

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



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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

26 June 2017

Monday

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JUNE 26, 2017 | MONDAY

RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE AREA AFFECTING OF EASTERN SECTION OF LUZON (At of 5:00 AM - June 25, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE 5:29 AM	SUNSET 6:28 PM
MOONRISE 7:31 AM	MOONSET 8:37 PM
NEW MOON JUN 24 10:31 AM	FIRST QUARTER JUL 1 8:51 AM
LOW TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 7:22 PM -0.19 Meter	HIGH TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 10:49 AM 1.46 Meter

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

	JUNE 27	JUNE 28	JUNE 27	JUNE 28	JUNE 27	JUNE 28		
METRO MANILA	25-33 °C	25-33 °C	TAGAYTAY	21-30 °C	21-30 °C	TACLOBAN	25-32 °C	25-32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25-35 °C	25-33 °C	LEGAZPI	26-33 °C	26-33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24-32 °C	24-32 °C
LAOAG	25-33 °C	26-34 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25-33 °C	25-32 °C	METRO DAVAO	25-32 °C	25-33 °C
BAGUIO	17-24 °C	17-23 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	26-32 °C	26-32 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24-32 °C	24-32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	26-34 °C	25-34 °C	METRO CEBU	25-32 °C	25-32 °C	 SAGOT NG PAGALA MO!		

DZRH NEWS MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

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

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FIGHTING RESUMES AFTER 8-HOUR TRUCE

By **Alian Nawal,**
Philip C. Tubeza
and **Nikko Dizon**
@Team_Inquirer

MARAWI CITY—Fighting between government troops and Islamic State-inspired terrorists resumed in Marawi City on Sunday as soon as an eight-hour ceasefire enforced by the military to allow residents to cele-

brate the end of Ramadan expired. Civilian volunteers and members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front used the 6 a.m.-to-2 p.m. ceasefire to rescue people trapped in the war zone.

Process Dickson Hermoso said the rescuers risked their lives to pluck out trapped civilians. They managed to rescue five people, including a baby girl, he said. A sixth civilian, an elderly man named Hassan Ali who suffered a stroke six weeks ago, died before he could be rescued, Hermoso said.

It was not clear why the man died. Earlier, Gen. Eduardo Año, chief

Terrorist snipers fired at positions held by government troops during the ceasefire, but there were no major clashes.

Assistant Secretary for the Peace

of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said his troops would observe a "humanitarian pause" during the Eid al-Fitr holiday in Marawi, the most important Muslim city in the mainly Catholic Philippines.

"We declare a lull in our current operations in the city on that day as a manifestation of our high respect [for] the Islamic faith," Año said in a statement. **A2**

FROM A1

The Eid al-Fitr festival marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan when observant Muslims do not eat or drink between dawn and nightfall.

Many Muslims observed the end of Ramadan on Sunday following the Eid celebrations in Turkey and other Muslim countries.

Other Muslims, however, celebrate Eid al-Fitr on Monday, June 26, a national holiday.

Malacañang said the humanitarian pause was a "sincere gesture" of respect for Filipino Muslims.

"This humanitarian ceasefire on the part of the military and the government underscores our solidarity with our Muslim brethren as they celebrate the end of Ramadan," presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said in a statement.

"It is a sincere gesture [that] shows respect [for] the Muslim faith and acknowledges [the] cultural diversity of our society," he added.

'Generally successful'

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesperson for the AFP, said the "humanitarian pause was generally successful, although there was a little exchange of fire ... in the morning and a few

minutes past 2 p.m."

After the ceasefire expired, the hostilities resumed, with automatic rifle and machine-gun fire and mortar blasts rocking the city.

It was the first planned respite in the massive offensive after a month of daily street battles and military airstrikes that had left at least 280 terrorists, 69 soldiers and policemen, and 26 civilians dead.

The intense fighting has turned swaths of the mosque-dotted city, a bastion of the Islamic faith in Mindanao, into a smoldering war zone.

