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NEWS CLIPPINGS

20 June 2017

Tuesday

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

ESTABLISHED IN 1905 • PUBLISHED 5 TIMES A WEEK

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JUNE 20 2017 | TUESDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

CREATED BY: [unreadable]

BRIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE AREA AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF LUZON AND VISAYAS (As of 5:00 PM - June 19, 2017)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:26 AM	6:27 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
1:46 AM	2:43 PM
LAST QUARTER	NEW MOON
JUN 17 7:38 PM	JUN 21 10:31 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
1:45 PM 0.59 Meter	7:07 AM 0.84 Meter

Partly cloudy to almost cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms
Cloudy skies with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

	JUNE 21	JUNE 22	JUNE 23	JUNE 24	JUNE 25
METRO MANILA	26-34°C	26-35°C	21-30°C	21-30°C	25-32°C
TUGUEGARAO	25-35°C	26-35°C	26-33°C	26-33°C	24-32°C
LAOAG	26-32°C	25-32°C	25-33°C	26-33°C	25-32°C
BAGUIO	17-25°C	16-25°C	26-33°C	26-33°C	24-33°C
SBMA/CLARK	25-34°C	26-34°C	25-32°C	26-32°C	
TAGAYTAY					25-31°C
LEGAZPI					25-32°C
PUERTO PRINCESA					25-32°C
ILOILO/BACOLOD					24-32°C
METRO CEBU					25-32°C
TACLOBAN					25-31°C
CAGAYAN DE ORO					25-32°C
METRO DAVAO					25-32°C
ZAMBOANGA					24-32°C

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

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

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AFP: 'SHABU' FUELS MAUTE FIGHTERS

The military says 11 kilos of crystal meth have been found in a Marawi house occupied by the terrorists, who are using drugs to stay tough in clashes with government troops

By Allan Nawal, Richel Umel and Julie S. Alipala @inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—“Shabu” is keeping the terrorists holed up in Marawi City tenacious despite their dwindling numbers, slowing the advance of government troops, the military said on Monday.

Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, spokesperson for the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said the military reached the conclusion about the terrorists' use of shabu, or crystal meth, after the recovery on Sunday evening of 11 pieces of 1-kilogram packs of the illegal drug from a house used by the terrorists as cover in clashes with government troops.

Found by troops from the 49th Infantry Battalion, the shabu was estimated to be worth P110 million to P250 million, Herrera said.

“This validated the observation



DRUG-HAUL Military officers present packs of “shabu” reportedly seized from a house used by terrorists in Marawi City. —RICHEL UMEL

of our troops that the enemies were suicidal and appeared to be drug-crazed,” Herrera said, adding that drug paraphernalia and at least four rifles and a black flag of the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in Iraq and

Syria were also found in the house.

Capt. Eric Estrevillo, the civil-military officer of the 49th Infantry Battalion, said IS-inspired gunmen from the Maute terror group held the house for about a week and put up

fierce resistance before troops captured it on Sunday.
"The gunmen appeared [to be] very energetic and high on drugs," source of national pride Estrevillo said.

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The military estimates that up to 120 terrorists are holed up in buildings, houses, and mosques in the commercial district of Marawi.

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

Herrera said the drug-fueled determination of the terrorists and their use of high-powered firearms, such as antitank weapons, and fuel bombs were slowing the advance of government troops.

He said the terrorists also used fuel bombs during a clash with government forces on May 31 that cost the lives of 13 Marines.

Herrera said the government troops continued to advance and had killed 257 terrorists since May 23.

He said three soldiers were killed in fighting on Sunday, bringing the govern-

144

ernment troops.

"They have used drones, the commercial ones that we can buy anywhere," he said.

Soldiers have shot down several of the terrorists' drones, he said.

Herrera denied that the military had been using poison bombs against the terrorists.

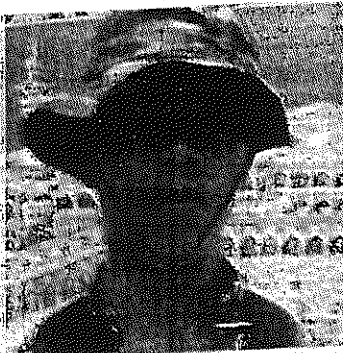
"Please do not believe what you read on social media. Your Armed Forces is a Constitution-based organization and we follow international law on warfare," he said.

Herrera added that the military was trying to rescue as many civilians as it could from the war zone.

"Last night, we rescued another trapped civilian, bringing the total to 1,637," he said.

The fighting began on May 23 when Maute and Abu Sayyaf gunmen laid siege to Marawi after a failed military attempt to capture Isnilon Hapilon, an Abu Sayyaf leader who had pledged allegiance to IS.

The military was caught by surprise and President Duterte



Cpl. Arshid Isirani
—CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

declared martial law in all of Mindanao to crush the terrorists' attempt to establish an IS enclave in Mindanao.

Bigger US role

Foreign fighters have been killed in the fighting, including from Middle Eastern countries and Chechnya, indicating IS fighters returning from Iraq and Syria are opening a new front—in Southeast Asia.

The developments in Mindanao have raised significant alarm in Washington.

US Defense Secretary Jim

Matthis told Congress last week that a long-running US military operation to help Philippine forces contain extremist fighters was canceled prematurely three years ago.

Small numbers of US Special Forces remain in an "advise and assist" role, and the United States is providing aerial surveillance to help Philippine troops retake Marawi from the terrorists, he said.

But US lawmakers, including from President Donald Trump's Republican Party, want a bigger US role, short of boots on the ground.

They fear the area is becoming a new hub for IS fighters from Southeast Asia and beyond.

"I don't know that Isis are directing operations there but they are certainly trying to get fighters into that region," said Republican Sen. Joni Ernst of Iowa, using another acronym for IS. "We need to address the situation. It should not get out of control." —WITH A REPORT FROM AP INQ

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at's losses to 62, including 26 policemen.

Twenty-six civilians have died in the fighting since the siege began four weeks ago.

One of those killed on Sunday was Cpl. Arshid Isirani of the 1st Marine Battalion Landing Team 5, who was shot by a sniper in the chest.

Isirani's remains were flown back to his home in Zamboanga City on Monday, Herrera said.

Herrera said the military sent in another battalion to fight the Maute terrorists and their allies from the Abu Sayyaf militant group.

He said airstrikes, artillery and ground attacks also continued Monday.

Commercial drones

Aside from using high-rise buildings and mosques to stage attacks, the terrorists were also using technology to determine the position of advancing gov-

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Senators urge Rody: Defer talks with Reds

By PAOLO ROMERO

Senators are urging the Duterte administration to hold off peace negotiations with the communist National Democratic Front (NDF) after the latter's armed wing – the New People's Army (NPA) – attacked a police outpost in Iloilo province on Sunday.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, chairman of the Senate committee on public order, yesterday said the NDF has in fact indicated it is not in control of some NPA units involved in attacks on government forces.

"The first thing to consider before resuming the peace talks with the NDF is an assurance and clear proof that the NPA is still under the CPP-NDF control and direction," Lacson said, also referring to the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"Evidently, as shown by recent events, they are not. Having said that, we ask this question – are we negotiating with the right party?"

Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito said the government "should not trust the NDF because NPA has broken the trust by attacking government forces even if there is a truce."

"It's hard to trust them,"

Ejercito said.

The attack on a police station in Maasin town in Iloilo on Sunday came after Malacañang and the NDF – in separate statements last week – said they would observe a truce in Mindanao so that security forces could focus on ending the siege of Marawi City by Maute terrorists.

Police said some 50 NPA guerrillas on board a truck staged the raid and carted away firearms, communications equipment and a patrol vehicle.

The Duterte administration has revived peace talks with the NDF in a bid to end a 50-year-old communist insurgency that has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of combatants and innocent civilians.

Calling the NPA "opportunistic" for attacking the

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Senators

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police station, President Duterte challenged the rebel group to "walk the talk" and prove its sincerity and commitment to the peace process.

While the attack did not happen in Mindanao, officials said they were nonetheless disappointed by the development.

"We ask the NDF to call on their armed comrades on the ground to walk the talk and to show genuine sincerity on the confidence-building measure initiated by the government and their side," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a press briefing.

"It's unfortunate that the NPA raid of a police station in Iloilo happened on the same day the government reciprocated the National Democratic Front's declaration to refrain from undertaking offensive operations in Mindanao," Abella said.

"Although the attack was not in Mindanao, the act was opportunistic in nature and disregards the nature of the NDF declaration," he added.

Abella called on the NDF to show "genuine sincerity" in establishing confidence-building measures ahead of the formal peace talks.

No truce yet

Government peace panel chairman Silvestre Bello III said a nationwide ceasefire is actually still in the works.

"As far as I know, the NPA raid happened ahead," Bello said, adding the government and the NDF peace panels are still defining the terms and parameters of a bilateral ceasefire agreement.

"That is what we are doing now. Coming up with definition of terms and parameters of a bilateral ceasefire agreement," Bello said.

The rebel group, through spokesman Julio Montana, claimed responsibility for the attack Sunday morning. He said they were able to overrun the police station, seize firearms and communications equipment without firing a single shot.

Chief Supt. Cesar Hawthorne Binag, director of the Western Visayas Police, said members of the Iloilo Police Provincial Safety Company would take over the Maasin Police Station.

Binag also told The STAR he has recommended to PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa the relief of station

chief Senior Supt. Harold Tuzon.

Presidential peace adviser Jesus Dureza said the impact of the attack "is not just on the peace negotiations" and that it "illustrates the tragedy of the insurgency."

"It's important to note that such attacks provide a negative impact in our mutual commitment with the NDF to provide the enabling environment conducive to the continuation of peace negotiations with them," Dureza said in a statement.

"Hopefully the attack is just part of the birth pains of the agreement to stop offensive military actions, even if it covers only Mindanao as of now. It is an argument for a nationwide ceasefire," he added.

The peace talks were put on hold following the issuance of a directive by the CPP for the NPA to intensify attacks against government forces implementing martial law in Mindanao.

"Since there is yet no mutually agreed bilateral ceasefire agreement in place nationwide, the NPA attack in Maasin, Iloilo and elsewhere must be dealt with accordingly and decisively by the AFP and the PNP with the cooperation of civilian agencies and the affected communities," he added.

Dureza stressed the AFP and the PNP should take appropriate action in response to the NPA attack.

Operations continue

As there is no formal ceasefire yet, the military will con-

tinue its operations against the NPA, AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla also said.

"The heightened alert against the NPA has not been downgraded. Our operations will continue. We have not canceled or stopped this. There's no unilateral cessation of hostilities between our troops and theirs because no formal agreement has been made," Padilla said in a chance interview.

"Once we have the agreements then let's enforce it. But so far, there is none. The security operations will proceed," he added.

He also dismissed as a worn-out excuse the rebels' claim that they attacked the police station because the policemen manning it were involved in extortion, illegal drugs and gambling.

"They do this intentionally because their objective is to get more arms," Padilla said. "And one of the reasons they did the attack in Maasin, we know, is because many of our troops went to help in Mindanao. So when the forces were spread thin, they knew that they could do this; they took advantage. That's why we say it's very opportunistic on their part," he added.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana also said the military would not take hostile acts by NPA rebels sitting down.

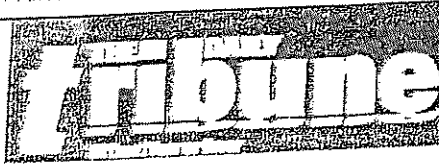
"Notwithstanding the statement of Secretary Bello that the government will not undertake offensive operations against the NPA to set the

ground for a bilateral ceasefire, the AFP will continue to fulfill its mandate and conduct support to law enforcement operations all over the Philippines," Lorenzana said.

He said "recent events have shown that the upper echelons of the communist movement do not have actual control

of NPA units on the ground, which continue to commit atrocities even while their comrades talk peace with the government." - With Alexis Romero, Jose Rodel Clapano, Michael Punongbayan, Cecilia Suerte Felipe, Jennifer Rendon, Gilbert Bayoran, Janie Cameron

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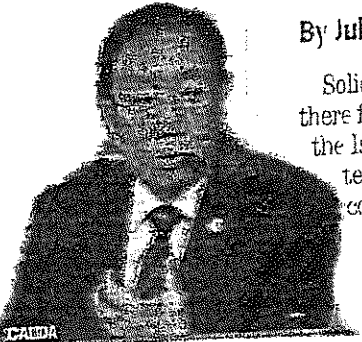
'Rebellion afoot in Mindanao,' warns Calida

By Julius N. Leonen

Solicitor General Jose Calida warned that not only are there four terrorist groups in Mindanao that are linked to the Islamic State (IS), but that there are also 20 more terror cells discovered to have been conducting coordinated attacks in the southern part of the country.

The Solicitor General yesterday stated this in his memorandum filed before the Supreme Court (SC) seeking to uphold President Duterte's declaration of martial law and to dismiss the consolidated

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petitions calling for the nullification of the declaration.

"Rebellion is afoot in Mindanao. In the western, central and eastern areas of the Mindanao region there have been armed attacks against the civilian population, and pillage of public and private establishments," Calida said in his 85-page memorandum filed with the SC.

"While it is easy to brush aside the armed attacks in Marawi City and elsewhere in Mindanao as common crimes bereft of any political motive or color, these attacks are atypical of previous terrorist activities in Mindanao," the Solicitor General said.

Calida said the perpetrators of these attacks were identified as: Abu Sayyaf, the Ansarul Khilafah Philippines, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, and the Maute group.

However, the Solicitor General added that aside from these IS-linked local rebel groups, "there are also ISIS cell groups that operate all over Mindanao. These cell groups conduct coordinated attacks with the aforesaid rebel groups."

