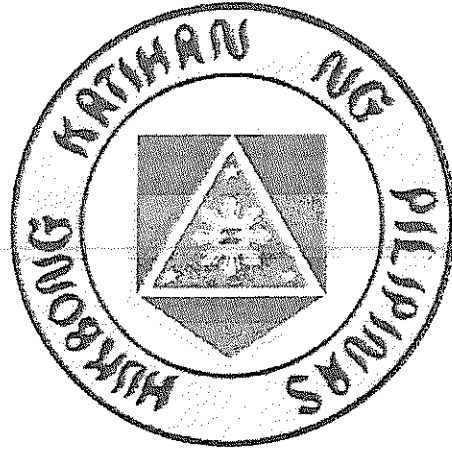


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# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**16 June 2017**

**Friday**

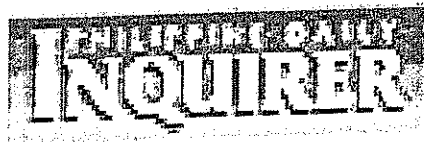
*Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.*

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
**16 JUNE 2017**

<b>PAGE NR.</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>WRITER</b>	<b>NEWSPAPER</b>
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A16
<b>HEADLINE NEWS</b>			
2-4	Gov't forces close on terrorists	Jeoffery Maitem	PDI p.A1
5-6	Maute bomb expert collared	Francis Wakefield	Mla Bulletin p.1
7	'Terrorist hiding in Marawi mosques'	John Uson	Phil Star p.1
8	Bodies scattered on Marawi streets	Mario Mallari	Tribune p.1
9-12	After security briefing, Solgen sees SC okay on martial law	Julius Leonen	Tribune p.1
<b>ARMY RELATED NEWS</b>			
13	Koronadal aids kin of fallen soldier in Marawi	-	Mla Bulletin p.9
14	19 NPAs surrender in Masbate	Niño Luces	Mla Bulletin p.10
15	Photo: Street Patrol	Richel Umel	PDI p.A12
<b>AFP RELATED NEWS</b>			
16	DND, AFP execs brief SC on rebellion	Marlon Ramos	PDI p.A1
17-18	Desperation builds for Marawi folk	Jason Gutierrez	PDI p.A10
19	DND, AFP chiefs face SC on ML	Edu Punay	The Phil Star p.1
20	Maute kin nabbed after posing as student	Gerry Gorit	Phil Star p.2
21	Metro Manila is safe from Maute adventures – PNP chief	Francis Wakefield	Mla Bulletin p.1
22	UMak opens doors to displaced Makati City students	-	Tribune p.1
23	Martial law extension eyed amid terrorist hits	Maricel Cruz	Standard p.1
24	Policemen arrests Maute Group bomb maker	Jigger Jerusalem	PDI p.A12
25	Australian journalist shot, hurt in Marawi	Rich Umel	PDI P.A12
26-27	Financial aid readied for Marawi siege victims	Edu Punay	Phil Star p.8
28	PH welcomes assistance from US, other nations	-	Mla Bulletin p.10
29	Gov't troops retake 8 buildings in Marawi	Francis Wakefield	Tempo p.4
<b>EDITORIAL</b>			
30	The facts on Martial Law	-	PDI p.A14
31	Impasse in Marawi	Macabangkit Lanto	PDI p.A15
32	Martial law redux	R.A.V SAguisag	PDI p.A14
33	Power to prevent lawless violence rebellion or invasion from spreading	Rudy Coronel	PDI p.A14

34	Pocket rebellion	Hector Villanueva	Mla Bulletin p.11
35	Go after NPA rebels , too, Duterte reminded	Romeo Alcoceba	PDI p.A15
36	A struggle for the future of Mindanao	-	Tribune p.6
37-38	Lessons from Marawi: Fake news and foolish questions	Rene Saguisag	Mla Times p.A4
39	An IS antidote	-	Tribune p.6
40	Pagtulong ng US sa 'Pinas laban sa Maute , ' wag na raw gawing isyu'	-	Bulgar p.4
41	Bandila ng Pilipinas , nailagay sa PH rise	Korina Sanchez	Bulgar p.4
42	Martial Law ni P-Digong , tatlong araw gigisahin sa SC, OMG	Imee Marcos	Bulgar p.4
<b>ONLINE NEWS</b>			
43	PHP617-M infra projects for conflict-stricken E. Samar towns pushed		<a href="http://www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com">www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com</a>
44	Findings on 'friendly fire incident' in Marawi sent to AFP Major Services		<a href="http://www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com">www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com</a>
45	Maute matriarch, ex-Marawi mayor face rebellion raps in CDO court		<a href="http://www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com">www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com</a>
46	AYUDA NG US, MALAKING TULONG SA OPERASYON SA MARAWI; AFP, BUKAS SA PAGTANGGAP NG TULONG MULA SA IBANG BANSA	<u>Lui Claudio</u>	<a href="http://www.dwdd.com.ph">www.dwdd.com.ph</a>
47	TAGALOG NEWS   MGA UNCLAIMED NA BANGKAY SA MARAWI CITY, ILILIBING NA NGAYONG ARAW	<u>Lui Claudio</u>	<a href="http://www.dwdd.com.ph">www.dwdd.com.ph</a>
48-49	Soldiers in Bukidnon celebrate World Blood Donor Day, donate blood for Marawi victims	<u>Lui Claudio</u>	<a href="http://www.dwdd.com.ph">www.dwdd.com.ph</a>

June 2017



Page: 41

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**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**  
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JUNE 16, 2017 | FRIDAY**

**INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING MINDANAO**  
(As of 5:00 PM - June 15, 2017)

<b>SUNRISE</b>  5:27 AM	<b>SUNSET</b>  6:26 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>  11:33 PM	<b>MOONSET</b>  10:51 AM
<b>FULL MOON</b> JUN 9 9:10 PM	<b>LAST QUARTER</b> JUN 17 7:33 PM
<b>LOW TIDE</b> 10:15 PM 0.07 Meter	<b>HIGH TIDE</b> MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 1:31 PM 1.03 Meter

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

	JUNE 17	JUNE 18	JUNE 17	JUNE 18	JUNE 17	JUNE 18		
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	26-35°C	26-35°C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	21-30°C	21-30°C	<b>TACLOBAN</b>	26-32°C	26-31°C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	25-35°C	26-35°C	<b>LEGAZPI</b>	26-33°C	26-33°C	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>	25-32°C	25-32°C
<b>LAOAG</b>	25-33°C	26-32°C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	25-33°C	25-33°C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	25-33°C	26-33°C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	17-25°C	17-24°C	<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>	26-33°C	26-34°C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	24-32°C	24-32°C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	26-35°C	26-35°C	<b>METRO CEBU</b>	26-33°C	26-33°C			

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
**11AM & 5PM**

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

16 June 2017

PHILIPPINE BAY  
**INQUIRER**

Page: 41

# GOV'T FORCES CLOSE IN ON TERRORISTS

By **Jeffrey Maitem  
and Frinston Lim**  
@inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—Government troops on Thursday advanced toward the center of Marawi, in an operation aimed at dislodging local terrorists who had seized the city to establish an enclave in the Philippines of the Islamic State

(IS) jihadist group in Iraq and Syria.

Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, spokesperson for the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said government forces had gained control of key bridges in the city after street-by-street fighting in recent days.

He said the security forces were now advancing toward the inner parts of the city where about 150-200 gun-

men from the Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorist groups were holed up in homes and commercial buildings.

Fighting was now confined to 10 percent of the city, or about 8.7 square kilometers, Herrera said.

The battleground constituted four of the city's 96 barangays, he added.

"We intend to finish the fight as soon as possible," Herrera told reporters.

The military had stopped using fighter jets and helicopter gunships to avoid injury to civilians trapped in the battle zone, but Herrera said airstrikes could be resumed if the troops on the ground needed air support.

"We have neutralized key enemy positions. [But] our options (airstrikes) are still open," he said.

About 300-500 civilians are be-

lieved to be trapped in houses and buildings in the battle zone and the military, according to Herrera, is doing its best to rescue them.

"We're still receiving distress calls. The challenge now is [how] long their cell-phone batteries [last]. We're trying to locate them," he said.

Herrera said the military was verifying reports about the

**A12**

presence of 300 armed men in a town outside Marawi.

The reports seemed to suggest some of the terrorists had been able to slip out of Marawi and could open a new front.

The crisis began on May 23 when Maute and Abu Sayyaf gunmen rampaged through Marawi after a failed military attempt to capture Isnilon Hapilon, the Abu Sayyaf commander who had pledged allegiance to IS and on whose head the US government had put a \$5-million reward.

More than 200 people have died in the fighting, including 58 soldiers and policemen, and 26 civilians.

The military said on Thursday no soldier had been killed since the June 9 gun battle where 13 Marines died.

On the 24th day of the fighting, the government's losses stood at 58, said Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"It remains at that number. We have not have any soldier killed and, knock on wood, we hope there [will] be no more," Padilla told reporters.

He said Hapilon, who styles himself as the "emir" of IS in Southeast Asia, was believed to be still in Marawi.

There were reports that the leaders of the Maute group, brothers Omarkhayam and Abdulla Maute, had been killed but Padilla said "we cannot say this is confirmed because we have no evidence yet."

#### Evacuees

More than 325,000 people have fled the fighting in Marawi, a city of 200,000 people.

Explaining the discrepancy, Defense Undersecretary Ricardo Jalad, executive director of

the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), said people from areas surrounding Marawi also fled their homes to avoid getting caught in the crossfire.

"And as of [June 15], we have on record 66,738 families composed of 324,406 individuals displaced from Marawi City and the municipality of Marantao in Lanao del Sur," Jalad said.

"Of this number of displaced people, only about 5 percent are checked in or living, staying inside evacuation centers," he added.

Jalad said the government

had set up 79 evacuation centers in Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and in Cagayan de Oro City.

"Only about 5 percent are currently staying in the evacuation centers. The rest, the 95 percent, are staying in their relatives, in the houses of their relatives and friends, and we call them home-based IDPs (internally displaced people)," he said.

Jalad said the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) was in charge of managing the evacuation centers, providing for the food and

nonfood needs of the evacuees.

The displaced will get P5,000 in financial assistance—P1,000 food allowance and P4,000 for transportation and other needs.

On the other hand, the Department of Health (DOH) was tasked with providing water, health services and sanitation.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said that as of June 13 the DSWD central office had sent P60,055,000 to its field offices in Central Visayas, Northern Mindanao, Soccsksargen and Caraga.

June 2017

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

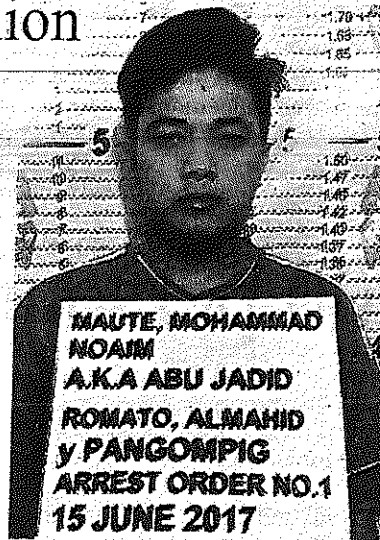
# Maute bomb expert collared

11 militants, including Maute matriarch and ex-Marawi mayor, charged with rebellion

By **FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD,**  
**CANCER ORDONEZ IMAM,**  
and **JEFFREY G. DAMICOG**

**A**s suspected bomb expert of the Maute terrorist group was arrested in Cagayan de Oro City early Thursday by a composite team of security forces implementing martial law in Mindanao.

Brig. Gen. Gilbert Gapay, the spokesman of the martial law implementation under the Eastern Mindanao Command, said Mohammad Noaim Maute, also known as "Abu Jadid" and "Almahid Pangompig Romato," was arrested by virtue of Arrest Order No. 1 issued by martial law administrator and Defense Secretary Delfin ▶ 6



**SUSPECT**—A mug shot of Mohammad Maute released by the Northern Mindanao regional police.

Lorenzana on May 29, 2017.

Gapay said Maute was nabbed by combined elements of the Army's 403rd Brigade martial law implementing unit, Cagayan de Oro Philippine National Police (PNP), and CIDU-10 in Sta. Cruz, Macasandig, Cagayan de Oro City, at about 5:30 a.m. Thursday.

He is now detained at the Police Regional Office (PRO-10) headquarters in Camp Alagar Cagayan de Oro.

Superintendent Agripino Javier, PRO-10 regional director, said the suspected bomb expert is a cousin of Abdullah and Omarkhayam, leaders of the Maute terrorist group.

#### Rebellion charges

Earlier on Tuesday, 11 suspected members of the Maute terrorist group, including the mother of the group's leaders and a former mayor of Marawi, were charged with rebellion before the Cagayan de Oro City Regional Trial Court (RTC).

The Maute bomb expert, a resident of Butig, Lanao del Sur, yielded a fake Mindanao State University (MSU) student ID bearing the name, "Alfaiz P. Mamintal," when he was arrested. The suspect had also posed as an Arabic teacher.

Javier said Maute did not resist when accosted by the law enforcers. Apart from the fake ID, no firearms and other illegal items were taken from him.

Police are still trying to determine if the owner of the house where Maute was arrested is in cahoots with him.

Javier said they have been monitoring Maute's movements since he came to the city about two weeks ago.

#### Civilian support

The suspect's whereabouts was traced following a tip from a concerned civilian who alerted police of the presence of a stranger in Sta. Cruz community.



Intelligence agents began closing in on Maute three days prior to his arrest after gathering enough evidence based on text messages and calls he made from at least five cellphones he uses.

But Javier said Maute was able to slip through police and military checkpoints using the fake ID.

He had also posed as one of the evacuees and mingled with the rest of the internally displaced persons.

Using facial recognition software, however, intelligence officers were able to verify Maute's identity. NICA (National Intelligence Coordinating Agency) was also able to confirm the suspect's identity, Javier added.

"We had to make sure. That's why we waited for confirmation from (NICA) before we presented him (Maute) to the media," he said.

During questioning, Maute reportedly admitted to police that he is the same person included in the gallery of local terrorists operating in the country identified as Abu Jadid.

A person supposedly bearing the same name was arrested about five

days ago in Cagayan de Oro City but authorities later found out that he was not Abu Jadid.

Apart from the suspected bomb expert, also included in Lorenzana's arrest order are members, couriers, and spies of the Maute Group, Abu Sayyaf, Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), and Maguid Group.

#### Rebellion charges

Meanwhile, those charged with rebellion were Ominta Romato Maute, alias Farhana, mother of the Maute terrorist group's leaders Omar and Abdullah; former Marawi mayor Fahad Salic, Sumaya Bangkit Masakal, Radiea Tugosa Asire, Mariam Ibu Abubakar, Zafeerah Rosales Musa, Nehreen Macaraya Abdul, Nora Moctar Limgas, Mardiyya Haji Ali, Sumayya Lawi Ali, and Noronisa Haji Camal.