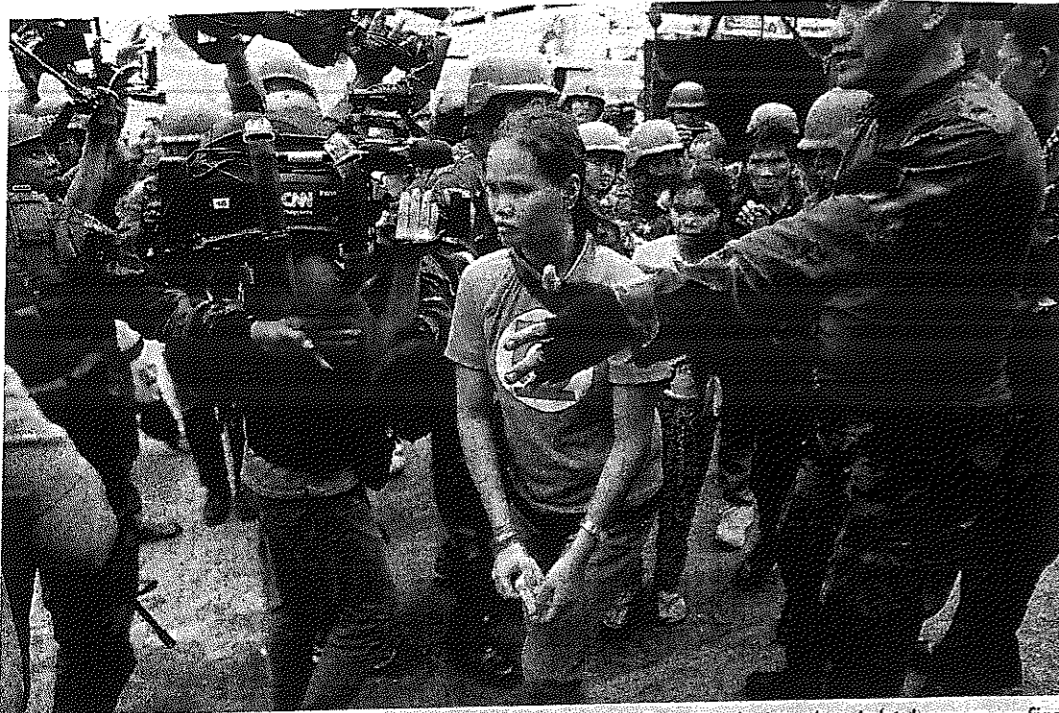
The fighting began on May 23 after a failed military attempt to capture Isnilon Hapilon, an Abu Sayyaf leader who had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in Iraq and Syria.

Hundreds of Abu Sayyaf gunmen and their allies from the Maute terror group, flying the black IS flag and backed by foreign fighters, attacked and laid siege to Marawi, sparking a bloody street battle.

Government troops have launched a relentless air and ground offensive in a bid to crush the militants but have failed to dislodge gunmen from entrenched positions in pockets of the city.

Much of the lakeside city is now in ruins, while most of its 264,000 residents have fled to

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our city of Marawi will end," the mayor said in a television interview.

The spokesperson for the Lanao del Sur provincial crisis management committee, Zia Alonto Adiong, said a feast was prepared for about 1,000 evacuees sheltering at the provincial capitol, but noted that this was "the saddest Eid al-Fitr" in the province.

"This local militant group robbed us of the chance to observe Ramadan peacefully and stole from us the opportunity to celebrate Eid al-Fitr and be with our loved ones during this religious occasion," he said, referring to the Maute group.

President Duterte has declared martial law throughout Mindanao to quell what he calls a rebellion aimed at establishing an IS province in the south.

Foreign fighters, including those from Chechnya, Indonesia and Malaysia, are among those killed in the Marawi conflict, according to the military.

A senior military commander said on Saturday that Hapilon may have slipped out of the city.

Australia has sent two high-tech surveillance planes to help Filipino troops in Marawi, joining the United States, which has also provided military assistance. —WITH REPORTS FROM RICHEL UMEL, GEOFFREY MAITEM, AFP, AP AND REUTERS INQ

OUT OF WAR ZONE A woman rescued by government emissaries during the eight-hour ceasefire is led to a safe area after being trapped for more than a month in Marawi City. —GEOFFREY MAITEM

evacuation centers in Iligan City or to the homes of relatives and friends in other towns.

In Iligan, just north of Marawi, evacuees from the conflict dressed in colorful flowing robes marked the end of Ramadan by holding prayers on the grounds of the City Hall.