These groups were identified in the memorandum as: Ansar Dawiah Fi Filibbin, Rajah Solaiman Islamic Movement, Al Harakatul Islamiyah Battalion, Jama'at Ansar Khilafa, Ansharul Khilafah Philippines Battalion, Bangsamoro Justice Movement, Khilafah Islamiyah Mindanao, Abu Sayyaf Group (Sulu faction), Syiful Khilafa Fi Luzon, Ma'rakah Al-Ansar Battalion, Dawla Islamiyyah Cotabato, Dawlat Al Islamiyah Waliyatul Masrik, Ansar Al-Shariyah Battalion, Jamaah al-Tawhid wal Jihad Philippines, Abu Dujanah Battalion, Abu Khubayn Battalion, Jundallah Battalion, Abu Sadr Battalion, Jamaah Al Muhajirin wal Anshor, Balik-Islam Group.

Calida said these IS-linked local rebel groups and cell groups "have conducted violent activities, particularly in the areas of Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga and Davao."

"(They have done this) not merely to sow terror among the populace, but to dismember the country. They have the capability of conducting bomb attacks in any areas of Mindanao," Calida said.

"The survival of the State hangs in the balance," Calida said in the memorandum submitted to the Supreme Court Monday.

Calida said the rebellion being waged by these groups is endangering public safety. He

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added that the violence lent activities of these groups increase in frequency and geography.

2 BIFF killed in clash

Also Sunday, two members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), one of the IS-affiliated terror group listed among those involved in the Marawi City siege by Islamic State-inspired terrorists, were killed during a clash with government forces in Maguindanao province on Sunday night.

Reports identified the slain BIFF personalities as Raul Angkay, 46, and his cousin Edz Angkay Dalengdeng, 45.

Tagged as medical officer of the BIFF, Angkay is listed in the Arrest Order No. 2 issued by martial law administrator Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in connection to the ongoing siege in Marawi City.

The two were killed when combined elements of the Army's 603rd Brigade and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (CIDG-ARMM) conducted law enforcement operation in Barangay Labu Labu Shariff Aguak town at around 9:35 p.m. Sunday.

Recovered from the two were a caliber 45 pistol, a fragmentation grenade and six cellular phones.

Senior Supt. Agustin Tello, director of Maguindanao Provincial Police Office, said that the pieces of evidence were turned over to the CIDG for proper disposition.

More than 300 personalities, mostly members of the Maute group, the Abu Sayyaf, the BIFF and even politicians, were ordered arrested by Lorenzana following the declaration of martial law in the aftermath of the Marawi City siege.

Several high-profile individuals, including the patriarch of the Maute clan, Cayamora Maute, and the matriarch Omita Romato Maute, alias Farhana, have already been arrested following the issuance of the arrest order.

Also arrested was former Marawi City Mayor Fajad Salic, who is being linked with the Maute group.

Meanwhile, President Duterte may have been absent from the public eye last week but he was not turning a blind eye on the government's operations in Marawi City.

This was the assurance given by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla yesterday during the Mindanao Hear at the

directives to state security forces.

"He kept giving guidance to AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año and to (Department of Defense) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana. We have telephones and secured facilities where he is able to communicate with our senior leaders," Padilla said.

"We give him daily updates on the ground in Marawi," he added.

In the same briefing, Padilla also announced that the troops were also able to recover more than 20 high-powered firearms last Saturday in Marawi City.

"So you may not be aware of the nature of the confiscated firearms. These are among the firearms that have been confiscated and they are not ordinary firearms at all but high-powered firearms that can fire from afar, hit targets and destroy them," Padilla said.

"This is indicative of the length of planning that went to this operation of these rebels, when they were able to get this number of firearms and bring it to the area of operations over a period of time," he added.

Other war materials such as improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other explosives have also been confiscated.

According to Abella, the AFP is prepared to embark on other key tasks such as rehabilitation and reconstruction of Marawi City once it is cleared of the terrorists.

"It has already prepared the Combat Engineering Brigades [from] the Army and the Navy for immediate deployment as soon as the clearing operations are [completed]," he said of AFP's preparations.

In the meantime, however, he said the focus remains on combat, intelligence, and civil military operations.

The government troops have so far rescued 1,637 civilians, recovered 250 firearms and killed 257 terrorists, Abella reported adding that the Maute's resistance "continues to wane".

At least 62 soldiers have been killed while thousands of people have been displaced since the siege started last month.

Opposition memorandum

In their 66-page memorandum filed by Marawi residents through lawyer Marlon Manuel, "in deciding this case, the Honorable Court is called upon to rule on the two fundamental doctrines of republic government—the doctrine of separation of powers and the doctrine of checks and balances."

"In this difficult task of

balancing the conflicting interests, we implore the Court to safeguard the people's fundamental liberties, and ensure that the government's vast powers are utilized only for the benefit of the people for which it serves," the memorandum further read.

For the other group of petitioners led by National Union of Peoples Lawyers (NUPL) and its chairman Neri Colmenares, they said that the 1987 Constitution requires the Congress to hold a joint session to either revoke or approve Mr. Duterte's proclamation.

"This is a check-and-balance provision installed to regulate the unilateral power of the President to impose martial law or suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus," the petitioners said.

"The Constitution provided safeguards against the whimsical or arbitrary imposition of martial law which has caused so much misery and death in 1972," their 58-page petition read.

Moreover, opposition lawmakers led by Albay Representative Edcel Lagman said that "the exercise of powers of both the President and the Armed Forces of the Philippines when martial law is declared or the writ is suspended is reined in and delimited by the multiple safeguards enshrined in the 1987 Constitution to prevent the repetition of the misuse and abuse of such declaration or suspension together with attendant excesses, repression and atrocities reminiscent of the 14 ignominious years of martial law under the late President Ferdinand Marcos."

Lagman also hammered in on the presumed "extra-legal powers" that the President may acquire during the declaration of martial law, which the justices asked the petitioners during the oral arguments.

They said that martial law "evokes and creates extra-legal powers" through "projecting the primacy of the role of the President as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces; intensifying, wittingly or unwittingly, the emergence of military rule; instilling fear among the citizens who are apprehensive of the atrocities and repressions committed during the regime of [Mr.] Marcos' martial law; and fomenting opportunities for violation of human rights and civil liberties under the pretext of protecting national security," their 37-page memorandum read.

With Mario J. Mallari and Ted

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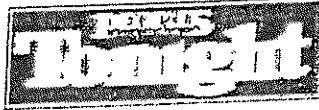
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2 Army soldiers hurt as Reds torch Quezon cell site

By GEMI FORMARAN

ILUCENA City -- Two Army soldiers belonging to a responding troops on a reported burning of a Globe cell site were wounded in ambush carried out by a band of fully armed men believed to be New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Bgy. Ajos, Catanauan, Quezon.

Reports gathered at Catanauan Police Station identified the wounded troopers as Cpls. Dennis Moran and Humphry Cabilogan, both assigned at the Alpha Company of the Army's 85th Infantry Battalion.

It was learned that one of the victims sustained a gunshot wound in the neck while the other was hit in the shoulder.

Reports said the victims were among the 24 soldiers, led by 1Lt Patrick Joey Mercader, based in Bgy. Bagupaye, Mulanay, Quezon, who were headed to Bgy. Tuhian, Catanauan, where a Globe cell site burning took place.

While on their way to the site onboard a km450, the soldiers were ambushed by heavily armed men who served as blocking force, resulting in the wounding of Moran and Cabilogan at 10:45 pm.

A firefight ensued until the suspected rebels withdrew toward the forested portion of the village.

It was learned that at 7:45 pm, or three hours before the ambush, 10 heavily armed suspected rebels

all clad in military uniforms, barged into a compound of Globe Telecom cell site in Bgy. Tuhian.

After disarming the security guard, the suspects set the company's three generators on fire using three containers of gasoline.

After carrying out the mission, the suspects immediately left the place, leaving the security guard unharmed.

Elements of Quezon Provincial Public Safety Company, under Chief Insp. William Angway, and Catanauan police force, under Chief Insp. Jaytee Tiongco were dispatched to run after the fleeing rebels.

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Malaya

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Military: No order to stop offensives vs NPA

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Armed Forces yesterday said it has yet to get an order from higher authorities to stop offensive operations against the communist New People's Army in any part of the country.

On Sunday, government chief negotiator Silvestre Bello said the

government is suspending offensive operations against the NPA in response to an earlier statement of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

NDFP chief negotiator Fidel Agcaoili has said the NDFP has recommended to the Communist

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MILITARY

Party of the Philippines that it order the communist group's armed wing, the NPA, to refrain from attacking government forces in Mindanao so soldiers can focus on the campaign against the Maute Group and other terrorist groups.

The CPP has not issued any statement in response to Agcaoili's statement.

"There is still no such order. Our offensives against the NPA are still continuing," said Arevalo in a phone interview.

"Insofar as we are concerned, we have not received any formal orders for a cessation of military operation against the NPA," he added.

Earlier yesterday, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said notwithstanding Bello's statement, the AFP "will continue to fulfill its mandate and conduct support to law enforcement operations all over the Philippines."

"Recent events have shown that the upper echelons of the communist movement do not have actual control of NPA units on the ground, which continue to commit atrocities even while their comrades talk peace with the government," said Lorenzana. Lorenzana cited the NPA raid of

the Maasin town police station in Iloilo last Sunday.

"Thus, any member of the NPA who continues to commit terroristic acts such as extortion, burning of property, kidnapping, roaming around with firearms to intimidate people, and attacks on government forces will be pursued, apprehended, and brought to justice," said Lorenzana.

Presidential adviser on the peace process Jesus Dureza said the planned suspension of offensives will be limited to Mindanao, which means government troops can go after and even take decisive and immediate actions against the NPA if it attacks.

Dureza also said he was disheartened by the NPA attack in Iloilo, which he said would have a negative impact on the mutual commitment of government and communist peace panels to provide an enabling environment conducive to the continuation of peace negotiations.

"The 'impact' is not just on the peace negotiations, it illustrates the tragedy of the insurgency. Hopefully, the attack is just part of the birth pains of the agreement to stop offensive military actions, even if it covers only Mindanao as of now. It is an argument for a nation-wide ceasefire," he added.

In Quezon Sunday night, NPA rebels attacked a Globe cell site and injured two soldiers pursuing them in Catanauan town.

Lt. Xy-zon Meneses, spokesman of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, said about 10 rebels wearing "Army pattern camouflage uniform" swooped down at the Globe cell site in Barangay Tuhian at around 8 p.m. and burned two generator sets.

Meneses said the Globe cell site remained functioning because there was a third generator set.

The military said they are eyeing extortion as the motive in the attack.

Troops from the Army's 85th Infantry Battalion were deployed to pursue the perpetrators after receiving information about the rebel atrocity.

However, Meneses said, the rebels waylaid the soldiers in Barangay Ajos, also in Catanauan town, while approaching the Globe cell site at around 8:30 p.m. A brief firefight followed.

Meneses said the rebels detonated an improvised explosive device on the soldiers' truck, wounding two Army troopers. The injured soldiers were brought to a hospital for shrapnel wounds and are now in stable condition. — *With Jocelyn Montemayor*

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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3 NPAs killed, scores wounded in clash with gov't troopers

BY **MIKE CRISMUNDO**

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City – Three New People's Army (NPA) rebels were killed and an undetermined number of other rebels were reportedly wounded when combat maneuvering troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) engaged the rebels in a fierce gun battle near the border of Surigao del Sur and Davao Oriental, a military report yesterday said.

Operating troops of the 104th Division

Recon Company (104th DRC) and one platoon from 67th Infantry Battalion (67th IB) also seized in the encounter six two M16 Armalite rifles, one M14 rifle, one M203 grenade launcher, cache of assorted live ammunition and anti-government documents with high intelligence value.

Capt. Andrew M. Linao, spokesperson of the Army's 701st Infantry (Kagitangan) Brigade said combat maneuvering troops of the 67th IB and 104th DRC are still in hot pursuit Monday of the fleeing rebels following the blood stains along the reb-

els' escape route.

"Yes, our ground troops are continuing their massive pursuit operations in an effort to get their (NPAs) wounded comrades in arms for immediate medical attention," said Linao.

The pursuing troops are trailing the fleeing undetermined number of NPAs who belong to guerilla Front Committee 25 and Section Committee 18 of the CPP-NPA Southern Mindanao Regional Committee, he said.

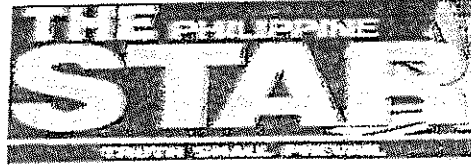
He said the initial engagement with

the NPA rebels occurred on Saturday at 1:30 a.m. in Sitio 35, Barangay Taytayan, Cateel, Davao Oriental.

There was no casualty on the government side in the 45-minute fierce gunfight while the identities of the three slain rebels were not immediately known, Capt. Linao said.