The Maute matriarch and her co-defendants were accused of conspiring with each other and several others who are associated or are members of the Maute to "help, support, finance, promote, maintain, cause, direct and

have risen publicly and taken arms to attain the purpose of removing from allegiance to the government of the Philippines or its laws thereof, the City of Marawi..."

#### Gov't recovers 8 buildings

As this developed, Armed Forces of the Philippines-Public Affairs Office (AFP-PAO) chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo said that ground forces currently battling the Maute terrorists have so far recovered eight buildings formerly controlled by the militants.

Arevalo said the buildings were formerly used as stronghold by Maute snipers targeting government soldiers, civilians, and even NGOs.

Meanwhile, Adam Harvey, a reporter for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation was shot in the neck on Thursday as he reported from Marawi.

"Thanks everyone - I'm okay. Bullet is still in my neck, but it missed everything important," he said in another Twitter post. (With a report from AFP)



It also provided P70,701,994 to its response centers and field offices responding to the fighting in Marawi, Abella said.

“The distribution of relief items is [going on] for the basic needs in the evacuation centers as well as for the needs of home-based IDPs,” Jalad said.

He added that the government is planning to set aside an initial P10 billion for the rebuilding of Marawi after the fighting ends.

“But the exact figure will be determined once we conduct the study, the assessment and then formulate the rehab plan,” Jalad said.

#### **Denied entry into Marawi**

Two left-leaning party-list representatives reported on Thursday that they were denied entry into Marawi on a humanitarian mission.

Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate and Gabriela Rep. Arlene Brosas, along with former Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño, were among those who were barred from entering the city as part of the “National Interfaith Humanitarian Mission.”

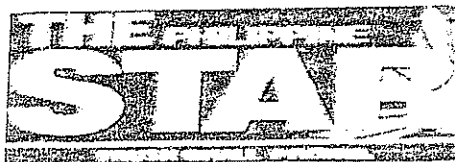
The delegates were supposed to conduct relief operations and psychosocial services for traumatized residents when they were stopped from entering, according to Bayan Muna.

In a statement, Brosas said Gabriela had coordinated with the military about its plan to distribute relief goods in Marawi but was denied entry when the group got there.

She said the group was forced to bring the relief goods to another destination, an evacuation center in Saguiaran, Lanao del Sur province, where at least 400 families were staying. —WITH REPORTS FROM NIKKO DI-

ZON, PHILIP C. TUBEZA AND DJ YAP

June 2017



Page: \_\_\_\_\_

## 'Terrorists hiding in Marawi mosques'

By JOHN UNSON

LANAO DEL SUR – Gunmen of the terrorist Maute group are using mosques in Marawi City to provoke airstrikes from the military, officials said yesterday.

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Gov. Mujiv Hataman said two old and historic mosques in the city are being used as shelters by the Mautes.

ARMM assemblyman Zia Alonto Adiong said the Maute gunmen are provoking the military to bomb the mosques

to trigger an Islamic outcry and sympathy for their cause.

"We must not forget that they attacked and vandalized the St. Mary's Church in Marawi City to cause friction among Christians and Muslims. We are thankful to Mindanao's Christian communities for being sober and for not responding the way these terrorists had wanted them to react," Hataman said.

Adiong, spokesman for the Lanao del Sur provincial crisis management committee, said the two worship sites being

Turn to Page 10

occupied by Maute and Abu Sayyaf gunmen are the Bato Islamic Mosque and the Lanao Mindanao Al-Islamic Center.

"How can you call yourself a Muslim if you destroy sites like this? Islam teaches preservation of anything with good educational value from where the youth can learn something good," Adiong said.

Hataman added that while he wants Marawi City cleared of terrorists, prudence must be exercised in forcing them out from the two mosques.

"The terrorists really wanted the military to bomb the mosques to gain sympathy and for moderate Muslims to get angry. They want to create the impression that there is persecution of Muslims in Mindanao. Well, there is none," Hataman said.

The military earlier denied allegations of targeting mosques in the city to flush out the Maute snipers pinning down the government troops.

Armed Forces of the Philippines' Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said the military has other options to flush out the militants from their hiding places but not to bomb mosques or other places of worship.

With bomb-proof tunnels, anti-tank weapons hidden in mosques, human shields and mastery of the terrain, the Maute militants holed up in Marawi City are proving a far tougher opponent than the military expected.

Three weeks after gunmen waving black flags of the Islamic State (IS) rampaged through Marawi, initial assertions from authorities that the conflict would be over in days have given way to warnings of a protracted battle.

The military admitted the militants had the advantage in their mastery of the terrain and surroundings.

No. 95

16 JUNE 2017

THE DAILY  
**tribune**

Page: \_\_\_\_\_



## **MAUTE MOM CHARGED, BOMB-MAKER NABBED**

# **Bodies scattered on Marawi streets**

**By Mario J. Mallari  
and Julius N. Leonen**

As the military claimed yesterday that the Islamic State (IS)-inspired groups were cornered in four barangays and state forces approach its goal of purging Marawi City of terrorists, more grim results of the three-week old battle emerged as residents fleeing the besieged city reported seeing dead bodies scattered on the streets.

"Dead bodies, at least 100, scattered around the encounter area," provincial crisis management committee spokesman Zia Alonto Adiong said.

*Turn to page 7*

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF

From page 1

The High Tribunal granted Calida's request for a closed-door hearing after Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año were directed to appear before the court.

Lorenzana, the designated martial law administrator, and Año, the martial law implementor, served as resource persons to provide facts and insights on the declaration of martial rule was made.

In an ambush interview, Calida told reporters that Lorenzana and Año presented to the SC magistrates "confidential information" involving intelligence and operations during yesterday's proceedings.

No specific information was bared to the public due to the confidentiality and sensitivity of the matters involving national security that was tackled during the hearing.

"Año and Lorenzana... they were asked by the Court (for facts), some of these are confidential, therefore we cannot divulge it before the public," Calida said.

"I think it was a very enlightening presentation of facts, and we believe this will help the government's case," the Solicitor General said.

Calida, however, declined to say whether or not the information presented during the closed-door hearing is the same information that was presented during the executive session in Congress.

But Calida said the information was presented by the AFP intelligence chief through a powerpoint presentation. Calida said that he, Año and Lorenzana took questions from the SC magistrates.

#### New documents

The top government lawyer added that "these (documents) are different" from what they submitted in the annexes of their 45-page comment in reply to the petitions. "These are secret documents," Calida said.

Calida said the officials were able to show that the Maute group and other rebel groups in Mindanao, such as the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighter (BIFF) and the Abu Sayyaf Group have already established linkages to establish an Islamic State (IS) caliphate in Mindanao.

Following the conclusion of the three-day oral arguments on the petitions seeking to nullify Proclamation 216, the SC ordered all parties involved in the case to submit their respective memorandum on or before June 19.

"After the presentation was

made, the justices continued with the interpellation of the parties. After satisfying itself with the answers, the Court decided to conclude the oral arguments," he told reporters.

"The parties have been directed to submit the memorandum simultaneously within a non-extendible on or before June 19. From there, the case will be submitted for decision," the spokesman said.

The three consolidated petitions were filed by opposition lawmakers led by 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 the proclamation was baseless as there was no rebellion or invasion committed in the ongoing crisis.

They claimed the crisis was triggered by a military operation against alleged Islamic State (IS) emir and Abu Sayyaf Group leader Isnulon Hapilon.

But Calida insisted that "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 IS-inspired groups were documented while planning the attack in Marawi and the planting of an IS flag.

Calida 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."

Meanwhile, he clarified that "there is no such thing as an 'executive session' as far as the Court is concerned," as compared to the closed-door executive session that may be held in Congress.

"There is, however, a rule that allows the Court to exclude the public when in the consideration of the Court that information that may be disclosed may be prejudicial or detrimental," he said.

"The Court exercises that discretion under the rule. That is Rule 110, Section 21 of the Rules of Court, and for that reason, the Court held its session this morning and kept it internal," the spokesman said.

He said it was not the first time the High Court held an internal session in hearing a case.

The spokesman cited the Marcos v. Manglapuz case involving the return of the remains of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos to the country from Hawaii.

845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

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June 2017



Page: \_\_\_\_\_

## After security briefing, Solgen sees SC okay on martial law

By Julius N. Leonen

Emerging from a six-hour closed-door session among security officials, justices, petitioners and respondents yesterday, Solicitor General Jose Calida expressed full confidence that the Supreme Court (SC) will uphold President Duterte's Proclamation 216 declaring martial law and suspending the writ of habeas corpus in the entire island of Mindanao amid violent armed clashes in Marawi City.

"We are confident that we will win the judgment of the Supreme Court on this matter" Calida told reporters.

The SC concluded the three-day hearing of oral arguments on the consolidated petitions filed by opposition solons, Marawi residents and militants who have sought to nullify the Chief Executive's proclamation.

*Turn to page 7*

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

He is included in the Arrest Order 1 issued by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, as martial law administrator in Mindanao, against those involved in the ongoing Marawi City siege.

Lieutenant Colonel Jo-Ar Herrera, a military spokesman, said troops were advancing toward the commercial center of Marawi City, which is held by the militants who have sworn IS allegiance.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said remnants of the terrorist groups were now limited to four Marawi City barangays.

"Our troops are moving progressively into the interiors of enemy-held areas and this is confined to four barangays, out of 96 barangays in the City of Marawi, four remain to be problematic but of the four not all of these barangays are in their hands, only portions," Padilla stressed.

He added that military units are significantly making headway into the inner areas of these barangays where they continue to hide.

Padilla said the presence of buildings that are resistant to military firepower poses problem for troops conducting mopping up operations.

"Hence there are times that we need to effect and use heavier ordnance to neutralize targets where particular vantage points are becoming a dangerous approach for our troops," Padilla said.

"We intend to finish the fight as soon as possible. Our tactical commanders are doing their best," Herrera said.

#### Hundreds still trapped

Hundreds of civilians remained pinned down in pockets of Marawi that are controlled by the militants, and they are facing an onslaught of deadly threats including bombs, sniper fire, hunger and a lack of medical care.

Some have made a two-kilometer sprint to safety during the three weeks of conflict, risking being shot by the militants.

The fighting began on May 23 when hundreds of militants rampaged

through Marawi, the most important Muslim city in the mainly Catholic Philippines, waving the black flags of IS group.

The bandits have since withstood a relentless, US-backed bombing campaign and intense ground battles with Filipino troops that have left large parts of Marawi resembling devastated cities in war-torn Syria and Iraq.

One of the keys to their survival has been the trapped civilians, who are acting as human shields in stopping the military from completely destroying the small areas controlled by the gunmen.

Even so, entire streets are now just full of rubble and the military's bombs have not always hit their targets – with one strike going astray and killing 10 soldiers.

Most of the city's 200,000 residents fled during the early stages of the fighting. Authorities say anywhere between 300 and 1,700 civilians remain trapped in the militant-held areas.

Twenty-six civilians have been confirmed killed in the fighting but local officials and aid workers believe dozens more have likely died, with their corpses rotting in the militant-held areas, and that conditions are growing increasingly dire as food runs out.

"Some residents are eating (cardboard) boxes. They just dip it in water to soften the material and eat it," Adiong told AFP, recounting testimonies from people who escaped.

"It's heartbreaking. It's almost unbelievable to think that people are living this way."

The military has also reported that the militants are using some civilians as slaves, making them cook and carry munitions.

One survivor who escaped on Tuesday, Christian housepainter Nick Andeleg, 26, said he and his colleagues decided to flee after coming to the realization that waiting any longer would certainly lead to death.

"We thought we were the only ones left trapped. We felt it was better to try escaping. If we died outside our house, at least we tried to save ourselves," Andeleg told AFP as he recounted watching bombs destroy houses around him.

"We hid anywhere we could. We'd go under all kinds of furniture: beds, cabinets, in the toilet. We were like rats hiding under anything we could find."

Camalia Baunto, who has left her six children with her in-laws outside of Marawi, said she was determined to wait for her husband.

She appeared tormented by the wait though, mumbling to herself while sitting alone sometimes, and asking unanswerable questions to others at the government building.

"When is this crisis going to end? When will this chaos be over?"

#### 11 faces rebellion raps

Aside from Farhana and Salic, also charged in court are Sumaya Bangkit Masakal, Radiea Tugosa Asire, Mariam Ibnu Abubakar, Zafeerah Rosales Musa, Nehreen Macaraya Abdul, Nora Moctar Limgas, Mardiyya Haji Ali, Sumayya-Lawi Ali and Noronisa Haji Camal.

Authorities apprehended Farhana and nine others last Friday in Masiu, Lanao Del Sur.

They were caught in possession of one M14 rifle, seven M14 magazine assembly, 136 M14 live ammunition, one scope, two rifle grenades, two improvised rocket propelled grenades and two smoke grenades.

Moreover, authorities arrested Salic last Friday in Misamis Oriental. He was included in the Department of National Defense's (DND) arrest order number two.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: dacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02,

Stray bullet hits Aussie correspondent

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday blamed a stray bullet from a sniper that hit an Australian broadcast journalist covering the ongoing Marawi City crisis.

Brig Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., AFP spokesman, said that Adam Harvey, of the Australian Broadcasting Company, was hit while inside the provincial capitol.

"Suffice to say and thank God he is out of danger and it's not life threatening. He was just grazed by a stray bullet coming from the other side of the capitol where the area is still a battle field," said Padilla.

Padilla said that Adam was immediately attended to by medical workers and was subsequently discharged from a clinic.

"What we gathered is in the course of the fight at the other side of the capitol, there have been a sniper bullet that may strayed in the area and accidentally hit the journalist," he said.

"Thanks everyone - I'm okay. Bullet is still in my neck, but it missed everything important," he said in a Twitter post.

Malacañang yesterday advised journalists covering the crisis in Marawi City to be very careful.

"While I understand that you would not shirk your duty in the pursuit of any story, bear in mind that there's no story more valuable than one's life," Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a statement.

"Take the necessary precautions and stay safe while covering conflicts," he added.

Nonetheless, Abella lauded the dedication done by members of the press at the frontlines of the conflict.

"We call on the media courageously covering the situation in Marawi to remain true to your profession in delivering timely, accurate and relevant news to our people," he said. "After all, part of any journalist's sacred calling is to bear witness to the truth," he said.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) executive director and Office of Civil Defense (OCD) chief Ricardo Jalad confirmed that as of June 14, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Lanao del Sur has reached 324,406 or 66,788 families. **Ted Tuvera, AFP**

Authorities confiscated from Salic four units of M203 grenade, one M16 rifle loaded with 29 pieces of live ammunition and three pieces of long magazine with each loaded with 30 pieces of 5.56 live ammunition.

Farhana is suspected to be the Maute group's financier, while Salic's name appeared in the checks confiscated in one of the terrorist group's hideout. The nine others were among those arrested with Farhana.

All 11 accused were included in the list of over 300 individuals identified as members of the Maute group, the Abu Sayyaf group, and their sympathizers earlier ordered arrested by the government for the crime of rebellion.