Civilians trapped

Armed commandos from the Philippine National Police

Special Action Force stood guard as the prayers were held.

Padilla said around 500 civilians remained trapped in areas where the fighting was concentrated.

Fourteen people, mostly elderly, were rescued on Friday, he said.

After the ceasefire ends, "we will continue to try to enter the areas occupied by them and liberate Marawi," Padilla said in a

radio interview.

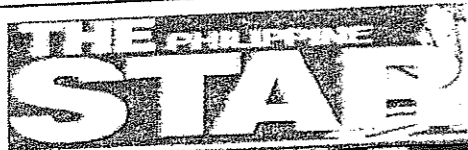
Marawi's Mayor Majul Usman Gandamra said volunteers took advantage of the lull to "rescue" some of the trapped civilians.

"This (Eid) is memorable because we are celebrating it away from our homes," he said.

"We are hoping that this problem will soon be over... I urge everybody to continue praying so that the turmoil in

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Rody: Faith will see us through

Duterte calls for fostering of nat'l unity on Eid'l Fitr

By ALEXIS ROMERO and EDITH REGALADO

Amid the hostilities in Marawi City, President Duterte expressed optimism yesterday that willpower and faith would allow the Philippines to overcome its challenges as he called for unity in his message for the Muslim religious holiday Eid'l Fitr.

Duterte said he was hopeful that the "renewed sense of spiritual accomplishment" brought about by the religious event would give Muslims the strength and courage to cultivate their communities. Vice President Leni Robredo also expressed unity with the Muslim community and offered prayers for the immediate resolution of the crisis in Marawi. In her message for the observance of Eid'l Fitr, Robredo

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Rody From Page 1

said she hopes "love will prevail over hate" among Filipinos and that "peace will reign in our country."

"In times when all odds seem stacked against us, it is our willpower and faith that will always see us through," Duterte said in the message, which was released as government troops grapple with the threat of Muslim extremists in Marawi.

"Let us channel our energies towards fostering national unity - because dedicating our lives to the betterment of humanity is the best way to demonstrate our devotion to God," he added.

Duterte also urged Filipinos to "work towards building a society that is grounded on love, mutual respect and understanding."

Eid'1 Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, a Muslim holy month observed by fasting and prayers. It was declared a national holiday by Republic Act 9177 enacted in 2002. There

are more than five million Muslims in the country but the holiday is celebrated nationwide as a symbol of solidarity among all Filipinos regardless of religion.

Duterte said the first day of the Islamic month of Shawwal brings great joy to Muslims and "signifies the successful journey towards spiritual purification through a month-long fasting."

"On this special day, remember to thank Allah for bestowing upon you the resolve, courage and fortitude to obey His commandments during the blessed month of Ramadan," Duterte, who was in Davao City, said.

"May this special day bring happiness, peace and prosperity to everyone," he added.

A total of 280 terrorists and 69 government troopers have died since the Islamic State-linked Maute group laid siege in Marawi last May 23, according to the military.

In deference to the ob-

servance of the Eid holiday, the military implemented an eight-hour pause in offensives from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. yesterday.

Malacañang said the ceasefire was a gesture of solidarity with Muslims.

"This humanitarian ceasefire on part of the military and the government underscores our solidarity with our Muslim brethren as they celebrate the end of Ramadan. It is a sincere gesture which shows respect to the Muslim faith and acknowledges our cultural diversity," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said.

Abella clarified that the ceasefire did not bar security forces from defending themselves.

Robredo likewise offered prayers for the soldiers and policemen who continue to lay down their lives for the country's peace.

"To our Muslim brothers and sisters, despite the difficulties you are facing, always remember that while there are people who would like to cause harm on you, there are also others who are willing to

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sacrifice their lives for you," she said in Filipino.

Almost the entire population of Marawi, or 246,000 residents, have been displaced since the fighting erupted last month.

Senators also joined the Muslims in celebrating Eid'l Fitri and the call for unity and an end to extremism amid the continuing battle between government troops and Maute militants in Marawi.

Senators Grace Poe, Joel Villanueva and Leila de Lima, in separate statements, expressed solidarity with Muslims in the country and the rest of the world and greeted them "Eid Mubarak!"