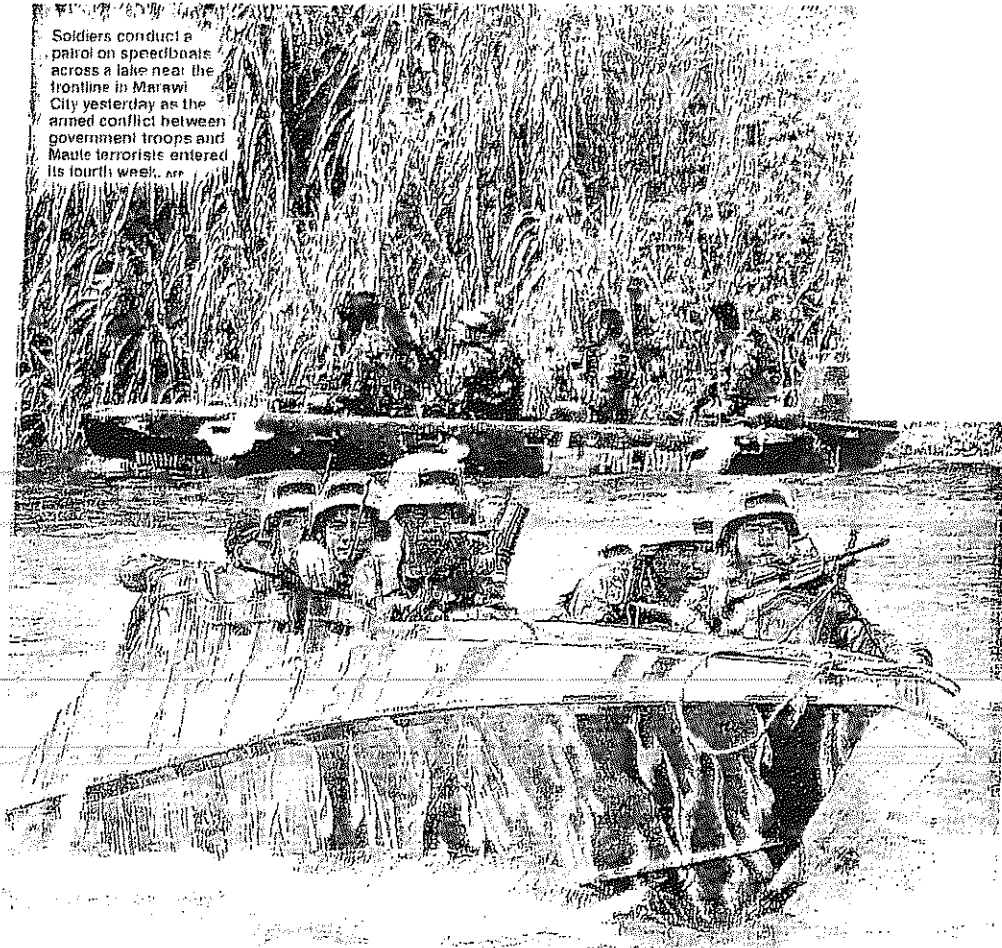
Meanwhile, troops of the 28th IB also encountered an undetermined number of heavily armed NPAs at 6:30 a.m. on Sunday in Sitio Sayon, Barangay Kauswagan, Banaybanay, Davao Oriental, he said.

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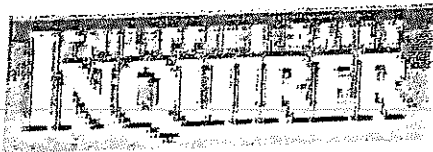


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Soldiers conduct a patrol on speedboats across a lake near the frontline in Marawi City yesterday as the armed conflict between government troops and Maute terrorists entered its fourth week.



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Ex-SolGen: SC to determine future of ML

By Tonette Orejas
and Philip C. Tubeza
@Team_Inquirer

When the Supreme Court hands down a decision on three petitions questioning President Duterte's proclamation of martial law in Mindanao, it will chart the course of how emergency rule will be implemented.

Florin Hilbay, a solicitor general in the previous Aquino administration, made the remarks in a news forum on Sunday after the court wrapped up three days of oral arguments on the issue and ordered the parties to submit their respective position papers by Monday.

The court is mandated to rule on the case by July 5—or 30 days from the date of the filing of the petitions.

"The true battle will be against a future declaration of martial law," Hilbay told reporters.

Hilbay said the concern over martial law was "not theoretical."

"It's a real concern because the President has spoken about the possibility of declaring a nationwide martial law, which is why we want to be clarified on the rules based on the decision of the Supreme Court," he said.

330 lawyer-petitioners

Hilbay is among the 330 lawyers who petitioned the high court to compel Congress to convene a joint session to



Florin Hilbay

debate the proclamation that Mr. Duterte issued on May 23 as Islamic State-allied militants laid siege to Marawi City.

Marcos abuses

Legislative and judicial reviews are institutional mechanisms designed by the framers of the 1987 Constitution to prevent a repeat of dictator Ferdinand Marcos' abuses after he declared martial law in 1972, Hilbay said.

This process, he said, gives the public the chance to be informed as to the basis of a martial law declaration.

"What we are simply saying is that the institutional mechanisms set in place by the 1987 Constitution should be respected," he said.

"It is not to question the martial law powers of the President, which is a constitutional power. It is to question potential abuses," he added.

He said the decision of the Senate and the House of Repre-

sentatives to independently issue their support for Proclamation No. 216 was a "blatant violation" of the Constitution.

Extending martial law beyond the borders of Mindanao was an option of the President, he said, but it would again be subject to the mechanisms imposed by the Constitution.

Former Presidents Corason Aquino, Joseph Estrada and Benigno Aquino III did not declare martial law when faced with military coups or when they launched military offensives in Mindanao.

On Dec. 4, 2009, then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared martial law because of the Maguindanao massacre, but she lifted it nine days later.

Hilbay declined to speculate on how the Supreme Court would rule. "The justices may opt to leave a legacy of protecting our democratic institutions," he said.

Marcos' authoritarian rule

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, on Monday dismissed fears prompted by Mr. Duterte's remarks during the weekend that should he declare martial law for a second time, it "could be a copycat" of Marcos' authoritarian rule.

"Well, definitely the President will not be referring to abuses. He may refer to the breadth and the depth of how to impose it but I guess it's not because of the abuses," Padilla said in a press briefing. INQ

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The Manila Times

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Military links Maute to Moro insurgents

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE AND DEMPSEY REYES

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) found strong links between the Maute terrorists and insurgents in Mindanao, the AFP spokesman said on Monday.

This was after President Rodrigo Duterte over the weekend revealed that the Maute may have acquired its huge stockpile of weapons from the Moro-Islamic Liberation Front.

> Links A2

(MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

In a news conference in Malacañang, AFP spokesman Restituto Padilla Jr. said the Islamic State-linked Maute terrorists could have obtained their weapons from relatives who were members of the two rebel groups.

"These firearms have been there in Marawi a long time ago. Some of the members of the Maute group may have relatives in other groups or armed groups," Padilla told reporters.

"There are so many armed groups in Mindanao that could potentially be a source of firearms for this group," he added.

A total of 250 firearms have been recovered by the military from the Maute fighters.

Lt. Col. Jo-an Herrera, spokesman of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said the Maute terrorists could be copying the tactics initiated by the Islamic State, given their significant firepower.

"Just look at how they use anti-tank weapons against a tank or [armored army trucks]. They are using 90-RR (M67 recoilless rifle) and they are also using a mortar and these are strong weapons," Herrera said.

"They also optimize [the use of] technology. They are using the social media, radios. From what we recovered from them, they have different war materi-

"Seize loose firearms during martial law"

Padilla said illegal firearms held by private armed groups in Mindanao should be seized by the government during the martial law period declared by the President last May 23 after the Maute group attacked Marawi City.

"This is a cause for concern that has been there since a long time ago and has been addressed many times over but unsuccessfully. And we hope that during this period of martial law, we can successfully cover this and get rid or confiscate all these loose firearms," he said.

Defense Secretary Lorenzana likewise said a lot of "loose firearms" have been circulating in Mindanao.

"Since the time of Marcos there has always been a lot of loose firearms circulating in Mindanao especially in Lanao, Maguindanao, Basilan and Sulu," the head of the Department of National Defense told *The Manila Times*.

However, the Maute group may have also acquired arms from a foreign source, or from encounters with the military and the police.

"The Mautes had a lot of money from their legal [businesses] and illegal [drugs] as a source of funds to procure these guns and arm their private army," Lorenzana said.

Asked if the Armed Forces would go after the Moro rebels, Lorenzana replied: "Not anymore because

Speaking to reporters after visiting the Army's 401st Brigade in Butuan City on Saturday, Duterte said that the government knew that the Maute terrorists were stockpiling firearms and ammunition in Marawi City but took it for granted because of the peace negotiations with the MILF and MNLF.

"It was not a question of failure on the part of government, it was not a failure of intelligence. It is because we have adopted a very soft policy toward the rebels," Duterte said.

The MILF, a splinter group of the MNLF and the Duterte administration, are in talks for a Bangsamoro political entity in Mindanao.

Padilla was confident the President's latest revelation would not affect the peace negotiations with the Moro rebels.

Both the MILF and MNLF have offered to help government troops fight the Maute group. Duterte and the MILF earlier agreed to establish a "peace corridor" to help rescue civilians affected by the fighting in Marawi, which entered its 28th day on Monday.

Palace spokesman Ernesto Abellasa said 26 civilians, 62 government men, and 250 terrorists have been killed amid fighting in Marawi. A total of 1,637 civilians have been rescued by authorities.

He said the military's clearing operations continue to yield "positive results," noting that only portions of four out of 96 villages in the besieged city "remain problematic areas."

"Enemy resistance continues to

wane and enemy-held areas continue to diminish as government security forces press its advance," Abella said.

"Troops continue to get deeper into once enemy-held positions as evidenced by the recovery of cadavers of terrorists and their firearms, computers and peripherals, as well as communications equipment and accessories," he added.

Abella also reported that security forces seized at least 11 kilos of suspected methamphetamine hydrochloride, commonly known as shabu, from a dismantled Maute hideout in Marawi City (see story on A2).

"No participation"

Herrera also clarified that the United States Armed Forces have no participation in the ongoing offensive in Marawi City against the Maute group, except for technical assistance.

He noted that the Philippines and the US have a mutual defense pact in 1951, and this could be the reason why the Americans were providing help to the country amid the ongoing clashes, despite President Duterte's tirades against the US.

"They are like international journalists who are present everywhere [in the country] and as I have said, we have an agreement [with them] and with our operations, [but] they (US military) have no participation," Herrera said.

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Another Marawi' ruled out

by John Paolo Bencito
and Florante S.
Solmerin

AN ERRORIST with links to the Islamic State will not be able to launch another major attack like they did in Marawi City, the military said Monday.

Following the arrest of three individuals believed to have links with the Maute group in Iloilo Sunday afternoon, Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said that authorities have taken steps to safeguard communities against the growing extremist threat in Mindanao.

"Well, there's a possibility of one or two making it through, but being able to do something on the scale of Marawi, we don't think so," Padilla said. "There couldn't be anything like that. And that's why we have strengthened our security along the borders and the areas where they could possibly use as avenues of escape," Padilla said.

He added that the military is still verifying the identities of those arrested, but confirmed they came from Cagayan de Oro City.

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Another...

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This was the first time that authorities received a report that persons allegedly linked to the Maute group were monitored and apprehended outside of Mindanao.

The military earlier admitted that some members of the Maute group were able to slip past the Marawi City blockade and were able to escape to Iligan City and Cagayan de Oro.

During the 21-day siege, the government has rescued 1,637 civilians, seized 250 firearms and killed 257 terrorists.

At least 62 soldiers were killed while thousands of people have been displaced since the siege started last month.

In the same news briefing, Padilla said soldiers also seized more than 20 high-powered firearms last Saturday in Marawi City.

"You may not be aware of the nature of the confiscated firearms.

These are among the firearms that have been confiscated and they are not ordinary firearms at all but high-powered firearms that can fire from afar, hit targets and destroy them," he said.

"This is indicative of the length of planning that went into this operation...[that] they were able to get this number of firearms and bring them to the area of operations over a period of time," he added.

Some improvised bombs were also confiscated.

An intelligence report obtained by the Manila Standard said the Abu Sayyaf Group has plans to launch a series of bomb attacks in General Santos City, Lanao del Sur and the cities of Zamboanga and Lamitan.

The report said that just recently the ASG sent some of its men in General Santos City to conduct "casing and recruitment" activities.

"New recruits will be utilized to execute said plan and probable targets include places of crowd convergence," the report said.

The ASG led by sub-commander Isnilon Hapilon, the ISIS-recognized leader in Southeast Asia, was actively involved in the planning and execution by the Maute group of the Marawi siege.

The military and police have stepped up intelligence operations on the ASG amid reports that it was targeting another wave of kidnappings in Palawan.

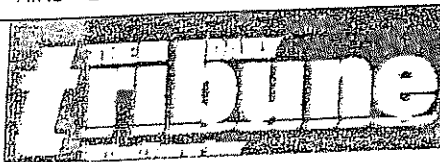
It said one of the places in Palawan the ASG was targeting is Brooke's Point.

"They could be targeting foreign nationals at beach resorts in the area to generate large ransom," it said.

Also on Monday, jail officials said one of the 107 inmates freed by the Maute terrorists surrendered to jail officials in Quezon City.

The escapee was identified as Mohaderin Banding Acampong, who is facing a murder case. Jail officials said Acampong stayed in Novales, Quezon City for weeks before he chose to surrender. With Rio N. Araya

7 June 2017



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Erap: Rody knows what he is doing with ML declaration

By Pat C. Santos

Amid the ongoing dispute over the legality of martial law in Mindanao, former President and now Manila Mayor Joseph "Erap" Estrada believes President Duterte knows what he is doing.

After laying a wreath at the Rizal Monument in Luneta for the 156th birth anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal yesterday morning, Estrada called on the public to place their trust in Duterte, especially now that the siege of Marawi City has yet to be resolved.

"He knows well, being the president," Estrada said when asked about his personal views concerning Duterte's declaration of martial law in the entire Mindanao. "We should trust him."

"As the Filipino people elected President Duterte, we

should support him. If the Filipino people trusted him as president, let's give him the full support," Estrada added.

The Supreme Court is currently resolving three consolidated petitions filed by opposition lawmakers and

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Mindanao leaders questioning the legal basis of the martial law declaration.

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

Estrada has been supportive of Duterte's resolve to crush terrorism in Mindanao.

Two days after Islamist militants seized Marawi, the former president publicly expressed his support for the imposition of military rule in the area.

Similar to his "all-out war" against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) when he was president in 2000, Estrada had even indirectly suggested that an all-out military offensive be conducted in Mindanao to wipe out various terror groups.

"It's about time. We only have one flag, one Constitution, one government. Period. There can be no MILF, NPA, No other flag, constitution or government.

"We have to follow the law. What kind of government do we have if it cannot impose its own laws in its own land?" Estrada went on.

Estrada also hit the critics of Duterte for opposing the declaration of martial law in Mindanao: "All they do is to criticize. They can't do anything else," he said.

ML emboldened troops to run after Maute group

The implementation of martial law in Mindanao has emboldened government forces to run after those involved in the Marawi City siege, particularly members of the Maute clan.

