

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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

NEWS CLIPPINGS

15 June 2017

Thursday

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS
15 JUNE 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A16
HEADLINE NEWS			
2-3	SC justice fears ML nationwide	Marlon Ramos	PDI p.A1
4-5	SC told: This is not Marcos' martial law	Edu Punay	The Phil Star p.1
6-7	Calida to SC: Uphold ML	Julius N Leonen	The Daily Tribune p.1
8-10	'Marawi crisis nears end' - AFP	Dempsey Reyes & Catherine S Valente	The Mla Times p.A1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
11	2 NPA leaders surrender in Ilocos	Freddie G Lazaro	Mla Bulletin p.12
12	Npa rebs yield in Masbate	Suzene T Cajegas	PDI p.A17
AFP RELATED NEWS			
13-14	No bombing of mosques, no new deadline for AFP	Philip C Tubeza	PDI p.A8
15-16	AFP: No more deadline on clearing Marawi City	Mario J Mallari	The Daily Tribune p.1
17	No more deadlines for AFP vs Maute	Alexis Romero	The Phil Star p.6
18-19	Rebellion raps filed vs Maute matriarch	Rey E Requejo	Mla Standard p.A1
20	Maute matriarch, 10 others charged with rebellion	JP Lopez	Malaya p.B1
21-22	Soldiers capture Maute sniper, machinegun nests	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B1
23	AFP able to neutralize 80 Maute snipers in Marawi	Francis T Wakefield & Jeff Damicog	Tempo p.5
24-25	Armed US troops support AFP operations in Marawi	Philip C Tubeza	PDI p.A10
26-27	US troops on ground in Marawi, but not fighting - military	Mario J Mallari	The Daily Tribune p.1
28	AFP warns up probe on 'friendly fire'	Alexis Romero	The Phil Star p.4
29	'Friendly fire' investigation completed	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B1
30	Top DND, AFP officials ready to face court	Philip C Tubeza	PDI p.A2
31	Lorenzana, Año ready to defend martial law	Catherine S Valente	The Mla Times p.1
32-33	Gov't misses out on growth of terrorist group	Jason Gutierrez	PDI p.A8
34	Martial law extra measure to stop terror - SolGen	Rey E Requejo	Mla Standard p.A1

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

35	Youngest soldier killed in Marawi comes home	Rhaydz B Barcia	The Mla Times p.A7
36-37	Fallen Mountain Province Marine leaves grieving family, 2-year-old son	Larry P Fabian	Mla Bulletin p.1
38	AFP shuts down 10 of terrorists' socmed accounts	Philip C Tubeza	PDI p.A10
39	Liberate Marawi takes time - military	John Paolo Bencito	Mla Standard p.A1
40	Opisyal, di kailangang nasa lugar ng digmaan - AFP	Argyll Cyrus B Geducos	Balita p.3
EDITORIAL			
41	#OGOPMARAWI		Abante p.4
42	Martial law magtatagal pa		Ngayon p.4
43-44	Why Marawi?	Elfren S Cruz	The Phil Star p.9
45-46	An inspiring week of valor and winning gold	Bobit S Avila	The Phil Star p.9
47-48	Let Duterte edit his martial law decree?	Federico D Pascual Jr	The Phil Star p.8
49-50	Patriots	Alex Magno	The Phil Star p.8
51	What I wish SC would ask about martial law	Lulu Reyes	PDI p.A13
52	BOI SF-260 'friendly fire incident' report now with AFP chief	Priam F Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph
53-54	DND, AFP chiefs set to appear for martial law oral arguments in SC		www.pna.gov.ph
55	8 Maute-held buildings recovered by military - AFP		www.pna.gov.ph

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

15 June 2017



Page: A16

www.panahon.tv

PanahonTV

BALANCE NEWS. CLEARER VIEWS.

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JUNE 15, 2017 | THURSDAY

LAGAO CITY 25 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK 25 - 34 °C
METRO MANILA 25 - 35 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 25 - 31 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 25 - 33 °C

TUGUEGARAO CITY 25 - 36 °C
BAQUIO CITY 17 - 25 °C
TADAYTAY CITY 26 - 33 °C
ILIGIL 17 - 25 °C
BAGUIO CITY 17 - 25 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 25 - 31 °C
JOLIO 17 - 25 °C
BAGUIO CITY 17 - 25 °C
METRO CEBU 26 - 33 °C
DAVAO 25 - 33 °C
METRO DAVAO 25 - 33 °C

RIDGE OF A HIGH PRESSURE AREA
 AND TROPICAL LOW CLIMATE WITH SOUTHERLY
INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
 (IACZ) TENDS TO STRENGTHEN AND DEEPEN AND
 (As of 5:00 PM - June 14, 2017)

SUNRISE
 5:27 AM

MOONRISE
 10:03 PM

FULL MOON
 9:37 PM

LOW TIDE
 9:37 PM

SUNSET
 6:26 PM

MOONSET
 3:59 AM

LAST QUARTER
 7:58 PM

HIGH TIDE
 12:31 PM

	JUNE 10	JUNE 17	JUNE 15	JUNE 17	JUNE 16	JUNE 17
METRO MANILA	25 - 36 °C	26 - 36 °C	21 - 30 °C	21 - 30 °C	26 - 32 °C	26 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 36 °C	25 - 35 °C	26 - 33 °C	27 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C
LAGAO	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
BAQUIO	17 - 25 °C	17 - 25 °C	26 - 34 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 34 °C	25 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C
TADAYTAY	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C
LEGAZPI	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
ILIGIL/BAGUIO	17 - 25 °C	17 - 25 °C	17 - 25 °C	17 - 25 °C	17 - 25 °C	17 - 25 °C
METRO CEBU	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C
TACLOBAN	26 - 32 °C	26 - 31 °C	26 - 32 °C	26 - 31 °C	26 - 32 °C	26 - 31 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	26 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C
METRO DAVAO	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
ZAMBOANGA	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

WEEKDAYS
6AM, 6:30 PM & 9PM
WEEKENDS
6AM

15 June 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: 41

SC JUSTICE FEARS ML NATIONWIDE

STORY BY MARLON RAMOS

Declaration might embolden President Duterte to later declare martial law in Metro Manila, Luzon, the Visayas and the entire country, Justice Mariano del Castillo says. A2

FROM A1

By Marlon Ramos
@MRamosINQ

President Duterte's order placing all of Mindanao under martial law might goad him to eventually declare military rule throughout the country, Supreme Court Associate Justice Mariano del Castillo warned on Wednesday.

At the resumption of oral arguments on Mr. Duterte's Proclamation No. 216, justices of the Supreme Court expressed concern over the effects of the martial law proclamation and the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao on the civil liberties and other constitutional rights of Filipinos.

The magistrates also grilled Solicitor General Jose Calida on the sufficiency of the factual basis of the President's order, which the petitioners claimed violated Section 18, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution.

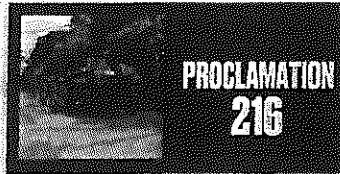
During the seven-hour arguments in open court, Del Castillo asked Calida why the military failed to stop the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Maute terror group from seizing Marawi City on May 23.

At some point, Calida seemed to run out of legal arguments to defend the President's decision as he admitted that there was "not much difference" between Mr. Duterte's authority to deploy military troops and the declaration of martial law.

Plan to attack Marawi

Citing the information provided by the military, Del Castillo noted that the terrorists had an elaborate plan to attack Marawi and even had a huge stash of money, which was found by government forces in a house used by the terrorists as a sniper's nest.

What is more troubling is the possibility that Mr.



Duterte, who said that his martial law order "would not be different" from what the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos issued in 1972, may put the whole country under martial law, Del Castillo said.

"It might embolden the President to later on declare martial law in Metro Manila, Luzon, the Visayas and the entire Philippines," Del Castillo told Calida.

But Calida said Mr. Duterte's decision was intended to prevent the Maute group and its terrorist allies from launching similar attacks in other areas in Mindanao.

"He has to act swiftly and decisively. It was the President's judgment that martial law was necessary to quell the rebellion, which indeed existed," Calida said.

He also told the magistrates that Mr. Duterte's decision should enjoy the "constitutional presumption of regularity" and that it was based on intelligence information that was available only to the most powerful man in the country.

Del Castillo concurred with the observation of Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio and Associate Justice Marvic Leonen that most parts of the Mindanao region were not facing the threat of terror attacks from Maute and other Moro extremists.

"It's a total failure of intelligence," Del Castillo said. "Why did it have to reach this point when practically the military was taken by surprise?"

Calida said intelligence gathering was similar to a jigsaw puzzle and that putting together classified information was "not perfect."

"There are parts of the puzzle that are not yet clear. What is clear is that Isnilon Hapilon was already in Marawi City. That's

why the military went there to arrest him," he said, referring to the leader of the Abu Sayyaf faction who had pledged allegiance to IS.

Other provinces

The justices raised questions about Calida's assertion that there was an ongoing rebellion in other provinces in Mindanao.

At one point, Del Castillo referred to the situation as a "brewing rebellion."

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, who filed one of the petitions challenging the constitutionality of Proclamation No. 216, said the concept of "imminent danger" was not a justification for imposing martial law as stated in the Constitution.

Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno said soldiers and policemen tasked to enforce the President's martial law order may face criminal and civil suits for implementing "a possibly misdirected order" if the 15-member tribunal votes to strike it down as unconstitutional.

In her interpellation of lawyer Marlon Manuel, the counsel for a group of women from Marawi, Sereno said it was wrong to "presume that martial law per se is good for the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines)."

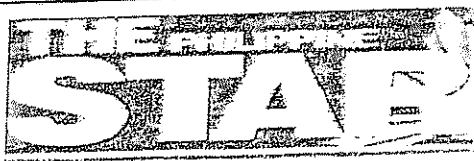
"Do you think it's also our duty to remember the brave men and women of the AFP who, under a possibly misdirected order, can actually do acts for which they will eventually be criminally and civilly liable?" Sereno asked Manuel, who answered in the affirmative.

Calida said the May 23 terror attack in Marawi was "not an isolated incident," as it was part of the Maute group's plan to establish a "caliphate" in the country. INQ



WATCH VIDEO: SolGen Calida challenges Colmenares to debate on martial law
<http://inq.news/CalidaMartialLaw>

15 June 2017



Page: 1

SC told: This is not Marcos' martial law

By EDU PUNAY

By EDU PUNAY

President Duterte is not Ferdinand Marcos. Solicitor General Jose Calida gave Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno this assurance when she insisted on the comparison during the continuation of oral arguments yesterday at the Supreme Court on Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

"President Duterte likewise ordered (that) the constitutional rights of the Filipino people shall be respected and protected at all times," Calida said, as he also downplayed alleged human rights abuses raised by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines' Lanao del Sur chapter.

"President Duterte's order of martial law is markedly different from that issued by president Marcos," Calida said, referring to the late dictator who ruled the Philippines

from 1965 to 1986.

Enforced disappearances, tortures, killings and other forms of human rights abuses marked Marcos' regime after he declared martial law on Sept. 21, 1972.

In defending Duterte's martial law, Calida also said that the attack of Maute militants in Marawi City was not just an act of terrorism, but a clear case of rebellion and part of a bigger plot to make Mindanao part of an Islamic State (IS) caliphate.

Turn to Page 6

SC told From Page 1

"The crisis in Marawi is not an isolated incident... This is not only a display of Maute's force but a siege of power," Calida told the high court.

"The rebels seized Marawi not just with the intention of striking fear. They wanted to establish a caliphate and dismember Marawi," Calida pointed out, presenting to the justices an IS flag recovered by the military from the rebels.

Calida argued that elements of rebellion – raising arms against the government and culpable purpose of removing allegiance from the government – were present in the crisis that required the President to use his power of declaring martial law under Article VII, Section 18 of the Constitution.

Calida also noted that when Duterte saw the gravity of rebellion, he had to act swiftly and decisively to save Marawi.

"Were it not for the President's swift action, the rebels would've established a stronghold in the heart of Mindanao," Calida pointed out.

During interpellation, Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio asked Calida why the declaration covered the entire Mindanao when there was no rebellion in other provinces.

The solicitor general cited "linkages" between the Maute group and other rebel groups in the region, like the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and Abu Sayyaf.

"The seeds of rebellion were already planted in different parts of Mindanao. Public safety requires the declaration of martial law and the suspension of the privilege of habeas corpus not just in Marawi but also in the entire Mindanao," he explained.

Sereno asked Calida why there was a need to declare martial law when the President already had the power

to call out the military to stop the siege.

Calida explained that the President saw the calling-out power as a milder response and wanted a stronger action to stop the rebellion.

"That's the judgment call of the President; he alone was vested with such power," he stressed, basing his statement on the Constitution.

Technicalities

Calida likewise raised technical issues on the three consolidated petitions filed by opposition lawmakers led by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, local Mindanao leaders led by *lumad* leader Eufemia Campos Cullamat and a group of women from Marawi led by Norkaya Mohamad, seeking to strike down Proclamation No. 216.

He said the petitions have formal defects, citing their failure to specify the remedy being invoked for the SC to review the factual bases of the martial law proclamation.

The solicitor general argued that petitioners cannot just invoke the martial law provisions in the Constitution and should have instead filed petition for review under the Rules of Court.

"The discretion to proclaim martial law can only be questioned if the President acted with grave abuse of discretion. The burden on the petitioners is to show that the declaration is bereft of merit and the petitioners miserably (had) failed to overcome this onus," he alleged.

Political issue

The martial law proclamation being a political issue was also raised during the hearing.

During interpellation, Associate Justice Noel Tijam asked Lagman if he voted for Duterte in last year's election.

The opposition lawmaker refused to answer and invoked

the sanctity of his vote, but admitted that he does not trust Duterte to use the martial law power reasonably and legally.

Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro cited the possibility that the actions of the Maute group may have political motives.

"We are living in modern times. We cannot use the standard used many, many years ago. Terrorism now is being used to achieve a political objective," she explained.

"I don't think terrorists are sowing terror just for the sake of sowing terror. It could be that they are doing these to overthrow the duly constituted government."

With the existence of that objective, De Castro said the Marawi attacks would fall under rebellion.

The three-day oral arguments continue today when Calida returns to the podium for more interpellation from the justices.

The SC had also required Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Gen. Eduardo Año and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana to appear today for clarification on the factual basis of the martial law proclamation, which is the main issue raised by the petitioners.

'Splitting hairs'

Meanwhile, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III scoffed at the arguments presented by the petitioners against Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao before the SC.

He said the petitioners were apparently splitting hairs in their arguments, particularly that there is no rebellion, but terrorism, in Marawi City.

Article VII, Section 1 of the Constitution states that the President may declare martial law in case of invasion or rebellion.

"Terrorism is not rebellion. That is correct. But why are they even discussing that?"

Pimentel said.

"The martial law proclamation says that there is actual rebellion. So, what is their point in wasting time about terrorism?" he said.

Pimentel and Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez were among the respondents named in the petitions asking the SC to compel Congress to hold a joint session to deliberate on Duterte's martial law declaration in Mindanao last May 23.

Pimentel expressed confidence the SC will respect Congress' decision not to convene in joint session.

No ML extension to Visayas

Contrary to his previous pronouncements, Duterte will not extend martial law to the Visayas region amid the ongoing firefight between government troops and the terrorist group Maute in Marawi City.

Tourism assistant secretary and spokesman Ricky Alegre yesterday said in a press conference that Duterte told them last Friday that he would not extend martial law to the Visayas, which he considered "a major pronouncement, especially for tourism."

"We're very happy and we thank President Duterte that last Friday, he said, 'We're not going to extend martial law to Visayas.' That is a major pronouncement," Alegre said during the weekly Kapihan sa Manila Bay in Malate.

Alegre said that Duterte's pronouncement would help reboot the tourism industry in Bohol, Cebu, Palawan and Boracay after some tourists had cancelled trips to the Philippines because of the alleged presence of the Abu Sayyaf.

Some foreign travelers have also cancelled their trips to the Philippines, particularly Mindanao, after Duterte declared martial law in the region.

– With Paolo Romero, Robertzon Ramirez, Janie Cameron

15 June 2017



Page: 1

EXTRAORDINARY TIMES REQUIRE EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES

Calida to SC: Uphold ML

By Julius N. Leonen

Solicitor General Jose Calida, in defense of President Duterte's declaration of martial law, appealed yesterday to the Supreme Court (SC) to allow the government "to make use of all the tools" to crush the terrorists who occupied Marawi City.

"Martial law is seen by some as a draconian measure. But it is a measure exclusively granted to the President by our Constitution. These are extraordinary times. They require extraordinary measure," Calida said before the High Tribunal during the oral arguments on petitions to nullify Proclamation 216 that declared martial law on Mindanao.

"Were it not for the President's swift and decisive action, the rebels could have established a stronghold at the heart of Mindanao," Calida said.

The SC yesterday entered the second day of oral arguments on the consolidated petitions filed by critics
Turn to page 2

From page 1

of President Duterte's Proclamation No. 216, among them opposition solons, Marawi residents and militants.

During his opening speech, Calida presented before the Tribunal an Islamic State (IS) flag, owned by the Maute terrorist group. Calida said it was recovered by scout rangers last May 23 during the onset of the Marawi terror siege.

"We are at a war with an enemy that does not respect the laws and principles we live by. We are at war with an enemy that seeks to destroy our way of life and force its twisted ideology upon our people," Calida said.

Calida noted that the petitioners themselves have admitted during the first day of the oral arguments that the first element of rebellion "is present in the instant case."