Meanwhile, clan patriarch Cayamora Maute was arrested last June 6 at a checkpoint in Davao City along with two other Maute members.

They were charged for rebellion before the Davao City RTC before being brought to Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City for detention.

About 200 individuals, mostly members of the IS-inspired Maute group, were ordered arrested by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in connection to the siege that started last May 23.

Supt. Lemuel Gonda, spokesman of Police Regional Office-10 (PRO-10) said that Jadic was subsequently placed under the custody of Police Station 9 of Cagayan de Oro City police in Barangay Macasandig for proper disposition.

Several other members of the Maute clan had been arrested earlier, led by the family's patriarch Cayamora Maute, who was nabbed along a checkpoint in Davao City, and Farhana, who was captured in Masiu, Lanao del Sur.

As of yesterday, the IS-inspired terrorists continued to put up resistance against advancing government security forces in Marawi City.

Reports said that firefight erupted anew in some parts of Marawi City where the terrorists are believed holed up.

The military reportedly started the day yesterday by conducting air strike against identified enemy lairs.

#### Financial aid underway

Financial aid for the victims of the continuing terror siege in Marawi City is underway.

The Department of Justice's (DoJ) Board of Claims has started processing the applications of financial assistance after Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II and Undersecretary Reynante Orceo visited the victims.

"The state, through the Board of Claims, can show its genuine concern for the victims and impart to them that the government is not indifferent to their plight. The team will provide proper venue where eligible claimants can seek compensation through administrative procedure," read the two-page DoJ order.

"Armed conflict continues in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur. Mass evacuations ensued and unfortunately, uniformed personnel from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police as well as civilians died, suffered serious injuries, or needed medical attentions at various hospitals in Iligan, Cagayan de Oro and others," read the order.

The order was issued "to process and determine entitlement for compensation for victims of violence perpetrated by Maute-ISIS in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur."

In the order, the board may approve and award claimants the maximum amount of P10,000.

The claimants, through the aid, can seek reimbursement for expenses incurred for hospitalization, medical treatment, loss of wage, loss

of support or other expenses directly related to the injury, whichever is lower.

The processing of applications is pursuant to Republic Act 7309, or "an act creating a Board of Claims under the DoJ for victims of unjust imprisonment or detention and victims of violent crimes for other purposes."

But the Board of Claims maintained "this is without prejudice to the right of the claimant to seek other remedies under existing laws."

In related developments, Aguirre said he is looking into the possible financial assistance to be granted for fallen and wounded soldiers in the Marawi siege.

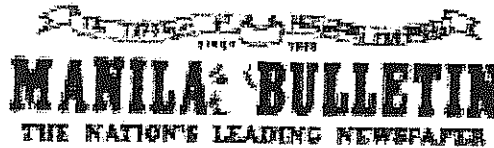
Aguirre, after visiting injured soldiers at Camp Evangelista Army Hospital in Cagayan De Oro City, tasked Orceo, who heads the Board of Claims, to determine the processing financial assistance for the soldiers and of their families.

The Justice chief also gave P50,000 from his personal funds to the Directress of the Camp Evangelista Station Hospital for the needs of the wounded and recuperating soldiers.

"We cannot thank our soldiers enough for their bravery and gallant acts in the defense of our people in Marawi City. This is least we can do for them," Aguirre said.

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June 2017



Page: 9

## Koronadal aids kin of fallen soldier in Marawi

GENERAL SANTOS CITY (PNA) – The provincial government of South Cotabato released an initial assistance of ₱50,000 to the family of an Philippine Army soldier from Koronadal City who was killed in action in Marawi City last week.

South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes said Thursday she ordered the release of the financial assistance to augment the needs of the family of slain Army Private First Class Mark Darrel Parba.

Parba's remains arrived earlier this week at their home in Purok Mabuhay 2, Barangay Carpenter Hill in Koronadal City.

"We are one with the family in mourning his passing. We're hoping that this conflict will end soon to spare the lives of our troops as well as innocent civilians there," the governor said.

Aside from cash assistance, Fuentes said she ordered her staff to send other goods to the Parba family.

The 22-year-old Parba, who is a son of a soldier, only enlisted with the Philippine Army last February.

He was initially assigned in Zamboanga Del Sur but was deployed to Marawi City after the terror attacks broke out last May 23.

Parba was among the soldiers who were hit by a rocket-propelled grenade fired by the Maute group during an operation last June 8 in Marawi City.

Merlyn Parba, Mark's mother, said her son's early passing was unexpected and very painful for their family.

"He's so young and had a lot of plans for himself and our family," she said.

Fuentes hopes that government troops would be able to resolve soon the problem in Marawi City so the situation in Mindanao could start to normalize.



June 2017

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 10

# 19 NPAs surrender in Masbate

By NINO N. LUCES

**C**AMP ANGELES, Camarines Sur — Nineteen members of the New People's Army (NPA) surrendered recently to government forces in Milagros, Masbate, it was learned yesterday.

Captain Randy Llunar, Public Affairs Office chief of the Philippine Army's 9th Infantry Division based here in Pili, said the 19 who turned their backs on the NPA presented themselves to Brigadier General Fernando Trinidad last Monday.

"They surrendered to Gen. Trinidad, commander of the 903rd Infantry Brigade at the headquarters of the 2nd Infantry Battalion in Barangay Bacolod, Milagros, Masbate on Indepen-

dence Day," Llunar said.

He said the rebels turned over assorted firearms, including five M-16 rifles, two shotguns, and an M2 Carbine rifle, during their surrender.

For security purposes, Llunar withheld the names of those who surrendered.

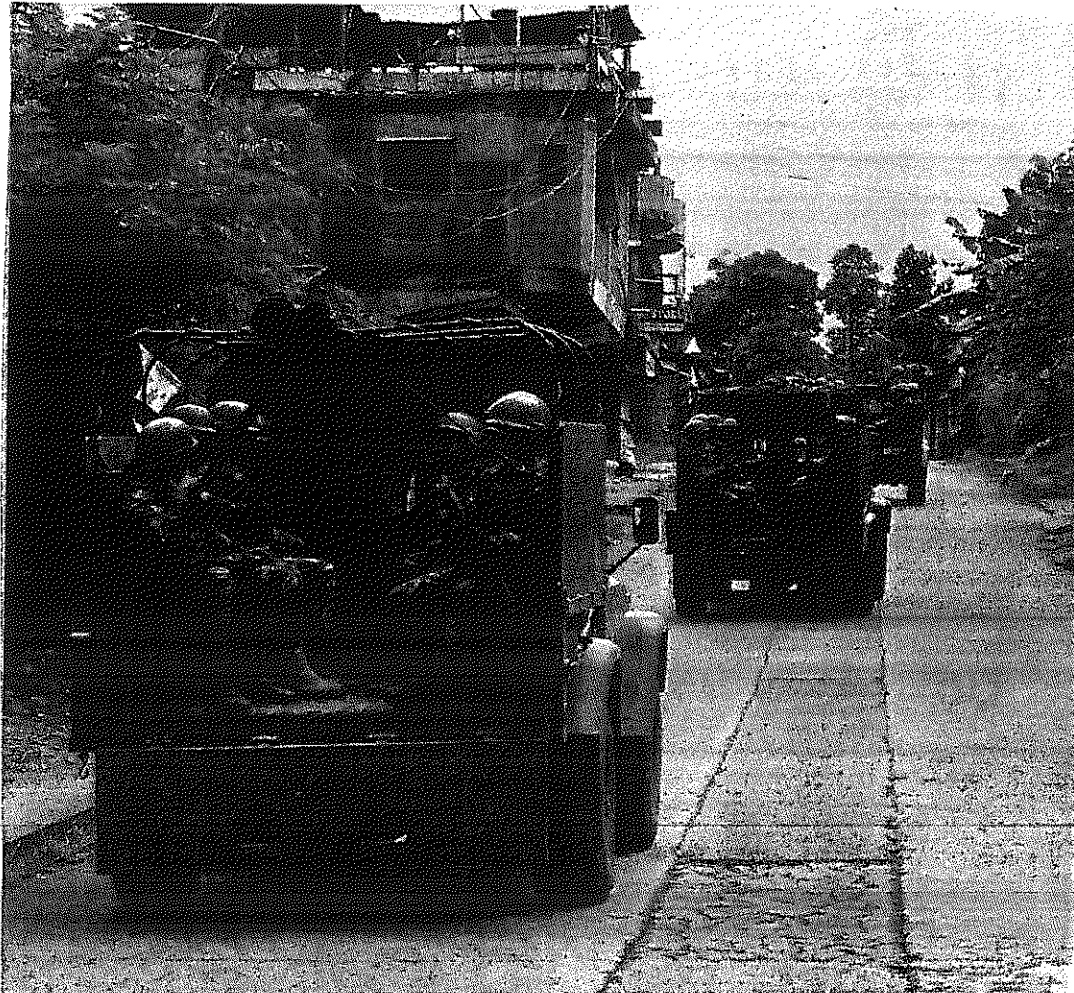
They told authorities how difficult their lives were as rebels transferring from one place to another and that they now want to focus their attention on their families.

"They are entitled to financial assistance as part of the government's program to help them reintegrate into society through the Comprehensive Local Integration Program or CLIP). They will also have livelihood training and support to ensure a new and better life for them," said Llunar.

6 June 2017



Page: A12



**STREET PATROL** Soldiers in convoy of military vehicles patrol the streets around the provincial capitol of Lanao del Sur in Marawi City to check on terrorists' presence. —RICHEL V. UMEL

June 2017

# INQUIRER

Page: 4

## CLOSED-DOOR BRIEFING

# DND, AFP EXECS BRIEF SC ON REBELLION

By Marlon Ramos  
@MRamosINQ

The Supreme Court on Thursday wrapped up three days of oral arguments after a closed-door briefing by top defense and military officials on the security situation in Marawi City and the rest of Mindanao and prepared to decide within the 30-day limit prescribed in the Constitution to rule on the legality of President Duterte's martial law declaration in the region.

Briefing reporters at the conclusion of hearings on three petitions questioning the constitutionality of Mr. Duterte's proclamation on May 23, following the siege of Marawi by Islamic State-allied terrorists, spokesperson Theodore Te said the magistrates

## FROM A1

directed the parties to submit their respective memorandums by June 19.

Te said that after the presentation by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Gen. Eduardo Año, the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the justices continued their questioning of the counsels for the petitioners and the government.

Lorenzana, the designated martial law administrator, and Año faced the magistrates and the counsels of the petitioners in a seven-hour "internal discussion" upon the request of Solicitor General Jose Calida, according to Te.

In the previous hearings, the magistrates had complained that the petitioners had not provided information with which to base a decision on the sufficiency of the factual basis for the declaration. Some justices averred that other areas in Mindanao remained peaceful.

Te said Rule 119, Section 21 of the Rules of Court allowed the tribunal to "exclude the public when the information that will be disclosed may be prejudicial or detrimental."

As ordered by the magistrates, he said only Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman was allowed to represent the petitioners in hearing the presentation and the interpellation of the military officials.

"After satisfying itself of the information presented by the respondents, [the court] has directed the parties to submit their memorandum simultaneously [on June 19]," Te told a press briefing.

### Military actions

Speaking with reporters, Calida said Año and Lorenzana presented intelligence information and other operational

details of the military actions in connection with the Marawi siege to support the factual bases of Mr. Duterte's martial law proclamation.

"Because of the sensitivity of the answers that were given, the Supreme Court, in its discretion, limited the members and persons who can hear the testimonies," Calida said.

The state's primary counsel said he was optimistic that the high court would uphold the legality of Mr. Duterte's order which, he said, was intended to preserve the country's democracy.

"If you ask me, I am confident. The government is confident," Calida said.

A military intelligence official showed a Powerpoint presentation of the operations of government forces proving that there was actual rebellion in Marawi that justified the President's action, he said.

### Documents

According to Calida, the documents furnished the justices were different from the annexes that the Office of the Solicitor General attached to its consolidated comment on the three separate petitions.

As directed by the Constitution, Te said the high court should resolve the case within 30 days after the filing of the petition, or until July 5.

On Thursday, Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo said the concern voiced by Supreme Court Justice Mariano del Castillo that Mr. Duterte might be "emboldened" to put the entire country under martial rule was "misplaced" because the 1987 Constitution provided safeguards.

"Maybe, the apprehension is based on the abuses committed by the previous martial law declared by the late President [Ferdinand] Marcos," Panelo told reporters.

"That has been solved by

the safeguards imposed by the Constitution to allay fears of any abuse," he added.

Panelo said these safeguards included limiting martial law to 60 days and the provision that Congress could revoke it.

He said that martial law could only be declared in other parts of the country if the situation in these areas required martial rule.

"My take on this is that it is not a question of whether or not the declaration of martial law would embolden the President or any President for that matter. The question is whether or not the facts obtaining constitutionally required the declaration of martial law," Panelo said.

### Nationwide ML

"So, we do not know that yet. As of now, according to the President, the facts obtaining in Mindanao suffice that martial law has to be declared there," he said.

Panelo also defended the President's decision to declare martial law for the whole in Mindanao and not just in Marawi, where government troops are fighting Maute terrorists trying to take over the city.

He said the Maute group had a presence in other areas on Mindanao and their rebellion needed to be suppressed.

"As I said, they are well-placed all over. These are not ordinary rebel groups, given the fact that they are still there fighting and it seems that their ammunition is unlimited," he said. —WITH A REPORT FROM PHILIP C. TUBEZA INQ

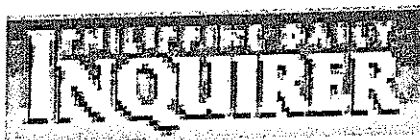


WATCH VIDEO: SC terminates oral arguments on martial law proclamation  
<http://inq.news/SCOralArgument>

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF

A1

16 June 2017



Page: 11

# Desperation builds for Marawi folk

By Jason Gutierrez  
@newshound16

MARAWI CITY—Omalia Baunto keeps a desperate vigil for news of her husband, Nixon, trapped just a short walk away in brutal fighting between terrorists allied with the Islamic State (IS) group and government forces that has ruined Marawi City.

Nixon, 40, has called her only twice since the terrorists rampaged through Marawi and laid siege to the city on May 23.

He is among hundreds of civilians pinned down in pockets of Marawi that are controlled by the terrorists, and they are facing an onslaught of deadly threats including bombs, sniper fire, hunger and a lack of medical care.

## Dash to safety

Some have made a 2-kilometer sprint to safety during the four weeks of conflict, risking being shot at by the militants, and Omalia waits every day at a secured government building nearby hoping her husband will run into her arms.

"He told me last week that he was with four other men who were wounded. They were moving from house to house," Omalia told the Inquirer.

"I have not lost all hope and in my heart I believe he will return," she said.

"It's really painful for me. I'm always scared he'll be hit," Omalia, 43, said in an interview with Agence France-Presse (AFP) on Wednesday.

"He is too traumatized to escape. Even we on the outside are afraid because you don't know which direction the bullets are coming from," she said.