Philippine National Police (PNP) Director General Ronald dela Rosa said that with the imposition of martial law, government authorities can easily apply and acquire search and arrest warrants against suspected members of the terrorist group.

"We are emboldened, empowered and we are more motivated to go after them because we have martial law," said dela Rosa.

Dela Rosa said that unlike when there was

no martial law, authorities had a hard time securing warrants against those suspected to be working with the Maute group.

"Now, it's very easy to get an arrest warrant against those whom we know are members of the Maute, we have basis, under martial law we can arrest them...martial law is really a big help," he stressed.

Dela Rosa pointed to the arrest on Sunday of a sister of Omar and Abdullah Maute, leaders of the Maute group now laying siege in Marawi City with Isnilon Hapilon, the acknowledged emir or leader of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in Southeast Asia.

The suspect was nabbed near an Ilolo point aboard 2Go's commercial vessel St. Therese of the Child Jesus, along with two companions.

"If there is no martial law, no arrest order was issued against them, we cannot just arrest them especially wounded...even if we knew that they were wounded in the war, but without any case developed against them, no warrant is issued," said dela Rosa.

According to dela Rosa, he already instructed Ilolo police to turn over the female Maute to Cagayan de Oro City where charges would be filed.

He said if there are security concerns, they can transfer the suspect in Manila.

Earlier, Camayora Maute, the patriarch of the Maute clan, and his wife Omita Romato Maute were collared in separate operations, while Mohamad Noaim Maute, alias Abu Jadid, an alleged bomb maker, was cornered in Cagayan de Oro City last Thursday.

The Maute parents, along with other Maute clan members, were immediately transferred to the Bicutan District Jail for security reason.

Speaker eyes ML extension until 2022

While President Duterte has threatened to pull out the military from Marawi City in the event that the SC strikes down his Martial Law declaration, Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez said he wants to extend Martial Law until 2022 or until the end of Duterte's term.

Alvarez, a super ally of the president, said extending Martial Law would ensure the end of the conflict in Mindanao and fast tracking

of infrastructure projects.

"I would like to extend this up to the end of the term of the President. My grounds. To really ensure the end of this conflict in Mindanao, and to fast-track the infrastructure projects. This is for our interest, isn't it?" Alvarez said.

This developed as the political opposition in the Lower House expressed concerns about Duterte's propensity to extend Martial Law.

Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano said Duterte has been trying to condition the minds of the people to "like" Martial Law.

"The president is just bluffing. Military operations can continue, which is the case in the past, even without ML (Martial Law). However, his consistent mentioning of ML is a way of conditioning the minds of the people that he will resort to it in the future. This is dangerous," Alejano said.

"What the president is trying to tell us is that military operations is synonymous to ML, that in the event ML is struck down by the SC, he will pull out the military from Marawi," Alejano said.

He said the President is trying to deceive the people because the calling out powers of the president would not be affected by the adverse ruling of the SC.

Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat, reacting to Duterte's acknowledgment that the SC could stop Martial Law, said the military should maintain its presence in Marawi City.

"In case that happens, troops should still remain in Marawi until the city is cleared of the Maute forces and the threat is contained," Baguilat said.

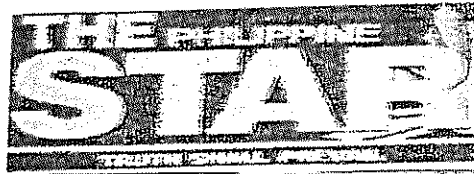
"We should not equate ML declaration to mobilization of troops or make ML a precondition to strong counter-terrorism actions," Baguilat said.

The Ifugao lawmaker noted that Duterte, by his statement, has recognized the constitutional succession and the capability of Vice President Leni Robredo to take over the presidency.

Akbayan Rep. Tom Villarin said that ML has to be lifted before the SC decides on the case.

With Gerry Baldo and Mario J. Mallari

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Maute suspects to be detained, tried in Taguig — Aguirre

By EDU PUNAY

The detention and venue of the trial of arrested members and supporters of the Maute group will be transferred to Taguig City, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said yesterday.

Aguirre said the Supreme Court (SC) has granted the appeal of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and reconsidered its earlier order designating the Cagayan de Oro regional trial court (RTC) as venue to try the criminal cases and Camp Evangelista also in the same city as detention facility for the arrested Maute militants.

Aguirre made the announcement after meeting Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno during the interview of aspirants for an SC vacancy by the Judicial and Bar Council, where they both sit as mem-

bers. SC to designate special courts in Luzon or the Visayas to hear the cases due to security threats in Mindanao.

But the SC decided last week to instead designate Cagayan de Oro RTCs as special courts to take over the cases from the Marawi RTCs.

The court also assigned the military's Camp Evangelista to serve as the detention place of the arrested suspects.

But after inspection, Aguirre appealed the order due to lack of proper detention facilities in Camp Evangelista.

The DOJ chief further pointed out that prosecutors as well as judges have expressed "fear for their safety in the conduct of inquest, preliminary investigation and trial of the cases involving the Maute group."

Aguirre added that the Cagayan de Oro courts, which are temporarily located at the

bers.

He told reporters that the arrested members of the terror group behind the attack in Marawi City that later triggered the proclamation of martial law in the whole of Mindanao would now be transferred to Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig where Cayamora and Farhana Maute, parents of the Maute leaders, have been detained since last week.

Aguirre also revealed that the high court would create two courtrooms in Camp Bagong Diwa's Special Intensive Care Area for the trial of all Maute group cases so the accused would no longer be brought out of camp for the trial.

The DOJ chief said he would reconstitute the special panel of prosecutors handling the Maute cases to now include

City Tourism Hall after the Hall of Justice was gutted by fire in January 2015, are not a convenient venue for the trial.

The DOJ has indicted several arrested members and supporters of Maute — including Cayamora Maute and Ominta Romato, alias Farhana, parents of the Maute brothers Omar and Abdullah who led the group behind the attack in Marawi City last May 23.

Also charged with rebellion before the Cagayan de Oro RTC was former Marawi City mayor Fajad Salic.

Mohammad Maute, alias Abu Jadid, alleged bomb maker of Maute group who was arrested in Cagayan de Oro last Thursday, has also been charged before the prosecutors in inquest proceedings last Sunday.

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said send-

prosecutors based in Metro Manila.

He said Sereno has offered the Philippine Judicial Academy facility in Tagaytay for training of these prosecutors.

Aguirre said that he plans to establish a separate building inside the New Bilibid Prison to house the Maute members after their conviction for rebellion.

But in a separate interview, SC spokesman Theodore Te clarified that the high court has not yet issued the order to transfer the cases and detention of Maute members to Taguig City, as the administrative matter will still be tackled in session today.

Te said what transpired during the meeting was that Sereno asked Aguirre to submit a supplemental request for the transfer.

The DOJ earlier asked the ing Maute bandits to Metro Manila from Mindanao would mean government authorities could secure them better. "We are more secured here in Metro Manila compared to Mindanao," he added.

Maute sister

Hours after their arrest in Iloilo City, the sister of the Maute brothers and her two companions were flown back to Cagayan de Oro City.

Faridah Pangompig Romato, 23, of Carmen, Cagayan de Oro; Aljadid Pangompig Romato, 20, of Iligan City; and Abdulralman Dimakuta Sevad, 25, of Marantao, Lanao del Sur were transported on board a Philippine Coast Guard Highlander plane around 4:30 a.m. yesterday.

— With Evelyn Macairan, Cecille Suerte Felipe, Jennifer Rendon

20 June 2017



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AFP, PNP monitoring hospitals for Maute members

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Military and police units are monitoring hospitals and suspected safe houses where Maute group terrorists could seek refuge after having slipped out of Marawi City, according to a counterterror unit commander here.

Col. Leonel Nicolas, chief of the Joint Task Force Zamboanga (JTFZ), said yesterday authorities have anticipated the possibility of the remaining terrorists trying to merge with

evacuees and other civilians to evade arrest.

"We are expecting those to come because of what happened in Marawi," Nicolas told reporters during the observance of the 156th birth anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal at Plaza Rizal in front of city hall.

Nicolas said the military, police and the local government have put up contingency plans in strategic areas to prevent any diversionary attack that will be conducted by the supporters of the Maute group and their Abu Sayyaf allies to

allow the terrorists to evade military and police authorities in Marawi.

"So far we are checking on those reports and we have not monitored any in our hospitals," Nicolas said.

On Saturday, the police and military confirmed the arrest of 13 suspected members of the Islamic State-inspired Maute who slipped out of Marawi and sought treatment in the Zamboanga del Sur Medical Center.

The police said two of those apprehended were identified as Junaid Dimarugong, who is in critical condition, and Halil Sahling Ah – both were found

positive for gunpowder burns.

Nicolas said they also captured last Saturday Hamsi Amjad Marani, suspected aide of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, the designated emir of the IS in the Philippines.

Marani denied any connection with Hapilon and claimed that he is an agent of the military intelligence group.

"Definitely he is a member of the Abu Sayyaf, that's what we established before the operation. We don't want to discriminate. We did our job based on the available data we have," Nicolas said.

Health Secretary Paulyn



Handout photo from the Philippine Coast Guard shows three suspected Maute group members after their arrest on board a ship docked at the Iloilo port on Sunday.

Ubial yesterday denied reports that many evacuees in Marawi City are getting sick and appealed to evacuees to get medical assistance at local health centers.

In a statement, Ubial said the cases of sick people in evacuation centers are declining and claimed that out of the 638 persons that sought consultations last week, only 300 were admitted in hospital.

None of the displaced persons in evacuation centers have died, she added.

"The reports stating that many are getting sick are inaccurate. Cases are going down," Ubial said.

More than 320,000 people have been displaced by the clashes between government forces and the Maute terrorists in Marawi City.

Of those displaced, only about five percent are staying in the 79 evacuation centers in Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and Cagayan de Oro City, while the rest have sought refuge in the houses of relatives and friends.

Previous reports said some of the evacuees are now suffering from illnesses like cough, colds, fever and diarrhea.

Ubial reported yesterday that five more evacuees in Marawi City died from various health conditions, bringing the death toll to 24 as of

June 18.

"There were four others due to various illnesses: pneumonia and some also to dehydration. All deaths occurred in the hospital," she noted in an ambush interview on the sidelines of DOH's launching of "Quitline," a hotline for those who wish to stop smoking, at the Lung Center of the Philippines.

The health chief had reiterated her denial of news reports that there were already 59 deaths among the evacuees.

She added there was confusion during a press conference for the ASEAN Dengue Day last June in Legazpi City where she was misquoted on the death toll.

According to Ubial, she mentioned that there were 19 deaths in hospitals, mostly due to "pre-existing health conditions" such as diabetes, cancer and hypertension.

"I think the confusion was when somebody asked me about the four deaths due to dehydration. I said it in Tagalog *na, 'apat na pu-ang namatay sa liour had died of dehydration.' So pu-rang na-conclude siya 'amatatay' (they concluded 40). Which I can't understand how they can conclude that when in the first place, *siya ayong nagtanong (the reporters asked the questions),*" she maintained. - With Alexis Romero, Sheila Crisostomo*

June 2017



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Recovering soldiers raring to return to battle

EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – Soldiers recovering from injuries sustained in the Marawi clash have expressed readiness to

return to the battlefield to finish off the Maute terrorists. “Many of the wounded are determined to go back to the field. They have requested their doctors to discharge them

immediately from hospital,” Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said yesterday. As this developed, another soldier died fighting terrorists

in Marawi on Sunday. Cpl. Anshud Isirani of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 5 (MBLT) was given a hero’s burial in a Muslim cemetery. **Turn to Page 2**

Recovering From Page 1

near his hometown in Barangay Sinunuc yesterday.

The soldiers are being treated in different hospitals in Northern Mindanao like in Cagayan de Oro City and in V. Luna Hospital in Quezon City.

The military is reportedly wrapping up its clearing operations in Marawi City after having crushed terrorists’ strongholds.

Reports said only four barangays remain under the control of the Mautes.

Isirani was the fourth soldier killed recently in the ongoing skirmishes between the military and Maute terrorists.

The three others were 1/Lt. Raymund Abad and Cpls. Joebert Copino and Albert Basilio.

Police and the military have lost 59 troopers since the Marawi siege started on May 23.

Padilla said at least 50 wounded soldiers wanted to be deployed immediately to the frontlines to help liberate Marawi.

Isirani came from a family of soldiers. His father Junat is a retired Navy soldier while his two brothers are in the Army.

The trooper reportedly tripped an improvised explosive device as he and his fellow Marines were clearing a cluster of houses in Marawi, according to his cousin Cpl. Enrile Jawad.

“He suffered bullet wounds, indicating the militants fired on the Marines,” Jawad said.

Ready to fight

Military reservists in Metro Manila trooped to Camp Aguinaldo during the weekend to signify their readiness to respond to the call of duty when the need arises.

Members of the Ready Reserve Units (RRUs) on Saturday joined a meeting attended by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Eduardo Año and Joint Task Force-National Capital Region commander Brig. Gen. Jesus Manangquil Jr.

“As our operations against terrorist groups and other lawless elements continue to intensify, our reservists must remain steadfast, dependable and ready to be deployed anytime,” AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgar Arevalo said.

The Office of the Deputy Chief

of Staff for Reservists and Retiree Affairs led the NCR Mustering 2017 event that brought together at least 112 officers and 555 enlisted personnel from around Metro Manila.

The AFP said the mustering would determine the status of the operational readiness and responsiveness of the reserve force.

“Our reservists are not only force multipliers, but also our partners in various non-lethal military operations and activities that contribute to nation building and national well-being,” Arevalo said.

As of the first quarter of this year, the AFP said there are 386,116 reservists from the Philippine Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines from all over the country.

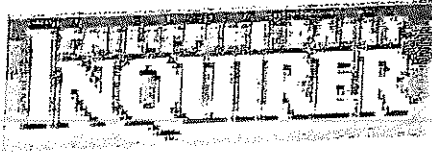
74 new Army officers

The Philippine Army welcomed 74 new officers to its national defense team, who will be deployed in various areas across the country.