"There is a public uprising against the government. The rebels seized Marawi not merely for the purpose of raid. They did not just intend to strike fear into the hearts of the populace," Calida said.

"They wanted to establish a caliphate and dismember Marawi. These rebels were able to take control of major social, economic, and political institutions in Marawi leading to its complete paralysis," he added.

'Total failure of intelligence'

But SC Associate Justice Mariano del Castillo criticized the government's side for its "total failure of intelligence" when it failed to stop the growing presence and force of the terrorist group.

Justice del Castillo lamented that the Maute terrorists appeared well-prepared when it rampaged through Marawi, considered to be

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

located at the heart of Mindanao.

"It seemed the Maute rebels are well prepared. Arms seem inexhaustible and there was one time several millions of pesos was recovered from a hideout. It takes time to have done what they did and I am surprised why the military never discovered all this," del Castillo said.

"Why did it have to reach this point when practically the military was taken by surprise? It is a total failure of intelligence," del Castillo asked Calida.

In defense of the government's intelligence authorities, Calida admitted that "intelligence gathering is not perfect."

Calida likened the process of gathering intelligence reports to a "jigsaw puzzle" saying that "there are parts of the puzzle that are not yet clear."

However, the top government lawyer insisted that "one thing clear is that (Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon) Hapilon was already in Marawi City. That is why the military went there to arrest him."

In his 45-page consolidated comment filed with the SC, Calida, citing military intel sources, said "the grand plan of the rebels was to raze the entire city of Marawi on the day of Ramadan, or on May 26."

The top government lawyer, citing a video retrieved by the AFP, said that Hapilon, the Maute brothers, and other unidentified ISIS-inspired groups were documented while planning the attack in Marawi and the planting of an IS flag.

But the petition filed by opposition lawmakers led by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman claimed that hoisting the IS flag in Marawi City is nothing but "cheap propaganda."

Calida, however, warned that the act of planting the IS flag on Marawi shows the rebel groups' "firm resolve" to "remove Marawi, and ultimately, Mindanao, from its allegiance to the Philippine government."

In addition, Calida said petitioners erred in their claim that the IS-inspired local rebel groups' goal in attacking Marawi City is to prevent authorities from arresting Hapilon and the Maute brothers.

"The Marawi attack would have served as a precursor for other terrorist groups to stage their own uprising across Mindanao in a bid to simultaneously establish a wilayah in the region," Calida said.

"The planned attack, however, was foiled when the government troops conducted a raid in pursuit of Hapilon in Barangay Basak Malulut. This forced the rebels to prematurely execute the Marawi siege," he said.

What additional powers?

Meanwhile, SC Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio pressed the Solicitor General to lay out the differences of the President's powers with and without martial law.

"You earlier said that there is not much difference between the martial law powers of the President and the calling-out powers of the President. So what is the difference?" Carpio asked Calida.

"It's like a sentence, instead of a period, there's an exclamation point. It's psychological, an exclamation point. (It's like saying) you better listen to me now because I imposed martial law," Calida said.

But Carpio appeared to be dissatisfied with Calida's answer, pressing him to be more specific: "We're talking here about legal

powers."

The senior magistrate disputed Mr. Duterte's authority under martial law that he cannot do when it is not declared.

Calida said that if the President declares martial law, he can also suspend the writ of habeas corpus "as public safety requires."

Carpio, however, said that since rebellion is a continuing crime, even without the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, anyone charged with the crime can still be arrested anywhere in the country.

The senior High Court magistrate also said that he does not see any evidence of "actual rebellion in Dinagat island, Camiguin island, Misamis, Pagadian, Lanao, Dapitan, and all these places."

Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, for her part, asked the Solicitor General why was there need to declare martial law when the President already has power to call out the military to stop the siege.

Calida explained that the President saw the calling out power as a milder response and wanted a stronger action to stop the rebellion.

Ano, Lorenzana ordered to appear

Meanwhile, Sereno has also ordered Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, martial law administrator, and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año, martial law implementor, to appear before the Tribunal today.

During the hearing of oral arguments, Lagman requested the Tribunal to direct Lorenzana and Año to serve as resource persons to provide facts and insights to why President Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao.

"In deference to the sensitive info that may be shared by Sec.

Lorenzana and Gen. Año, we are open to having an executive session," the Chief Justice said.

Calida said he is not opposing Lagman's request, however, should Lorenzana and Año appear before the High Court, he requested for an executive session.

The Solicitor General said he made the request so that the proceeding would be done in a closed-door meeting, for no confidential information would be disclosed.

In response, Sereno said that the Tribunal will discuss Calida's request during today's lunch break.

ML petitions 'defective'

The Solicitor General also moved to dismiss the consolidated petitions against the declaration of martial law for having technical defects.

Calida filed a motion last Tuesday when the High Court started hearing the oral arguments where he insisted that "from procedural requirements they have failed, therefore we have asked the Court to dismiss the petitions."

The top government lawyer said that the petition filed by opposition lawmakers said the date of verification and non-forum shopping indicated that it was signed on "June 3, 2016."

Moreover, Calida argued that opposition lawmaker Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman's professional tax receipt number is already outdated. He said that it was indicated that it was obtained on "August 16, 2016."

For the petition filed by militants, the Solicitor General said only one petitioner signed the verification and certification of non-forum shopping, when all of them should have signed it.

OF

Arevalo said on Wednesday the military was able to recover eight high-rise buildings on Tuesday.

"What is important here is that we reclaimed one of the buildings that was considered as a high-rise establishment that overlooks the city, and it was previously nested by [Maute] snipers. So this is actually an improvement," he said.

Arevalo stressed that the Maute group has been "weakening," noting that the number of its fighters have started to decrease.

"We are not going to take this lightly. We cannot be imprudent. We have to be very careful with our actions since the Maute still have civilians with them and they were all taken as hostages," he said.

The military is looking to accomplish three main objectives: the neutralization of terrorists, rescue of civilians, and setting the conditions for reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi City.

"We are now looking at the third option because we see that we are nearing the conclusion of this conflict," he said. Dempsey Reyes

No more deadlines

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. on Wednesday said the military would no longer set a deadline for the liberation of Marawi City as it promised not to bomb mosques and *masjids* (central mosques) that Maute terrorists were using as hiding places.

During the "Mindanao Hour" news briefing in Malacañang, Padilla said the military turned down the option of targeting mosques in surgical air strikes.

"For now, we will not set deadlines. We will ensure that we will be able to clear it of any armed element that still exists, and it may take some time," Padilla told reporters.

"We categorically state that we have not bombed and will not bomb mosques in Marawi. The Armed Forces leadership is firm in its commitment to use other options that would flush out this Maute/Daesh-inspired group from these places of worship that they have converted into machine gun and sniper nests, defensive positions, and arsenals for their war activities," he added.

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

AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.a

On Tuesday, Army 1st Infantry Division spokesman Lt. Col. Jo-arr Herrera said the AFP was compelled to launch surgical strikes on places of worship that have been turned into the extremists' staging areas.

Herrera told reporters in Marawi City that mosques would be bombed "in order to save lives and in order to protect our troops."

The AFP on Wednesday denied launching attacks on Muslims' houses of worship.

"The AFP assures our Muslim brothers and Islamic faithful that it will not go down to the level of these terrorists who desecrate places of worship to lure government security forces into responding to their violent activities in a similar manner," Padilla said.

"We are confident that through other options available to the Armed Forces, we will be able to retake the remaining portion of Marawi occupied by these terrorists, neutralize the remaining members who continue to hold out and begin the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the city," he added.

The AFP earlier set June 2 as its deadline to free Marawi of armed elements, but it failed to meet its self-imposed deadline. The military again set June 12, Independence Day, as a deadline

to liberate Marawi City, but again failed to wipe out terrorists.

In the same news conference, Palace spokesman Ernesto Abella echoed AFP chief-of-staff General Eduardo Año who said state forces respect places of worship and other cultural and heritage sites, thus "will do everything possible to protect and preserve these places."

5-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

OFFICE

RS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

» Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

Proposed P10-B budget welcomed

Malacañang on Wednesday welcomed a proposal for an additional P10-billion budget to bankroll the rebuilding efforts in war-torn Marawi City.

Abella said the "Tindeg Marawi" bill filed in Congress would complement the planned executive order that would allot another P10 billion to help Marawi recover from the armed conflict.

"In anticipation of the rehabilitation of Marawi, Congress has proposed a P10-billion supplemental budget to rebuild Marawi through House Bill 5874 or the Tindeg Marawi Bill," Abella told reporters.

The bill filed by Kabayan Rep. Harry Roque proposes to set aside funds for humanitarian aid to the victims of the Marawi conflict, and the rehabilitation of infrastructure, business establishments and property.

The rehabilitation funds will be divided among the Department of National Defense, the Department of Education, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the National Housing Authority.

Earlier, Malacañang announced it would soon implement a P10-billion "Bangon Marawi" rehabilitation project.

"The EO (executive order) for 'Bangon Marawi' is awaiting President Duterte's signature," Abella told state-run radio station over the weekend. "The proposed package amounting to P10 billion, as promised by the President, will be a multi-agency effort."

Padilla, the AFP spokesman, said the government could not yet peg a definite figure for the cost of the damage in Marawi.

"We do not know yet. We will need professionals to estimate it but before that we need to clear the city first of all armed rebels," Padilla told *The Manila Times* in a text message.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, in a separate text message, told *The Times* military engineers "have not made the survey as there are still pockets of resistance."

"We start rebuilding after we have cleared the area of explosives," Lorenzana said.

To expedite the clearing operations in Marawi City, Padilla said the military was not closing its doors on military assistance from other nations like China and Russia.

"The government and its armed forces is open to any help because it is a worldwide battle against terrorists," he said.

Top security officials earlier confirmed that United States troops are assisting the Philippine military in its fight against the Maute group.

The US military aid, however, is only limited to technical assistance.

"Yes, we asked for their help. We requested them to stay there and provide us assistance because we don't have such capability [to fight against terrorism alone]," Padilla said.

15 June 2017



Page: 12

2 NPA leaders surrender in Ilocos

SANTA CRUZ, Ilocos Sur — Two ranking members of the New People's Army (NPA) surrendered to the government forces from the 81st Infantry Battalion last week, based on a belated report.

Lieutenant Colonel Eugenio Julio C. Osias IV, 81st IB commander, said the identities of the names of the NPA were temporarily withheld for security reasons.

"Through our persistent efforts, we were able to convince the NPA rebels to surrender," said Osias on Sunday.

Both surrenderees were team leader of the NPA's Kilusang Larangang Guerilya (KLG) Montes that operates in the tri-boundaries of Abra, Mountain Province and Ilocos Sur.

Both of them also turned over their firearms.

One of the surrenderees said that what drove him to surrender was the 'purposeless' battles and wars which have affected the lives of thousands of young people for the past five decades.

He added that the government's development projects are now gaining momentum under the Duterte administration.

Osias assured that his unit will continue to advocate peaceful resolution of the internal security problem.

"Despite the on-going crisis in Mindanao, we will not cease our efforts in neutralizing the NPA rebels here in Northern Luzon in any way we could," Osias said. (Freddie G. Lazaro)

15 June 2017



Page: A7

NPA rebs yield in Masbate

DIMASALANG, MASBATE—At least 19 communist rebels surrendered to the military in Milagros town in Masbate province on Tuesday. Brig. Gen. Fernando Trinidad, commander of the Army's 903rd Infantry Brigade, said the rebels turned over uniforms, combat boots and 11 firearms, including five M16 rifles, a .45 cal pistol and bullets. Trinidad said the rebels, whom he did not identify, were taken to a safe house where they would undergo questioning

—SUZENE T. CAJEGAS

15 June 2017



Page: A8

No bombing of mosques, no new deadline for AFP

By Philip C. Tubeza,
Allan Nawal
and Jeffrey Maitem
@Team_Inquirer

The military will not bomb mosques occupied by Maute group and Abu Sayyaf gunmen in Marawi and will not set a new deadline for liberating the city from the terrorists, the spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines said on Wednesday.

Brig Gen Restituto Padilla, the AFP spokesperson, said Gen Eduardo Año, the military chief of staff, had promised not to bomb mosques but urged religious leaders to dissuade the terrorists from using places of worship as staging grounds for attacks on government troops.

"There's a commitment on the part of the Armed Forces and the chief of staff himself that we will not bomb mosques," Padilla told reporters.

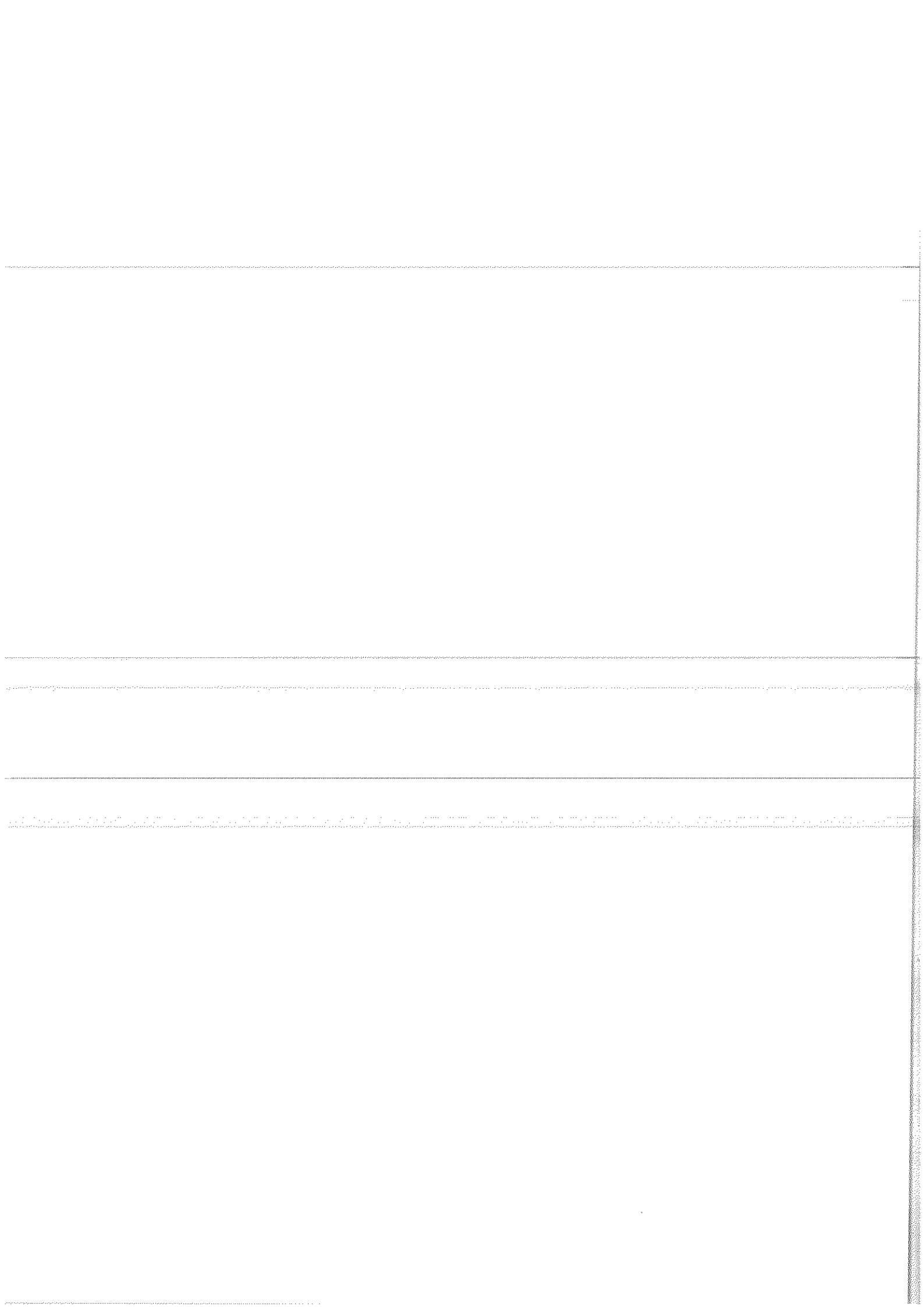
"But we call upon all religious leaders to more or less dissuade any of those that they may reach in those mosques from using those [places] of worship as agents of war in this armed confrontation," he added.

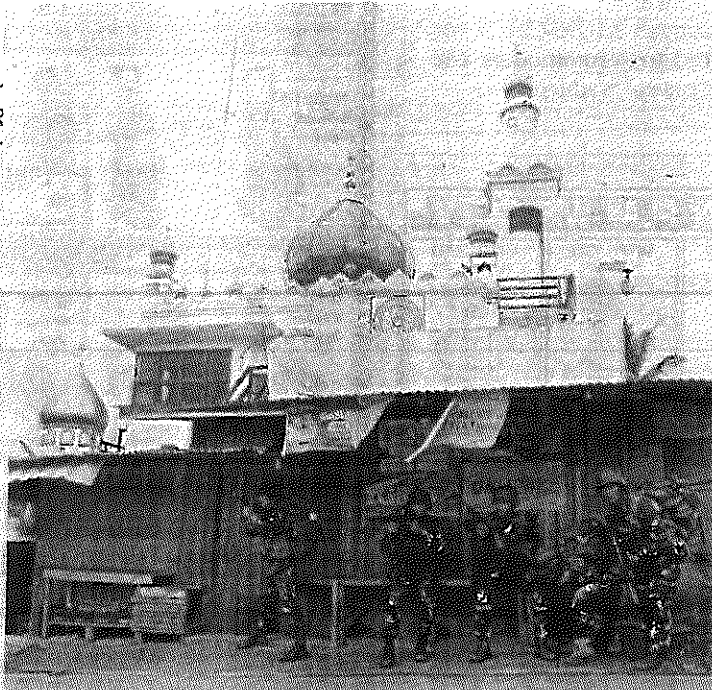
Sniper's nests

On Tuesday, Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, spokesperson for the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said the Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists who had seized Marawi were using mosques as storage places for their weapons and as sniper's nests, forcing the military to consider those houses of worship airstrike targets.