The fighting began on May 23 when hundreds of terrorists from the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups rampaged through Marawi, the most important Muslim city in the mainly Catholic Philippines, waving the black flags of IS, the jihadist group that is losing ground to allied forces in Iraq and Syria.

They have since withstood a relentless, US-backed bombing campaign and intense ground battles with government troops that have left large parts of Marawi resembling devastated cities in war-torn Syria and Iraq.

## Human shields

One of the keys to their survival has been the trapped civilians, who are acting as human shields in stopping the military from completely destroying the small areas controlled by the gunmen.

Even so, entire streets are

now just full of rubble and the military's bombs have not always hit their targets—with one strike going astray and killing 10 soldiers on May 31.

Most of the city's 200,000 residents fled during the early stages of the fighting.

Authorities say anywhere between 300 and 1,700 civilians remain trapped in the terrorist-held areas.

Omalia's family was visiting a nearby town when the clashes began but Nixon returned to check on their home and their hardware store.

Since then, Nixon has been able to call her only twice and report terrifying snippets of survival.

"He hasn't eaten. He hasn't slept. A bomb here, an explosion there. He is getting weak," she said at the provincial government office's entrance, from where she could see military helicopters bomb terrorist-controlled areas.

#### Eating boxes

Twenty-six civilians have been confirmed killed in the fighting.

But local officials and aid workers believe dozens more have likely died, with their corpses rotting in the terrorist-held areas, and that conditions are growing increasingly dire as food runs out.

"Some residents are eating (cardboard) boxes. They just dip it in water to soften the material and eat it," provincial crisis management committee spokesperson Zia Alonto Adiong told AFP, recounting testimonies from people who escaped.

"It's heartbreaking. It's almost unbelievable to think that people are living this way," he said.

The military has also reported that the terrorists are using some civilians as slaves, making them cook and carry munitions.

One survivor who escaped on Tuesday, Christian house-painter Nick Andeleg, 26, said he and his colleagues decided to flee after coming to the realization that waiting any longer would certainly lead to death.

#### Saving themselves

"We thought we were the

only ones left trapped. We felt it was better to try escaping. If we died outside our house, at least we tried to save ourselves," Andeleg told AFP as he recounted watching bombs destroy houses around him.

"We hid anywhere we could. We'd go under all kinds of furniture: beds, cabinets, in the toilet. We were like rats hiding under anything we could find," he said.

President Duterte has declared martial law in Mindanao to resolve the crisis quickly, but the military has missed a June 12 deadline to expel the terrorists from the city and the fighting has entered its fourth week with no timetable for the city's liberation.

The displaced residents are angry with Mr. Duterte for what has happened to them and their city.

"We [voted] for him because we thought he would bring peace," Omalia said. "Now Marawi is in ruins. He has called in the tanks and airplanes bomb the homes we have built with our own sweat. When Marcos declared martial

law, we were at least left in peace."

She was referring to the iron-fist rule of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who placed the entire Philippines under martial law to combat growing communist insurgency compounded by a Moro rebellion in the country's south.

Thousands of his political opponents were killed, arrested or went missing during his nearly 20-year rule, which ended in his downfall in a popular revolt in 1986. He died in exile three years later.

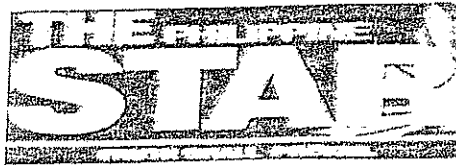
#### Tormented

Omalia Baunto, who has left her six children with her in-laws outside of Marawi, said she was determined to wait for her husband.

She appeared tormented by the wait though, mumbling to herself while sitting alone sometimes, and asking unanswerable questions to others at the government building.

"When is this crisis going to end?" she asked. "When will this chaos be over?" —WITH A REPORT FROM AFP INQ

June 2017



Page: \_\_\_\_\_

## DND, AFP chiefs face SC on ML

By EDU PUNAY

Top martial law officials appeared before the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday to present what they called factual bases for President Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, martial law administrator, and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año, martial law implementor, faced the justices in internal or closed door session to

Turn to Page 11

explain the justification for the proclamation.

In a press conference, SC spokesman Theodore Te confirmed the presentation of the two officials but declined to give details as these involved national security.

Te cited Rule 119, Section 21 of the Rules of Court that allows the SC to decline sharing with the public any information that may be detrimental or prejudicial to national security.

He said it was not the first time the high court held internal session to discuss issues, citing the Marcos vs Manglapus case involving the return of the remains of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos to the country from Hawaii.

"After the presentation was made, the justices continued with the interpellation of the parties. After satisfying itself with the answers, the Court decided to conclude the oral arguments," he said.

The justices continued interpellation on Solicitor General Jose Calida and Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, who represented the respondents and petitioners, respectively, during the closed-door session.

In an ambush interview, Calida said Lorenzana and

Año presented intelligence information that bolstered the justification for Proclamation No. 216. He also did not give details.

"It was a Powerpoint presentation. Materials were given and they answered questions from the justices," he bared.

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

He said the officials were able to show that Maute and other rebel groups in Mindanao like the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and Abu Sayyaf have established linkages to set up an Islamic state in Mindanao.

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

As earlier set, the parties were required to submit their memoranda on or before Monday, June 19, before the SC submits the case for resolution.

This case involves three consolidated petitions filed by

opposition lawmakers led by Lagman, local Mindanao leaders led by lumad leader Eufemia Campos Cullamat and a group of women from Marawi led by Norkaya Mohamad.

Two other petitions were filed by separate groups led by former senators Rene Saguisag

and Wigberto Tañada, both seeking issuance of a mandamus that would compel the Senate and the House of Representatives to convene jointly to review the declaration.

Te said the SC has decided to require the Palace to answer these two other petitions,

which were not consolidated with the first three.

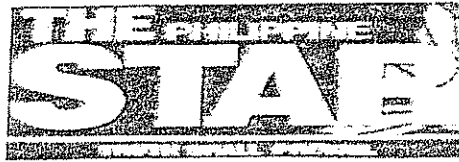
### Misplaced concern

Chief presidential legal adviser Salvado Panelo, for his part, dismissed concerns raised by Supreme Court Associate Justice Marvic Leonen

over martial law in Mindanao.

"The concern of the justice may be misplaced, and maybe the apprehension is based on the abuses committed by the previous martial law declared by the late president Marcos," Panelo said. - With Rhodina Villanueva, Janie Cameron

16 June 2017



Page: 2

# Maute kin nabbed after posing as student

By GERRY LEE GORIT

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – Disguised as a student, a cousin of the Maute brothers leading the extremists laying siege to Marawi City was arrested by police here yesterday.

Mohammad Noaim Maute, alias Abu Jadid, was apprehended in a village after he was traced by security forces using a fake student ID of a state university based in Marawi, according to regional police director Chief Supt. Agripino Javier.

Jadid, 22, managed to mingle with the evacuees in the city.

Officials said they were able to track down Jadid after military intelligence confirmed through facial recognition software that he was among the personalities that should be collared under Arrest Order No. 1 of the Department of National Defense.

Jadid, a resident of Butig, Lanao del Sur, is a suspected bomb expert of the Maute group. He is also known as an Arabic teacher in Marawi City.

Javier said Jadid managed to pass through a checkpoint in the city two weeks ago by presenting an ID identifying himself as Alfaiz Mamintal, supposedly a student of Mindanao State University.

After he was recognized, security forces later traced Jadid to a rented house in Sitio Santa Cruz, Barangay Macasandig where he was arrested yesterday.

"We had to make sure. That's why we waited for confirmation from (intelligence) before we presented him to the media," Javier said.

Facing the media, Jadid denied being a member of the Maute group, insisting that he was wrongfully accused.

"I am not a member of the Maute family. They just accused me as a bomber. I am not part of it. I am not a bomber," he said.

Brig. Gen. Gilbert Gapay, martial law spokesman for Eastern Mindanao Command, said Jadid had confessed during interrogation.

"He admitted that he is Mohammad Maute, a cousin of the Maute brothers," Gapay said.

"Jadid, a cousin to the Maute brothers, is among the key personalities covered by an Arrest Warrant No. 1 issued by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana," he added.

Javier said Jadid would be facing charges of rebellion under Arrest Order No. 1 issued and signed by Lorenzana as martial law administrator.

Javier said they are also searching for Jadid's possible companions who authorities believe are already in the city.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has indicted 11 personalities connected with the Maute rebellion.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II confirmed the criminal cases against Ominta "Farhana" Romato Maute, former Marawi City mayor Fajad Salic and nine others have been filed before this city's regional trial court, designated by the Supreme Court to handle the cases stemming from the Marawi siege.

Also indicted last Tuesday were 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.

All 11 accused were included in the list of over 300 individuals identified as members of the Maute group, Abu Sayyaf and their sympathizers earlier ordered arrested by the government for the crime of rebellion.

Farhana, mother of Maute group founders Omar and Abdullah who led the attacks in Marawi last May 23, was arrested in Masiu, Lanao del Sur on June 9 along with two wounded extremists. – With Edu Punay, John Unson, Jaime Laude, Cecille Suerte Felipe

June 2017

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

## Metro Manila is safe from Maute adventurists – PNP chief

BY FRANCIS WAKEFIELD

Take it from the Philippine National Police (PNP) chief himself: Metro Manila is safe from terror threats even if the alleged financiers of the Maute group – Engr. Cayamora Maute and his first wife Farhana are detained in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig.

Cayamora was arrested last

June 6 along with his second wife Kongan Alfonso Balawag, their daughter Norjannah Balawag and her partner Benzarali Tingao in a checkpoint laid out by Task Force Davao in Sirawan, Toril District on their way to Davao City.

Cayamora admitted to be the father of Maute Group leader Omar and Abdullah but denied involvement in their atrocities.

He reportedly escaped from Marawi Sunday at the height of the standoff between government forces and the militants but did not say which route he took in going to Sultan Kudarat municipality where he was fetched by Norjannah and Tingao aboard a van. The van driver was released to the custody of his lawyer. ▶6

Farhana was arrested five days later along with seven other women and two wounded men in Barangay Kormatan in Masiu town of Lanao del Sur.

Yesterday, a suspected bomber of the Maute group Mohammad Noaim Maute who reportedly used a fake identification card of the Mindanao State University (MSU) to get past a military checkpoint in fleeing Marawi was arrested in Cagayan de Oro City.

During a round-table discussion with

editors of the Manila Bulletin yesterday, PNP chief Director General Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa did not discount the possibility that militants went with the flow of civilians leaving the war-torn city to safer places.

### Nothing to worry

“Yes, that’s a possibility because he was already arrested in the Cagayan de Oro area. So nakalabas siya (he was able to go out). He might have joined

other evacuees who fled the city,” Dela Rosa said.

“Unless he took a different path or road to escape. Because we have intelligence reports that indicate that some withdraw via Lake Lanao. They then went to Wa-o, Lanao del Sur, umakyat sa Bukidnon then bumaba sa Cagayan de Oro,” he added.

And even if other Maute relatives are residing in Manila, Dela Rosa assured the metro is safe.

“Hindi naman ibig sabihin (kung sakaling) andito sila eh hindi na safe ang Metro Manila,” Dela Rosa said.

“Pero wala kaming namomo-monitor na andito sila. Safe tayo dito. Walang dapat ipag-alala mga tao (But we have not monitored any presence of them here. So far we are safe here. There’s nothing to worry about),” he added.

But they are not laying their guard down. The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) which is in charge of securing Metro Manila is on Red Alert Status.

“We have intensified the security especially at the camp of the NCRPO as some members of the Maute family are detained there at Camp Bagong Diwa. We are really guarding them,”

dela Rosa said.

“We take no chances na may mang-yari pa dito sa Metro Manila,” he added.

To ensure that no Maute member can escape, dela Rosa said members of the PNP Special Action Force (SAF) were deployed to seal off the area.

There are raw reports that some Maute members are already in Iligan City but they are still verifying this information.

“May nagsasabi may nakalusot sa Iligan, may nagsasabi may nakalusot sa Cagayan de Oro but we are verifying all the information,” Dela Rosa said.



June 2017



Page: 4

# UMak opens doors to displaced Makati City students

Acting on a directive from Makati Mayor Abby Binay, the city-run University of Makati (UMak) has opened its doors to students displaced by the fighting in Marawi City and children of soldiers who died in combat.

The incoming students will be considered full scholars of the university.

"At a time when communities in Marawi face uncertainty, the city government wants to help young Filipinos affected by this situation whose dreams for higher education are put on hold because of the crisis," Binay said.

"We are also extending support to children of our fallen soldiers whose sacrifice of life saved many of our fellow Filipinos but also left their children without fathers," she added.

The mayor said a Help Desk has been set up at the university through its Admissions Office to assist displaced students who wish to continue their college education as they wait for

city has always been — one that responds to the needs and dreams of its constituents," Binay said.

Last June 9, UMak president Tomas Lopez through Elyxzur Ramos, vice president for academic affairs, issued a memorandum directing the university's Center for Guidance, Admission, Testing and Scholarships (CGATS) to set up a help desk answering inquiries and facilitating the transfer of students from besieged Marawi City who wish to continue their college education.

According to UMak CGATS director Annaliza Arcega, the university will accommodate them even after June 19 when classes start at the university.

Arcega noted although it would be ideal if the students could present their report card from the previous semester, they will not be required to provide their school credentials right away.

"Given their special circumstance, we understand that their school credentials may have been left behind and likely destroyed along with their other



BINAY

conditions in their communities to get back to normal.

"We hope that this will, in the way, help our young Filipinos affected by the situation in Marawi and reflect the essence of what public service in our belongings and homes," Arcega said.

"In the meantime, an endorsement from their local government or any documents attesting that they studied or came from Marawi will suffice," she said.

Applicants will be interviewed at the Admissions Office and will be endorsed to the University Registrar for validation of their school documents if they have any. They will also be asked to go over course syllabi to determine the subjects they had already taken or will be given the option to shift courses if necessary.

For further inquiry and assistance, interested applicants may personally walk in to UMak Admissions Office (ground floor, Building II) or reach them at telephone nos. 883-1860.

Previously, in 2014, UMak accepted emergency transferees from Yolanda-affected areas, including those from Leyte and Samar, and granted them full scholarship. One has graduated last April while three others are currently enrolled at the university.

June 2017

# Manila Standard

Page: 1

## Martial law extension eyed amid terror hits

By Maricel V. Cruz and Rey E. Requejo

**SPEAKER** Pantaleon Alvarez said Thursday that House leaders were open to extending the 60-day martial law period in Mindanao following the continued terrorist attacks by the Maute group.

Alvarez, secretary-general of the ruling Partido Demokratikong Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan, said the House may approve the martial law extension "if necessary" as the Armed Forces of the Philippines has yet to gain full control of the situation in Marawi City.

President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in the entire Mindanao on May 23. It will lapse on July 23.

Alvarez reiterated that if the Supreme Court, in response to several petitions, orders Congress to convene a joint session to debate martial law, he would ignore

the order.