Graduates of the Officers Candidate Course Class 48-2017 composed of 63 males and 13 females were presented to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Friday.

The Army said the graduates underwent a one-year training at Camp O’Donnell in Capas, Tarlac – With Roel Pareño, Michael Panongbayan

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MARTIAL LAW DECLARATION

ADVERSE RULING WON'T STOP AFP OFFENSIVE

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Vince F. Nonato
@Team_Inquirer

The military offensive against the terrorists in Marawi City will continue even if the Supreme Court invalidates President Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao, the spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines said on Monday.

"There's a threat that's being faced. And it would be fool-

hardy to stop the fight because the martial law was lifted," said Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

On Saturday, Mr. Duterte remarked that he was prepared to withdraw troops from Marawi in the event of an adverse ruling from the high tribunal hearing three challenges to his proclamation.

Padilla said that if the high court invalidated the proclamation, the military would have to rely on the police to arrest the terrorists and their allies in Marawi.

Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano on Monday said Mr. Duterte was "just bluffing" when he implied that the lifting of martial law would force him to withdraw troops.

In a text message to reporters echoing the position of opposition lawmakers, Alejano said, "This is disinformation trying to deceive the people because the calling out powers of the President would not be affected by the adverse ruling of the Supreme Court." INQ

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Pahina. 2

AFP: Loose firearms galing sa mga kamag-anak ng Maute

SINALUNGAT ni AFP Spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., ang naging pahayag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na galing sa Moro Islamic

Liberation Front at Moro National Liberation Front ang high-powered firearms na nakumpiska ng mga sundalo sa pinaglunggaan ng Maute group habang

ang iba namalyapatuloy na ginagamit sa pakikipag-bakbakan nito sa tropang pamahalaan sa Marawi City. Sa Mindanao Hour briefing, sinabi ni BGen. Padilla na ang mga armas ay maaaring matagal nang naipasa sa Marawi at nagmula sa mga kamag-anak ng ibang miyembro ng Maute group.

Sinabi pa niya na napakaraming armadong grupo sa Mindanao na maaaring pagmulan ng armas ng nasabing grupo.

Ito aniya ang dahilan kung bakit ganon na lang kasagisag ang pamahalaan na masimot ang lahat ng loose firearms na gamit ng pribadong armadong grupo at iba pang illegal armed groups na nag-o-operate sa terrorist group.

Aminado naman si BGen. Padilla na matagal nang problema ng pamahalaan ang loose firearms.

Kumpiyansa naman si Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella na hindi maaapektuhan ang nagpapatuloy na usapang pangkapayapaan ng gobyerno sa MILF.

KRIS JOSE

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11 kilos of shabu found in Maute lair

BY VICTOR REYES

GOVERNMENT forces recovered on Sunday night 11 kilos of high-grade shabu following a firefight with members of the Maute Group who have been holed up in four barangays in the city since May 23.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla and AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said the military was determining if the Maute brought the large quantity of shabu into Marawi City for their use.

"This is a matter being investigated and could have been part of their fund-raising schemes and to sustain their group. Remember, there was quite a number of them

at the start of the conflict," said Padilla. "We are going to conduct further investigation to determine if these were manufactured there (in Marawi), whether they brought there, the surrounding circumstances there," said Arevalo.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokeswoman of the military's Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom), said the recovery of the shabu, placed in plastic packs, proves the Maute members are hooked on illegal drugs.

President Duterte, whose anti-illegal drugs campaign has left thousands dead, said in December that the Maute Group is being funded by the illegal drugs trade and its members "are driven by shabu."

Petinglay said the shabu, along with four high-powered firearms, were recovered by troops from the 49th Infantry Battalion at around 6 p.m. from one of cluster of houses occupied by Maute members.

"Soldiers spotted men in black emerging from a cluster of houses that prompted troops to maneuver. The terrorists put up a fight but fled while carrying items taken from one of the houses," she said. Petinglay said the estimated street value of the recovered shabu is between P110 million and P250 million. The illegal drugs were turned over Joint Task Force Haribon, prior to their turnover to another government agency for proper disposition.

Petinglay said government forces have

recovered numerous sachets of shabu during the first and second week of the armed conflict.

"Troops in the frontline say they are facing drug-crazed individuals who are evidently high on illegal drugs," she said.

Wesmincom commander Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez said the shabu recovered last Sunday "is the largest illegal drug haul so far."

"This strengthens our findings that these terrorists are using illegal drugs which, according to Muslim religious leaders, is 'haram.' These Maute and ASG terrorists are not Muslims. They

See 11 KILOS > Page B6

11 KILOS

have violated every tenet of the teachings in the Holy Quran,” said Galvez.

Brig. Gen. Rolando Bautista, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said the Maute members have been using illegal drugs inside mosques. The armed group is also using the mosques as battle positions.

The fighting has resulted in the death of 257 Maute members, 62 soldiers and policemen, and 26 civilians, said Arevalo. The operations have also resulted in the recovery of 250 firearms.

Arevalo said the government forces are continuing efforts to recover and control “strategic vantage points” oc-

cupied by the Maute members.

“Enemy resistance continues to wane and enemy-held areas continue to diminish as government security forces press their advance,” said Arevalo.

Arevalo said P224,000 has been deposited at the Land Bank of the Philippines for slain soldiers and P21,000 for internally displaced persons.

“Coordination is ongoing between the AFP and a local government unit for donations of P20,000 each for the families of each of the deceased soldier,” said Arevalo.

The military has appealed to the public to deposit under the account of AFP Marawi Casualty (Account Number: 00000552107128) for slain

soldiers and Marawi IDP (Account Number: 00000552107136).

Padilla said the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia formalized the conduct of joint maritime patrols in their common borders to curb the movement of the Maute Group.

He said the coordinated patrols aim to prevent movement of fugitives seeking haven in another country and those planning to provide assistance to Islamic militants, as well as address piracy and abduction at high seas.

Asked about the possible role of the United States, Padilla reiterated the US is limited to providing technical and intelligence support. — *With Jocelyn Montemayor*

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Maute, ASG men using shabu — AFP

Florante S. Solmerin

GOVERNMENT troops seized 11 kilos of high-grade shabu left by Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists who fled after a firefight Sunday in Marawi City. Capt. Ann Petinglay, spokeswoman for the Western Mindanao Command said Monday.

Petinglay said at least 11 one-kilo packs of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), with a street value of between P110 million and P250 million, were recovered during clearing operations after the firefight.

Maute...

From A1

Members of Alfa Company led by 1st Lt. Emerson Tapang of the Army's 49th Infantry Battalion also recovered four high-powered firearms.

"Soldiers spotted men in black emerging from a cluster of houses that prompted troops to maneuver. The terrorists put up a fight but fled while carrying items taken from one of the houses," Petinglay said.

Since they began battling the terrorists who overran Marawi City on May 23, troops have found sachets of shabu in terrorist positions, she said.

"Troops in the frontline say they are facing drug-crazed individuals who are evidently high on illegal drugs," Petinglay said.

Westmincom chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez said the recovery Sunday was the largest so far since fighting started in Marawi.

"This strengthens our findings that these terrorists are using illegal drugs which according to Muslim religious leaders is *haram* (forbidden). These Maute and ASG terrorists are not Muslims. They have violated every tenet of the teachings in the Holy Quran," he said.

On June 5, Marines found P79 million in cash and checks from a house abandoned by Maute terrorists.

"Aside from using and peddling illegal drugs, Maute and ASG terrorists are also using mosques as sniper posi-

tions, logistics hubs and safe havens for the command and control of their core group," Galvez said.

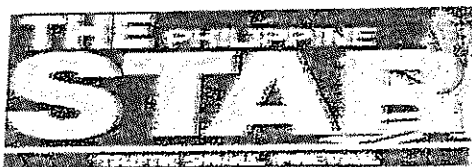
Ground troops reporting to Brig. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, commander of the 1st Infantry Division, said the terrorists were also using mosques as battle positions and drug dens.

"We condemn the acts of the Maute and ASG in using mosques as battle positions as we deplore their use of illegal drugs that is equally evil as both are un-Islamic," he said.

The Palace said the recovery of 11 kilos of shabu on Sunday validated President Rodrigo Duterte's statements that the narcotics trade fueled the ongoing siege in Marawi.

"We assume that that is so," Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella said.

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1 kilos of shabu seized in Marawi clearing

By MICHAEL IPUNONGBAYAN

Government troops recovered around 1 kilos of shabu in one of the remaining flashpoints held defensively by the terrorist Maute group in Marawi City. The stash, along with 11 high-power firearms, was confiscated by the 1st Infantry Company led by Lt. Emerson Tapang of the Army's 49th Infantry Battalion, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) reported yesterday in Western Mindanao.

Command chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. said the troops were on clearing operations about 6 p.m. of Sunday when they spotted several men in black emerging from a cluster of houses.

The terrorists engaged the troops in a firefight as they fled.

The AFP estimated the street value of the recovered high-grade shabu at between P110 million to P250 million.

Turn to Page 3

11 kilos From Page 1

"This strengthens our findings that these terrorists are using illegal drugs, which according to Muslim religious leaders is *haram* (forbidden)," Galvez said. Respected Muslim preachers and leaders, he added, branded the terrorist Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups as "not Muslims" for violating "every tenet of the teachings in the Holy Quran."

Aside from using and peddling illegal drugs, Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists are also allegedly using mosques as sniper positions, logistics hubs and safe havens for the command and control of their core group.

Brig. Gen. Rolando Jeselito Bautista, commander of 1st Infantry Division, slammed the terrorists for their continued use of mosques as battle positions and the use of drugs.

"Troops in the frontline say they are facing drug-crazed individuals who are evidently high on drugs," said Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, spokesman for the 1st In-

fantry Division. The Maute and Abu Sayyaf have claimed allegiance to the Islamic State (IS), a Middle East-based terrorist organization aimed at establishing a caliphate in the Arab region. Both terrorist groups have said they wanted to create Mindanao as an IS province in Southeast Asia.

The AFP said the recovered illegal drugs were turned over to appropriate government agencies.

Meanwhile, a police team killed two members of a faction of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters in Shariff Aguak town in Maguindanao last Sunday.

Senior Supt. Agustin Tello, Maguindanao province police director, said fatalities Raul Angkay and Edz Dalending refused to give up after policemen and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group served warrants of arrest for their involvement in several bombing incidents. - With Roel Pareño, Gerry Lee Gorit, John Unson

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The Manila Times

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No 'unli' martial law – Hontiveros

There is no such thing as "indefinite" martial law in the Constitution, said Sen. Risa Hontiveros on Monday as she chided President Rodrigo Duterte for threatening to prolong military rule until the Supreme Court decides to invalidate his martial law declaration.

The President on Saturday said he would order the military to withdraw from Marawi City if the Supreme Court rules that "there is no factual basis" for him to place Mindanao under martial law to contain the Maute terrorists.

But the Commander-in-Chief warned that he might be compelled to declare a second martial law if the Maute group continues to sow terror

>Unli'AB

■ 'UNLI' FROM A1

No 'unli'

in Marawi City Duterte even said it would be "indefinite" and a "Marcos copycat."

The President's threat did not sit well with Hontiveros, a member of the Senate minority bloc. "There's no 'unli' (unlimited) martial law," the senator said.

"And even if President Duterte manages to implement this type of martial law, I am confident that the people will oppose and defeat it," she added.

The President placed Mindanao under martial law and suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus on May 23, a day after the Islamic State (IS)-linked Maute terror group attacked Marawi City.

On May 29, Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon and Senators Francis Pangilinan, Risa Hontiveros, Antonio Trillanes 4th, Paolo Benigno Aquino 4th, and Leila de Lima filed Resolution 390 calling for a joint session of Congress to determine whether martial law was necessary in Mindanao to defeat the terrorists.

Palace, AFP: 'No abuses'

Malacañang and the military on Monday assured the public that Duterte did not refer to human rights abuses when he threatened to declare a "Marcos copycat" version of martial law if the Supreme Court revokes his declaration.

"It does not include at all references to any human rights abuse," Palace spokesman Ernesto Abella told reporters in a news conference.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said Duterte's remarks on martial law was only "light banter" with journalists.

"Definitely the President will not be referring to abuses. He may refer to the breadth and the depth of how to impose it but I guess it's not because of the abuses. After all, in the pronouncement and declaration of martial law, didn't he say: 'If you are a law-abiding citizen, and a peace-loving citizen, martial law is not a problem that you should worry about because martial law is intended for the lawless elements and the rebels that are around,'" Padilla said.

"You can see how the military is implementing martial law now, its complete regard for human rights and international humanitarian law and the other protocols that have been established. So if there are any complaints, we are open to receiving those complaints and acting on it immediately," he added.

SC set to rule

The high court wrapped up on June 15 the oral arguments on petitions questioning martial law in Mindanao. It will release its decision on or before July 5.

Under Section 18, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution, the Supreme Court has 30 days to decide on the case from the time the first petition questioning the constitutionality of martial law was filed.

An 84-page memorandum submitted to the Supreme Court by the Office of the Solicitor General stated that as early as the first quarter of 2017, there was already a recommendation from security officials for the declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

It argued however that the

President can exercise his power to declare martial law with or without recommendation from the Defense secretary.

"The lack of recommendation from the Defense secretary, or any other person, does not affect the constitutionality of the proclamation; neither does it automatically negate the sufficiency of the factual basis for its proclamation," the memorandum stated.

Nevertheless, it clarified that prior to the May 23 proclamation of martial law, President Duterte received recommendations to declare military rule from high-ranking officials.

"In his affidavit, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana narrated that he and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. had already recommended the proclamation of martial law in Mindanao during security briefings and Cabinet meetings held during the first quarter of 2017," it said.

In his affidavit, Lorenzana said he and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. recommended martial law in the first quarter of 2017 "due to the heightened frequency of the armed attacks in Mindanao, the advancement in the weapons used by the armed groups, and the evident political intention to dismember Philippine territory and deprive the President of his powers in Mindanao."