"As long as they're using [the mosques], we can fire at them as targets of opportunity. If they use them as hiding areas, storage for explosives or machine-gun nests," Herrera said.

On Wednesday, however, the military said in a statement that it respected places of worship and other cultural and heritage sites.





STREET ACTION Soldiers clear the streets near a mosque in Marawi, as fighting with Maute and Abu Sayyaf gunmen entered its fourth week. —JEFFREY MAITEM

"As such the chief of staff of AFP gives his assurance that the AFP will do everything possible to protect and preserve these places. We do call on our religious leaders of every faith to call upon all parties to respect these places," it said.

The military said it had "not bombed and will not bomb mosques" in Marawi.

Padilla said the military was confident that "through other options available," it would be able to retake Marawi from the terrorists.

'Evil'

A group of imams (worship leaders) in Lanao del Sur on Wednesday decried the Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists' use of mosques as staging places for attacks on government forces.

Alim Saad Ibrahim Amate, national president of the United Imam of the Philippines, said the use of mosques for launching attacks on enemies or for evading enemies was "evil."

Amate reminded Muslims that the Prophet Muhammad

had specifically instructed his followers not to use mosques in fighting enemies.

The Prophet also prohibited his followers from destroying places of worship and from killing the weak and noncombatants, including priests and monks, Amate said.

The siege of Marawi by the Maute and Abu Sayyaf fighters is a plain act of terror, Amate said, condemning the involvement of some imams in the terrorists' activities.

"Muslim leaders must safeguard the correct preaching of Islam and not condone beliefs that are not in the Quran and the Hadith," he said.

"[Our job] is to preach what is good and [prohibit] what is evil," he added.

Ramadan attacks

Fast losing its capitals in the Middle East to allied forces, IS, to which the Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists have pledged allegiance, has called on followers to launch attacks in the United States, Europe, Russia, Australia, Iraq, Syria, Iran and the Philippines during the holy

month of Ramadan, which started on May 26.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella clarified on Wednesday that the government was not "alarmed" but merely "concerned" over reports that IS had ordered followers to stage attacks during Ramadan.

Government forces bombarded terrorist positions in Marawi with tank fire on Wednesday, the 23rd day of fighting in the city, and there was no sign that it would end any time soon.

"There will be no more deadlines," Padilla said, referring to a promise by the military to clear the city by June 12, Independence Day.

"It may take some time," he said.

"We will progressively get in and neutralize these targets if they opt to keep on fighting. But we will have to do it on a very painstaking manner in consideration of [civilians] still trapped in the area," he added.

"Urban terrain operations" are "not as easy" for the troops as jungle warfare, for which they have been trained and are used to, battling communist insurgents and Muslim separatists for many years, he explained.

"Our rules of engagement are very different in urban terrain. We have to be very careful, we have to be very judicious, we have to be very deliberate so as to avoid hitting innocent [civilians]," he said.

The military said 290 people had been killed in the fighting so far, including 206 terrorists, 58 soldiers and policemen and 26 civilians. —WITH A REPORT FROM REUTERS INQ.



WATCH VIDEO: Gov't troops won't bomb mosques in Marawi, says AFP
<http://inq.news/MarawiMosques>

15 June 2017



Page: 1

AFP: No more deadline on clearing Marawi City

By Mario J. Mallari and Ted Tuvera

The government and the military have abandoned setting a deadline on eradicating the terrorist occupation of Marawi City as the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said military operations in the area of conflict against the Islamic State (IS)-inspired groups may take some time.

During the Mindanao Hour in Malacanang, AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said efforts to totally crush the terrorists may take some time as he stressed the AFP will not set any more deadlines to accomplish the mission.

President Duterte earlier had given the military a three-day deadline which expired last June 7, while AFP chief

Turn to page 2

From page 1

Año promised to liberate Marawi symbolically on June 12. All the promised dates were not met.

"For now, we will not set deadlines. We will ensure that we will be able to clear it of any armed element that still exists, and it may take some time," Padilla said.

In Camp Aguinaldo, Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP Public Affairs Office chief, however, declared that the operations in Marawi City are nearing conclusion.

In fact, Arevalo said that government authorities are already in the final stage of the efforts.

Earlier, the AFP leadership targeted to liberate Marawi City last Monday, Independence Day, from the IS-inspired Isnilon Hapilon and his followers but failed.

As of yesterday, Padilla said that four barangays of Marawi City are still considered as problematic areas.

"For now, we will not set deadlines. We will ensure we will be able to clear it of any armed element that still exists, and it may take some time," said Padilla.

Padilla said the urban terrain in Marawi City, a built up area where high-rise buildings have been occupied by enemy snipers, the use of innocent civilians as human shields and hostages, and the trapped residents have all slowed down the clearing operations.

"We have to be very careful...we have to be very deliberate to avoid hitting innocent lives," said Padilla.

"We are nearing its ending, meaning we are nearing the conclusion. We are in the final stage of our operation in Marawi," Arevalo told reporters.

"We are inching our way forward in order to ensure that we attain the three-fold objective - first is to neutralize all the members of the Maute in Marawi and at the least degrade their capability to put up any other terrorist activity in other areas, springing from Marawi; number two is for us to save civilians who are still trapped in the area or being held as hostage, and number thirdly to set the conditions for reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi," said Arevalo.

"We are now looking at the third option because we see that we are nearing conclusion of this conflict," he added.

Arevalo, however, stressed that the challenges being faced by government forces in Marawi City are difficult - citing the killing of 13 Marines in Barangay Lilod Madaya in a 16-hour firefight with the terrorists gained 500 square meters from the enemy position.

He said that eight more buildings - previously served as sniper and machine gun nests of the terrorists, were overran by government forces

"This is huge for us, still we say that the resistance is continuously dwindling...but we are not going to take this lightly, we cannot be imprudent," said Arevalo.

Last Tuesday, Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom), said that 20 percent of Marawi City is still affected by the siege. He said around 150-200 terrorists are still holed up in the area.

Maute plot known to Palace, military

President Duterte and top state security officials knew that the Maute group was planning to occupy Marawi City but military commanders may have underestimated the capability of the enemies.

In yesterday's Mindanao Hour briefing, Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said it was ground commanders call on how to address the threat.

"Look, first and foremost, the President was aware of the information coming in the ground as the top brass was very, very aware of these things," Abella told reporters.

"However, the ones who would really fully implement these matters will going to be left to the ground commanders, right?" he stressed.

The Palace official also defended top defense and security officials who were not in the country when the crisis erupted despite the admission that they had intelligence reports about the Maute plot.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año and Philippine National Police (PNP) Director Gen. Ronald Dela Rosa were all in Moscow when the Maute group began to occupy Marawi City last May 23.

"The top commanders need not need to be there physically present because they were not - they didn't have to be there to pull out guns," Abella said, pointing again at ground commanders who appeared to be overconfident in handling the situation on the field.

"These matters were going to be related to ground commanders. However, there was sufficient information and the ground commanders themselves had said, look, it's (okay)... You can travel," he added.

Abella also revealed that the Marawi plot was not surprising since President Duterte has repeatedly discussed the threat from the IS-inspired fanatics in Mindanao to the members of his Cabinet and as well as in his public speaking engagements.

"There were discussions on this. It was also mentioned in the Cabinet

but it was also mentioned with several people who were most closely responsible for these matters," he said.

"The President has always been mentioning about it. He has always been talking about the presence of IS-related groups in Mindanao. So he has been talking about that for the longest time. So it's not as if it's anything strange," he added.

Along with Abella during the same presser, AFP's Padilla said that instead of blaming anybody, it's better to focus instead on the common enemies rather than start squabbles within the government.

"The IS-Maute have invaded and come into this country already to wreak havoc, to burn, to kill and what have you. That is terrorism right in our very doorsteps and this is the problem and we call on everyone to unite behind government to work on that. Whatever happened before are just a matter of the fact already," Padilla said.

"So these are the things that we must concentrate on. We must as a nation unite and condemn because after all, they were the ones who started it," he added.

Padilla said Defense Secretary Lorenzana and AFP chief of staff Gen. Año is willing to appear before the Supreme Court if ever they are summoned as oral arguments challenging the Martial Law in Mindanao proclamation currently rolls.

Lorenzana serves as the Martial Law administrator, while Año is its implementor.

"We support whatever process that is currently ongoing and if we need to be resource persons elsewhere, including the Supreme Court, we will be there," Padilla said.

Building relations take time - Dureza

Amid the ongoing conflict in Marawi City, Presidential peace adviser Jesus Dureza urged stakeholders to work on relationship building and healing the wounds and divisions.

He explained that physical structures destroyed by the armed conflict, school buildings that were burned down can be built again but building of relationships takes time.

"I always say this before, and even now, I can build easily the [physical] structures destroyed by the [armed] conflict. I can also build the school buildings that were burned down. But building of the relationships, bringing back social cohesion, and mending the torn social fabric brought about the conflict takes time. The healing takes time," Dureza said.

Dureza was in Marawi City last Monday to represent Mr. Duterte to mark Independence Day. He, along

with Mayor Isabelle "Beng" Climaco-Salazar, hoisted the Philippine flag and laying of the wreaths at the iconic Plaza Rizal, fronting the City Hall.

Dureza emphasized the very important process of healing amid the crisis in Marawi and the continuing recovery of Zamboanga City following the 2013's siege.

"I see here in Zamboanga, the healing process has already started. And we can see the results. This is principally due to the leadership of Mayor Beng and the city officials in cooperation with the military, police, and members of the different sector, and most especially the civilians," the presidential adviser said.

He noted that indications show that Zamboanga "is now moving forward. The city is already building torn relationships."

Dureza emphasized that the healing process is one of the lessons that could help the current conflict besetting in Marawi.

The rehabilitation process "is not only to rebuild damaged physical structures in Marawi, but the most important task, which is not easy to do, is building back broken relationships and healing the wounds."

"There is a strong need for social healing...and see to it that we don't have a continuity of this conflict," he said.

At the same time, Dureza reiterated the need to check "hatred and deep-seated biases" to advance the cause.

"When you say, 'I'm going to help bring about peace'. I will ask you: are you at peace with yourself? Because if you have anxieties, angsts, and hatred, then you cannot radiate to others what you do not have. And that is the lesson that we should learn. Because you cannot give what you do not have," he said.

Probe on friendly fire ends

A military Board of Inquiry (BOI) has already completed its fact-finding on the June 1 friendly fire in Marawi City that killed 10 soldiers and wounded seven others.

Maj. Gen. Rafael Valencia, Inspector General of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who headed the BOI, said that he already submitted the findings of the board to AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año last Friday.

However, Valencia begged to reveal the results of the inquiry pending the ongoing military operations in Marawi City.

He said he also recommended to Año to temporarily hold the findings of the board.

"We cannot discuss the BOI report right now because there is implication to the ongoing operation," said Valencia.

"We don't want to put, to endanger the lives of our troops. Actually, that is my recommendation

to the chief of staff -to hold the release (of our findings)," he added.

At the same time, Valencia maintained that the BOI only conducted fact-finding on what really happened last June 1 when one of the bombs dropped by an Air Force's SF260 fell to Army ground troops in Marawi City.

As a result of the "friendly fire", 10 soldiers were killed while seven others were wounded.

Ano immediately ordered the inquiry and grounded the SF260s from doing bomb sorties in Marawi City.

"It was just an inquiry, it's not really an investigation...we just looked at all the facts," said Valencia.

Apart from holding the release of the findings, Valencia said that the BOI also recommended "appropriate actions" from the major services commands involved -in this case the Philippine Army and the Philippine Air Force.

IBP backs transfer of Maute trial

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) Misamis Oriental Chapter said it strongly opposes the Supreme Court's (SC) decision to hold the trial of Maute cases in Cagayan de Oro City courts.

The SC assigned the Cagayan de Oro Regional Trial Court (RTC) to hear, try and decide all cases and incidents in connection with the Marawi attacks.

It also designated Camp Evangelista, headquarters of the Philippine Army 4th Infantry Division, as the detention center for Maute members who will be charged for rebellion.

In statement issued yesterday, the IBP Misamis Oriental Chapter expressed alarm over the High Court's decision, saying the proximity of Cagayan de Oro to Marawi City poses security concerns and risks to court personnel.

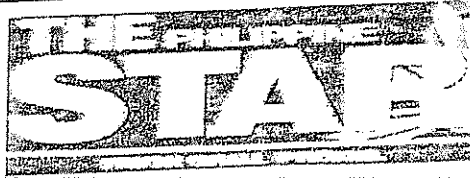
The group said Cagayan de Oro is not prepared to accommodate the trial of Maute cases, adding that it should be heard "in neutral areas and insulated from outside pressure or distractions like the courts in Cebu City or in Metro Manila."

"There are relatives of families of Maute Group in Cagayan de Oro which might add outside pressure while the case would be heard in the courts of Cagayan de Oro City," the statement read.

"Cagayan de Oro City has no facility or separate judicial courts but only temporary rooms used for hearing considering the recent burning of the Hall of Justice," it said.

In addition, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II pressed on his stance in calling for the transfer of the trial of Maute cases to the Taguig City Regional Trial Court (RTC). **Ted Tuvera, Alvin Murcia, Julius N. Leonen**

15 June 2017



Page: 6

No more deadlines for AFP vs Maute

By ALEXIS ROMERO

After failing to meet its deadline for liberating Marawi City, the military will no longer set timetables for the operations against the Islamic State (IS)-linked Maute terrorists.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla admitted that clearing the city of Maute militants would take more time because security forces are avoiding civilian casualties.

"We will not set deadlines. We will ensure that we are able to clear it of any armed element that still exists and it may take some time," Padilla said in a press briefing at Malacañang yesterday.

Turn to Page 6

"The operations we are doing, as I mentioned earlier, are not as easy as the ones we are doing in jungles. So it will entail a bit of time before we clear every house of any armed element. So we beg for some patience but we are getting there," he added.

The government has repeatedly failed to meet its self-imposed targets on the Marawi crisis, which started after terrorists raided the city last May 23.

Security forces originally sought to finish the operations against the Maute militants last June 2, but stiff resistance and the presence of trapped civilians prevented them.

On June 4, President Duterte said the crisis may be finished in "about three days" but the fighting persisted.

Last week, the military said it would seek to liberate the strife-torn city on June 12, the 119th anniversary of Philippine independence, but the goal was not met.

"The military activities that are conducted in open terrains like jungles are a different story when it is compared to urban terrain. In an urban terrain where civilians are still currently trapped and may possibly be used as human shields or may be hit by crossfire, troops have to be very careful," Padilla said.

"Our rules of engagement are very different in urban terrain. We have to be very careful, we have to be very judicious, we have to avoid hitting innocent lives. And this is where the slow process of liberating Marawi is currently happening," he added.

The military also is-

sued contradicting statistics about its operations in Marawi City.

Security officials claimed last May 31 that the Maute group was controlling three of the 96 barangays or about ten percent of Marawi.

But on Tuesday, the military said the militants are holding on to four barangays, including the commercial district Bongolo, or about 20 percent of the city.

Padilla attributed the contradicting data to the "fog of war" and the volatile situation on the ground.

"The initial reports came from our ground commanders. Now, you know, there's this thing called fog of war when everything is all breaking loose and then everything is very fluid, the reporting system may not be very accurate, as exact as we would want," the military spokesman said.

"So now that we have lulls in the fighting, and we can more or less cross check our data, there is a decision now to be more specific that the use of barangays would be better," he added.

Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, spokesman for the Army's 1st Infantry Division fighting the Maute terrorists, said there are still about 150 to 200 militants involved in the battle with government troops.

The battle for Marawi has raged for three weeks after gunmen waving black flags of the IS group rampaged through the city on May 23.

Initial assertions from authorities said the conflict would be over in days but it turned out to be a protracted battle. - With Jaime Laude, Janie Cameron, Roel Pareño, Gerry Lee-Gorit, Edu Punay

5, 5295

15 June 2017

Manila
Standard

Page: 21

Rebellion raps filed vs Maute matriarch

By Rey E. Requejo

THE Justice department has filed rebellion charges against 11 people, including the mother of the Maute brothers who are behind the attack on Marawi City.

State prosecutors on Tuesday indicted Ominta Romato Maute, a.k.a. Farhana, mother of Omar and Abdullah Maute; the former mayor of Marawi, Fajad Salic, and nine others before the Misamis Oriental regional trial court.

The charges were filed after prosecutors found probable cause that the accused had connived with the Maute group “actively engaged in an armed rebellion against the government,” Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said Wednesday.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, the martial law administrator of Mindanao, has described Farhana as the Maute group’s adviser and financier, given her “vast financial resources drawn locally and abroad.”

Farhana is the first wife of Cayamora Maute, who was arrested at a checkpoint in Davao City on June 6. On Friday, she was arrested in Masiu, Lanao del Sur, along with two wounded Maute group members.

On May 23, Maute group terrorists went on a rampage in Marawi City, flying the black Islamic State flag over parts of the city, killing civilians, taking hostages and occupying buildings. In response, President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao, saying that the Maute group wants to establish a province for the terrorist Islamic State (ISIS) group.