"Just read the Constitution, what does it say? It says the President has to report to Congress—he will be the one to report and we will listen. It doesn't say he'll report and listen to us," Alvarez said.

Opposition lawmakers led by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman questioned President Duterte's martial law declaration before the Supreme Court and the House leadership's refusal to convene a joint session with senators to debate the proclamation.

The House, in plenary session, earlier adopted a resolution supporting President Duterte's declaration of martial law.

The Senate has adopted a similar resolution.

President Duterte's administrator and implementor of martial law on Thursday appeared before the Supreme Court to present the

*Next page*

## Martial...

*From A1*

factual bases for Proclamation 216 placing entire Mindanao under martial law.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, martial law administrator, and Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año, its implementor, briefed the magistrates on the justification for the proclamation during a closed-door session.

Court spokesman Theodore Te said Lorenzana and Año, both respondents in the petitions against Proclamation 216, made a presentation before the justices.

However, Te did not provide information on the presentation as it involved matters of national security.

"After the presentation was made, the justices continued with the interpellation of the parties. After satisfying itself with the answers, the Court decided to conclude the oral arguments," he said.

The justices continued interpellation on Solicitor General Jose Calida and Lagman, who represented the respondents and petitioners respectively during the closed-door session.

In an interview afterward, Calida said Lorenzana and Año presented intelligence information that bolstered the justification for Proclamation No. 216, but also did not reveal the details.

"It was a Powerpoint presentation. Materials were given and they answered questions from the justices," he said.

The chief state lawyer said that they were able to prove that elements of rebellion—raising arms against the government and culpable purpose of removing allegiance from the government—were present in the Marawi crisis that required the President to use his power of declaring martial law under Section 18, Article VII of the Constitution.

He said the officials were able to show that Maute and other rebel groups in Mindanao like Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighter and Abu Sayyaf have already established links to establish an Islamic State in Mindanao.

He also denied the alleged human rights abuses raised by the Integrated Bar of the Philippine Lanao del Sur chapter.

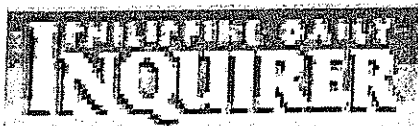
The case involves three consolidated petitions filed by opposition lawmakers led by Lagman, local Mindanao leaders led by Lumad leader Eufemia Campos Cullamat and a group of women from Marawi led by Norkaya Mohamad.

Two other petitions were filed by separate groups led by former senators Rene Saguisag and Wigberto Tañada both seeking issuance of a mandamus that would compel Senate and the House of Representatives to convene jointly to review the declaration.

Te said the SC has decided to require the Palace to answer these two other petitions, which were not consolidated with the first three.

Malacañang expressed confidence that the Supreme Court will side with the government. **With John Paolo Bencito**

June 2017



Page: 412

CAGAYAN DE ORO

POLICEMEN ARREST MAUTE GROUP BOMB MAKER

By Jigger J. Jerusalem @inquirermindanao

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Police said on Thursday they had arrested a relative of the leaders of the Islamic State (IS)-allied terrorists battling government forces in Marawi City.

Chief Supt. Agripino Javier, police chief for northern Mindanao, said Mohammad Noaim Maute, 22, of Butig, Lanao del Sur province, was a bomb maker of the Maute group and a cousin of the terrorist group's leaders, brothers Omarkhayam and Abdullah Maute.

The Maute brothers are believed to be in Marawi leading the fight for an IS enclave in the Philippines.

Their parents were taken into custody last week in sepa-

rate cities.

Aliases

Mohammad Noaim Maute also goes by the names Abu Jadid and Almahid Pangompig, Javier said.

He said Maute carried a fake Mindanao State University identification card that showed his name was Alfaiz Mamintal.

Maute was arrested by a team of police, military and intelligence agents outside a house in Sitio Sta. Cruz, Barangay Macasandig, in this city where he rented a room.

He was taken to the Macasandig police station before being transported to the regional police headquarters in Camp Alagar, Cagayan de Oro City.

He is among the people listed in Arrest Order No. 1 issued

by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, the administrator of martial law in Mindanao.

Javier said Maute did not resist arrest.

He said Maute was unarmed and carried nothing illegal when he was arrested.

Surveillance

Javier said the authorities had been monitoring Maute's movements since he came to the city about two weeks ago.

Maute posed as an Arabic teacher, Javier said.

A tip from a civilian led the authorities to Maute's location.

Javier said the authorities began closing in on Maute three days ago after gathering evidence, mostly messages and calls Maute had made on at least five cell phones he owned.

He said Maute had been able



Mohammad Noaim Maute —JIGGER J. JERUSALEM

Intelligence officers verified Maute's identity using a facial recognition software, Javier said.

The National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica) also confirmed Maute's identity, Javier added.

"We had to make sure, that's why we waited for confirmation from [Nica] before we presented him to the media," he said.

Javier said the authorities were also searching for Maute's companions believed to be already in Cagayan de Oro.

Maute denied he was a bomb maker and a member of the Maute group.

"I am not a member of the Maute family. They just accused me as a bomber. I am not part of it. I am not a bomber," Maute told reporters.

—WITH REPORTS FROM JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE AND REUTERS INQ

to get past police and military checkpoints using his fake university ID.

Maute also had posed as an evacuee, mingled with people displaced by the fighting in Marawi.

20

June 2017

# INQUIRER

Page:   A12  

**BULLET IN LEFT EAR**

## AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST SHOT, HURT IN MARAWI

By **Richel Umel,**  
**Allan Nawal**  
and **Jeffrey Maitem**  
@inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—An Australian television journalist was shot in the neck on Thursday morning as he reported from this city where Islamic State-allied terrorists are battling government troops.

Adam Harvey, a reporter for the Australian Broadcasting Corp., was talking to his driver inside the Lanao del Sur provincial capitol compound when a bullet hit him on the left side of his neck.

Harvey was taken to Amal Pakpak Medical Center, about a kilometer from the capitol, for medical treatment.

### Not serious

Dr. Gamal Mamacotao, who attended to Harvey, said the journalist's injury was not serious.

"It's slight," he said.

Dr. Jose Eric Laya said the bullet was lodged below Harvey's left ear.

"Lucky," Harvey wrote on Twitter alongside an image of the X-ray showing the bullet lodged in his neck, close to his spine.

"Thanks everyone—I'm OK. Bullet is still in my neck, but it missed everything important," he said in another Twitter post.

Although secured by the military, the capitol compound is only about 2 kilometers from the pockets of the city controlled by gunmen from the Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorist groups.

"I want to appeal to everyone, you should be very careful because in our assessment the vicinity of the 103rd (Infantry Brigade camp) is within the line of sight of the enemy," Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, spokesperson for the 1st Infantry Division, told reporters in the compound after the shooting incident.

The bullet that hit Harvey was a stray, fired by a terrorist sniper at government troops, Herrera said.

The Civil Military Office called a meeting with journalists for discussion of safety measures.

### Take precautions

Malacañang also advised journalists covering the Marawi crisis to take precautions, saying their lives are more important than any story.

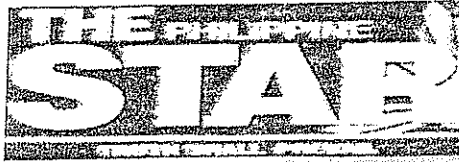
"While I understand that you would not shirk your duty in the pursuit of any story, bear in mind that there's no story more valuable than one's life. Take the necessary precautions and stay safe while covering conflicts," presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said in a statement.

The Australian television crew arrived in Marawi on June 12. —WITH REPORTS FROM

LEILA B. SALAVERRIA, AP AND  
AFP INQ

(2) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

16 June 2017



Page: 9

# Financial aid readied for Marawi siege victims

By **EDU PUNAY**  
and **RAINIER ALLAN RONDA**

The Department of Social Welfare and Development and

the Department of Justice are working on the financial assistance that can be provided to the victims of the Maute terrorist group in Marawi City.

This developed as National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) executive director Ricardo Jalad said the number of people displaced in Marawi continues to rise as the clashes between government forces and the Maute group drag on.

"If the number of IDPs (internally displaced persons) really swell, (we will consider) setting up tent cities. So the national incident management team deployed in the area is now looking at that possibility," Jalad said.

The DSWD said it will distribute on June 23 and 24 an initial P1,000 of the total P5,000 cash assistance to individuals displaced by the ongoing fighting and are currently staying in evacuation centers or with friends and relatives in Iligan City and nearby towns in the region.

For Muslim IDPs, the P1,000 assistance

is meant for them to purchase more suitable food when they break their fast on the eve of June 26, the end of Ramadan.

As of yesterday, the DSWD said the total number of families affected by the Marawi crisis has reached 69,055 or 336,783 individuals.

As for the remaining P4,000 cash aid, Social Welfare Secretary Judy Taguiwalo said this will be released once families have been allowed to return to their homes.

"We are also preparing other actions to help them when they resume their lives in their communities – other DSWD programs will be made accessible to them," Taguiwalo added.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II, for his part, has tapped the Board of Claims, which is in charge of the government's victims compensation program

under Republic Act 7309, to conduct information dissemination drive and processing of applications of victims of the Marawi siege.

“The state, through the Board of Claims, can show its genuine concern for the victims and impart to them that the government is not indifferent to their plight. The team will provide proper venue where eligible claimants can seek compensation through administrative procedure,” the DOJ said in an advisory.

The processing of applications was held at Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City, where arrested members of Maute are detained, and supervised by DOJ Undersecretary Reynante Orceo.

Under the law, the board may approve and award the maximum amount of P10,000 or the amount necessary to reimburse the claimant for expenses incurred for hospitalization, medical treatment, loss of wage, loss of support or other expenses directly related to the injury, whichever is lower.

The compensation award is without prejudice to the right of the claimant to seek other remedies under existing law.

Cavite Rep. Strike Revilla has also filed House Bill 2237 (Civilian Compensation Act of 2016) to compensate civilians killed or injured in a crossfire between rebels and soldiers from the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The bill states that in case of death, the victim should be paid P30,000. It also proposed a reimbursement for expenses incurred for hospitalization, medical treatment, loss of wage and the like in case of injury, among other forms of assistance.

Meanwhile, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has condemned the ongoing violence in Marawi as it called out the terrorists for using women and children as human shields to defend themselves from the military offensive.

“This does not only go against the moral fiber of our humanity, but violates the protection of those who are not part of the conflict granted under international humanitarian law,” the CHR said.

The CHR also paid tribute to soldiers who died in the fighting to ensure the safety of the rest of the public.

“We stand with the Maranaos and others who have been victimized in this conflict in their pleas for peace as our government forces engage and neutralize the Maute group,” the CHR said.

“These terror attacks had tremendously impacted the lives of local residents. Previous experiences in conflict-stricken areas show that displaced women and children have been the most vulnerable and prone to being hit the hardest as women become target of gender-based violence, while children constantly experience physical and psychological trauma,” it added.

The agency called on government agencies to ensure uninterrupted education for the students and address the psychosocial needs of displaced residents.

– With Delon Porcalla, Janvic Mateo, Alexis Romero

16 June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 10

# PH welcomes assistance from US, other nations

**A**FTER the news came out that the United States (US) has started giving technical assistance to Philippine armed forces in the fight against the ISIS-linked Maute Group in Marawi City, President Duterte was quick to say he did not invite them. But he is grateful for their help, he added.

Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana said it was he who asked the Americans for help under the Mutual Defense Treaty between the two nations. Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said the AFP Commander-in-Chief – President Duterte – had given the Department of Defense and the AFP a “free hand” on the matter of seeking US help.

The Americans are now providing “technical assistance” with “no boots on the ground.” The assistance thus far includes aerial surveillance, electronic eavesdropping, communications assistance, and training. A US P-3 Orion surveillance plane was seen over Marawi City last Friday.

The US help is evidently needed. As of Sunday, 58 soldiers had already been killed by Maute gunmen, with their Abu Sayyaf allies and ISIS-linked foreign combatants who raided and occupied Marawi City. Thirteen Marines led by 1st Lt. John Frederick Savelano were killed in one gunbattle. The military said

138 of the enemy and 20 civilians have been killed in the fighting since it began May 23.

President Duterte said he has been informed by his security officials that the attack in the Philippines had been ordered by the leader of the Islamic State, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, just before he was reported killed in an air strike in Syria last Saturday. Gen. Eduardo Año, chief-of-staff of the AFP, added that based on captured materials and testimonies of arrested Maute members, the grand plan of the Maute-ISIS was to attack and hold Marawi and declare it as the first Islamic State caliphate territory in the Philippines.

The fighting in Marawi is far from over. Last June 12, Independence Day, barangay leaders sought to hoist the Philippine flag over barangays earlier taken over by the Maute, but they said some of the remote villages are still in the hands of the rebel groups. Philippine troops will have to clear all enemy forces out of Marawi and elsewhere in Mindanao, and the assistance of the US, especially in surveillance, is important. The US is known to have drones in combat zones all over the world.

Assistance from other foreign governments is also welcome, presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said, as the fight against terrorism is a concern of many nations around the world.

June 2017



Page. 4

## Gov't troops retake 8 buildings in Marawi

Armed Forces of the Philippines-Public Affairs Office chief Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo has said that ground forces have so far recovered eight buildings controlled by extremists in Marawi City.

In a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Arevalo said that the war in Marawi is nearing its end.

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

Arevalo said that despite the challenges or difficulties troops are facing as a result of the strong resistance shown by the enemy, they were able to score victories.

"Napakahirap ng ating challenge na hinaharap masaya tayo sapagkat

nakarecover tayo ng walong buildings na dati inoccupy ng Maute-ISIS Group but we are happy because we were able to recover eight buildings occupied by the Maute-ISIS Group," Arevalo said.

"We were able to gain something as a result of the death of our 13 Marines which we now consider as heroes. We were able to gain 500 square meters of area when we able to get the buildings," he added.

Arevalo said the buildings were used as stronghold by Maute snipers targeting soldiers, civilians, and even non-government organizations.

"That was a stronghold of their sniper nests. We were also able to get additional high-powered firearms. So we can say that were

getting close to it, were getting nearer with it," he said.

Arevalo denied a report that government forces have bombed or planning to bomb mosques in Marawi. "We are issuing this statement on account of the news report that says that the mosques in Marawi have become target of opportunities. We categorically state that we have not bombed any and will not bomb mosques in Marawi," Arevalo said.

"The AFP leadership is firm in this commitment to use other options that would flush the Maute-ISIS Group from these places of worship that they have converted into machine guns or sniper's nests, defensive positions, and arsenals of their war wherewithals," he added. **(Francis T. Wakefield)**



June 2017



Page: \_\_\_\_\_

**EDITORIAL**

## The facts on martial law

If the supermajorities in the House and Senate only had followed the Constitution and convened a joint session, the Supreme Court would not have to do the work assigned by the Constitution to two of the great branches of government.