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The intelligence reports received by the President were also validated, as attested by AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año.

"There exists a sufficient factual basis for the imposition of Martial Law in the whole of Mindanao by the President and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus. These facts had been principally anchored on certain validated intelligence reports as mentioned by the President in his formal report to Congress dated May 25, 2017," Año said in an affidavit.

The Office of the Solicitor General also revealed that aside from the four main rebel groups that formed an alliance for the purpose of establishing a *'wilayah'* or Islamic States province in Mindanao, there were 20 other cell groups operating in the region, also connected to the Islamic State.

The four main groups are the Abu Sayyaf Group from Basilan, Ansarul Khilafah Philippines from Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat, Maute Group from Lanao del Sur and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters from Maguindanao.

"For this year alone, there had been 43 violent attacks by these groups," the memorandum added.

It also argued that contrary to the belief of the petitioners that the Marawi siege was a mere counter-offensive to the government's attempt to capture Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, the attack on Marawi on May 22 "was intended to be the climax of a clear and actual takeover of Philippine territory by means of a violent uprising against the government."

However, the petitioners are not buying the government's position.

In their own memorandum submitted to the Supreme Court, opposition lawmakers led by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman argued that the display of IS flags "do not show that the Maute and Hapilon's faction of the Abu Sayyaf are removing Marawi from allegiance to the Philippines... The government must not succumb to this cheap propaganda."

BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO,
CATHERINE S. VALENTE AND

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

Oride

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Office of the Army Chief Public Affairs - Email add: oa

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POLICE FILES

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Operasyon ng militar sa Marawi hihina pag binawi ang Martial Law

SINABI kagapon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na hihina ang kanilang operasyon laban sa mga teroristang grupo na pinamamunuan ng Maute Group sa Marawi City kapag pinawalang-bisa ng Korte Suprema ang Martial Law sa Mindanao.

Itayo matapos apahayag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na agad nivan ang operang militar sa Marawi kapag magdesisyon ang Korte Suprema laban sa kanyang deklarasyon.

Ayon sa AFP spokesman, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, mas magiging mahirap ang laban kapag tinanggal ang batas militar dahil hindi agad maisasagawa ang ilang hakbang sa pagtugon sa mga bantang terorista nangangailangan ng court order.

Sabini Padilla, sa oras na mabawi ang Martial Law, kinakailangan nang pumili sa mga korte para sa search at arrest warrant at maari pang maantala ang operasyon kung hindi agad magalabas ang judge.

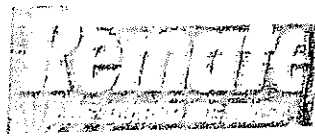
Maliban sa nasabing delay, maaring makatakas ang mga terorista, magbabawas nang sidaan ng pwersa dahil apapaubaya na nila ang law enforcement sa PNP at local government unit (LGU).

"Offensives will continue because there is a threat that is being faced. And it would be foolhardy to stop the fight because the martial law was lifted. So if there is a threat to public safety, tuloy parin po. But the fight becomes increasingly hard because you cannot effect certain moves that will facilitate the taking care of some threat that are looming somewhere. So you need to line up for a search warrant, you need to get an arrest order, and if the courts don't issue them as quickly as they should, then maaantala'yung gagawin mong mga operasyon. At the course of time between the effecting the arrest and the search and possibly neutralizing a potential threat will become longer and opening up the possibility of escape. So they will keep on being a large and being a threat to public safety," paliwanag ni Padilla.

Apinahayag din ni Chief PNP, Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa na magiging malaking bentaha sa mga teroristang Maute-Abu Sayyaf sa kanilang pagtakas kapag tinanggal ang Martial Law. Dahil mangailangan pang court order bago maaresto ang mga ito. Hindi tulad ngayon na kaagad maaaresto ang mga tumatakas na terorista. (Mula sa Bombo Radyo)

Per DTK

20 June 2017



Pahina. 2

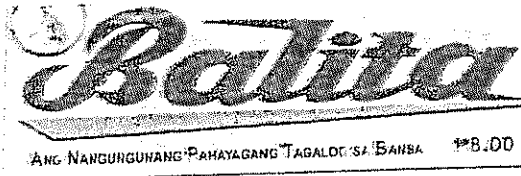
AFP todo-paliwanag sa Marcos-type martial law ni Duterte

TODO-paliwanag si AFP spokesperson Brig Gen Restituto Padilla Jr., sa posibilidad na muling pagdedeklaran ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ng martial law sa Mindanao sa oras na katigang ng Korte Suprema ang petisyon ng ilang sektor na kumukuwestiyon sa validity ng masabing deklarasyon. Sa Mindanao Hour briefing sinabi ni Brig Gen Padilla na hindi naman imukoy ni Pangulong Duterte na abusuhin nito ang martial law kundi sa pangalawang pagkakataon sakali at hindi pumanig sa pamahalaan ang SC ay mas magiging malalim ang gob-

verno sa pagpapataw ng batas militar sa Mindanao. Siniguro nito na hindi lalabagin ni Pangulong Duterte ang karabalang-pantao ng bawat isa o ng mga susuway sa batas militar. Palagimamanahiyang sinasabi ni Pangulong Duterte na walang dapat ikatakot ang mga law-abiding citizen sa Martial Law dahil ang Martial Law ay para sa lawless elements at rebeldeng grupo. Sa ulat, pinayapa ng AFP ang kaibang publiko kaugnay ng pahayag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na maaari siyang magpatupad ng Marcos-type martial law kung naki-tang may panibagong rebelyon at paghahask ng terorismo sa Mindanao o ibang bahagi ng bansa. Sa Mindanao Hour sa Malacañang, ipinaliwanag ni AFP Spokesman Restituto Padilla na ang ibig sabihin lamang ni

Pangulong Duterte sa kanyang pahayag ay maaari nitong patupad ang higit at lawak ng Batas Militar na ipinatatamoon ni dating Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos pero hindi ang pag-abuso nitong militar. Ayon kay Padilla, batay sa maunang guidance ni Pangulong Duterte bilang commander-in-chief, kailangang mataas ang pagrespeto ng militar sa karabalang-pantao at huwag lalabag sa batas. Inihayag pa ni Padilla na noong nakapanayam ng media ang Pangulo nasa "light moment" o nagbibiro lang kaya "wag masyadong seryosohin" iugnili pa ni Padilla na walang dapat ipag-alala o ikatakot ang publikong may pagpapahalaga sa kapayapaan at sumusunod sa batas dahil ang martial law ay laban sa mga gumagawa ng karahasan at pananakit sa kapwa, ari-arian at kapaligiran. KRIS JOSE

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Martial law ni Marcos, “di gagayahin ni Duterte –AFP

Dinepensahan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang mga pahayag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na kung kinakailangan niyang magdeklara ng martial law sa ikalawang pagkakataon dahil sa rebelyon sa Mindanao, magiging katulad ito ng batas militar ni dating Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos.

Sinabi ni AFP spokesperson BGen. Restituto Padilla na ang tinutukoy ni Duterte ay hindi ang mga pang-aabuso sa karapatang pantao kundi ang lawak at lalim ng pagpapatupad sa martial law.

“Well, definitely the President will not be referring to abuses. He may refer to the breadth and the depth of how to impose it but I guess it’s not because of the abuses,” sinabi ni Padilla sa Mindanao Hour press briefing kahapon ng umaga.

Sinabi Padilla na ang pagpapatupad ng militar ng martial law sa Mindanao ay patunay na mataas ang pagpapahalaga ni Duterte sa mga karapatang pantao at kung mayroon mang mga reklamo ay tinitiyak ng AFP na kaagad nila itong aaksiyunan.

“You can see how the military is implementing martial law now, its complete regard for human rights and IHL (International Humanitarian Law) and the other protocols that have been established,” aniya.

“So if there are any complaints, we are open to receiving those complaints and acting on it immediately,” sabi pa niya.

Muli ring idiniin ng opisyal ng militar ang naunang pahayag ng Pangulo na walang dapat ikatakot ang mga tao sa martial law kung

sumusunod sila sa bata.

“Di ba sinabi niya (Duterte), ‘If you are a law-abiding citizen, and a peace-loving citizen, martial law is not a problem that you should worry about because martial law is intended for the lawless elements and the rebels that are around,’” anang Padilla.

Nilinaw rin ni Padilla ang buruan ni Duterte at ng mga miyembro ng media sa Butuan City noong Sabado kung saan binanggit ng Pangulo na aalisin niya ang martial law kung ipag-uutos ito ng Supreme Court, ngunit nababala ng isa pa na “could be a copycat of Marcos.”

“The nature of the exchange between the media and the President was light enough that shouldn’t be reflected or translated otherwise,” diin ni Padilla.

Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos

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OFWs sending letters for soldiers in Marawi

By **MAYEN JAYMALIN**

Soldiers in Marawi can expect boxes of letters of support coming soon from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

The Blas Ople Policy Center yesterday reported that in response to the call of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, OFWs are eager to send postcards and letters to soldiers fighting the terrorist

Maute group in Marawi City.

"Our OFWs from every nook and corner of the world are eager to participate (in the #ogop Marawi campaign). They want to boost the morale of our soldiers. The only question is how can they make sure that postcards of hope and peace from our OFWs throughout the world make it all the way to Marawi City," Center head Susan Ople said.

Ople called on the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to direct all diplomatic posts to accept the letters and serve as a bridge between OFWs and the Philippine Army.

Philippine Army chief Gen. Roberto Arevalo earlier urged the people to write letters to the soldiers in Marawi, saying "every act of kindness is a message of support for peace."

According to Ople, millions

of OFWs around the world would like to take part in #OgopMarawi to show their support for the government's fight against violent extremism. She also asked the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) to accept shoebox donations from families and Filipino communities abroad.

The Philippine Army's Civil Military Operations Group launched Project Shoebox to

provide school supplies to about 50,000 children and students and the "Bayanihan para sa mga Bayaning Bayan" project to provide clothes, hygiene kits and inspirational messages for the troops.

Although the Philippine Postal Corp. (PHLPost) has already expressed its willingness to deliver letters of support to the soldiers fighting in Marawi City, Ople said it would be easier

for Filipino community groups to gather postcards and letters and course these through the nearest Philippine embassy or Philippine consulate general.

"The DFA and OWWA can pave the way for millions of OFWs to start sending postcards and letters of hope and support to our military troops in Marawi City and even for the families staying in evacuation centers," Ople said.

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MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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NPA Iloilo raid 'opportunistic' - Malacañang

By AARON B. RECUEÑO
FRANCIS WAKEFIELD
and ARGYLL CYRUS S. GEDUGOS

Suspected communist rebels burned the generator sets of a telecom cell site in Catanauan town, Quezon province and ambushed soldiers responding to the site wounding two Army troopers. The attacks occurred hours before the rebels' counterparts in Panay Island raided the Maasin Police Station in Iloilo province where they carted away at least 13 long and short firearms and communication equipment. The incident occurred two

NPA Iloilo raid

days after National Democratic Front (NDF) chair Fidel V. Agcaoili recommended to the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) "to order all other NPA units in Mindanao to refrain from carrying out offensive operations against the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP)" and maintain defensive operations against Maute, Abu Sayyaf, and Ansar Al Khilafah Philippines (AAKP).

In Malacañang, presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said, "Although the attack was not in Mindanao, the act was opportunistic in nature and disregards the nature of the NDF declaration. We ask the NDF to call on their armed comrades on the ground to walk the talk and to show genuine sincerity on the confidence-building measure initiated by the government and their side," he added.

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Secretary Jesus Dureza said the attack on the Maasin police station should be dealt with accordingly and decisively by the AFP and the PNP.

"Since the latest statements of the National Democratic Front and the

government to mutually refrain from taking offensive operations against each other cover only Mindanao, and since there is yet no mutually agreed bilateral ceasefire agreement in place nationwide, the NPA attack in Maasin, Iloilo, and elsewhere must be dealt with accordingly and decisively by the AFP and the PNP with the cooperation of civilian agencies and the affected communities," Dureza said.

It is disheartening to note, Dureza said that such attacks "provide a negative impact in our mutual commitment with the NDF to provide that enabling environment conducive to the continuation of peace negotiations with them."

"The impact is not just on the peace negotiations, it illustrates the tragedy of the insurgency," Dureza noted.

Old excuse

Field reports reaching Camp Crame in Quezon City disclosed that the local police first received reports that at least 10 armed men burned two generator sets of a Globe cell site in Barangay Tuwain at around 8 p.m. Sunday.

Troops from the 85th Infantry

Battalion were deployed to the area but their truck was hit by a roadside explosive in Barangay Ajos also in Catanauan town at around 10 p.m.

"The IED (improvised explosive device) was followed by a gunfire. The troops returned fire which forced the enemies to withdraw," the report read.

The ambush injured Corporals Dennis Moran and Humphry Taller.

NPA Panay in a statement said they targeted the Maasin Police Station because its personnel allegedly extorted from the local vendors and tolerated the proliferation of illegal drugs and gambling.

But AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla called it an old excuse.

"Pansina'yung excuse na, yon. Huwag niyong mapapatulan (You should not buy that old excuse)," Padilla said during a Palace briefing yesterday.

"They do this intentionally because their objective is to get more arms," he added.

Another reason for the attack, according to Padilla is because many of the government troops reinforced troops in Mindanao.

"So when the forces were spread thin, they knew that they can do this,

they took advantage. That's why we say it's very opportunistic on their part," he said.

"So I don't know we shouldn't believe their excuses. They're always a pretense of the real motive and that's what we should know," he added.

Padilla said they are still waiting for a directive from the Government Peace Panel on how to deal with the NPA as the NDF declaration reciprocated by the GRP only covers Mindanao.

"We defer to the formal peace panel. We have to get instructions on what the position of government is. So whatever their instructions and guidance are, we will comply with it," he said.

Business as usual

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Dela Lorenzana said the AFP will continue to fulfill its mandate and conduct support to law enforcement operations all over the Philippines amidst continued NPA atrocities.