15 June 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 31

Maute matriarch, 10 others charged with rebellion



OMINTA ROMATO

THE Department of Justice has filed rebellion charges against Ominta Romato “Farhana” Maute, mother of terrorists who are leading attacks in Marawi City, a former city mayor, and nine others.

The charges were filed before the Misamis Oriental Regional Trial Court last Tuesday.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre said the accused conspired with the Maute Group whose members are “now actively engaged in an armed rebellion against the government.”

The Maute Group attacked Marawi City on May 23, prompting President Duterte to place the whole of Mindanao under martial law. Fighting is ongoing.

Duterte on Sunday said the Marawi attack was ordered by the leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) based on information given to him by his security officials. The Maute Group has pledged allegiance to the ISIS.

Farhana Maute is said to be the Maute group’s “adviser, financier, and provider owing to her vast financial resources drawn locally and abroad.”

Her husband, Cayamora, was arrested at a checkpoint in Davao City on June 6. The Mautes are reportedly running several businesses that the military said could be funding the terrorist activities of the Maute group.

Also named in the complaint was former city mayor Fajad Salic who was arrested on June 7 at a checkpoint in Misamis Oriental, and Aland Sumaya Bangkit Masakal, Radiea Tugosa Asire, Mariam Ibnu Abubakar, Zafeerah Rosales Musa, Nehreen Macaraya Abdul, Nora Moctar Lingas, Mardiyya Haji Ali, Sumayya Lawi Ali, and Noronisa Haji Camal.

Salic was married to former actress Alma Moreno. – *JP Lopez*

15 June 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 31

Soldiers capture Maute sniper, machinegun nests

BY VICTOR REYES

GOVERNMENT forces have gained control of eight high-rise buildings in Marawi City, where the Maute Group had set up machinegun and sniper nests.

Operations to clear the city of the terrorist group are in the “final stages,” said Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP public affairs office.

Arevalo said the recovery of the eight buildings is significant as the presence of enemy snipers is one of factors delaying the clearing operations.

He said the eight buildings, “their

former strongholds,” were recovered by the military in operations yesterday and Tuesday.

One of the buildings is the “tallest in the area, overlooking the city where they’ve established a machinegun nest and sniper nest,” he said.

Arevalo said the Maute members are still occupying “many” buildings in the city but could not give exact figures.

The fighting broke out last May 23 when Maute members fought it out with government forces out to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, senior leader of the Abu Sayyaf which has pledged allegiance

to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria like the Maute. Hapilon has reportedly been anointed by the ISIS as its head in Southeast Asia.

The fighting has so far killed 206 Maute members, 58 soldiers and policemen, and 26 civilians. About 200 soldiers and policemen were also wounded in the conflict.

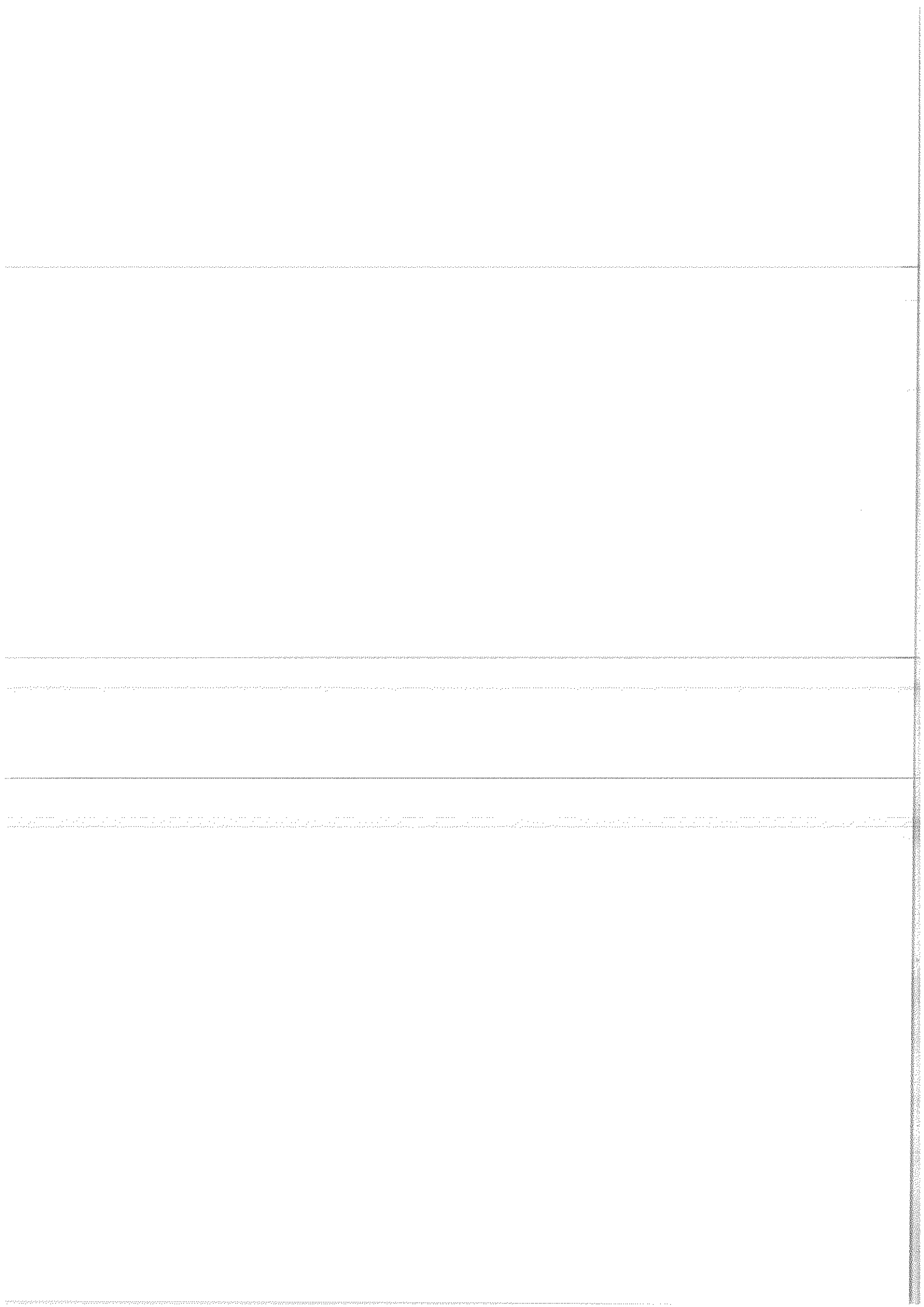
“We are nearing its ending, meaning we are nearing the conclusion (of the operations). We are in the final stage of our operations in Marawi... We’re getting close to it, we’re getting nearer (in accomplishing the job),” said Arevalo.

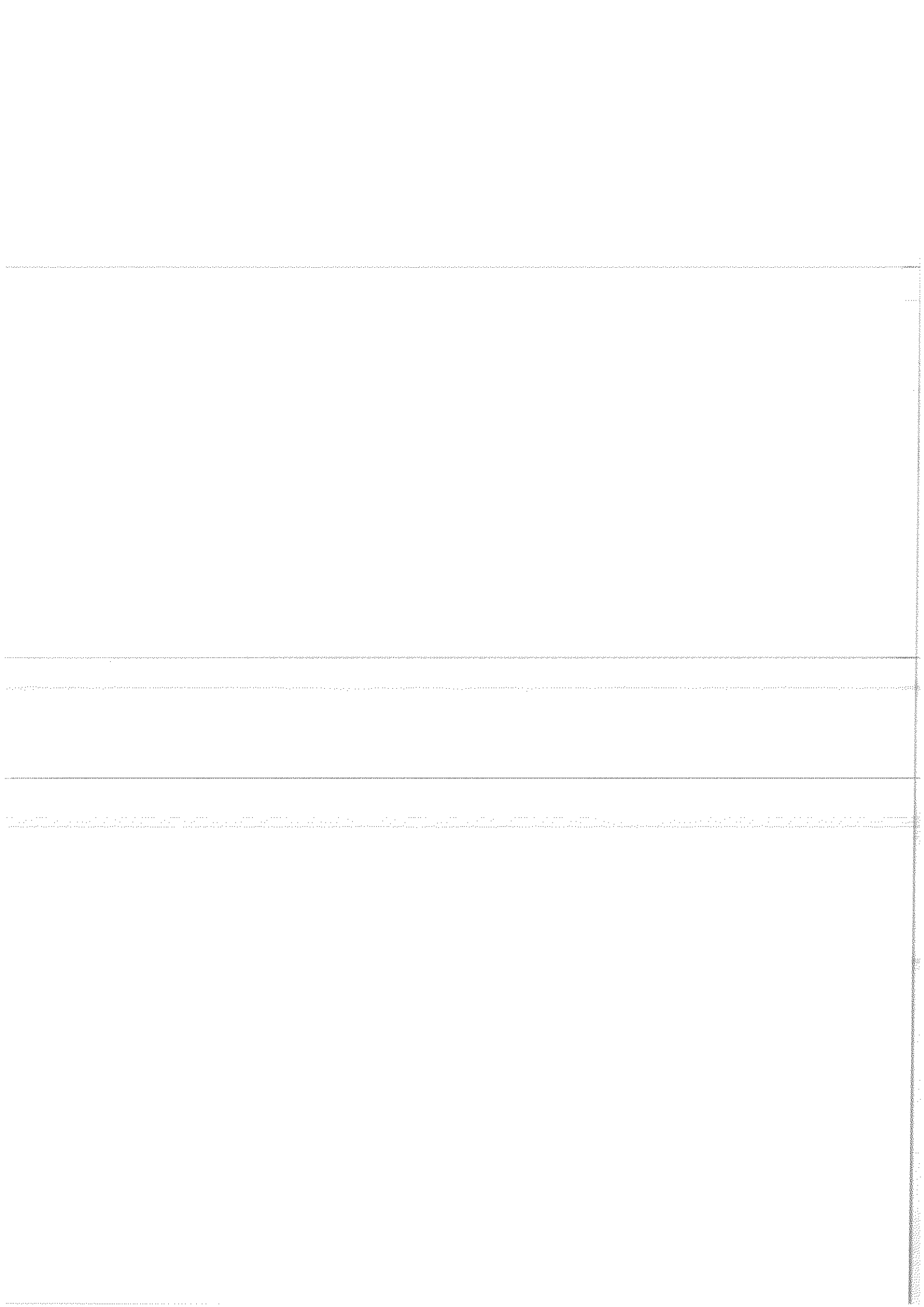
Arevalo also said enemy resistance continues to dwindle “but we are not going to take this lightly.”

“We cannot be imprudent. We have to be very careful with our actions because there are still civilians in the area, they have hostages, trapped civilians... We’re very careful, we are inching our way forward in order to ensure the attainment of our three-fold objective,” he said.

The three objectives are to clear the city of Maute members and degrade their capability to launch more attacks, rescue

.....
See SOLDIERS > Page B6





SOLDIERS

civilians who are trapped and being held captive by the group, and set the condition for reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi.

“We are now looking at the third option because we see that we are nearing the conclusion of this conflict,” said Arevalo.

Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said military will no longer set any deadline for clearing Marawi City, and will instead focus on liberating the city at the soonest time possible.

Padilla urged the public to be patient, explaining there are challenges that confront the troops on the ground.

“So it will entail a bit of time before we clear every house of any armed element,” he said.

The AFP has set target dates or several deadlines, the last of which was on Independence Day,

June 12.

“We will not set deadlines. We will ensure that we are able to clear it of any armed element that still exists and it may take some time,” Padilla said.

Padilla also said that the military is now monitoring close to 80 social media accounts that are allegedly being used by the Maute-Abu Sayyaf group and efforts are being taken to take down these accounts. He declined to provide more details but said it is possible that only one person or group is handling all the media accounts.

The Department of Information Communication and Technology (DICT) on Tuesday said government forces were set to arrest at least one person for “cyber sedition” in connection with the attack in Marawi.

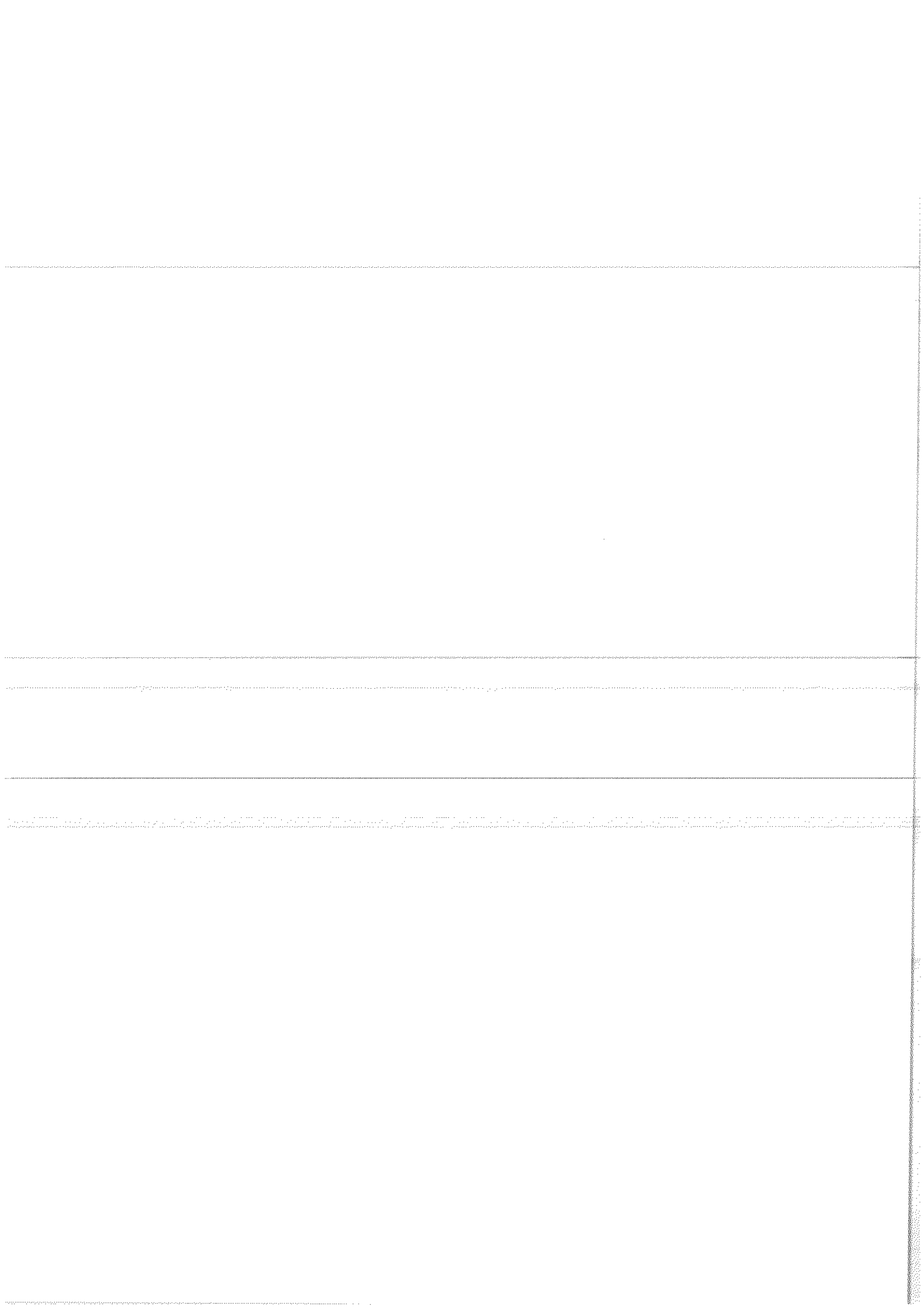
The military last week said that it has asked Facebook Philippines to take down 63 accounts being used by the Maute and the Abu Sayyaf

and their sympathizers to spread propaganda.

Padilla appealed to the public to unite against terrorism and to condemn what has been happening in Marawi City which he said is no longer a simple matter but a “fight between good and evil.”

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella echoed Padilla’s call, saying Filipinos must set aside differences and make a united stand against terrorism.

“This is no longer intramurals within ourselves, but we need to be united against a common enemy. And in the words of the general (Padilla), it’s a fight between good and evil... Our sovereignty is being confronted and I believe it’s time to set aside petty politics and the things that separate us. It’s really high time and I believe it’s a call to the Filipino nation to be able to stand together as one. It’s high time we do that,” he said. — *With Jocelyn Montemayor*



15 June 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: A10

Armed US troops support AFP operations in Marawi

By Philip C. Tubeza
@pctubezaINQ

US Special Forces are providing crucial battlefield information to Filipino military commanders directing the fight against terrorists in Marawi City, a military spokesperson said on Wednesday.

"There are some US personnel who are operating equipment to provide information on situation awareness to our troops," Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, told reporters.

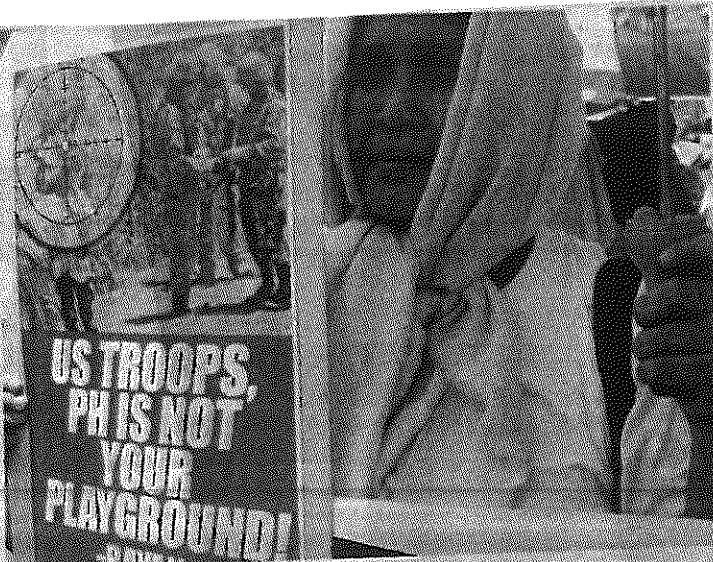
"I do not know the exact number and the specific mission. They are allowed to carry rifles for self-defense. But they are not allowed to fight. They only provide support," Padilla said.