In *Fortun vs Arroyo*, the belated Supreme Court ruling on President Gloria Arroyo's imposition of martial law in Maguindano in 2009, the justices defined the now-limited martial law power as essentially a joint power: "It is evident that under the 1987 Constitution the President and the Congress act in tandem in exercising the power to proclaim martial law or suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus. They exercise the power, not only sequentially, but in a sense jointly ...." They added: "Only when Congress defaults in its express duty to defend the Constitution through such review should the Supreme Court step in as its final rampart." Never mind the mixed metaphors; in the only previous ruling on the exercise of the martial law power under the 1987 Constitution, the Court is unequivocal about its role as well as that of Congress.

To be sure, this role of the Court's is clearly defined in Art. VII, Section 18. Paragraph 3 reads: "The Supreme Court may review, in an appropriate proceeding filed by any citizen, the sufficiency of the factual basis of the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus or the extension thereof...."

The main question before the Supreme Court, then, follows logically: Is there sufficient factual basis for Proclamation 216? (The main question in the other, unconsolidated cases on martial law is different: Did the Senate and the House err when they declined to convene a joint session after Proclamation 216 took effect?)

In the factual-basis cases, we can discern at least three judicial philosophies at work.

There is the position exemplified by Justice Noel Tijam, who told petitioner Rep. Edcel Lagman during the oral arguments: The Supreme Court is not a trier of facts, but you are asking it to look at the factual evidence to determine whether the Marawi crisis is a rebellion. The real response to Tijam is that looking at the factual evidence to determine whether the basis for declaring martial law is sufficient is exactly what the Constitution requires of the Court. We can call the timid Tijam position the minimalist or judicially conservative approach.

There is the approach illustrated by Justice Mariano del Castillo's escalating questions about the scope of martial law. "It might embolden the President to later on declare martial law in Metro Manila, Luzon, the Visayas and the entire Philippines," he told Solicitor General Jose Calida. We can call the Del Castillo question the pragmatic position.

Then there is the position of Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, who sought to both define the main question facing the Court and the complex context in which that question is being raised. "It is not the simple job of the Court to simply say that Marawi is under siege, and on that basis immediately concur with [the Duterte administration] that we immediately dismiss the petitions that have been brought before us. But rather our job is more complex," she said. She recognized the challenge behind this legal incursion into virtually uncharted territory. "We need to find out how we can get out of this emergency situation by trying to define for the President—with all due respect—what can be done and what cannot be done." We can call this "complex" view an expansive or judicially activist stance.

In the light of Calida's extraordinary argument, that in fact the imposition of martial law does not give the President additional legal powers, this third position makes more sense. If even the government's chief solicitor is confused about what exactly martial law does, the Court must show exactly "what can be done and what cannot be done."

At the same time, the Court must ascertain the factual basis for the rebellion alleged to be taking place in the storied city of Marawi—as well as the chilling reports of abuses allegedly being committed by the government in Marawi. The Lanao del Sur chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines has professed itself "utterly shocked" by the abuses. These, too, should be included in the scope of the Court's defining work.

June 2017



Page: 15

## Impasse in Marawi

**M**adinah, Saudi Arabia—The fighting in Marawi is nearing its fourth week, and the prospect is dim that it would end soon. Meanwhile, the Daesh-inspired Maute-Abu Sayyaf forces have achieved their mission of gaining international recognition and the imprimatur of self-proclaimed Islamic State caliph Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Here in the holy city of Madinnah, devotees on *umrah* pilgrimage are distracted from their pious mood by CNN and other international media reporting intermittently on developments in Marawi. The Saudi Gazette has regular reports on the progress of the Philippine government's campaign to liberate Marawi from the rebels' clutches.

The number of rebels has been fairly dissipated. They cannot sustain the diurnal bombings and rocket shelling. They have exploited to the hilt their familiarity with the terrain, the city's crisscrossing roads, and the strategic location of high-rise buildings where their snipers with Barrett rifles and machine guns are safely ensconced and make government troops seem like sitting ducks.

The Maranaw rebel combatants are allegedly outnumbered by the Tausug and Yakan brought to Marawi by emir Isnilon Hapilon. This was validated by evacuees who said that when they spoke with the rebels manning the checkpoints in the Maranaw patois, the latter were unable to respond. In fact, part of the reason for the present impasse is that the non-Maranaw rebels, weary of the protracted standoff, are ready to leave Marawi

### COMMENTARY

MACABANGKIT B. LANTO

but do not know their way out. Boxed in, they choose to fight and die a *shaheed* (martyr) with expected rewards in the hereafter. There are reports of a near-firefight among the Maranaw and Tausug rebels when the former took off their black uniforms intending to surrender or mix with the rescued natives but were stopped by the latter who saw treachery in their action.

The discovery of stacks of crisp bills and checks in a house in Marawi should be subjected to a thorough inquiry by a specialized agency like the National Bureau of Investigation. There is more to it than meets the eye. Marawi residents have been hearing stories of how Daesh International is bankrolling the local Daesh, even using regular banks in the transfer of funds. In fact, the rebels are said to have been recruiting members using money and a regular salary as lure. It would be naive to conclude that the cache of money was legitimately acquired despite the argument that the Maranaw are wont to keep their cash at home rather than in a bank because of the Koran's proscription against usury.

Was the cash kept in a house to evade the prodding eyes of the Bangko Sentral's Anti-Money Laundering Council? With the rebels' official recognition as part of the worldwide network of Daesh International, their problem

would be how funds from Al-Baghdadi's oil treasury are transferred to them clandestinely. Will they use returning overseas Filipino workers as pigeons? Most probably. I suggest that values-formation lectures on patriotism and the scourge of Daesh (with the Marawi tragedy as classic example) be made part of the orientation seminar conducted for OFWs heading to the Middle East.

The national leadership has accused local leaders of failing to stop the rebels and of playing footsies with them to save their own necks. But truth be told, local government units were totally caught flat-footed. And if some heard advance "rumors" about the siege, they underestimated the rebels' strength and firepower. Now, with martial law in effect, they are helpless with their private armies in kaput.

Historically, the Maranaw are patriots. The epic battle at Padang Karbala in Bayang, Lanao del Sur, on May 2, 1902, is a testament to their patriotism. They fought foreign invaders and have their own share of heroes like Amai Pakpak who put their life on the line in defense of the homeland. Instead of blaming the local leaders, the government should prepare a long-range plan to arrest a creeping radical ideology and the burgeoning numbers of violence-prone Moro extremists.

Macabangkit B. Lanto (amb\_mac\_lanto@yahoo.com), UP Law 1967, was a Fulbright Fellow to New York University for postgraduate studies. He has served the government in various capacities.

14 June 2017



Page: AK

## MARTIAL LAW REDUX

President Duterte alarmingly and needlessly cut short his trip to Russia and took the mic energetically on arrival for another rambling performance. He talked of martial law (ML) in Mindanao where Muslims have been persecuted for centuries.

Those of us born in the last century may have fading memories of Marcos' ML. Indeed, how many of us remember, or even just know about the Jolo massacre of Feb. 7-8, 1974, where 20,000 Muslim, Christian, Chinese, etc. lives were lost? (A Philippine Military Academy alum, who joined the Navy, first told me about that Jolo assault.) Or the Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat bloodbath in September 1974, where 1,500 Muslims were dispatched to paradise? Martyrs.

The captive press was silent then; not possible today, given modern technology and militancy.

In our time, Joker Arroyo, Teddyboy Locsin and I took bullets for President Cory Aquino. She may speak for a few minutes and then leave it to us or the Cabinet in general to clarify, elaborate or nuance.

But how President Digong loves the mic. Asked a simple short question, he would meander, ramble and cuss, and leave it to his confused subalterns to explain what he really meant to say. Cussing is not policymaking. And clenched fist is a human rights salute of victims, not of oppressors.

Now his Cabinet will have to deal with the warning to spread ML to the Visayas and even Luzon, hoping to calm down our kin and friends abroad. There are also the investors, tourists and retirees who may need reassurance—let alone conservative Muslims in a faraway place with a strange-sounding name, who may be radicalized by a bloodbath in Marawi or Mindanao. Terrorism

is now global. Not prudent to provoke needlessly with *kanto boy braggadocio*.

To deal with evacuees and refugees we may need outside help, which the President rejects—on the supposed advice of Finance Secretary Sonny Dominguez—if these come with human rights strings attached. Mild-mannered Sonny, a closet hawk? No donor would donate just because we are such nice guys. Gifts come with conditionalities, within reason, and human rights concerns are not beyond it from our tiny places in the sun.

Sadly Mr. Digong's advisers are echoes, not voices, mainly from our common alma mater. "These days, Lex Talionis, Lex Leonum and alumni of San Beda College of Law have formed a united front behind Mr. Duterte, their most famous graduate." ("Bond of brothers," News, 5/21/17). "Most well-known," perhaps?

If Marawi will serve as a laboratory for private population reduction program, heaven help us!

The President should talk less, his Cabinet, more; and the latter should take the bullets. They should be voices, not echoes. *Di siya lang lagi ang bida*.

And thank you Gemma Nemenzo for "The greatest Marcos horror story never told," through the eyes of a Moro filmmaker, on Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat. "Even as the AFP denies the existence of the massacre, according to (Teng) Mangansakan (II), the survivors still await reparation from the Commission on Human Rights for the loss of lives and property suffered by the villagers, now 42 years to this day."

Marcosian. Now Dutertismo?

R.A.V. SAGUISAG,  
Palanan, Makati City

June 2017



Page: 14

## POWER TO PREVENT LAWLESS VIOLENCE, REBELLION OR INVASION FROM SPREADING

**S**ection 18, Article VII of the Constitution provides: "The President shall be the Commander-in-Chief of all armed forces of the Philippines and whenever it becomes necessary, he may call out such armed forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion, or rebellion. In case of invasion or rebellion, when the public safety requires it, he may, for a period not exceeding sixty days, suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus or place the Philippines or any part thereof under martial law."

The above provision talks of three specific powers of the president: (1) to call out the armed forces when necessary in order to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion; and in case of invasion or rebellion and when public safety requires, (2) to suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus and (3) to declare martial law.

We can all agree that lawless violence is now happening in Marawi. It is then clearly within the power of President Duterte to call out the armed forces (which he already had) to suppress such violence. This power draws rationale from the fact that no civilian official other than the president, as commander in chief, can summon an unlimited number of police and military troops from out of their normal or regular assignments and move them to any place where an abnormal or emergency situation exists.

However, unless what is happening in Marawi can be considered invasion or rebellion, methinks the President may as yet, strictly speaking, neither declare martial law nor suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus. This is without prejudice to

the more or less reasonable presumption that, regarding the true state of the nation, the President knows more than what any other government official does, giving him the appropriate information to make a calculated judgment call to do what is necessary as public safety requires.

Meanwhile, there are divergent views on this issue. Christian Monsod, a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, has been quoted in the news as saying he does not think rebellion exists at this time; and so, declaring a state of emergency, instead of martial law, would have been sufficient to address the situation in Marawi. Law professor Antonio La Viña opined that the declaration of martial law was justified, but only in Marawi City and if all the terror attacks were true.

To a certain extent, I beg to disagree. Following the Ampatuan massacre on Nov. 23, 2009, then President Gloria Arroyo declared martial law, and suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus a few days thereafter, in Maguindanao. I don't recall any mention of rebellion in related news reports.

On the other hand, the above-quoted Charter provision gives the president the power not only to suppress an existing lawless violence, invasion or rebellion but also to prevent the same from befalling on or spilling into adjacent localities.

The foregoing are, of course, purely and only a layman's point of view and must yield in due course to the views of Congress and the Supreme Court.

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June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 11

CHAFF FROM THE GRAIN

# Pocket rebellion



By HECTOR R. R. VILLANUEVA

*"I have promises to keep,  
and miles to go before I sleep, and  
miles to go before I sleep."*

— Robert Frost

**A**S events had unraveled, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte did right in declaring martial law in Mindanao.

While President Duterte may be the Commander-in-Chief, he was never a career soldier which makes a lot of difference when it comes down to drawing up strategies and planning for war, or quelling a rebellion.

However, being a native of Mindanao and a long-time mayor of Davao City, the Chief Executive is familiar with territory and the deep rooted problems of the island.

With the declaration of martial law and the moral support of the nation, President Digong Duterte may have nipped in the bud, so to speak, an ISIS-inspired rebellion in the heartland of Mindanao by frustrating the attempt of the Maute rebels to establish an Islamic caliphate in the pristine City of Marawi – but beautiful no more.

The nation should now realize that the Philippines is vulnerable to secessionist movements, ISIS intrusion, Moro chauvinism, banditry, and jihadist tendencies, and has never been subdued by Western colonizers.

Thus while loquacious politicians are questioning the constitutionality and semantics of martial law, the armed forces should foreclose on the siege of Marawi, revive the city, and establish law and order in the rest of Mindanao.

As Cicero of ancient Rome would

have it, "Laws are silent in time of war."

In the meantime, President Digong Duterte has his plate full, and warring in all directions with a lackluster Cabinet, and "promdi" bureaucracy as the President is unable to outgrow the narrow confines of Davao City.

First, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte should not only re-assert his congressional super-majority in the Senate and House by fast-tracking critical legislation, such as the death penalty and inhibitions against the Reproductive Health Law instead of mundane and time-wasting hearings but also exert some control over excessive media coverage and fake news.

Second, crush the NPAs once and for all, and bring peace and order to the villages.

The government is wasting too much time and money by conducting peace negotiations abroad with the CPP-NPA-NDF.

Third, it is repeated again and again that President Rodrigo Roa Duterte must outgrow Davao and let go of his fixation on Davao City, and address the larger mandate in front of him, and his single-mindedness in the war against drug trafficking.

In essence, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte shall make sure that the rebellion does not spread, and martial law is confined to Mindanao.

When all is said and done, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte should be lauded for his leadership and determination but he needs to outgrow his parochialism since the rest of the country awaits his leadership and guidance.

You be the judge.

June 2017



Page: 15

## GO AFTER NPA REBELS, TOO, DUTERTE REMINDED

**P**resident Duterte's decision to place Mindanao under martial law in response to the Marawi City incident should be welcome news to all Filipinos. We need a strong leader who is brave enough and has an "iron hand" to deal with terrorist groups like the Islamic State-inspired Maute, Abu Sayyaf and Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters that are operating in Mindanao.

No government should treat with kid gloves these godless, merciless terrorists who invoke Islam even as they kill, behead and mutilate their victims, among them Muslims, and drive away helpless, unarmed, innocent civilians from their homes, leaving behind broken communities—all in violation of their Prophet Mohammad's teachings.

Some people say martial law should be limited to Marawi City only and should not cover the whole of Mindanao. But the President is on the right path if he also targets the terrorist activities of the New People's Army in the region.

The Maute, Abu Sayyaf and BIFF are with IS in its drive to establish a global Muslim caliphate, while the NPA rebels are turning into bandits, espousing a supposedly pro-poor and pro-people ideology but, in fact, enriching themselves by extorting what they call "revolutionary taxes" from both ordinary Filipinos and business entities.