Lorenzana said notwithstanding the statement of chief government peace negotiator Secretary Silvestre Bello III that the Government will not undertake offensive operations against the NPA to set the ground for a bilateral ceasefire, recent events have shown that the upper echelons

of the communist movement do not have actual control of NPA units on the ground, which continue to commit atrocities even while their comrades talk peace with the government.

"Nakitamaman matatukang ang ginawa nila sa Maasin, Iloilo, akai-Janilamang, kung saan matakemila ang isang police station, at nagnakaw ng armas upang gamitin at laban sa mga moses-teng sibilyan. (We've all seen what they did in Maasin, Iloilo over the weekend where they attacked a police station and took firearms which they will use against innocent civilians)," Lorenzana said.

"Thus, any member of the NPA who continues to commit terrorist acts such as extortion, burning of property, kidnapping, roaming around with firearms to intimidate people, and attacks on government forces will be pursued, apprehended, and brought to justice," Lorenzana said.

PNP chief director General Ronald dela Rosa is also doubting the sincerity of the communist rebels when they attacked the Maasin police station despite the NDF recommendation.

"I do not know if they are serious. We are not taking their words maninguro din tayo," said Dela Rosa.

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COAST GUARDS INTERCEPT MAUTE SUSPECTS IN ILOILO

By **Nestor P. Burgos Jr.**
@nestorburgosINQ

ILOILO CITY—Three travelers intercepted at the port of Iloilo on Sunday and held for suspected ties with the Maute terror group were flown to Cagayan de Oro City early Monday.

A 10-seat Islander plane of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) took off from Iloilo International Airport at 5:30 a.m. carrying Farida Romato, 23, her brother Al Jadid Romato, 20, and Abdul Rahman Dimacuta, 25 and supposed boyfriend of Farida.

The three were accompanied by Coast Guards from Northern Mindanao, according to Lt/Sgt. Edison Diaz, PCG station commander in Iloilo.

Arrest Order No. 1

Diaz said Farida was among the people covered by Arrest Order No. 1 issued by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana after President Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao.

The Romatos admitted that they were relatives of brothers Omarkhayam and Abdullah Maute, leaders of the terror group battling government forces in Marawi City.

But they denied involvement in the terror group, Diaz said.

He said the three were taken to Cagayan de Oro for further

investigation.

About 20 Coast Guards intercepted the three at the Iloilo port around 3:15 p.m. on Sunday after they arrived on board the MV St. Therese of Child Jesus of the 2GO shipping company.

Intelligence agents had monitored the three to have boarded the ship and set their interception in Iloilo.

The ship departed Cagayan de Oro on Sunday evening for Iloilo City and Manila.

False names

The three had tickets to Manila, but used false names, Diaz said.

Farida told investigators that she and her companions were meeting their parents in Cavite where they had a business.

Diaz denied reports that the woman was a sister of the Maute brothers.

He said only clothes and other personal belongings were recovered from the three.

In Cagayan de Oro, no reporter was allowed to enter the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) office, which was inside the camp of the military's 4th Infantry Division.

No one from the CIDG would confirm if it had the three suspects in its custody. —WITH A REPORT FROM JIGGER J. JERUSALEM

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NPA raids smack of opportunism, says Palace

By John Paolo Bencito

MALACANANG on Monday tagged the New People's Army (NPA) as opportunists after they ransacked a police station in Iloilo over the weekend even though peace negotiators on both sides said they would refrain from at-

tacking each other as a confidence-building measure.

"Although the attack was not in Mindanao, the act was opportunistic in nature and disregards the nature of the NDF declaration," Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella said, referring to the communist National Democratic Front

"We ask the NDF to call on their armed comrades on the ground to walk the talk and to show genuine sincerity on the confidence-building measure initiated by the government," he added.

Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Resituto Padilla also said it was clear the NPA objective was

to get more arms.

He also said the NPA forces knew the government defenses elsewhere were weakened because reinforcements were sent to Mindanao.

"One of the reasons they did the attack on Maasin [is that] many

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of our troops went to Mindanao. That's why we say it's very opportunistic on their part," Padilla said.

At least 50 suspected members of the New People's Army ransacked a police station in Maasin, Iloilo province on Sunday morning, taking away several firearms from the police station including eight M16 rifles, four Glock 9mm pistols, five handheld radios, a base radio and two laptops. The rebels also took P25,000 from the police station and a patrol car.

The NPA Coronacion "Waling-Waling" Chiva Command in Panay issued a statement confirming the attack, with its spokesperson, Ka Julio Montana, accusing the municipal police force of extorting from small vendors and allowing the proliferation of illegal drugs and gambling.

Abella, however, questioned the timing of the NPA attacks coming as they did as both sides were discussing a ceasefire.

Presidential Adviser on Peace Process Jesus Dureza said that they will be pushing for a nationwide ceasefire amid the government's resolve to end the longest communist insurgency in Asia.

"The NPA attack in Maasin, Iloilo and elsewhere must be dealt with accordingly and decisively by the AFP and the PNI with the cooperation of civilian agencies and the affected communities," Dureza said in a statement.

"It is disheartening to note that such attacks provide a negative impact in our mutual commitment with the NDF to provide that enabling environment conducive to the continuation of peace negotiations with them."

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BusinessMirror

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Military starts mustering reserve personnel, units in Metro Manila

TO determine if its pool of trained manpower is up to par, the Armed Forces has started mustering all its reserve units in Metro Manila.

"As our operations against terrorist groups and other lawless elements continue to intensify, our reservists must remain steadfast, dependable and ready to be deployed any time," the Armed Forces Public Affairs Office chief, Col. Edgard Arevalo, said in a statement on Monday.

mustering process.

Arevalo said these figures are expected to increase once mustering goes into high gear.

Mustering will determine the present status of the operational readiness and the responsiveness of the reserve force.

"Our reservists are not only force multipliers, but also our partners in various nonlethal military operations and activities that contribute to nation-building and national well-being," he added.

Armed Forces data indicate that for the first quarter of 2017, there are a total 386,116 Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine reservists all over the country, among them former Vice

Mustering started last Saturday and it was spearheaded by the Armed Forces's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Reservists and Retiree Affairs (J-9).

Initially, 112 officers and 555 enlisted personnel in National Capital Region reported in the

President Jejomar C. Binay, who is a Marines reserve colonel, and former Interior Secretary Rafael Alunan III, who is an Army reserve colonel.

The Armed Forces Reserve Force conducts regular assemblies to physically account, inspect, organize and update the individual records of each reservist and ready-reserve unit.

Arevalo said the simultaneous assembly is in compliance with Section 49 of Republic Act 7077, which states that: All reservists, particularly those belonging to the ready and standby reserves, shall be accounted for, their records and status updated and present whereabouts ascertained in order to ensure their readiness to the call to duty. PNA

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-nation anti-terror patrols get under way

John Paolo Bencito

INDONESIA, Malaysia and the Philippines began joint naval patrols in their region Monday to guard against threats from extremist groups as tensions rise.

The "trilateral coordinated maritime patrol" was launched amid continuing battles between Philippine troops and Islamist militants loyal to the Islamic State group, who have seized control of the city of Marawi in Mindanao.

Indonesia's military chief Gatot Nurmantyo said the patrols were timely as his country tries to repel any militants from Marawi heading to Indonesia while processing refugees.

The three neighbors agreed in

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May 2016 to conduct the joint patrols and share intelligence, after a series of kidnappings of foreigners by the Abu Sayyaf, an Islamist group who beheaded several victims after ransoms were not paid.

"The series of piracy attacks accompanied by kidnappings that occurred frequently in the Sulu [Sea] waters have had a huge security impact on surrounding coastal countries... and have pushed us to conduct a coordinated patrol among three countries," said Nurmantyo when the joint patrol was launched at the Indonesian island of Tarakan off Borneo island.

The three countries also set up maritime command centers -- in Tarakan for Indonesia, Tawau for Malaysia and Bongao for the Philippines -- to collect information and coordinate the patrols.

This will enable the closest ship from any nation to be sent to answer distress calls and allow for hot pursuit, Nurmantyo said.

The launch was attended by the three countries' defense ministers and marked by an Indonesian navy sail-past and a fly-past of Sukhoi fighter jets.

The Armed Forces on Monday urged border officials to strengthen immigration controls to stop jihadists from using the country's southern backdoor to gain entry and to reinforce Islamic State-inspired terrorists in Marawi City.

"I think we need to fortify and strengthen our immigration procedures. Because that is our first line of defense [against foreign jihadists]," Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said in a Palace news briefing.

"We likewise recommend that we review the Human Security Act to check what we can do to prevent the entry of these individuals," he added.

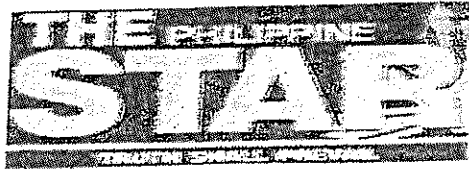
The announcements came following a meeting with Defense officials from the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia for the launch of joint sea patrols to curb piracy and terror activities in the high seas.

Two Indonesians and a Malaysian suspected of planning to cross over by sea in the Malaysian state of Sabah were arrested Friday by Malaysian authorities amid reports that they intended to join Islamic State-linked fighters battling military forces in Marawi.

Counter-terrorism officials, who are on heightened alert against possible militant attacks, arrested the three men a day earlier in Sandakan, Malaysia—where there are ferry services to the nearby Mindanao.

Malaysian Inspector General of Police Khalid Abu Bakar said the police's counterterrorism team seized three knives from the Sabahan and two Indonesians who were arrested. **With AFP.**

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Handout photo from the Western Mindanao Command shows 11 kilograms of shabu and an ISIS flag recovered by troops from a house cleared of Maute terrorists in Marawi City last Sunday.

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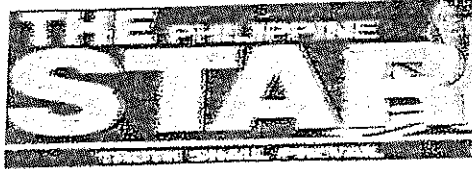


Pahina. 2



Upang mapalakas ang moraleng ang kasundaluhan sa Marawi City ay inihanda ng tanggapan ni Brig Gen. Ronnie Evangelista sa Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City kabapag ang unang shirt may tatak na "Support our troops" na ipamimigay sa mga residente ng Marawi City. (Mike Taboy)

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SHOOTING STRAIGHT

BOBIT S. AVILA

CHR: Still no condemnation vs terrorists?

Exactly a week ago, we chastised the ultra noisy Commission on Human Rights (CHR) whose statement was headlined in *The Philippine STAR* the other Sunday entitled, "Stop Airstrikes in Marawi, CHR urges gov't" because they called upon the Duterte government to stop using air strikes to defeat the Maute terrorists holed inside Marawi City. As I pointed out, our *STAR* reporter did not quote a single person from the CHR organization. But whoever made this announcement was clearly hiding behind the CHR.



Well, last Sunday it was a pleasant surprise to read that report from Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella who welcomed the latest remarks from the CHR that there have been "No Human Rights Abuses in Mindanao" where Martial Law has been declared since May 23rd. Apparently this statement came from CHR Commissioner Roberto Eugenio. Finally, someone in the CHR had the guts to put his name in this statement! In the previous CHR statement, there was no name attributed to that statement.

Apparently, CHR spokesperson Jacqueline de Guia assured the public that the CHR is monitoring the situation in Marawi City, including the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). I'll have the CHR know that many of us Netties are also monitoring the situation in Marawi City to check on any untoward incidents and so far, thanks God, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have acted professionally, even at the expense of many of their soldiers who have been killed by the Maute terrorists.

But while we're happy with the latest pronouncement from the CHR, it still falls short from their issuing a condemnation of the Maute terror group or the Abu Sayyaf group for their violations of human rights. This is something that the CHR ought to issue for the sake of fairness and transparency of their organization.

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ONLINE NEWS

20 JUNE 2017

www.dwdd.com.ph

AFP neutralizes 50 NPAs, recovered 16 Firearms

Author: [Lui Claudio](#)

CAMP AGUINALDO, Quezon City – Amid intense operations against the terrorist Maute-ISIS Group in Marawi, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) was able to neutralize 50 members of the New People's Army (NPA) and recovered 16 firearms in separate operations outside the battle-stricken city.

"While the AFP is busy combating the Maute-ISIS group in Marawi, significant developments are happening in our fight against the NPA, particularly after the Government did not participate in the fifth round of peace negotiations with the communist terrorists," Colonel Edgard Arevalo, AFP Public Affairs Office Chief said Thursday, June 15.

Never waning in its operations against the communist terrorists, military forces were able to conduct successful operations against the NPA, mostly in North-eastern Mindanao.

Of the 50 neutralized communist terrorists, 36 voluntarily surrendered to government forces, nine (9) were killed, and five (5) were arrested in separate encounters starting May 23—day one of the attack on Marawi.

Over the course of operations, government troops also recovered 16 high-powered and low-powered firearms. On the other hand, 15 firearms were turned over by surrendering NPA members.

The most recent encounter took place in Paquibato District, Davao City on June 11 where elements of the 16th Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army were able to neutralize one NPA fighter and recover a rifle.

The AFP saw a surge of surrenders from the NPA starting May 23. Significant of which were five (5) NPAs who voluntarily surrendered in Talaingod, Davao del Norte on June 13, and six (6) members with high-powered firearms who surrendered in Maguindanao on June 6.

During the period however, the NPA intensified its offensives against government troops following the declaration of Martial Law in Mindanao.

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"It seemed like the NPAs wanted to affiliate with the Maute-ISIS group as shown by their order of offensives against the AFP on account of the declaration of Martial Law in Mindanao, which was implemented to protect our people from the ISIS-linked terrorists," Colonel Arevalo said.

On June 13, elements of the Army's 66th Infantry Battalion while on their way to conduct checkpoint operations in Compostela Valley were subjected to an IED attack by members of the NPAs. The AFP also recorded separate harassment incidents by the NPAs in Ligao City, Albay and Davao City on June 12.

