negosyo Center last May 19, 2017 in Marawi City as he is the author of the GoNegosyo Law."

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"There were reports that some opposition senators and leaders who went to Marawi to recruit local politicians and warlords to destabilize the Duterte administration. To the Alonto and Lucman families, my sincere apologies for any confusion about this issue," the DOJ Secretary noted.

He also called Aquino to apologize and clarify his side on the matter.

"I never said that they were successful in recruiting any local politicians and warlords," he added.
(Christopher Lloyd T. Caliwang/PNA)

www.pna.gov.ph

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AFP now has lists of Maute Group supporters

June 8, 2017

MANILA, June 8 — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Thursday announced that it has already compiled two lists containing the names of more than 200 supporters of the Maute Group.

The list includes local politicians, AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año said in television interview Thursday.

"I cannot recall the number but I think its about more than 200 names. (There are names of incumbent local) politicians, (private citizens and Maute Group members) there," he added.

These individuals will be arrested as soon as possible.

The military official said the lists also includes the owner of the house in Marawi City where PHP52.2 million in cash and PHP27 million in checks were recovered last June 5.

"Well, we have already identified the owner of the house but I rather rather not reveal the identity. Investigations (are ongoing) to identify supporters of this group," he added.

The military has been conducting military operations against the Maute Group following its May 23 onslaught on Marawi City.

As of this posting, the AFP has neutralized 138 Maute Group members while losing 39 government security troops in the three-week campaign.

Around 20 civilians were reported killed by the lawless group.

Also seized were 138 firearms with government forces rescuing 1,561 civilians from the clutches of the terrorists. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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AFP denies claims Maute Group weapons, bullets from military stocks

June 8, 2017

MANILA, June 8 -- Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen Restituto Padilla on Thursday vehemently denied reports that some of the weapons and ammunition being used by the Maute Group in the ongoing battle in Marawi City came from military stocks.

This was after some of the captured guns and crates of ammunition showed markings indicating it came from the Government Arsenal (GA) in Limay, Bataan.

And while stressing that no military units have been found to have selling weapons or bullets to the terrorists, Padilla said that it is very likely that these guns and ammunition could have been looted by the lawless elements during their first hours of their attacks in jail and police installations in Marawi City last May 23.

"Police stations and jail facilities are known to have armories and these installations were among the first to be attacked by the Maute Group terrorists during their initial onslaught. It is very likely that these weapons and bullets (with GA markings) could have been stolen by the terrorists," the AFP spokesperson said in Filipino.

He assured that the public that the military is doing everything possible to ensure that the remaining Maute Group members will no longer get the supplies needed to prolong their resistance. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

www.pna.gov.ph

PHL military gets 3 brand-new 155-mm howitzers, 9 more en route

June 8, 2017

MANILA, June 8 -- Three of the 12 155-mm. towed howitzers acquired by the Department of National Defense for the Army and Marines, have arrived and the other nine are in transit, the department's public affairs office chief, Arsenio Andolong, has said.

The three Elbit-Soltam M-71 155mm/Towed 39CAL howitzers were delivered late April and were formally accepted by the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC), whose gunners are currently familiarizing themselves with the weaponry, Andolong said in an interview with the Philippine News Agency (PNA) Wednesday.

The nine howitzers will undergo technical inspection once they arrive, he said, adding that three of these will be given to the PMC and six to the Army Artillery Regiment.

The new howitzers were supplied by the Israeli defense company, Elbit Systems Land and C41.

The contract was originally for PHP438.62 million and includes 240 155-mm. high explosive shells and integrated logistic support. Elbit won by submitting a bid of PHP410.84 million. (PFN/PNA)

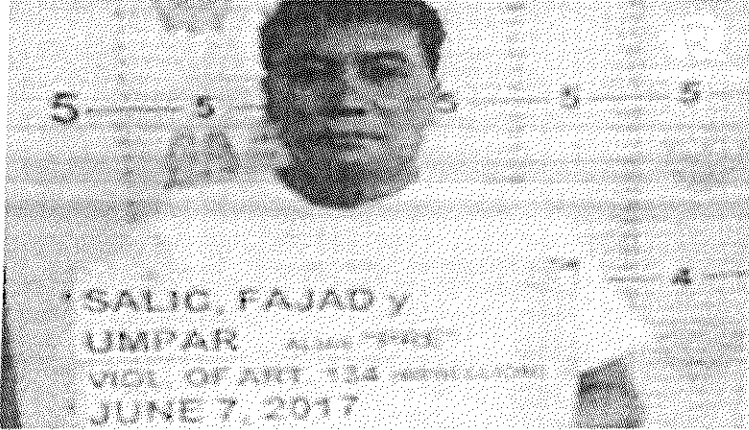
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Marawi City ex-Mayor Fajad Salic arrested for rebellion

From Rappler (Jun 8): **Marawi City ex-Mayor Fajad Salic arrested for rebellion**

It is not clear if Salic's arrest is related to the Marawi siege. Last week, Western Mindanao Command's Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez hinted at the forthcoming arrest of politicians supporting the Maute Group.



ARRESTED. A police photo of Fajad Salic, arrested June 7, 2017. Photo courtesy PNP

The former mayor of Marawi City, Fajad Umpar Salic, was arrested by the Misamis Oriental Police Public Safety Company on Wednesday night, June 7, in Barangay San Martin, Villanueva, Misamis Oriental.

Regional Police spokesperson Superintendent Lemuel Gonda said Salic was arrested for violating article 134 of the revised penal code.

Article 134 defines rebellion and how it is committed. According to Article 134, the crime of rebellion or insurrection is committed by rising publicly and taking arms against the Government for the purpose of removing from the allegiance to said Government or its laws, the territory of the Philippine Islands or any part thereof, of any body of land, naval or other armed forces, depriving the Chief Executive or the Legislature, wholly or partially, of any of their powers or prerogatives (As amended by R.A. 6968).

It is not clear, however, if Salic's arrest is related to the on-going armed conflict in Marawi City – which started on May 23, 2017 when military operatives wanted to capture Maute Group leader Abdullah and Omar Maute, but instead found Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon.

Western Mindanao Command Commander Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez in a press conference last week hinted that the Marawi siege involves politicians, private armed groups and narco-politics supporting the Maute group.

Galvez also said that they already know who are the politicians supporting the Maute group and

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they will be arrested.

It is also not clear if Salic's arrest was covered by a warrant of arrest or if it is a warrantless arrest.

Salic was wearing a plain white t-shirt when he was process at the Villanueva Police Station and his white SUV was also processed.

Rappler tried to call Supt Gonda to get clearer picture on the arrest of Salic, but on his social media message, he said that information on Salic's arrest will be made available on Thursday as per direction of regional police director Chief Supt. Agripino Javier.

<http://www.rappler.com/nation/172294-marawi-ex-mayor-fajad-salic-arrest-rebellion>

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