With Congress' imprimatur, the President may extend beyond 60 days the effectivity of martial law, or until it has wiped out these terrorist groups from Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Maguindanao and Basilan. The President should also direct the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, specifically, to go after the NPA in Compostela Valley, Caraga and Davao provinces, so that these bandits can no longer terrorize companies and businesses that refuse to yield to their terrorist activities.

ROMEO E ALCOSEBA,  
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June 2017

The Manila Times

Page:   A  

## Editorial

### A struggle for the future of Mindanao

**E**NTERING the 24th day of fighting in Marawi City, we believe it will help public comprehension of the situation if we shift our perspectives on the struggle for control of the city and its attendant implication for the whole of Mindanao.

Since May 23, when fighting began in Marawi, the media and the public have viewed the situation only as a matter of clearing the Muslim-majority city of Maute rebels and ending the hostilities and the Maute rebellion.

Relatedly, we have seen it as a test for the proclamation of martial law in Mindanao. Depending on how the Marawi crisis was resolved, martial law would prove itself as the necessary and correct solution to the crisis.

From this perspective, public hopes have been buoyed by the repeated announcement of deadlines by the Armed Forces that the rebellion would soon be ended—only to be dashed by the subsequent announcement that the promised liberation would not happen according to the deadline set.

Now, the media and the public must recognize a change in how the AFP sees the situation. The AFP has formally revealed that it is dealing with formidable resistance to its efforts to clear Marawi. Well-armed rebel forces are fighting back. Foreign snipers appear to be holding the line for the rebels. In a major shift in its messaging, the AFP said it will no longer set any deadlines for an end to the fighting.

This is not to say, of course, that the nation must now brace itself or settle for a war without end. This only means that the public and the media should recognize that resolution of the Marawi crisis will be drawn-out, difficult, bloody, and demanding of the best that our soldiery and police can give.

The incontrovertible fact that has emerged from Marawi is that what is taking place there is nothing less than a fierce struggle for control of Marawi between 1) rebels and foreign fighters on one side who fight under the black flag of the Islamic State (IS), and 2) the police and security forces of the Philippine republic, which has incontestable sovereignty over Marawi and all of Mindanao and the rest of the Philippines.

Our appreciation of the situation becomes more realistic when we shift the picture to the magnitude of the challenge raised by Maute and its foreign supporters.

The objective of the rebel forces is to create an Islamic State outpost in Southeast Asia, using the Philippines as base.

In testimony before the Supreme Court, government lawyers spelled out what military intelligence has learned about the extent of Maute objectives, and the essence of the plot to invade Marawi. This was a single-minded IS operation to take control of a major Mindanao city as a stepping stone towards taking all of Mindanao.

Ranged against this ambitious goal is the sworn duty and unflinching resolve of the Philippine military and Philippine government to preserve and protect every inch of national territory, and the welfare, safety and security of the Filipino people and the republic.

There should be no doubt that government troops remain focused on flushing out the Maute group in Marawi City and defeating their challenge to the government. The AFP is already deploying a wide range of its weaponry in the fight.

As of yesterday, more than 200 members of the Maute group have been killed; almost 60 government troops and some 26 civilians have died in the struggle for Marawi.

This is a heavy toll. But it is light when weighed against what is truly at stake in the fighting there. The struggle in Marawi is not just about one city and its future. In fact, it is a struggle for the entirety and the future of Mindanao.

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popular Digong and his team to succeed in giving our people a safer, better life. You and I win thereby.

But, what would be your answer if asked: "Is life better today than a year ago?" My biased answer would be No!, beginning with traffic concerns. Far worse than a year ago, limiting my movements in a society with weaker institutions and lower values.

One of whom we cannot ask that question is Bong Lapira, "an institution in Philippine TV news," per Boo Chanco. He wrote last Friday about Bong's passage to where there are no traffic gridlocks. Bong was my classmate in one section in San Beda. He and I never really became close but as a promdi from Rizal High I improved my diction hearing good speakers. Thus, I pronounced "program" differently after hearing Bong use it. He had a popular radio program that a puppy love "gel-fren-gel-freñan" of mine was crazy about, in KZRH, if my fading memory is true. Bong was refined, in a manner Bal Pinguel wasn't. Gary Olivar wrote last Tuesday that firebrand Bal is gone. Bal would have been after Digong's own heart when it came to public cussing. On September 21, 1972, I heard Bal on radio as I was monitoring the rally in Plaza Miranda, where Ka Pepe and Charito Planas spoke. The old spice was there. *Ang lulutong!*

I then headed San Beda's Aid Clinic. My AB classmate, Ed Ruiz, who teaches English at the Ateneo, also emailed about mild-mannered, refined Jesse Dinglasan— San Beda Hi valedictorian in 1955, when I enrolled in San Beda being in a bad way.

For Marc, Bong, Bal and Jesse, prayers.

I trust Boo, Gary and Eddie are not dishing out fake news. Not even the Ten Commandments can prevent lying, which is different from erring. We all make mistakes. The *Chicago Daily Tribune* bannered in 1948 that Dewey beat Truman. The lapse has often been characterized as "famous," instead of "infamous." Or "fake news."

We may tell "white lies," or even blarney. We may charitably describe as "cute" a baby with a face only his mom could love. Lies Churchill would call "terminological inexactitudes." Elegant.

But, for Justice Secretary Vit Aguirre to charge certain senators with crimes and then have same probed may be unforgivable premature ejaculation. Vit topped his 1971 law class at San Beda and was a formidable member of our team that defended Hubert Webb. As one who said at the start in 1995 that I'd carry to my grave that Hubert was thousands of miles away when the Vizconde tragedy occurred, I am saddened that we seem to be having another Injustice Secretary today. *Pero di po likas na masama si Vit, nabarkada lang po.* To link anyone to Marawi could be hazardous to the health of the one named.

Fire!-Aim!-Ready! Justice we don't need.

"Fake news" and trial and conviction

by publicity led to the imprisonment of Hubert and company for more than 15 years. Vit must realize that fake news could lead to years of torment beyond compare.

### Real hero of Bessang Pass

I write this on June 14, which marks another anniversary of Bessang Pass, said to be our only victory against foreign invaders (but there is Lapu-lapu's). There, my fellow San Beda law teacher Desi Jurado exemplified the courage and gallantry that made Churchill describe the Pinoy soldier as the finest warrior in the world. The dashing father, Vicente, Sr., of dashing Jesse Dinglasan, made the supreme sacrifice in Bataan at the hands of the Japanese Kempeitai; Jesse attended San Beda as an orphan from 1945 to 1960, when he finished AB, magna cum laude.

Bessang Pass is up north, in Cervantes, Ilocos Sur, where the battle raged for months in 1945. Ferdinand Edralin Marcos was hundreds of kilometers away (in Luna, La Union). Yet, FM managed to have it come out that he was the great hero there. The real top hero of Bessang Pass was Conrado Rigor, Jr., whose family in the US was upset and came out in vindication of the patriarch when Digong had his idol, a fake "hero," moved to the Libingan ng mga Bayani last year.

Desi and I once met during Ma-roy's ML. He commended us for our human rights work. And then, with a faraway look, he wistfully asked whatever happened to that young man who was once ready to lay down his life for the Motherland? I took that to mean, "keep going."

Vit Aguirre did not originate fake news. Like corruption, it's been with us for thousands of years; not even the Ten Commandments could stop it. We used to call it propaganda, and Mata Hari and the Tokyo Rose excelled in it. Today, we may just say, "stop spreading lies about me or I will start telling the truth about you."

Then, a gray area. Once, the late Tony "Bote" Bautista and I met and he said "Ne, a son of yours is a classmate of a daughter of mine and she says he's good-looking." Bote then looked me up and down and asked: "Why, is your wife beautiful?" Was she ever.

Still, I wonder, is there is such a thing as a "fake" question? "Foolish" should do. Per Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion, my political law prof in senior law, the foolish questions are at times the hardest to answer.

Such as, "Mr. Speaker, supplemental humongous billions for Marawi, and benefits for our troops, or their widows and orphans, fine, but what do we use for money? In our few remaining trees, I have not seen a single one with money growing on it."

Or, "Mr. Prez, isn't your constitutional power to 'call out [our armed] forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence' enough without the downside of ML?" Meantime, your health comes first, for the nation's sake.

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June 2017



Page: 6

# An IS antidote

**T**he Marawi City siege is a compelling reason for the Federalism push in which provincial autonomy is a key ingredient, since it is also the option that the administration of Rody is considering to address the Bangsamoro question.

The previous administration of Noynoy even had a hard time defining the offspring of the peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), coining the word "political entity" for the so-called Bangsamoro homeland.

The definition that most others used was a substate, the creation of which is not allowed under the Constitution.

The Bangsamoro Basic Law got stalled in Congress mainly due to the infirm provisions on what then was considered a document for the dismemberment of the state to appease the separatist rebels.

Rody's concept is for a federal government that will allow a wide latitude of autonomy including the Bangsamoro government that would comprise Muslim provinces that are the targets of occupation of Islamic extremists including the terror group Islamic State (IS).

The Federalism shift is, however, circuitous and would need the revision of the Constitution to make it happen.

Also in the past, the proposed government system failed to get popular support mainly from political groups who wanted the center of power to reside in Manila.

The move for Federalism, however, has gained traction with the presidency of Rody, who hails from Mindanao, and who actively showed the nation that Manila should not necessarily be the political center of gravity.

The thrust for the government shift, however, appeared stalled at the moment since nothing has been heard in Congress about the move.

For the Charter to be revised, a body would have to be formed for its rewriting. Rody wanted a constitutional convention (concon) to revise the basic law, rather than a constituent assembly (conass) that Congress is pushing because he wants a democratic discussion of charter change (chacha).

Based on the administration's timetable, by next year, the deliberations in Congress would be finalized by 2019, to coincide with the midterm elections, a plebiscite for Federalism would be held.

If chacha wins, the administration envisions 2020 to 2022 as the transition period for the federal government.

The Maute group's invasion of Marawi City provided the nation a view on the problems besetting the whole of Mindanao and Rody has underlined the extent of the problem with the declaration of martial law on the region.

Two clear realities emerged from the extremist attack which are that the IS is intent on putting up a caliphate in Mindanao and that the next targets are the moderate Islamic groups that are growing impatient and frustrated on the peace process, specifically in attaining the Bangsamoro homeland.

The IS-sympathizers are trying to send a message to the moderates that they have a better option to secede from the country.

Rody issued EO 10 last December 7 mandating the creation of the chacha body to "study, conduct consultations and review the provisions of the 1987 Constitution, including but not limited to, the provisions on the structure and powers of the government, local governance, and economic policies."

Drafting a new Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), meanwhile, is a 21-member Bangsamoro Transition Commission, composed of 11 nominees from the MILF and 10 from the government.

The trickier part is the crafting of the new BBL, as Rody said there would have to be a document uniting the Moro National Liberation Front and the MILF.

He recently called on leaders of both armed Islamic groups to a meeting to come up with a consensus saying he will only certify for urgent passage in Congress only one draft Bangsamoro law.

From the start of his term, Rody has promoted Federalism as a potent antidote to extremism and urged Congress to give priority to the timetable that he set to attain before he steps down in 2022.

So far, Congress has failed to step up as it is most of the time caught up with some trivial yellow intramurals.

June 2017



Pahina. 4

**Editorial EDITORIAL Editorial**

## **Pagtulong ng U.S. sa 'Pinas laban sa Maute, 'wag na raw gawing isyu**

**I**BA-IBA ang naging reaksiyon ng bayan sa balitang tumutulong daw ang Estados Unidos sa tropa ng gobyerno sa pagpuksa sa Maute Terrorists Group.

May natuwa at meron ding 'di mapigilang maglabas ng negatibong komento sa balitang hiningi umano ng AFP ang tulong ng tropa ni 'Uncle Sam' kontra terorismo.

Kaya ang AFP nanawagang huwag na raw gawing isyu pa ang pagtulong ng U.S. sa gitna ng patuloy na krisis sa Marawi.

At ayon pa sa AFP spokesperson, hindi rin daw niya maintindihan kung bakit pinalalaki pa ang pagbibigay ng ayuda ng Amerika sa bansa.

Dahil ang tulong ng U.S. ay hiningi raw ng AFP dahil walang sapat na kakayahan ang ating pamahalaan at kung karanasan din naman daw tungkol sa paglaban sa terorismo, may-roon daw nito ang U.S.

Bagama't, technical support lang daw ang naibibigay ng mga sundalong Amerikano na nasa Marawi City dahil hindi naman ito puwedeng sumama sa combat at surgical operations, nilinaw naman nila na bukas din ang pamahalaan sa pagkuha ng tulong hindi lamang sa Amerika kundi pati na rin sa iba pang mga bansa.

Kung tutuusin, wala naman talagang masama kung tumanggap tayo ng tulong kay 'Uncle Sam' lalo na kung ang pagtulong nilang ito ay makabubuti at mas mapabibilis ang pagpuksa sa mga terorista sa Marawi.

At sa halip na pambabatikos, mas makabubuti siguro kung buong puso na lamang nating susuportahan ang mga nakikipagbambakan para maibalik ang kapayapaan sa Marawi.

June 2017



Pahina. 2



## Bandila ng Pilipinas, nailagay na sa PH Rise

PARA wala ng tanung-tanong, naglagay o nagtanim na ng bandila ng Pilipinas sa Benham Rise o Philippine Rise noong Araw ng Kalayaan.

Nakalagay sa loob ng fiberglass na lalagyan ang bandila at inilagay limampu't pitong metro sa ilalim ng dagat.

Nakalagay din sa flagpole ang bandila, kaya mistulang lumilipad sa hangin. Siniguradong matibay ang pagkikalagay ng bandila dahil malakas daw ang agos ng tubig sa ilalim ng dagat.

Dapat ding tingnan paminsan-minsan kung nakatayo pa ang bandila at baka matumba na lang o mas masama, baka may kumuha.

Naging isyu ang paggiit ng soberanyang karapatan natin sa Philippine Rise, nang may namataang barko ng China na nanatili sa lugar nang higit isang buwan.

Walang dahilan para dumaan ang nasabing barko sa Philippine Rise, kaya ang hinala ay siniyasat nang husto ang lugar.

Kung para saan ay sila na lang ang nakaalam at tila namatay na ang isyu nang magpahayag si Pangulong Duterte na nagpaalam daw sa kanya ang China.

Kung sagana sa likas na yaman ang lugar, simulan na ang pagsisiyasat para mapakinaba-

ngan-ito ng bansa. Baka ibang bansa pa ang makinabang.

\*\*\*

NILINAW kaagad ng AFP na hindi nila bobombahin ang mga mosque na ginagamit na taguan ng mga teroristang Maute.

Igagalang pa rin ang mga sagradong lugar, na nakasaad din naman sa Geneva Convention. Inutos ito mismo ni AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año. Kung may mga sniper na puwede nilang i-target, gagawan nila.

Pero ang malawakang pagbomba ng mga mosque para madurog na ang mga natitirang Maute sa Marawi ay hindi mangyayari.