"However, when the NPA's order of intensified offensive against the AFP was assailed, they changed tactic and offered to help the military fight the Maute-ISIS group," asserts Colonel Arevalo.

To date, the AFP has now neutralized 324 NPAs since the termination of peace negotiations and lifting of ceasefire on February 4, 2017. It also recovered a total of 77 high-powered and low-powered firearms while 76 were surrendered firearms.

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Gov't forces gear up for Marawi rehab

MANILA, June 19 -- Government forces recovered illegal drugs as well as cache of high-powered firearms over the weekend in Marawi City as they prepare to embark on other key tasks such as rehabilitation and reconstruction of Marawi City.

During the regular Mindanao Hour press briefing in Malacañang, Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella said 11 kilos of suspected metamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu were recovered by troops after a brief firefight with Maute militants at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

The confiscation of the illegal substance is one of the significant developments by the Joint Task Force Marawi in the ongoing clearing operations in the besieged city.

Armed Forces of the Philippines Spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., who joined Abella at the press briefing, said soldiers also seized more than 20 high-powered firearms last Saturday in Marawi City.

"So you may not be aware of the nature of the confiscated firearms. These are among the firearms that have been confiscated and they are not ordinary firearms at all but high-powered firearms that can fire from afar, hit targets and destroy them," Padilla said.

"This is indicative of the length of planning that went to this operation of these rebels, when they were able to get this number of firearms and bring it to the area of operations over a period of time," he added.

Other war materials such as improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other explosives have also been confiscated.

According to Abella, the AFP is prepared to embark on other key tasks such as rehabilitation and reconstruction of Marawi City once it is cleared of the terrorists.

"It has already prepared the Combat Engineering Brigades [from] the Army and the Navy for immediate deployment as soon as the clearing operations are [completed]," he said of AFP's preparations.

In the meantime, however, he said the focus remains on combat, intelligence, and civil military operations.

The government troops have so far rescued 1,637 civilians, recovered 250 firearms and killed 257 terrorists, Abella reported adding that the Maute's resistance "continues to wane".

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At least 62 soldiers have been killed while thousands of people have been displaced since the siege started last month.

In response to people expressing desire to help families of troops killed-in-action and internally displaced persons, the government set up two separate accounts in Landbank where concerned people could deposit money.

For families of slain soldiers, people can deposit money using the account name AFP Marawi Casualty with account number 00000552107128.

For evacuees from Marawi City, people can send money through account name Marawi IDP with account number 00000552107136.

Band together in fight vs terrorism.

Meanwhile, Padilla reiterated his call to the public to support the government in fighting terrorism describing the enemy as "a different breed."

He said the presence of foreign fighters in Mindanao is part of a continuing concern because they bring something different than from that of home-grown terrorists.

"But if we do not work as a nation and band together to fight it, the threat might increase," he said.

He added that if Filipinos work together as one nation, it will be harder for the extremists to rule and the government could easily root them out. (PND/PNA)

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DND to bring to justice NPAs who continue doing atrocities

MANILA, June 19 --- Any member of the New People's Army (NPA) who persists on doing terroristic actions will be apprehended and brought to justice by military forces.

This was bared by Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana Monday when sought for a reaction on the NPA attack against a police station in Maasin, Iloilo which resulted in the rebels stealing an undetermined number of firearms and bullets last June 18.

"Thus, any member of the NPA who continues to commit terroristic acts such as extortion, burning of property, kidnapping, roaming around with firearms to intimidate people, and attacks on government forces will be pursued, apprehended, and brought to justice," he added.

Recent events have shown that the upper echelons of the communist movement do not have actual control of NPA units on the ground, which continue to commit atrocities even while their comrades talk peace with the government, Lorenzana pointed out.

"Notwithstanding the statement of (GPH panel chair) Secretary Silvestre Bello III that the Government will not undertake offensive operations against the NPA to sei the ground for a bilateral ceasefire, the Armed Forces of the Philippines will continue to fulfill its mandate and conduct support to law enforcement operations all over the Philippines," the DND chief stressed. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

www.pna.gov.ph

No decision yet on transfer of cases vs Maute group — SC

MANILA, June 19 -- Supreme Court (SC) Spokesperson Theodore Te on Monday said that the high court has yet to act on the Department of Justice's (DOJ) request to transfer of the cases against arrested members and supporters of the Maute terror group.

"The SC resolution stays until the SC says otherwise. It has not issued another resolution. The letter of the Secretary of Justice asking for reconsideration has not yet been granted by the SC," Te said when sought for a comment.

Last June 6, the SC has designated the Cagayan De Oro Regional Trial Court (RTC) to handle cases filed against the Maute members and supporters while the military's Camp Evangelista, which is in the same city, was designated as the detention of the arrested suspects.

The Court also assigned the military camp in the same city to serve as the detention of the arrested suspects.

The DOJ earlier asked the SC to reconsider its resolution, citing security risks that may arise if the trial is held in Cagayan de Oro as well as the lack of facilities.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II wrote to Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno to request that the Regional Trial Court of Taguig City be designated as the court to hear and decide all cases and incidents arising from the takeover of the Maute group of Marawi City.

"We anchor our present entreaty on the imperative need to free the Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel stationed in Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City from the additional task and concern of safeguarding the apprehended Maute group members and to enable them to focus fully and primarily in their involvement in the ongoing military operations to liberate Marawi City," Aguirre noted.

Aguirre also reiterated his request that the SICA in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City be designated as the detention facility for the apprehended members of the Maute group while their cases are being heard.

In addition, Secretary Aguirre further requested that the SC allows the conduct of the hearing of the cases at an appropriate venue inside the premises of the SICA to ensure the greater security of the Maute detainees.

"The granting of our most recent request i.e. that the hearing of the Maute cases be heard inside the SICA, assuming that our earlier request will also be granted, will make the transport of the detainees more secured and less taxing in terms of preparation and logistics. We hope that our Honorable Supreme Court will see its merits and grant it", the Justice Secretary said.

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Aguirre had a meeting with Sereno on Monday where they talked about the probability of transferring the trial instead to Camp Bagong Diwa, at the SICA where trials are being conducted against arrested members of the Abu Sayyaf Group.

Aguirre said there was already a precedent for holding a trial inside a jail citing the trial of the 2009 Maguindanao massacre case which is being held inside Camp Bagong Diwa where the accused are also detained.

"Maganda naman ang napag-usapan namin so in all probability, instead of moving the trial at the Taguig RTC, dun na mismo sa loob ng jail ang trial para mas secure kaya dun na mismo sa loob ng SICA," Aguirre told reporters after the meeting.

He said they also agreed to establish two courtrooms for the trial adding that he would be calling on the Philippine National Police, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and the Armed Forces to see if this is feasible.

"We agreed that we hope we would establish at least two courtrooms inside the SICA but we can add one more courtroom. We would be calling on the PNP and AFP if we could establish another court room," Aguirre added.

The DOJ chief though said that holding trial inside Camp Bagong Diwa is still subject to the approval of the Court en banc since it was the en banc who issued the resolution designating the Cagayan de Oro courts to try and resolve the cases against the Maute group members and their supporters.

The SC will hold its regular en banc session Tuesday.

Aguirre said he will reorganize his panels of prosecutor that will handle the case to be composed of Metro Manila prosecutors once the SC grants his request.

"I am going to reorganize my panels because my panels should be composed of Metro Manila prosecutors who will undergo immediate training on continuous trial," Aguirre told reporters.

Aguirre said members of judiciary and national prosecution service fear their safety in the conduct of inquest, preliminary investigation and trial of the cases involving the Maute group.

Aguirre, who personally inspected the detention facility of arrested Maute members and supporters at Camp Evangelista in Cagayan De Oro City and saw several problems.

Aguirre added that the Cagayan De Oro courts, which are temporarily located at the City Tourism Hall after the Hall of Justice was gutted by fire in January 2015, are not a convenient venue for the trial.

Earlier, the DOJ approved the filing of rebellion charges against Ominta Tamano "Farhana" Maute, mother of Maute group leaders Abdullah and Omar, former Marawi City Mayor Fahad

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Salic and nine others in connection to the ongoing armed conflict in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur before the Cagayan De Oro City RTC.

"The centralized Prosecution Office of Lanao Del Sure 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.

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. (Christopher Lloyd T. Caliwon/PNA)

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P250-M worth of shabu, high-powered arms seized in Marawi City

By Priam F. Nepomuceno June 19, 2017, 1:34 pm

MANILA, June 19 -- Troops engaged in clearing Marawi City of the remaining Maute Group members recovered 11 kilograms of shabu, with an estimated street value of PHP110 million to PHP250 million, and four high-powered weapons early evening Sunday.

This was based on reports by 1st Infantry Division commander Brig. Gen. Rolando Bautista forwarded by the military's 4th Civil Relations Group Monday.

The illegal drugs and four high-powered weapons were recovered by troopers of the 49th Infantry Battalion led by 1st Lt. Emerson Tapang during clearing operations Sunday.

Soldiers spotted men in black emerging from a cluster of houses that prompted troops to maneuver. The terrorists put up a fight but fled while carrying items taken from one of the houses.

The estimated street value of the seized high-grade shabu is between PHP110 million to PHP250 million.

It may be recalled that numerous sachets of shabu were recovered by troops in the fighting positions of the Maute and Abu Sayyaf terror group since the first and second week of the Marawi siege.

Troops in the frontlines stated that they are facing drug crazed individuals in the ongoing battles.

Bautista also scored the terrorists for their continued use of mosques as battle positions and the use of illegal drugs.

"We condemn the acts of the Maute/ASG in using Mosques as battle positions as we deplore their use of illegal drugs that is equally evil as both are un-Islamic," he added. (PNA)

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20 ISIS cell groups operate in Mindanao – Calida

The Solicitor General lists down the 20 ISIS cell groups in his memorandum to the Supreme Court, to bolster the government's defense of martial law in Mindanao

Posted by: [Lian Buan](#)

REBELLION? Solicitor General Jose Calida takes the ISIS flag to the Supreme Court (SC) on June 14, 2017 as part of evidence to say that ISIS links to local terror groups is proof that the Marawi City siege is a case of rebellion. Photo by Lian Buan/Rappler

MANILA, Philippines – Solicitor General Jose Calida on Monday, June 19, said there are 20 ISIS cell groups operating all over Mindanao, conducting coordinated attacks with local terror groups like the Maute.

Calida listed down the ISIS cells in his memorandum filed with the Supreme Court (SC) on Monday to supplement the government's defense of President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration of martial law:

- Ansar Dawiah Fi Filibbin
- Rajah Solaiman Islamic Movement
- Al Harakatul Islamiyah Battalion
- Jama'at Ansar Khilafa
- Ansharul Khilafah Philippines Battalion
- Bangsamoro Justice Movement
- Khilafah Islamiya Mindanao
- Abu Sayyaf Group (Sulu faction)
- Syuful Khilafa Fi Luzon
- Ma'rakah Al-Ansar Battalion
- Dawla Islamiyyah Cotabato
- Dawlat Al Islamiyah Waliyatul Masrik
- Ansar Al-Shariyah Battalion
- Jamaah al-Tawhid wal Jihad Philippines
- Abu Dujanah Battalion
- Abu Khubayn Battalion
- Jundallah Battalion
- Abu Sadr Battalion
- Jamaah Al Muhajirin wal Anshor
- Balik-Islam Group

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According to Calida, the cell groups combine forces with ISIS-inspired groups like Maute, Abu Sayyaf Group from Basilan led by Isnilon Hapilon, Ansarul Khilafah Philippines (AKP), and Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

"These ISIS-linked local rebel groups and ISIS cell groups have conducted violent activities, particularly in the areas of Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga, and Davao, not merely to sow terror amongst the populace, but to dismember the country. They have the capability of conducting bomb attacks in any areas of Mindanao," the Solicitor General said.

Calida said a meeting was supposed to take place in the first week of 2017 among the 4 ISIS-inspired rebel groups to declare their unified pledge to ISIS, but they were pre-empted by the death of AKP leader Mohammad Jaafar Maguid or Tokboy.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana announced in January 2017 that the ISIS leadership had made direct contact with Hapilon to instruct him to find a suitable area in Mindanao where they could establish an ISIS caliphate.

Lorenzana said then that Isnilon was considering the area of Central Mindanao and was trying to get the support of the Maute group. Marawi City in Lanao del Sur is in Central Mindanao.

Intel on ISIS

Calida had also previously revealed, supported by the admission of the ground commander in Marawi City, that the Armed Forces of the Philippines knew as early as April that Maute had deployed its members to plot the attack in Marawi.

Major General Rolando Bautista said they were waiting for the Maute brothers to make a move, but were surprised to learn that Hapilon was also in the city, triggering the clashes that will enter its 5th week Tuesday.

As of posting, Lorenzana has not replied to Rappler's request for a comment on the supposed presence of 20 ISIS cell groups. In January, the defense chief said the military would not allow ISIS to establish a caliphate in the Philippines.

At the Shangri-La Dialogue Security Summit in Singapore on June 4, Defense Undersecretary Ricardo David said there were "250 to 400" ISIS fighters in the country.

But David's estimates were starkly different from the figures provided by his Indonesian counterpart, who pegged the number of ISIS fighters in the Philippines at 1,200.

"There are 1,200 ISIS in the Philippines, around 40 from Indonesia. This information I will inform to our counterparts in ASEAN," Indonesian Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu said, citing regional intelligence.

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Supreme Court justices wanted to determine, during the 3-day oral arguments on the anti-martial law petitions last week, if there was failure of intelligence in Marawi. The magistrates agreed to be briefed privately by Lorenzana, Military Chief General Eduardo Año, and other key security officers.

Lorenzana told Rappler that the interpellation by the justices brought out highly classified details, which they would not want the public to know.

"Aren't we the ones who get to decide which information is classified? Remember, our troops are still fighting and dying in Marawi... As it is we have already made public more than the public should know," Lorenzana told Rappler through a text message. – Rappler.com