Poe noted that as a consequence of the fighting, thousands of families have left their homes and are in makeshift evacuation centers "trying to conquer the hunger, disease, fear, the heat and cold."

"After a month of fasting, introspection and quest of faith, let the occasion of Eid'l Fitri serve as symbol of our collective pursuit towards peace and unity, especially in this

time when our solidarity as a nation is being put to test with the fighting in Marawi City," the senator said.

"Let us stand together against the forces that seek to instill fear in us," she said.

Poe said this is a time for great hope and courage among Filipinos to stand up for one nation "with the guidance of Allah who brings the promise of love and peace."

Villanueva prayed that nations become stronger and united amid the conflict with fellow Filipinos in Mindanao while De Lima prayed for the immediate end to the conflict.

"This is the time when both our faith and resolve are tested. May this day serve as a reminder for each one of us to truly exemplify a teaching common to all religions – to embrace peace and love," Villanueva said.

"We also take this opportunity to acknowledge the good-heartedness of Muslims in Marawi City who helped shield their Christian neighbors. This is not the time to see

our differences but a chance to look after one another," he said.

Villanueva called on all Filipinos to pray for peace in Marawi and the rest of Mindanao.

"Peace that would put an end to poverty and usher progress in a land that has long been deprived of the greatness it deserves," Villanueva said.

De Lima, who is currently detained in Camp Crame, Quezon City on various charges, expressed hope the values of devotion and compassion toward fellow Filipinos would guide leaders and the rest of the people in pursuing a just and lasting peace in the country.

"May the celebration serve as a wellspring of hope for families who have lost their homes and are now huddled in evacuation centers, to our Muslim brothers and sisters who are sick and have no access to food, to their children who stopped schooling, as well as to those who have lost their loved ones," De Lima said.

– With Helen Flores, Paolo Romero

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Manila
Standard

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'Hostages collect bombs'

Military also checking Maute use of human shields

By Sandy Araneta
and Rey E. Requejo

THE military is checking reports that Maute terrorists are forcing their hostages to collect bombs in the battle zone in Marawi City, an Armed Forces spokesman said Sunday.

"We have reports on the ground that hostages are being used as human shields. They are using the hostages even for collecting bombs. These are things we need to verify," said Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, speaking in Filipino.

There were also unconfirmed reports that the terrorists have killed several hostages, he added.

It is uncertain how many hostages are being held by the Maute group terrorists, but these include a priest, Chito Suganob, who was taken along with several churchgoers on May 23.

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'Hostages...

From A1

By the government's count, 26 civilians have been killed by the Maute group.

Herrera said they were also validating reports that Isnilon Hapilon, the leader of Islamic State-allied terrorists in the Philippines, had already left Marawi City.

"Our take is that because he has not been heard giving orders to the troops on the ground, it's possible that he is no longer in the conflict area," Herrera said in Filipino.

Only Abdullah Maute, one of the Maute brothers who head the terrorist group, could be heard on military monitors, he added.

The military on Sunday observed an eight-hour ceasefire to enable Muslim residents to celebrate *Eid' l Fitr*.

Assistant Secretary Dickson Hermosa of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process said five rescue teams of Moro Islamic Liberation Front were to enter the conflict zone

before the end of the ceasefire to look for trapped civilians.

In the Palace, Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella said the deployment of a 404-foot supply and operation ship, the BRP Davao del Sur in Cotabato, would help quell the rebellion in Marawi.

"Apart from delivering military supplies and relief goods, the vessel will be utilized as a backup floating medical facility to treat the wounded," Abella said.

"BRP Davao del Sur is also ready to provide the support required once the reconstruction, rehabilitation, and rebuilding of Marawi begins," Abella added.

Rear Adm. Rene Medina, commander of Naval Force Western Mindanao, said the ship will help secure the coastal waters of Cotabato and serve as a staging pad of the Augusta Westland attack helicopters.

"Its presence will boost the security in the area," Medina said.

The Justice department on Sunday said two arrested Abu Sayyaf members who provided medical treatment to wounded terrorists fighting in Marawi City have been

subjected to inquest proceedings.

Jadzrie Harad Saabdula and Jamal Kalib Jamil were presented before the department's special panel of prosecutors for inquest proceedings on rebellion charges.