No boots on the ground

The AFP had previously said the United States was providing technical assistance to end the occupation of parts of Marawi by terrorists allied to the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in the Middle East, but it had no boots on the ground.

It was not clear how close to the battle zone the US troops were.

"This is what you need to understand. In a battle or a place of battle, the most important thing for a commander is to know what is happening in the entire area. That is called 'situational awareness,'" Padilla said.



ANTI-US RALLY Protesters condemn the US role in the military's fight against terrorists in Marawi City during an Independence Day rally in Manila. Military officials, however, say US assistance is limited to providing battlefield information. —BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

"The assistance that (the Americans) are giving is about that," he added.

Padilla said the US troops were helping the military's Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) in fighting Abu Sayyaf bandits before they were transferred to Marawi to help fight Maute terrorists.

The US military used to run its Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines in Zamboanga City to provide training and technical assistance to Filipino troops fighting Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The task force was deacti-

vated in February 2015 after a bungled police counterterrorism operation in Mamasapano, Maguindanao province, that cost the lives of 44 US-trained police commandos, but a small number of US Special Forces remained to help in the fight against the bandits.

Same command

"The Western Mindanao Command is just one command and the Americans were there to help go after the Abu Sayyaf but they were focused on Jolo, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and nearby areas," Padilla said.

"Now that there's fighting in Marawi, that capacity was just transferred to help ground commanders in Marawi," he added.

Padilla noted that Marawi was also under Westmincom's jurisdiction.

"So, they're still supporting the same commander so it was not complicated," he added.

Padilla said the number of US troops in Marawi was "very small."

"It's just those who are helping operate the machine and those who maintain it," he said.

Padilla did not name the equipment, but said the AFP still did not have the capability similar to the technical assistance provided by the US Special Forces.

"The point here is we don't have that capability. We are now in the process of obtaining such a capability. We are now trying to buy those machines that will give us that capacity," he said.

US drone crashed

A US official in Washington, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United States was providing a P-3 surveillance plane as well as intelligence gathering from a drone.

That drone, however, crashed on Saturday after it lost communication links with its operator, the official said.

Padilla said the United States was providing assistance through the Mutual Defense Board-Security Engagement

Board (MDB-SEB), which was created under the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty.

"This is the mechanism where we had exchanges and requests were made," he added.

Gen. Eduardo Año, the AFP chief of staff, heads the MDB-SEB with a counterpart four-star general from the US Pacific Command.

When asked about pictures on social media showing Caucasian men in civilian clothes carrying rifles in Marawi, Padilla said: "They also need to protect themselves."

"They are not involved in the actual fighting but if (Maute terrorists) are able to breach our defenses and slip in, they also need to protect themselves so we allowed them to [carry firearms]," Padilla said.

"So, it's only up to that. They are not involved in the fighting. They are just helping in providing (battlefield) information to our troops," he added.

When asked about President Duterte's statement that he was not aware of the Americans' involvement, Padilla said: "I don't know but all information from us below are given to those at the top so that these could be distributed to our leaders."

Adm. Scott Swift, commander of the US Pacific Fleet, was in the Philippines for a four-day visit that ended on Wednesday.

—WITH REPORTS FROM DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN AND REUTERS INQ

15 June 2017



Page: 1

US troops on ground in Marawi, but not fighting – military

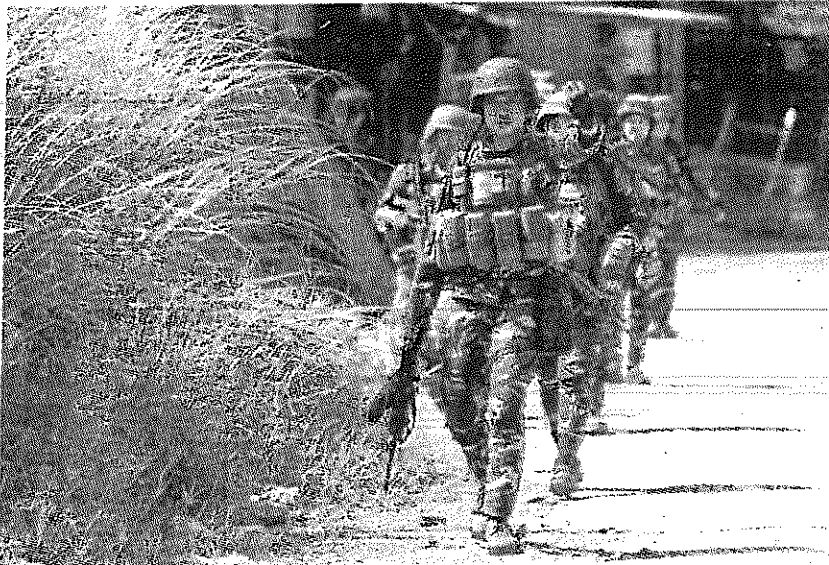
By Mario J. Mallari
and Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

US troops are on the ground near Marawi City, but are not involved in fighting Islamist militants who have held parts of the war-ravaged city for more than three weeks, a military official yesterday said, giving the most detailed

account of their role.

The small number of US soldiers are providing vital surveillance assistance and, although they do not have a combat role, are allowed to open fire on the militants if attacked first, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla yesterday said.

Turn to page 2



A soldier gestures while patrolling a deserted street in Marawi City. Thousands of troops, advised by US special forces, are locked in fierce combat with hundreds of insurgents who overran the Mindanao city last May 23, flying black flags of the Islamic State group and using up to 2,000 civilians as human shields.

AFP

"In a battle the most important item for the commander is to be able to determine what is happening," he added as Padilla confirmed that men in civilian clothes caught by a television camera flying drones from a pickup truck were US troops.

"It's called situational awareness and that is the sort of assistance being given."

The Philippine military has for over three weeks been engaged in fierce battles with hundreds of militants, who have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, in Marawi City.

The fighting has left 202 gunmen dead, while 58 soldiers and 26 civilians have also been killed, according to the government.

The militants have withstood a relentless bombing campaign that has made parts of Marawi, the most important Islamic city in the mainly Catholic Philippines, resemble war-devastated cities in Iraq and Syria.

The Philippines and the United States are longtime allies and are bound by a Mutual Defense Treaty.

American troops have since 2002 rotated on short-term deployments in Mindanao to provide intelligence and counter-terrorism training to local troops.

According to Padilla, said that military cannot simply sideline the technical help provided to them by US troops.

He also admitted that it was the AFP that asked for US support which "surprised" President Rodrigo Duterte.

"It's true. We asked for help, requested for their presence in Mindanao and give us the support we need simply because we lack the technical capacity that (Americans) have," he stressed.

"The point really here is that we do not have the advanced capacity for warfares. We are merely on the process of acquiring them," he added.

The military official also slammed critics for bloating and intriguing the help provided by the US.

Last weekend, Mr. Duterte said he was not aware that US soldiers were helping in Marawi, while making a frank admission that his military favored close ties with the United States.

"I never approached America for help," the President told reporters in a briefing in Cagayan de Oro City.

AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.

"I am not aware of that until they arrived," he added.

There used to be about 600 American troops in the south at any one time but the operations were scaled down in 2014.

The issue of US troops in the Philippines has become extremely sensitive since Mr. Duterte became president last year and sought to downgrade his nation's military alliance with the United States in favor of China.

The President has repeatedly called for American troops to leave the Philippines.

But "our soldiers are pro-American, that I cannot deny," Mr. Duterte said.

The US Embassy announced at the weekend that special operations forces were providing assistance in Marawi, but gave no details.

Defense partnership

A top-ranking United States Navy official, meanwhile, visited Manila and met with senior Defense and military officers to reaffirm the US' continued commitment to support the Philippine government in facing security challenges, including terrorism amid the ongoing siege in Marawi City.

In a statement, the US Embassy said Adml Scott, with, commander of the US Pacific Fleet, met with Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año, and Philippine Navy Flag Officer in-Command Vice Adm. Ronald Mercado.

During the meeting, Swift stressed the US Pacific Fleet's commitment to addressing shared regional security concerns including counter-terrorism and piracy, while highlighting the strong defense ties between the US and the Philippines.

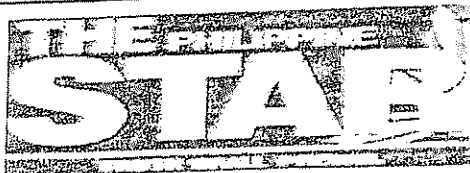
"The Philippine Navy is a valued and enduring ally of the US Navy and a close partner of the Pacific Fleet," said Swift.

AFP

345-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

AIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

15 June 2017



Page: 4

AFP wraps up probe on 'friendly fire'

By ALEXIS ROMERO

The military panel tasked to probe the bungled air strike that left 10 soldiers dead has completed its investigation and might have found lapses during the operation, an official said yesterday.

Armed Force of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the report and recommendations of the board of inquiry have been submitted to AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año.

While he has not read the report, Padilla said it is possible that the board had observed lapses in some units and individuals.

"There could be lapses and what may have happened on the ground is because of the immediate requirements that our commanders wanted from units. When the fight was going on, so many units came to provide assistance in addressing the threats that were present in certain sectors," Padilla said in a press briefing in Malacañang.

"In the case of this accident, what we do know is that there were several units. One was tasked to maintain that area but then reinforcements from another unit came and that unit was a small unit that was reporting to this unit," he added.

Padilla clarified that the board of inquiry report only focused on the cause of the accident.

"The board of inquiry is a body that was created to immediately look into the possible cause. But they are not going to do a detailed investigation. So the recommendations may entail some units to do more detailed investigations. So that is as far as the Board of Inquiry is concerned," the military spokesman said.

In a separate interview, Padilla told the *ABS-CBN News Channel* that there might have been "many lapses" on the part of the ground troops and partly on the use of assets.

He also cited the complexity of the battle environment when the air strike was conducted.

"One of the things that came out from the report is that troops were assigned to units that they did not belong to for a long time," Padilla said. – **With Michael Punongbayan**

28

15 June 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B1

'Friendly fire' investigation completed

BY VICTOR REYES

THE military fact-finding board has concluded its inquiry into the May 31 accident involving an Air Force attack plane that killed 10 soldiers and wounded seven others during a bombing run aimed at members of the Maute Group in Marawi City.

Maj. Gen. Rafael Valencia, the AFP's inspector general and chairman of the Board of Inquiry, tasked to look into the incident, said the board submitted the results to AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año last Friday.

"What I know is he already read it," Valencia said.

Asked if the "friendly fire" incident was the result of human error or materiel failure, Valencia declined to give details of the report, saying it will affect ongoing operations in Marawi.

"We don't want to endanger the lives of our troops. Actually, that is actually one of my recommendations to the chief of staff -- hold the release of the report for the

See FRIENDLY > Page B6

FRIENDLY

meantime," said Valencia.

Pressed if someone will be held accountable for the incident, Valencia just said, "We have a recommendation for appropriate action by the major services."

Valencia said the inquiry that was conducted was wide-ranging. "We presented the facts... We looked what happened in the air, what happened on the ground."

AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said the board recommended further investigation, including by the Philippine Air Force, on the incident. The Air Force owns the involved SF-260 aircraft.

The SF-260, after three successful runs on May 31, delivered a fourth bomb in support of engaged troops. But instead of hitting the enemy, the wayward bomb landed on the position of the soldiers.

The military initially reported that 11 soldiers died in the friendly fire incident but later clarified there were only 10 fatalities. The 11th soldier died in a separate incident on the same day.

Arevalo, asked if there was pilot error, said, "The Air Force is in a better position to determine... it's pilot error, if it's equipment failure, if the problem is with the aircraft."

Arevalo would not disclose the other recommendations of the

board.

"Information about this (inquiry), it will reveal some of our operational details... They will endanger the lives of our people as well our equipment that is still deployed in the area," he said.

Arevalo said the BOI proceeded with the inquiry with caution, noting that some of those interviewed are still in the frontline. "We saw the pressure on them but nonetheless, they have to perform and continue with their mission," he said.

He said the AFP, like the public, is interested in knowing what really happened during the May 31 incident, to ensure that there will be no repeat of the "very painful experience."

15 June 2017



Page: A2

MARTIAL LAW DECLARATION

TOP DND, AFP OFFICIALS READY TO FACE COURT

By Philip C. Tubeza
@pctubezaINQ

The top defense and military officials are prepared to explain to the Supreme Court why President Duterte declared martial law, the spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines said on Wednesday.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año are on standby to appear before the high tribunal, which is hearing oral arguments on several petitions questioning the constitutionality of Mr. Duterte's May 23 proclamation respond-

ing to the Islamic State-allied Maute group's rampage in Marawi City, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, the AFP spokesperson, told reporters.

"I definitely can tell you that they're prepared to answer every question the justices make. The government is one in this. Whatever is required, we will provide," Padilla said.

"We support whatever process is currently ongoing and if we need to be resource persons as well... we will be there," he said.

Magistrates at the start of the court hearing on Tuesday raised the question of whether the declaration should be limit-

ed to Marawi, noting that other places in Mindanao remained peaceful.

Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio pointed out that the 1987 Constitution allows the imposition of martial law only in places where there is actual rebellion.

Padilla declined to comment on Carpio's assertion, which was also shared by Associate Justice Marvic Leonen.

"If you will allow, I will not answer those because those are part of the arguments that will be done in the Supreme Court. Let's allow our leaders to answer that," Padilla said. INQ

15 June 2017

The Manila Times

Page: 1

LORENZANA, AÑO READY TO DEFEND MARTIAL LAW

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Eduardo Año are ready to face the Supreme Court in oral arguments on the petitions to nullify President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao, the military

spokesman said on Wednesday.

Lorenzana is the administrator and Año the implementor of martial law in Mindanao, which the President declared on May 23 after hostilities broke out between government forces and extremist

► DefendA2

gunmen in Marawi City.

During the "Mindanao Hour" news briefing in Malacanang, AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said the military establishment was willing to join the oral arguments concerning Duterte's declaration of martial law

"We support whatever process that is currently ongoing and if we need to be resource persons elsewhere, including the Supreme Court, we will be there," Padilla told reporters.

"If [they are] requested by the Supreme Court, I guess the chief

of staff himself and the secretary of National Defense will be there and talk about whatever it is the justices want to clarify," he added.

During the oral arguments on Wednesday, Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno ordered Lorenzana and Año to participate in the oral

arguments on the petitions asking the high court to invalidate the martial law declaration.

Sereno issued the directive following a request by petitioner Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman for Lorenzana and Año to attend the afternoon session of Wednesday's

hearing, after the top magistrate enumerated the documents that the Office of Solicitor General must submit.

Solicitor General Jose Calida, who represents the government, initially balked at the order, saying he did not see the purpose of requiring

Lorenzana and Año to appear.

Calida eventually agreed to present the officials but asked that any presentations they make be in executive session, which Lagman objected to, saying that during the closed-door briefing on martial law given to the House, no classified information was divulged.

The request for an executive session will be decided on Thursday.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE

15 June 2017



Page: A8

GOVT MISSES OUT ON GROWTH OF TERRORIST GROUPS

By Jason Gutierrez
@newshound16

MARAWI CITY—As black smoke billows behind lush palm groves, tanks rumble past graceful minarets and bullets rain on empty streets, the question of how a small group of fighters once dismissed by President Duterte as a mere bunch of drug traffickers can seize territory overnight and keep the military at bay for weeks stares government officials in the face.

When the previously little known Maute group and a faction of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group led by Isnilon Hapilon pledged allegiance to Islamic State (IS), the military played it down as propaganda aimed at winning financial support from the jihadist network in Iraq and Syria.

Martial law

But when the Maute group and Hapilon's band rampaged through Marawi on May 23, seizing and executing Christians, desecrating a cathedral and abducting its priest and followers, and laying siege to the city, President Duterte declared martial law not just in Marawi but in all of Mindanao and suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus on the entire island.

He sent in the military, which found not just a bunch of bandits and narcotraffickers but a well-armed militant force defending seized territory and ready to fight to the death to keep it.

Surprised, the military threw in artillery, armor and attack planes into the fight, sending the more than 200,000 residents fleeing and reducing the city into rubble.

Denial

As the siege of Marawi entered its fourth week on Tuesday, more than 200 people had been killed and much of the city lay in ruins.

The strongest attempt yet by IS supporters to seize and hold territory in Southeast Asia has turned into an urban street fight in what is now largely a ghost town.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

“For years, there has been a long denial by the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) of the influence of the Islamic State on the Maute group and Abu Sayyaf,” said professor Julkipli Wadi, who has studied Islamist militancy at the University of the Philippines’ Institute of Islamic Studies.

“The AFP then was plagued by dilemma. If it recognized that early the role of IS in the Maute group, it would have given them what they had long wanted—attention,” Wadi told the Inquirer.

It was a “serious quandary,” as acknowledging the group “would mean [boosting its] image,” which IS could see as a reason to view the Maute as a serious ally in Southeast Asia, Wadi said.

Led by Middle East-educated brothers—Omarkhayam and Abdullah Maute—their group first engaged the government in Lanao del Sur last year, but was pushed back after days of skirmishes.