May respeto pa rin ang ating mga sundato sa mga sagradong lugar.

Baka kasi plano rin ito ng Maute. Kung sakaling bombahin ang mosque, baka makuhá nila ang simpatya ng maraming Muslim at pumanig na rin sa kanila.

Sa ngayon, tilan na lang ang naiwan sa Marawi City. Ayon sa AFP, nasa 20% na lang ang hawak ng mga Maute, apat na barangay at lumiliit daw araw-araw.

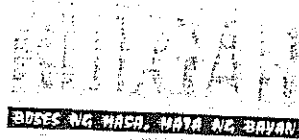
Pero kahit maliit na lang ang hawak, hindi ibig sabihin ay ligtas na ang buong siyudad at puwede nang bumalik ang mga residente.

Maaaring tumagal pa ang labanan sa desisyong ito na huwag bombahin ang mga pinagtataguan ng mga terorista, pero mapanataniling buo ang mga banal na lugar.

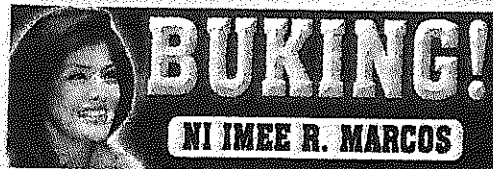
Nakiusap na rin ang pamunuan ng AFP na huwag ikalat na may natamaan na silang mga mosque sa ginagawang mga air strike dahil wala naman.

Kasama talaga sa digmaan ang pagkalat ng mga pekeng impormasyon, na magagamit sa kalaban.

June 2017



Pahina. 1



### **Martial Law ni P-Digong, tatlong araw gigisahin sa SC, OMG!**

TATLONG araw gigisahin sa Korte Suprema ang Martial Law na idineklara ni Pangulong Digong sa buong kapuluan ng Mindanao. Siyempre, asahan na nating ididiin ang pangulo ng kanyang mga kalaban sa politika at ipanumukha sa sambayanan na mali ang desisyon niyang ideklara ang Martial Law sa buong Mindanao.

Tuluy-tuloy ang ginawang pambabatikos ng mga kritiko ng pangulo tungkol sa Martial Law. Ito ay sa kabila na kitangkita naman na walang humpay na babakan pa rin ang nagaganap sa Marawi City.

Nariyan na talagang pinopolitika na ang pangulo sa mga hakbang na ginagawa niya at maging ang hindi niya pagdalo sa nakaraang pagdiriwang ng ika-119 anibersaryo ng Araw ng Kalayaan ay hindi rin pinalampas. Kung anuanong espekulasyon ang sinasabi na kung tutuusin ay wala namang magandang maidudulot kundi maghatid lang ng dibisyon sa buong sambayanan.

Nakakaloka talaga! Kaya tama lang ang pangulong Senado sa panghihikmok nito sa publiko na suportahan natin si P-Digong sa panahong

ito na batbat ng problema ang kanyang administrasyon, tapos sinasamahang pa ng kung-anu-anong pamomolitika.

Kailangang magsama-sama tayo, magkaisa para sabay-sabay nating malabanan at masugpo ang terorismo na kumitil na ng maraming buhay at sumira ng milyunmilyong halagang kabuhayan sa Marawi City.

Hindi lang ang laban sa Marawi ang dapat nating bigyan ng suporta, ipakita rin natin sa pangulo na nakikiisa tayo sa layunin niya na maiangat ang buhay ng mamamayan na matagal nang naghihirap.

Sa ganitong panahon, lalo pa't mag-iisang taon pa lang siya sa Malacñang, ipadama natin sa pangulo na kaisa niya tayo sa kanyang mga laban para sa ikauunlad at ikatatahimik ng ating bansa. Ang tagumpay niya ay tiyak na tagumpay din nating lahat.

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

## **ONLINE NEWS**

### **16 JUNE 2017**

[www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com](http://www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com)

#### **PHP617-M infra projects for conflict-stricken E. Samar towns pushed**

From the Philippine News Agency (Jun 15): PHP617-M infra projects for conflict-stricken E. Samar towns pushed

The Eastern Samar provincial government is seeking the implementation of PHP617 million rural infrastructures next year under the "road for peace" projects by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP).

These 10 projects consist of farm-to-market roads, road opening, and bridges in the towns of Balangkayan, Can-avid, Dolores, and General MacArthur.

Of the PHP617 million, PHP90 million are for Balangkayan, PHP250 million for Can-avid, PHP117 million for Dolores, and PHP160 million for Gen. MacArthur.

In a letter sent to the Regional Development Council (RDC) on Thursday, Eastern Samar Governor Conrado Nicart said the proposed projects had been highly recommended by local government units.

"It is deemed proper to endorse the proposed projects in Eastern Samar to the RDC for favorable action to facilitate approval and funding of these projects," Nicart said.

The OPAPP's "road for peace" project known as "Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (Pamana)", the national government's "convergence program that extends development interventions to isolated, hard-to-reach and conflict-affected communities, ensuring that they are not left behind."

Imelda Bonifacio, Pamana's Samar Island area manager assured the projects would be included next year as allocation for Samar provinces climbed to nearly PHP5 billion from PHP445 million this year.

"Eastern Samar is a priority for Pamana. From 2012 to 2015, 17 projects in the province have been implemented. Eleven projects have been completed already as of this year," Bonifacio told PNA on Thursday.

OPAPP has been implementing PHP800 million worth of roads and bridges project in Eastern Samar since 2012 covering the towns of Maslog, Can-avid, Jipapad, and Gen. Macarthur.

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13

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## Findings on 'friendly fire incident' in Marawi sent to AFP Major Services

From the Philippine News Agency (Jun 15): Findings on 'friendly fire incident' in Marawi sent to AFP Major Services

Facts ascertained by the Board of Inquiry (BOI) that is looking into the "friendly fire incident" in Marawi City, where 10 soldiers perished and seven others were wounded, have already been forwarded to the AFP Major Services, military public affairs office chief, Col. Edgard Arevalo, has said.

Earlier, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) inspector general, Maj. Gen. Rafael Valencia, said he had already forwarded their initial findings to AFP Chief-of-Staff Gen. Eduardo Año last June 9.

Arevalo said in an interview that the decision to forward the initial BOI results to Major Services, in this case the Army and Air Force, was based on the fact that these units are the ones providing the military personnel, aircraft, pilots and maintenance.

"It is up to Major Services to determine what adjustments will be done on techniques, tactics, and procedures, and if there are some faults or discrepancies among personnel, then Major Services will determine the extent of their liabilities. If there are faults in the equipment, then it is their responsibility to give the feedback to the supplier," he added in Filipino.

A SIAI-Marchetti SF-260 light attack plane was on its fourth sortie against the Maute Group last May 31 when its bombs accidentally hit Army troops, killing 10 and wounding seven others.

Valencia however declined to give details of their findings as some of these information have some implications on the ongoing operations in Marawi City where government forces continue to battle remaining Maute Group terrorists.

"Actually, one of the recommendations is to hold the (release) of the findings while 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 said.

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## **Maute matriarch, ex-Marawi mayor face rebellion raps in CDO court**

From the Philippine News Agency (Jun 15): Maute matriarch, ex-Marawi mayor face rebellion raps in CDO court

The Department of Justice approved the filing of rebellion charges against Ominta Tamano "Farhana" Maute, mother of Maute group leaders Abdullah and Omar, former Marawi City Mayor Fahad Salic and nine others in connection to the ongoing armed conflict in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur before the Cagayan De Oro City Regional Trial Court (RTC).

"The centralized Prosecution Office of Lanao Del Sur and Marawi City accuses [the 11 individuals] of the crime of rebellion under Article 134 of the Revised Penal Code," read the four-page resolution dated June 13, 2017 was signed by Prosecutors Ramonchito Bienvenido Ocampo Jr. and Liezel Aquiatan but was released to media on Thursday.

Rebellion is a non-bailable offense.

Aside from Salic and Maute, also charged in court are Sumaya Bangkit Masakal, Radiea Tugosa Asire, Mariam Ibnu Abubakar, Zafeerah Rosales Musa, Nehreen Macaraya Abdul, Nora Moctar Limgas, Mardiyya Haji Ali, Sumayya Lawi Ali and Noronisa Haji Camal.

All 11 accused were included in the list of over 300 individuals identified as members of the Maute group, the Abu Sayyaf group, and their sympathizers earlier ordered arrested by the government for the crime of rebellion.

They were indicted after investigating prosecutors found probable cause to file the case in court following inquest proceedings held at their temporary detention cell in Camp Evangelista in Cagayan De Oro City.

Farhana and her nine companions were arrested last Friday in Masiu, Lanao Del Sur. Authorities confiscated one M14 rifle, seven M14 magazine assembly, 136 M14 live ammunition, one scope, two rifle grenades, two improvised rocket propelled grenades and two smoke grenades.

On the other hand, Salic who was also arrested last Friday in Misamis Oriental was included in Department Order No. 2 issued by Defense Secretary and martial law administrator Delfin Lorenzana. Authorities confiscated four units of M203 grenade, one M16 rifle loaded with 29 pieces of live ammunition and three pieces of long magazine with each loaded with 30 pieces of 5.56 live ammunition.

Farhana is believed to be the financier of the Maute group while Salic's name appeared among cheques confiscated by the military in one of Maute group's hideout. The nine others were among those arrested with Farhana.

Clan patriarch Cayamora Maute was already arrested last June 6 at a checkpoint in Davao City last along with two other Maute members. They were already indicted for rebellion before the

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## **AYUDA NG US, MALAKING TULONG SA OPERASYON SA MARAWI; AFP, BUKAS SA PAGTANGGAP NG TULONG MULA SA IBANG BANSA**

Report of Lui Claudio on June 10, 2017 at 12:48 PM

Iginiit ng Armed Forces of the Philippines na malaking tulong ang ayuda na ibinibigay ng Estados Unidos sa pagtugis sa mga teroristang maute sa Marawi City.

Sinabi ni Brigadier General Restituto Padilla, spokesperson ng AFP na huwag na sanang gawan pa ng isyu ang pagtulong ng US sa militar.

Aniya, hindi niya maintindihan kung bakit kailangan pang palakihin ang pagtulong ng US, at sinabi nitong humingi ng tulong ang AFP sa US dahil malaki ang maitutulong nito sa kanilang operasyon dahil mas marami nang experience ito sa pagpuksa ng terorismo.

Sinabi naman ni Padilla na, sa ngayon ay sinusubukan ng gobyerno na bumili ng mga kagamitan na mas magpapalakas sa kakayahan ng AFP upang matugis ang mga terorista sa bansa.

Matagal naman nang nilinaw ng militar na technical support lamang ang ayuda ng US Forces na nasa Marawi City.

Binigyang-diin naman ni Padilla na, bukas ang pamahalaan sa pagtanggap ng tulong hindi lamang sa Amerika kundi pati na rin sa iba pang kaalyadong bansa upang tuluyan nang mabura sa mapa ng Pilipinas ang mga terorista.

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## TAGALOG NEWS | MGA UNCLAIMED NA BANGKAY SA MARAWI CITY, ILILIBING NA NGAYONG ARAW

Reporter: Lui Claudio | Editor: ...

Nakatakda nang ilibing ngayong araw ang unclaimed na mga bangkay sa Marawi City, sa pagpapatuloy na clearing operations ng pinagsamang pwersa ng sundalo at kapulisan.

Ayon sa pahayag ni Danilo Capin, may ari ng Capin Funeral Homes sa Iligan City, Batay sa kanilang tala nasa dalampungon bakay ang dinala sa nasabing punerarya.

Ngayong araw magkakahiwalay na ihahatid sa kani-kanilang huling hantungan ang mga bangkay dahil hindi na ito identifiable.

Samantala, kinuhanan naman ng mga pulis ang mga bangkay ng DNA upang matukoy ang mga pagkakakilan-lan ng mga ito.

Sasagutin naman ng Crisis Management Committee ang mga gagastusin para sa libing.

Sa ngayon ay umabot na sa mahigit isang libo at anim na raang indibidwal ang matagumpay na nairescue ng mga otoridad mula sa mga conflict areas sa Marawi.- MMA

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## Soldiers in Bukidnon celebrate World Blood Donor Day, donate blood for Marawi victims

By: Lt. Claudio



Camp Bahian, Malaybalay City – The 403rd Infantry (Peacemaker) Brigade of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, in collaboration with the Philippine Red Cross-Malaybalay Chapter, the City Health Office of Malaybalay City, the Lion's Club of Maramag and Malaybalay City, the Eagle's Club and POINTY-Bukidnon Youth Organization, commemorated the World Blood Donor Day through the conduct of a bloodletting activity with the theme: "What can you do? Give blood. Give now. Give often." around 9:00 am today, June 14, 2017, at Camp Osito D. Bahian Function Hall, Brgy. Impalambong, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon. The activity, which is aimed at helping the victims of the Marawi City incident – uniformed men and civilians alike, through the Philippine Red Cross, yielded around 25,650 cc of blood from 57 donors composed of soldiers and other civilian participants.

The bloodletting activity is a quarterly program of the 403rd Infantry Brigade that is conducted in partnership with the Philippine Red Cross and in collaboration with different local government units and agencies and civil society organizations in Bukidnon. In her message during a short program, Ms. Hera Gamungan, OIC of the Philippine Red Cross – Malaybalay City Chapter, expressed her appreciation to the men and women of 403rd Infantry Brigade for their constant support to the Philippine Red Cross in terms of blood donations and especially now that there is a need for blood for the wounded police and military personnel as well as civilian victims who were affected by the Marawi City incident. *"It is very timely that we are conducting our bloodletting activity today because we are celebrating the World Blood Donor Day today and every 14th day of June each year. I am very thankful to the members of the 403rd Infantry (Peacemaker) Brigade for being a constant partner in our advocacy of giving safe blood to those who are in need. But more than that, it is very helpful and meaningful that we are conducting this activity today because we know that there is a need for ample supply of blood right now for all those who were wounded and affected by the Marawi Crisis."* – says Ms. Gamungan.

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Likewise, in his message, COL ERIC C VINOYA INF (GSC) PA, Commander, 403rd Infantry Brigade, 4ID, PA, mentioned that donating one's blood is the most precious gift that a person could give to another. He also assured everyone that the Brigade would continue to conduct the bloodletting activity every quarter as he encouraged all Peacemaker Troopers to give their wholehearted support by participating in the said program. *"The most precious gift that a person could give to another is the gift of life and it is well endowed through donating one's blood. It saves another person's life even if you do not know that person. We would like to thank our partner organizations especially the Philippine Red Cross – Malaybalay City Chapter, and all those who are present here today, for helping us realized the activity that we are conducting today and for allowing us also to help our fellow soldiers who were wounded in the fighting in Marawi City, as well as the civilians who were also affected by the ongoing crisis, through blood donation. We should be doing this on a regular basis that is why I encourage every Peacemaker soldier to continue engaging in this kind of activity so that in our own little way, we can help other people and at the same time, maintain our healthy condition."* – says COL VINOYA.

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409