But the group followed up hard, setting off a bomb at a popular night market in Davao City, Mr. Duterte’s hometown, in September last year, killing 15.

Focus on drugs

Though brutal, the attack merited only little attention in the intelligence community, as the national agenda remained focused on Mr. Duterte’s war on drugs.

That obsessive concentration also made the government miss out on the Maute’s rise as a group of militants aiming to carve an Islamist province out of Philippine territory in Mindanao.

“When they were going around here and telling people to fight for Islamic State, many of us told them to take their fight to the mountains,” a former teacher of Omarkhayam Maute said. “Not in the city, where Muslims and Christians have long coexisted.”

When the Mautes and the black-clad fighters allied with Hapilon seized much of Marawi on May 23, the teacher said he thought the fighting would end quickly.

“We were mistaken,” the teacher said. “The city is now destroyed.” —WITH A REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – E

m – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

15 June 2017

Manila Standard

Page: 41

Martial law an extra measure to stop terror—SolGen

By Rey E. Requejo

THE government asked the Supreme Court to throw out petitions questioning the declara-

tion of martial law in Mindanao Thursday, saying that President Rodrigo Duterte needed “extraordinary measures” to fight local terrorists who want to es-

tablish a province or “wilayah” under an Islamic State caliphate. In oral arguments for petitions asking the Court to junk Duterte’s martial law declara-

tion, Solicitor General Jose Calida said the government could not “sit idly by and watch as the country is dismembered.”

Next page

Martial...

From A1

“We are at war with an enemy that does not respect the laws and principles we live by. We are at war with an enemy that seeks to destroy our way of life and force its twisted ideology upon our people,” Calida said. “These are extraordinary times, they require extraordinary measures.”

Three groups have asked the court to nullify Duterte’s declaration of martial law and suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, arguing that there was not enough factual basis to put the entire island of Mindanao under martial law.

But Calida said the President needed “a more expansive authority” to quell the rebellion by the Maute group. He claimed the group had joined forces with the Ansarul Khilafah Philippines, Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, and the Abu Sayyaf Group.

The solicitor general also warned against tying the President’s hands, saying this would hurt the government’s ability to end the rebellion in Mindanao.

Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio questioned Calida on whether there was indeed rebellion elsewhere in Mindanao. Carpio said terrorism could not automatically be considered an act of rebellion, but could lead to it.

Calida told the justices of the Supreme Court that the Marawi City attack was part of a bigger plot to establish an Islamic State in the Philippines.

“The crisis in Marawi is not an isolated incident; it is part of a

bigger plot to establish an Islamic State. This is not only a display of Maute’s force but a siege of power,” Calida said.

“The rebels seized Marawi not just with the intention of striking fear. They wanted to establish a caliphate and dismember Marawi,” Calida added.

According to Calida, elements of rebellion—raising arms against the government and culpable purpose of removing allegiance from the government—were present in the crisis that required the President to use his power to declare martial law.

“When he [Duterte] saw gravity of rebellion, he had to act swiftly and decisively to save Marawi... Were it not for the President’s swift action, the rebels would’ve established a stronghold in the heart of Mindanao,” he said.

Asked why the entire Mindanao had to be covered by the martial law declaration, Calida said the Maute group had links with other rebel groups such as the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and the Abu Sayyaf.

“The seeds of rebellion were already planted in different parts of Mindanao. Public safety requires the declaration of martial and suspension of privilege of habeas corpus not just in Marawi but in entire Mindanao,” Calida said.

Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno inquired why was there need to declare martial law when the President already has power to call out the military to stop the siege.

Calida said the President wanted a stronger action to stop the rebellion.

“That’s the judgment call of the President; he alone was vested with such power,” Calida said. “When

he [President] saw the gravity of the rebellion he had to act decisively and therefore he chose martial law [as a] tool to save Marawi from total capture by the rebels. I do not understand why petitioners are afraid of martial law.”

“The Constitution bestows full authority to declare [martial law] on the President and no one else. The President is only expected to make decisions based on information given to him before decision is made,” he added.

Calida also disparaged alleged human rights abuses raised by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Lanao del Sur chapter.

“President Duterte’s order of martial law is markedly different from that issued by President Marcos,” he said, referring to the late strongman Ferdinand E. Marcos.

Calida also said the petitions had defects, citing their failure to specify the remedy being invoked for the Supreme Court to review the factual bases of the martial law proclamation.

During Wednesday’s continuation of interpellation of the petitioners, Associate Justice Noel Tijam said that there is nothing reprehensible with the power of martial law under the 1987 Constitution.

But lawmaker-petitioner Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman told the justices that it is President Duterte who they do not trust to follow and respect the law and Constitution.

Lagman also said constitutional safeguards against abuse “will only be good in the hands of a President that respects the law and the Constitution.”

Lagman insisted that martial law should only be the last resort in curbing violence in the country.

“If we read the Constitution, the action, the response of the President would be calibrated: call the Armed Forces of the Philippines to subdue lawless violence, invasion and rebellion, if it fails, next is suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus,” Lagman said, adding that if the two measures fail, only then can the President declare martial law.

The three-day oral arguments will continue today when Calida returns for more questioning by the justices.

The Court ordered Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año to attend the continuation of oral arguments Thursday.

Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno issued the directive after Lagman moved that the Court require their presence in Thursday’s hearing.

Sereno also required Solicitor General Jose Calida to submit pertinent documents, which she enumerated during the oral arguments.

Lorenzana is the martial law administrator while Año is the martial law implementor.

Sereno said the Court was open to having Lorenzana and Año in an executive session in deference to the sensitive information they may share.

The military said it was ready to participate in the ongoing oral arguments.

“We support whatever process that is currently ongoing and if we need to be resource persons elsewhere, including the Supreme Court, we will be there,” Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said in a Palace briefing.

15 June 2017

The Manila Times

Page: 47

Youngest soldier killed in Marawi comes home

LEGAZPI CITY: Marine Private Bernie John Lunas, 21, from Barangay Hindi, Bacacay town in Albay, one of the youngest of 13 Marines killed in action on June 9 in battle-scarred Marawi City has come home.

Bernie, who turned 21 last April 5, was the second son of Barangay Captain Juan and Jocelyn Lunas. The couple has three other children.

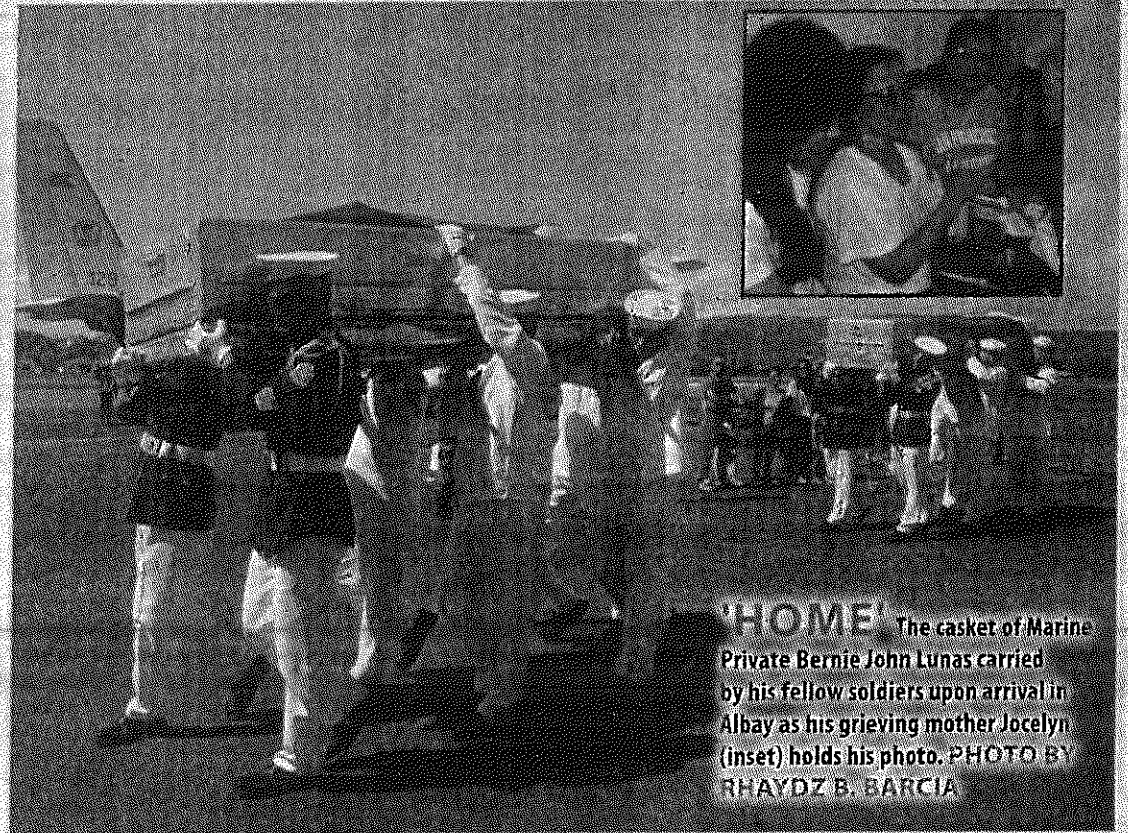
Cut down in his prime by a cruel war, Bernie was like any other young man from a family of modest means. An artist, he had dreamed of being an architect one day.

He took the entrance exams at Bicol University in Legazpi but did not make the cut because there was a quota for architecture. Instead, he enrolled in industrial design so he could shift to architecture later. Taking advantage of all opportunities available to him, Bernie also attended a Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) program in San Francisco, Malilipot town but was encouraged by a kababayanan (townmate) to enlist in the military service.

Last Christmas Day, he went to Metro Manila to report to Fort Bonifacio and from there he was sent to Ternate, Cavite for military training.

His aunt, Evangelina Lunas-Baseloña, told *The Manila Times* that Bernie would have graduated in August from the rigid training at the Marine Corps.

She added that Bernie went home three times from the time he started military training. "His last visit to his family was last April during Holy Week break just before going through another schooling to be promoted." Private Bernie was first as-



'HOME' The casket of Marine Private Bernie John Lunas carried by his fellow soldiers upon arrival in Albay as his grieving mother Jocelyn (inset) holds his photo. PHOTO BY RHAYDZ B. BARCIA

signed to Marine Battalion Landing Team 7 in Sultan Kudarat but two weeks before completing his schooling he was pulled out on June 4 and sent to Marawi.

Six months before his death, Bernie posted a photo on his FB wall with signage **FEATURE** 37th Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team-7, Kalamansig Sultan Kudarat. Its caption – "die to be a hero."

On Monday, Independence Day, Bernie's father and his three younger siblings proceeded to Tactical Operations Group 5-Philippine Air Force headquarters along with other relatives and friends including Mayor Dinky Romano of Bacacay town to bring Bernie back home.

Like the other 12 Marines who fell in Marawi City, Bernie is home, a hero. But to his family and friends, it was not the homecom-

ing they would have expected for this young man in uniform.

On Tuesday, Bernie's father made the last journey home from Manila with his son as well as Bernie's brother-in-arms Marine Cpl. Roland Sumagpang of Ocampo, Camarines Sur.

Their remains were flown home to Legazpi City on a C-295 flown by Philippine Air Force first woman pilot-in-command Maj. Geraldine Abigail Matienzo and co-pilot Maj. Floraine Reyes.

The fallen heroes were given arrival honors by members of the Southern-Luzon Naval Forces led by Navforsol deputy commander Capt. Toribio Adaci Jr.

At home, Bernie's mother Jocelyn and elder brother Aron John, 22, who recently passed the certified public accountancy board, silently waited for him.

Jocelyn could not come to terms with Bernie's fate. She said the last time she talked to her son was on the night of June 8. "I was praying so hard for his safety and that the conflict in Mindanao will be resolved soon. That like the other young soldiers, he would be home soon," she told *The Manila Times*.

On June 9, a Marine officer called her up saying that something happened to Bernie. Just like any mother, she held on, kept praying, hoping that her son was only wounded in the firefight. But the Marine officer gently broke the news – Bernie was one of 13 soldiers killed in action against the Maute group.

"My son was part of the clearing team in Marawi City when killed by the terrorists. I prayed hard that he will make it home to us," she said in between sobs.

RHAYDZ B. BARCIA

15 June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Fallen Mountain Province Marine leaves grieving family, 2-year-old son

By LARRY P. FABIAN

BAGUIO CITY – Private First Class Gener Tinangag never said anything about the hardship of his work as one of the Marines who risked his life in war-torn Marawi City at the height of the fighting between the government troops and the Mante Group last week.

“It’s okay now. At least my younger sister finished college” were the last words of the young Marine, according to his comrades, who then relayed them to his eldest sister Novelyn. ▶4



FALLEN MARINE – An honor guard stands vigil beside the casket of Pfc. Gener Tinangag at the St. Peter’s Chapel in Baguio City before his remains are transported back to his hometown in Kadaclan, Mountain Province. Tinangag, who was among the Marines killed in the Marawi City crisis, left behind a two-year-old son and a family in grief. (Larry P. Fabian)

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

Novelyn described her brother as a sturdy young man, well focused in his responsibilities to his family, but he would not be dissuaded from his wanting to join the Marines.

"It's a job and I am going to take it. Don't worry. If it's God's will for me to die as a Marine, so be it. Everybody has to face death in their lifetime," Pfc Tinangag told Novelyn and their mother when he learned that he was going to be stationed in Cotabato after his finishing his Marine basic training in Taguig.

His mother Marcia said she pleaded with him to finish his studies as a fourth year criminology student at the University of Baguio. She said her son only needed to finish one semester, a few months of on-the-job training (OJT), and then he would graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Criminology degree. But when he passed the exam at the Marine recruitment unit, he focused on joining the corps.

"He was so eager to work and help his siblings to finish their education, and he was also about to become a father to his now two-year-old son," Marcia recalled.

"Ma, I do not like hunting for a job later after graduation," was his answer to me," said his mother.

"I never thought he would be gone so soon, but now it is real," she said. She added that she and her husband are still devastated over the death of their only son.

His father, Aram Tinangag, went ahead to their hometown in Kadaclan,

Barlig, Mountain Province, to arrange for the burial site for their son, Marcia said. Pfc Tinangag, 24, left his wife Jasmin Joy and two-year-old son Clark Mayner.

His comrades lauded him for his bravery in saving several wounded fellow Marines in the battlefield before he was shot by a sniper bullet during the Marine operation in Marawi. He was among the 13 Marines who lost their lives that day.

Sister Novelyn said his death pains their family so much. He was the only male in a brood of five. "He was the third child. I never had any problems with him. He was always obedient, and focused on helping his family," she added.

"We shared financial responsibilities in our younger siblings' education, that is why maybe his last words were about our sister Jet, who recently graduated from college with a BS in Political Science," Novelyn said.

Novelyn added that before the Marawi incident, Pfc Tinangag was eager to have his few days vacation to see his family and son, whom he missed so much.

"I do not know how little Mayner can handle this," Novelyn said. "Before we learned of his death, his son was heard saying, 'Papa Boom,'"

"His comrades who rescued him said that he was still breathing when they carried him to the ambulance, after which he said to his comrades his last words before expiring at the hospital," Novelyn said.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

5 June 2017



Page: A10

PROPAGANDA WAR

AFP SHUTS DOWN 10 OF TERRORISTS' SOCMED ACCOUNTS

By Philip C. Tubeza
@pctubezaINQ

The Armed Forces of the Philippines had "more than 10" social media accounts closed down for spreading propaganda from terrorists who had besieged Marawi City, a military spokesperson said on Wednesday.

Brig Gen Restituto Padilla said the military also wanted to arrest the people behind the accounts, which the AFP had been closely monitoring and whose numbers had grown from 63 to "nearly 80," the majority on Facebook.

"We have touched base with social media companies to request their assistance to put down sites that are fomenting disinformation and discord, as well as violence," Padilla said, adding that these companies had provided "very good assistance."

"As soon as a determination has been made that these accounts are actually being used for the purposes that I said, then it is brought down immediately," he said.

"But the point is, it only solves the closing of the account. The individuals behind those accounts are the more important targets of our operation," he added.

Cybersedition

The AFP would go after the people behind the accounts and charge them with "cybersedition," he said.

Padilla declined to name the suspects because they might flee and go into hiding if they were publicly identified. "Let's not give them that benefit," he said.

The official said the military would go after people clearly "supporting" the gunmen belonging to the Abu Sayyaf and the Maute group who have sworn allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) and have been battling government forces in Marawi for the past three weeks.

The gunmen are led by Isnilon Hapilon, the supposed leader of IS in Southeast Asia. The United States has offered a \$5-million reward for his capture.

Information Technology Secretary Rodolfo Salalima on Tuesday said the government would soon arrest people spreading terrorist propaganda online for "cybersedition."

"You do sedition when you incite people via cyber or via internet," Salalima told reporters in Malacañang.

He said "more than one" cybersedition suspects had been identified but declined to give details. INQ

15 June 2017

Manila Standard

Page: 41

Liberate Marawi takes time — military

By John Paolo Bencito

AFTER missing several deadlines to clear Marawi City of Maute group terrorists, the military on Wednesday admitted that it may take some time to rid the war-torn city of extremist groups.

"For now, we will not set deadlines," said Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Resituto Padilla. "We will ensure that we will be able to

Next page

Liberate...

From A1

clear [Marawi City] of any armed element that still exists, and it may take some time."

The military also condemned calls by the Islamic State for its followers to launch more attacks in the Philippines and other countries during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

"We are calling for the whole country to unite and not let this happen," Padilla said. "We see the violence happening right now in Marawi. If they will be doing this [to other parts of the country], we need to really watch their movement closely."

In a briefing in Malacañang, Padilla admitted that the military was having problems with urban warfare, where civilians are trapped in the conflict area and may be used by the terrorists as human shields.

"Our rules of engagement are very different in urban terrain. We have to be very careful, we have to be very judicious, we have to be very deliberate so as to avoid [taking] innocent lives," he added.

"And this is where the slow process of liberating Marawi is currently happening. Of the 96 barangays of Marawi, four remain problematic areas where forces of the Maute... group still remain," Padilla said.

Another hindrance is that the terrorists were using Islamic schools and mosques as staging areas and safe havens.

Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez said Tuesday that some 10 barangays were still affected by the conflict that has entered its third week.

On Wednesday, Padilla said four or five barangays was the more accurate assessment.

Padilla also said the military

would not bomb mosques in the ongoing effort to neutralize the Maute group terrorists.

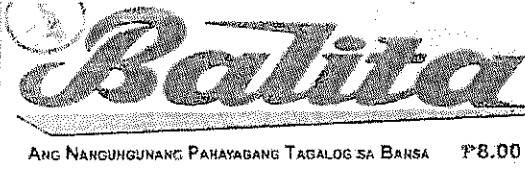
"The Armed Forces leadership is firm in its commitment to use other options that would flush out this Maute... group from these places of worship that they have converted into machine gun and sniper nests, defensive positions, and arsenals for their war activities," he added.

Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, spokesperson of the 1st Infantry Division, earlier said Tuesday that as long as terrorists use mosques as snipers' nest, the mosques would be targeted in order to save lives.

Padilla, however, noted that the military may hit the high areas of mosques if the terrorists use them for snipers.

"If the enemy uses the parapets of the mosque as sniper lairs, we may hit those areas alone but we will not bomb the mosque itself," the military spokesman said.

15 June 2017



Page. 3

Opisyal, 'di kailangang nasa lugar ng digmaan –AFP

Sinabi ng Malacañang at ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) kahapon na hindi kailangang nasa bansa ang matataas na opisyal ng militar para maharap ang pag-atake ng mga terorista sa Marawi City nitong nakaraang buwan.

Inilabas ang pahayag matapos mabunyag na mayroong impormasyon na ang Islamic State (ISIS)-inspired Maute Group, kasama ang Abu Sayyaf Group, ay naghahandang lumusob sa Marawi City, Lanao del Sur.

Kinumpirma ni Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella, sa Mindanao Hour press briefing kahapon ng umaga, na totoong may mga impormasyon ngunit ipinaabot na ito sa ground commanders.

"These matters were going to be related to ground commanders. However, there were sufficient information and the ground commanders themselves had said, 'look, you can travel,'" sabi ni Abella. Ayon kay AFP spokesperson

Restituto Padilla, kailangan ang matataas na opisyal ng militar sa Moscow upang ipakitang seryoso ang bansa sa pakikipag-alyansa sa Russia.

"Historical po yung visit ng pagpunta sa Russia. Kinakailangan pong nandoon 'yung mga pinakamataas na opisyal ng hukbong sandatahan upang ipakita yung commitment na nais nating simulan doon sa pagbubukas ng relasyon na iyon," ani Padilla.

Nasa Moscow si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, kasama si Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana at matataas na opisyal ng militar para lagdaan ang defense agreement sa Russia nang maganap ang pag-atake sa Marawi City. Bunsod nito, pumutol ni Duterte ang kanyang pagbisita at agad na umuwi sa Mindanao.

Sinabi ni Padilla na hindi mahalaga kung nandito o nasa ibang bansa ang matataas na opisyal ng AFP dahil mayroong maasahang ground commanders na nakatalaga para

bantayan ang sitwasyon.

"When any kind of trouble erupts anywhere in the Philippines, we have ground commanders who are very competently looking after the security situation in these areas—and we trust their judgment," diin ni Padilla.

Ayon sa opisyal ng AFP, hindi kailangang nandoon mismo sa lugar ng engkuwentro ang opisyal para manduhan ang puwersa.

"It does not necessitate na dapat nandoon ang Chief-of-Staff. It does not necessitate na dapat lahat ng mga may estrella sa kamilang balik at ay naroroon para mag-direct. Hindi po ganoon ang nangyayari. Dapat po nandoon ang ground commander na siyang naatasan na mangalaga ng seguridad doon at siya ang gagalaw," paliwanag niya.

"Ang atin pong ground commander, hinarap po ang banta dahil nakuha na nila yung useful intelligence," ani Padilla.

Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos


15 June 2017



Pahina. 4

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

#OgopMarawi



Buong suporta ng sambayanang Filipino ang hinihiling ngayon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines upang imatulongan ang kanilang mga kawal at mga residente ng Marawi City.

Tinawag itong #OgopMarawi na layuning tulongan na makabangon at muling makapagsimula sa kanilang pamumuhay ang mga residente na apektado ng krisis sa lungsod. Layunin din nito na handugan ng tulong ang mga kawal ng sandatahang lakas ng Pilipinas na nagsasakripisyo at nagbubuwis ng kanilang buhay para maibalik ang kaayusan at kapayapaan sa Marawi City.

Ang ibig sabihin ng salitang “ogop” sa Tagalog ay “tulong”. Karapat-dapat lamang na tumugon ang sambayanan sa panawagang ito ng ating Armed Forces of the Philippines.

May tatlong programa sa ilalim ng #OgopMarawi at ito ay ang pagsasagawa ng relief operations sa ating mga kababayan doon, Project Shoebox, at ang “Bayanihan para sa Bayani ng Bayan”.

Layunin ng relief operations na mabigyan ng tulong ang mga residenteng apektado ng sagupaan sa Marawi City na nagsimula noon pang Mayo 23. Ang Project Shoebox naman ay ang pagkaloob ng mga batayang pangangailangan sa paaralan ng mga batang mag-aaral sa Marawi City. Habang ang “Bayanihan para sa Bayani ng Bayan” ay paghahandog ng shoe box sa mga sundalong nasa Marawi na naglalaman ng damit, dalawang pares ng medyas, personal hygiene kit, at isang liham na kumikilala sa kanilang pagsasakripisyo para sa ating bansa.

Damayon, tulongan natin ang ating mga kababayan sa Marawi City. Suportahan din ang ating mga kasundaluhan bilang pagkilala sa kanilang kabayanihan para mapalaya ang Marawi City mula sa kamay ng mga terorista.

15 June 2017

NGAYON

Pahina. 1



Martial law magtatagal pa

MAHIRAP sugpuin ang mga teroristang Maute. Iyan ang pag-amin ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa inilunsad na digmaan laban sa mga teroristang Maute-Isis sa Marawi. Hindi kasi makapag-all-out offensive ang military sa pangambang madadamay ang mga inosenteng sibilyan. Pag nangyari iyan, siguradong gobyerno ang mapuputukan.

Kamakalawa ay lumabas ang balita na bobombahin na ng puwersa ng pamahalaan ang mga mosque dahil dito kumakanlong ang mga Maute. Kapag nangyari iyan,

baka tuluyan nang sumiklab ang isang religious war. Kaya nakapag-isip marahil ang militar. Hindi na nila tatargetin ang mga Mosque.

Ayon kay AFP spokesman B/Gen. Restituto Padilla, inatasan ni AFP chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año ang mga sundalo na huwag bombahin ang mga Mosque na ginagamit na taguan ng Maute group. Siniguro ng AFP sa mga Muslim na patuloy na iginagalang ng military ang lugar dalanginan at huwag maniniwala sa mga sabi-sabing may binombang Mosque sa ika-apat na linggong labanan sa pagitan ng AFP at Maute group.

Iyan ngayon ang dilemma ng gobyerno. Iginagalang nito ang kasagraduhan ng mga mosque na lugar na pinagdarausan ng pagsamba ng mga Muslim.

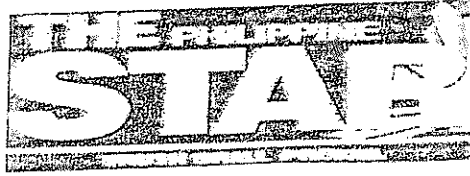
Ang tanong: Paano kung ito ay ginagawang kuta ng mga terorista at pinagiimbakan pa ng mga sandata at bala? Sa tingin ko, hindi naman imposible ang pagbaka sa mga Maute na kumokontrol pa sa 20 porsyento ng Marawi. At least nakikita natin na kahit mabagal ay pumupuntos ang puwersa ng gobyerno. Kaso, yung mga gustong mawala ang martial law ay tila mabibigo

(Sundan sa pahina 5)

AKSYON... Mula p.4 sa inaasam nila

Ang ipanalangin na lang muna natin ay huwag nang umabot pa sa ibang bahagi ng bansa ang nangyayaring terorismo sa Marawi.

15 June 2017



Page: 9

BREAKTHROUGH

ELFREN S. CRUZ

Why Marawi?

Amidst the horrors of the Marawi siege, the one question I ask myself is why the Maute group launched the attack in the first place. Despite its scale and duration, the terrorists in Marawi surely must know that they will eventually be defeated.



If the intention is to grab territory and establish an Islamic caliphate, similar to the ISIS territorial conquests in Iraq and Syria, then a few hundred militants would certainly not be sufficient. The estimated 200 to 300 Maute fighters is very far from being an army.

Previously, the militants stuck to guerrilla warfare which meant attacking only when they had a clear advantage, and, quickly retreating once the advantage was lost. These tactics involved ambushing government troops in remote areas, conducting quick raids or striking urban centers with bombs or other forms of explosives as they did in Davao city last year. In Marawi City, the insurgents are already surrounded and are already being subjected to aerial bombardment. The entry of American assistance has also introduced drone technology into the efforts to locate and eliminate the remaining militants.

During the initial period of the siege, there was a story circulating that the whole situation was the result of an accidental incident. According to initial analysis, government troops tried to capture Hapilon, the Maute group leader, at a house in Marawi city on May 23. The former Abu Sayaff leader and several fighters were able to fight back and evade capture. Supposedly, they called for assistance and more militants entered the city to join the fight. It seems to me that this was already a deviation from their usual tactic. In the past, once they evaded capture, their tactic would be to leave the city before more government troops arrived. Instead, they occupied several buildings, including reportedly the Mindanao State University, and captured several hostages.

Recent news reports state that the administration was aware of the impending attack five days before May 23. This makes the Marawi siege a planned attack. In view of the reaction of the militants to the attempted capture of Hapilon, this seems to be a plausible scenario.

43

Army

national pride

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF P

no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

There seems to be two possible scenarios that the Maute group were hoping to accomplish. The first one is that perhaps the Maute were hoping that their capture of Marawi City would inflame the whole region and inspire other jihadist groups to stage similar uprisings or, at the very least, rally to their support. If this was the goal, then this clearly failed. There haven't been any other uprisings. In fact, other Muslim groups have offered to assist the government in its efforts to end the Marawi siege.

The other more plausible motive is that this attack was a major propaganda effort similar to the ISIS strategy. This could be an effort to attract the younger and less patient members of other jihadist and Muslim groups. Perhaps, like ISIS, the Maute group is trying to convince radical elements among other groups that violence - rather than seeking a political solution - is a much better means in seeking their desired goal.

It can be assumed that the Maute group will try to prolong the siege as long as possible in order to further exploit their propaganda effort and try to attract more members. The best case scenario for the government forces is that eventually they will be able to capture or eliminate the remaining insurgents. The Maute group on the other hand, will try to escape or use their hostages as bargaining chips to allow them to leave Marawi without having to surrender. According to Stratfor, an international think tank, "if the militants can convince their target audience that radical jihad is more effective than politics for gaining greater independence from Manila, then they can portray their stunt in Marawi City as at least a partial success."

After the siege is over, there will be more time for analysis - why Marawi? At this point, it is critical that the Marawi insurgents should not be allowed to claim any form of success.

Terrorism vs. rebellion

My understanding is that there is a difference between jihadists and Islamists. According to Western academics, Islamists aim to reorder government and society in accordance with Islamic law or the Sharia. Jihadists see violent struggle as necessary to eradicate obstacles to restoring "God's rule on Earth and defending the Muslim community against infidels and apostates." Jihadists have targeted even Muslim rulers and governments who they believe have abandoned the prescriptions of Sharia.

The Prophet Muhammad said Muslim armies should do their best to avoid harming children and other non-combatants. But, in 1998 Osama Bin Laden and other jihadist groups signed a declaration of total war against the United States and its allies including the targeting of both soldiers and civilians.

In its broadest sense, terrorism is the intentional use of indiscriminate violence as a means to create terror or fear in order to achieve a political, religious or ideological aim. Rebellion is organized resistance against a government and targets primarily the armed government forces of the existing government. The Philippine Revolution against Spain and the United States is an example of a rebellion or revolution.

I prefer to call the Maute group as terrorists, and the Marawi hostage taking as an act of terrorism.

Creative writing class for adults

Award winning fictionist and former director of the Silliman National Writers Workshop Susan Lara will run a Creative Writing Workshop for adults on June 17, 1:30-4:30 pm. at Fully Booked Bonifacio High Street. For registration and fee details text 0917-6240196 or email writethingsph@gmail.com. Email: elfrencruz@gmail.com

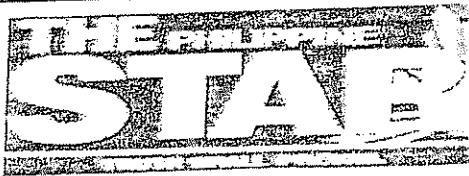
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLI

(02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

Arm

land. 44

15 June 2017



Page: 9

SHOOTING STRAIGHT

BOBIT S. AVILA

An inspiring week of valor and winning gold!

This week has been an inspiring week for me, first because we saw on our Facebook page in time for Independence Day how many of our Filipino soldiers who fought the Maute terror group in Marawi City sacrificed their lives and died so that we can continue with our democratic way of life and stop the Maute group from establishing a Caliphate in our land. Sure the fighting is still on in Marawi, that's because urban warfare is more difficult to fight than fighting in the jungle. We already saw this in Raqqa, Palmyra, and Aleppo in Syria and Mosul in Iraq.



Among the many stories of valor that we saw and read in Marawi City, the most heartrending and memorable is the story of Private First Class (PFC) Dhan Ryan Bayot who with his fellow soldiers were advancing inside the center of Marawi City and came under intense fire. PFC Bayot was wounded and knowing that he could not count on reinforcements as the Maute terrorists already surrounded him, radioed his superior officers "Bomb my location Sir!" We will never forget the exploits of PFC Bayot for he is a real hero, who died on May 24th which was my 66th birthday.

Then ANC came up with the photos of those soldiers who died fighting in Marawi City in what I call a very fitting tribute to the men in arms that fought and died so that we civilians do not need to arm ourselves to fight these terrorists. This is why I loathe watching oppositionist Rep. Edcel Lagman for appearing before the Supreme Court telling the SC and Filipino people that what is happening in Marawi City is not a rebellion and there was no reason for declare Martial Law in Mindanao. Rep. Lagman, someday you will pay the price for your insensitivity and corruption and the Filipino people will be there to see that you get the justice you do not deserve! There will be a day of reckoning for you and your kind sir!

45

OFFICE OF T

Last Monday morning, we all trooped to the Ayala Center's Cinema 5 as Cebuanos were given a rare Independence Day treat by Spyron AV and the Philippine Veterans Bank with the free showing of two documentaries, the first was multi-awarded "Unsundered" the story of the "Hunter's ROTC Guerrillas who were studying at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) who were not conscripted to the USAF to fight the Japanese because they were too young. They became the most active guerrillas fighting the Japanese in Luzon.

The other documentary was "Valor: The Legacy of Col. Emmanuel V. De Ocampo" who at a very young age joined the Hunter's ROTC and fought during the liberation of Rizal, Batangas, Laguna, Cavite and Manila. Then on the next day, I interviewed my good friend, Lucky Guillermo, managing director of the documentaries, Dr. Ricardo Jose, historian and researcher and military historian Jose Custodio on my talkshow, Straight from the Sky. These are the people who tell the stories of valor that should be seen by all Filipinos, especially the millennials who need to know about the bravery of the Filipino soldier.

While we in Cebu have our own guerrilla stories like what my late uncle and local hero Col. Manuel F. Segura would share with me. But one commonality with the Cebu guerrillas and the Hunters ROTC is that, they all belonged to the Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC). Aside from my being an ROTC graduate at the University of San Carlos (USC), stories like what we saw in "Unsundered" with the Hunter's ROTC is the backbone of my belief that we should bring back the ROTC as a compulsory subject in our colleges and universities.

Finally, yesterday, I was blessed to interview also on my TV talkshow Straight from the Sky a rare breed of Filipinos, who are all persons with disabilities (PWD) except for their organizer JP Maunes and coach Christian Sy. At least 7 of the paddlers of the Philippine Accessible Disability Services Inc (PADS) came to My TV studios to have this very emotional interview because they won the Gold Medal for the 60th Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Carnival (PARADRAGON).

We all know that when it comes to sports, Filipinos rarely bag any medals, much more a gold medal. What is remarkable in the PADS story is that the PADS has become the first ever Cross-Disability Dragon Boat Racing Team. Best of all, they won over six international teams of PWDs, but they were the only ones who were 100 percent PWD paddlers! Above all, the PWDs were not really athletes. They only trained for a year and worked hard to hammer themselves into a winning rowing machine!

All the PADS paddlers had various disabilities, including a blind paddler named Marvelous Jorda. I know that PADS had no government support, but surely the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) or even Pres. Ro-

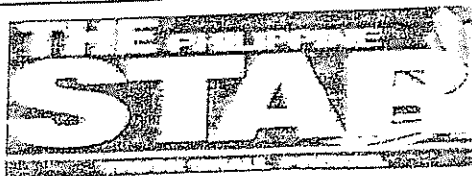
12@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

drigo "Digong" Duterte should recognize these PWD Filipinos for winning gold for the Philippines... and that includes all of us able-bodied Filipinos!

* * *
Email: vsbobita@mozcom.com or vsbobita@gmail.com

★

15 June 2017



Page: 8

POSTSCRIPT

FEDERICO D. PASCUAL Jr.

Let Duterte edit his martial law decree?

CAN President Rodrigo Duterte be allowed under the rules to issue a "Proclamation 216-B," or an updated version of his decree, editing the portions of his original edict imposing martial law on all of Mindanao that have been questioned before the Supreme Court?



Without knowing if such a mid-trial correction is permitted, this non-lawyer suggests that he be allowed, because innocent Filipinos continue to be killed in the four-week-old lawless violence that the Commander-in-Chief seeks to stop with the help of his martial law powers.

Aside from the fighting on the ground, the government has to pass the legal test before the Supreme Court. It would help if the Commander-in-Chief could overcome quickly the challenge to the factual basis of his proclamation.

A debacle in the high court would weaken the state's position in the public mind and in the streets of Marawi already littered with blood and rubble. A legal and psychological win for the Maute terrorists and their Islamic confederates would be catastrophic.

The uprising in Marawi is a continuing crime requiring a continuing response. Firming up the legal underpinning of the state's defense of martial law should be a continuing effort.

If the Commander-in-Chief has to adjust his martial law proclamation to correspond to the facts and the law, he should be given a reasonable opportunity to do it – if that adjustment is crucial to beating the ruthless enemies of the state.

Section 18, Article VII, of the Constitution upon which Proclamation 216 was based on May 23, 2017, speaks of rebellion, one of two bases for the imposition of martial law.

Since there is a question of whether or not the lawless violence in Marawi/Mindanao on May 23, was an ongoing rebellion at that time, a Proclamation 216-B could be issued TODAY – when a raging rebellion is fully documented and publicly acknowledged.

There are other points in the questioned proclamation requiring clarification. One is why martial law was imposed on all of Mindanao when the lawless violence started in Marawi. Can an updated proclamation be issued to address a question like that?

47

Army

itional pride

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PL

ic. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

There would be no need to issue an amended martial law decree, as we suggest, if most of the SC justices – cognizant of the crisis gripping Mindanao – could see the point of the Commander-in-Chief and uphold his Proclamation 216 as is.

Such a straightforward ruling in favor of the government would cut the debate, speed up the “liberation” of Marawi and the quelling of related lawlessness in contiguous areas in Mindanao. But at this point the debate in the SC could go either way.

• **Netizens warned on propaganda**

THE DEPARTMENT of Information and Communication Technology, meanwhile, warned that netizens could be arrested if caught spreading enemy propaganda such as claims of the Islamic State that has been trying to establish a toehold in Muslim Mindanao.

The problem is that in the helter-skelter of sometimes confusing data, netizens may not be able to determine what is propaganda and what is not, or whether propaganda of the government should be given equal weight as contrary information from other sources.

An important step that the government should take in the midst of the fighting influenced by public perception is to speak with one clear voice on the situation in the martial law area.

Confusing or conflicting statements give the impression of lack of coordination, and may cast doubts on the reliability of information being given by government.

Like the other day, Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief, said that Maute and Abu Sayyaf fighters were holed up in “only” four barangays in Marawi.

The announcement surprised some quarters because the military said days earlier that the terrorists had been cornered in three barangays. It would now seem the area they control has widened, which could be alarming.

Still, Galvez pointed out that the terrorists’ being confined to four barangays belied claims of the Islamic State that they controlled almost the entire city. The barangays were identified as Marinaut, Lulut, Mapandi and the Bongolo commercial district.

• **Battle reports require validation**

WHICHEVER claim is correct goes to show that figures of both sides cited in war reports are subject to validation. The correctness of facts also applies, if we may add, to claims of parties to the legal question on Marawi before the Supreme Court.

An example of information in conflict areas needing clarification is a report that mosques were being targeted in surgical airstrikes because some Maute fighters have been hiding in mosques in Marawi.

On the face of it, the report is doubtful because it is a delicate matter to hit mosques, churches and such religious sites. But Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, spokesman of the 1st Infantry Division, said earlier that if terrorists used mosques as snipers’ nest, they would be targeted.

Later, however, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, army spokesman, clarified that the military would not target mosques. He said in a TV interview: “There is strict instruction from the chief of staff (Gen. Eduardo Año) that we will respect these areas, these places of worship.”

But he explained: “If the enemy uses the parapets or the high areas of the mosque as sniper lairs, (the military) may hit those areas alone, but we will not bomb the mosque itself.”

Padilla said the urban terrain was hampering army operations, because the rebels had positioned themselves in built-up neighborhoods and sometimes used civilians as human shield.

The military has stopped giving estimates of when Marawi could be “liberated.” The last target date was June 12, Independence Day, but the deadline was not met.

2) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

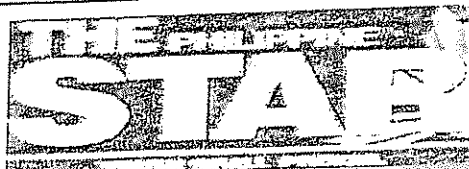
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC

Army

ADVISORY: Postscript archives can be accessed at www.manilamail.com. Follow us on Twitter as @FDPascual. Email feedback to fdp333@yahoo.com

and. 48

15 June 2017



Page: 8

FIRST PERSON

ALEX MAGNO

Patriots

Flags are at half-mast throughout the country this week. It is a solemn gesture by a grateful country to those who so willingly put their lives on the line to defend all of us against a common enemy.

This gesture is not a trivial one. It calls on all citizens not only to grieve over the loss of lives but, more important, to rally behind the flag. There is a battle in progress. The first patriotic task is to win it.

To date, over 200 Maute militants have been killed fighting government forces in Marawi. About the same number are still entrenched, fighting off attempts by our troopers to clear the city of terrorists. The lowering of the flag is not for them. They are traitors to the Republic.

About 200,000 people are in evacuation centers both in Marawi and at nearby Iligan. The logistics required to care for them are large. From anecdotal accounts, public response to call for help has not been overwhelming. "Apathy" might not be an unfair description of public response to calls for help.

By asserting sovereignty over the City of Marawi, the nation also takes responsibility for assisting its dislocated residents and rebuilding its shattered infrastructure. This will be a prolonged process. The P10 billion committed by the national government will not be enough.

In its latest estimate, the AFP concedes that about 20% of the city remains outside the control of government forces. That is a considerable amount of territory to recover. It includes the city's central business district, with its built-up structures the terrorists could use to fight back.

After three weeks of fighting, we have seen estimates of the enemy's fighter strength go up to about 400. Nearly 200 guns have been recovered so far. Despite precision bombing and relentless offensives by our best fighting units, the trapped terrorists appear to have an abundance of ammunition.

The enemy's logistical build-up for an audacious plan to overrun Marawi and possibly Iligan must have been immense. Our Air Force could sooner run out of ordnance for their "precision bombing" runs than the terrorists running out of ammunition. That will be tragic. But it is easy to imagine the Philippine Marines engaging the enemy in hand-to-hand combat than yielding any part of this city.



49

Army Visi

onal pride

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBL

(02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

From the captured video showing Isnilon Hapilon and the Maute brothers planning their capture of the city, we saw the terrorist leaders showing much bravado. One of the Maute brothers was heard bragging he could take down four soldiers with every burst of his gun.

Now we know why the audacity of these terrorists was not overweening. They had assembled enough men and material to support a full-scale assault on the city. But as their fanatical fighters are willing to die for an absurd cause, our soldiers were equally willing to put their lives on the line for the Republic. Our troops are true patriots.

President Duterte revealed intelligence information that orders to take over Marawi City came from the top echelon of the ISIS in Syria. All the preparations undertaken by the terrorists who infiltrated Marawi were in accordance with such orders. The intelligence is credible. The entry of terrorist fighters from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore lends it credence.

It is understandable that the ISIS would want to open a new front in Southeast Asia. It is besieged in Syria and Iraq and on the verge of losing not only Mosul but also Raqqa. The terrorist network desperately needs a foothold somewhere to keep their dreams of a caliphate alive. Marawi is that designated foothold, a mecca for all terrorist stragglers from everywhere to congregate.

The size of the terrorist force deployed in the city, the volume of war materiel they hoarded and the incredible funding they received for this unseemly enterprise are comprehensible only when set against this wider context. The choice of Marawi is understandable, too. It is the only formally designated Islamic city in the country. It is large enough to support a force of fighters resisting a siege.

If Marawi becomes a defensible seat for the caliphate, a rallying point for an imagined wider rebellion, then the terrorists could expand the theater of war to include Iligan. This will give them a port facility useful for bringing in more fighters and war materiel. The terrorists clearly underestimate the willingness of our soldiers and our government to quash the threat.

It is therefore shocking to hear Rep. Edcel Lagman to argue before the Supreme Court that it was the AFP that precipitated the battle in Marawi. He makes this argument to sustain the claim of his group that martial rule was unnecessary and must be revoked.

Lagman's version of events withers in the face of all that we know. While arguing against what he calls the "factual basis" for the imposition of martial law, he fabricates a scenario that is blatantly without factual basis. He defames our troops and maligns the Republic.

The imposition of martial law island-wide helped protect Iligan from terrorist attacks. It helped authorities intercept the Maute matriarch in far-off Davao City and arrest the patriarch in a small Lanao del Sur town. It helped fend off diversionary attacks in the Zamboanga provinces. Most important, it helped our security forces lock down Marawi and entrap the terrorists.

Three weeks after the outbreak of hostilities, our troops are still fighting house-to-house under withering sniper fire. Does Lagman want our soldiers to first secure a search warrant for every house they break into?

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBL

o. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

50

15 June 2017



Page: A13

What I wish SC would ask about martial law

I was looking forward to the oral arguments on the martial law petitions. After all, Congress chose to go on a long recess without jointly convening to discuss President Duterte's proclamation of martial law. The hearings at the Supreme Court would be the only public investigation of the antecedent facts that led to Proclamation No. 216 which Mr. Duterte signed on the night of May 23, 2017.

I wanted the Supreme Court to ask the questions that I, an ordinary citizen, could not ask:

Did the military know of an organized plan by the Maute Group to attack Marawi City? How long had it known? If the military knew beforehand, why did it not secure Marawi to prevent the Maute Group from entering and gaining a foothold? How did the initial estimate of 50-100 Maute members already in Marawi as of May 23 grow into 1,000-plus terrorist fighters after the city was evacuated and the military started its offensive? Did the fighting really begin with a botched arrest of Isnilon Hapilon while he was seeking medical treatment in Marawi? Did a military response require a martial law declaration and suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus? What makes this different from the Zamboanga siege in 2013 and the Butig takeover in November 2016? How does the government ensure protection of human rights?

I wanted those questions, and more, to

COMMENTARY

LULU REYES

be asked by the Supreme Court of the Commander in Chief, or his alter ego in the Department of National Defense, or the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, or the chief of the Philippine National Police, or even the mayor of Marawi. They might have told us, and we would have been able to listen to their version of the facts that prompted martial law in Mindanao better than anyone among those who spoke before the high court. I wanted the high court to help confirm or quiet my doubts, or just plain spell the truth out for me while the prospect of a nationwide martial law hangs above my head.

Instead, we suffered the spectacle of lawyers debating with lawyers on the meaning of law in the abstract. Does anyone really care about the consequence of an outdated professional tax receipt number under a lawyer's signature?

This is only the second time in history that the Supreme Court is hearing oral arguments on petitions questioning the declaration of martial law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus. The first time was in September 1972, when then Sen. Benigno S. Aquino Jr. and several others arrested under Presidential

Decree No. 1081 applied for writs of habeas corpus to secure their release from military detention. They directly questioned the legality of martial law, administered by then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile.

If the Supreme Court must rule on the sufficiency of the factual basis of the declaration of martial law circa 2017, it should take a more active role in finding the facts by itself. It could summon essential witnesses, arrange all the pertinent evidence, and arrive at the best version of the truth behind the events leading to May 23, 2017.

There is precedent to the process I am proposing to the high court. In the case of *Lansang v. Garcia* (Dec. 11, 1971), the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus was subjected to judicial scrutiny. To inquire into the factual basis of the exercise of the presidential prerogative, the high court summoned the AFP chief of staff and his deputies to an en banc but closed-door hearing, with three selected attorneys for the petitioners present. The facts found in that hearing are embodied in the high court's landmark decision.

In the next hearing, may it please the honorable justices of the Supreme Court to play citizen's advocate by asking the important questions.

Lulu Reyes, a law professor at St. Louis University, says she plans to remain a student of law for the rest of her life.

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

ONLINE NEWS

15 JUNE 2017

www.pna.gov.ph

BOI SF-260 'friendly fire incident' report now with AFP chief

MANILA, June 14 -- The Board of Inquiry (BOI) findings, regarding the "friendly fire incident" where a SIAI-Marchetti SF-260 light attack plane that accidentally bombed government troops in Marawi City killing 10 and wounding seven last May 31, has already been forwarded to Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año last June 9.

This was confirmed by AFP inspector general Major Gen. Rafael Valencia in an interview Wednesday.

"The report was already submitted to AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Año last Friday. I know he has already read it," he said in Filipino.

The SF-260 aircraft was on its fourth sortie against the lawless element, when its bombs accidentally hit Army troops in the area, killing 10 and wounding seven others.

However, Valencia declined to give details on their findings as some of the information there have some implications on the ongoing operations in Marawi City where government forces are now engaged in a battle with the remaining Maute Group terrorists.

"Actually, one of the recommendation is to hold the (release) of the findings (since) combat operations in Marawi City are still ongoing. We don't want to endanger the lives of our troops. That is one of my recommendations to the Chief-of-Staff," he added. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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

www.pna.gov.ph

DND, AFP chiefs set to appear for martial law oral arguments in SC

MANILA, June 14 -- Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año are set to appear on the third day of oral arguments on the three consolidated petitions challenging the constitutionality of President Rodrigo Duterte's proclamation of martial law in Mindanao.

This was the announcement of Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno on Wednesday during the second day of the oral argument.

The appearance of Año and Lorenzana as resource person was the request of the Solicitor General Chief Jose Calida to provide facts why it declared and the implementation of Martial Law in Mindanao.

Sereno said she is open for an executive session with the justices together with Calida, Año and Lorenzana should there be a need due to sensitive info.

"In deference to the sensitive info that may be shared by Sec. Lorenzana and Gen. Año, we are open to having an executive session," she said.

The three consolidated petitions were filed by opposition lawmakers led by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, local Mindanao leaders led by Lumad leader Eufemia Campos Cullamat and a group of women from Marawi led by Norkaya Mohamad.

The petitioners claimed that the declaration was baseless as there was no rebellion or invasion committed in the ongoing crisis because it was triggered by a military operation against alleged ISIS Philippines emir Isnilon Hapilon.

Associate Justice Noel Tijam, during the continuation of the oral argument, said there is nothing reprehensible with the power of martial law under the Constitution.

"There is nothing reprehensible with the power of martial law under the Constitution," he said.

Calida, for his part, hinged his arguments that the crisis in Marawi is not an isolated incident, it is part of a bigger plot to establish an Islamic State and this is not only a display of Maute's force but a siege of power.

"The rebels seized Marawi not just with the intention of striking fear. They wanted to establish a caliphate and dismember Malawi," he pointed out, presenting to the justices an ISIS flag recovered by the military from the rebels.

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

During interpellation, Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio asked the Solicitor General why the declaration covered the entire Mindanao when there was no rebellion in other provinces.

Calida cited "linkages" between Maute and other rebel groups in Mindanao like Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighter and Abu Sayyaf.

"The seeds of rebellion were already planted in different parts of Mindanao. Public safety requires the declaration of martial and suspension of privilege of habeas corpus not just in Marawi but in entire Mindanao," he explained.

Sereno, meanwhile, asked Calida why was there need to declare martial law when the President already has power to call out the military to stop the siege.

Calida explained that the President saw the calling out power as a milder response and wanted a stronger action to stop the rebellion.

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

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

www.pna.gov.ph

8 Maute-held buildings in Marawi City recovered by military - AFP

MANILA, June 14 -- Government forces have recovered eight buildings in Marawi City believed to be used by Maute Group terrorists as sniper and machinegun positions.

This was bared by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo in briefing Wednesday.

He declined to give the locations of the captured Maute Group buildings as doing so could give the lawless elements time to reposition or recapture these dwellings again.

"I can't give exact details on how many buildings remain to be captured but what I can give you with certainty is how many did we recover. As of yesterday or this morning, we have received reports that we have captured eight and among these is one of the highest which (contains) their sniper nests and machinegun positions and overlooks Marawi City," Arevalo stressed in Filipino.

He added that Maute Group resistance is now dwindling but emphasized that they are not taking this lightly.

"We cannot be imprudent, we have to be very careful with our actions as they are still holding some civilian hostages," the military officer disclosed.

As of this posting, government troopers killed in action are placed at 58 with 202 Maute Group terrorists dead and 26 civilians executed.

Objective of the AFP for now is to neutralize all remaining terrorists in Marawi City and at least degrade their capability to conduct atrocity in other areas; rescue civilians still trapped in the area or being held hostage; and set conditions for reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi, Arevalo bared. (PNA)

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