The two Abu Sayyaf members were arrested pursuant to the arrest orders issued by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana as martial law administrator.

The DoJ's special panel of prosecutors are expected to issue a resolution and file the case against the two before the Cagayan De Oro regional trial court, which was designated by the Supreme Court to hear the cases against the Maute terrorists.

The hearing was held last Saturday morning at Camp Evangelista in Cagayan De Oro City, where most of the arrested Maute terrorists are temporarily detained, Justice Undersecretary Erickson Balmes said.

Saabdula, 50, and Jamil, 18, were arrested Thursday while they were buying assorted medicines at a pharmacy in Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur.

Saabdula, a nurse at the Banguingui (former Tongkil town) municipal hospital who went on absence without leave, is the brother of slain Abu Sayyaf leader Nadzmi Saabdula alias Commander Global.

The two suspects—both from Sulu—were reportedly buying antibiotics, antibacterial, pain relievers and other types of post-traumatic medicines.

The Justice department has already indicted several arrested members and supporters of Maute group, including Cayamora Maute and Ominta Romato Maute, alias Farhana, parents of the Maute brothers who led the attack in Marawi City on May 23.

Also charged with rebellion before the Cagayan De Oro RTC were former Marawi City mayor Fajad Salic, Mohaamad Maute, alias Abu Jadid, alleged bomb maker of Maute group; and Faridah Pangompig Romato, Aljadid Pangompig Romato and Abdulralman Dimakuta Sevad, the three Maute members were intercepted by Coast Guard while on their way to Manila.

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The Manila Times

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Hostages released in brief ceasefire

BY DEMPSEY REYES

An eight-hour ceasefire declared on Sunday in Marawi City allowed residents to observe the end of Ramadan and gave an opportunity for religious leaders to enter ground zero and negotiate the release of civilian hostages.

The ceasefire that started at 6 a.m. on Sunday came to an abrupt end as the government continued its offensive against members of the Maute Group occupying parts of war-torn Marawi.

Assaults backed by air and artillery bombardment stopped at the start of Islamic prayers at 6 a.m. but gunfire broke out soon after the truce ended, Agence France Presse correspondents said.

Regional military commander Lt Gen. Carlito Galvez said the truce allowed five Muslim religious leaders to negotiate with the terrorists to release their hostages, especially children, women and the elderly.

The negotiators later emerged from the conflict zone with five civilians including a mother and her 10-month-old daughter.

The woman said she had given birth to another child just two weeks ago the middle of the fighting but her infant boy died because of lack of food, according to police who interviewed her.

> Manila Times

A video released by the military showed the rescued residents looking terrified, pale and haggard.

Military chief General Eduardo Año ordered his forces to observe a "humanitarian pause" during the Eid al-Fitr holiday in Marawi.

"We declare a lull in our current operations in the city on that day as a manifestation of our high respect to the Islamic faith," Año said in a statement.

Galvez said the temporary ceasefire went well.

"It was very encouraging because our intention was to pay respect to the one of the most sacred Muslim holidays. I'm very happy as a commander [that] both parties stopped [offensives]," he said.

"We do not want to disturb [the] sacred observance. We pay respect to that, we are professional soldiers and we know the feelings of our Muslim brothers, so for us, [to] give the people a peaceful

celebration, that is meaningful for our part," he added.

Foiled escape

Galvez said that some Maute members tried to escape but they were executed by the leaders of the group.

"According to [Maute members] we captured, they were fired upon when they tried to escape and we have heard that they have already executed some of the Maute members that are really trying to escape," he told *The Manila Times*.

He said some members of the Maute Group attempted to escape through the river.

"I believe [the terrorists] are not expecting that the conflict will be longer than this," Galvez added.

Hundreds of militants, flying the flag of the Islamic State group and backed by foreign fighters, seized swathes of Marawi on May 22, sparking bloody street battles

and raising regional concern.

Troops have launched a relentless air and ground offensive but have failed to dislodge gunmen from entrenched positions in pockets of the city.

Much of the lakeside city is now in ruins while most of its 200,000 residents have fled to evacuation centers or to the homes of relatives and friends in other towns.

An emotional Sunday prayer was held away from the conflict zone in Marawi, with several Muslim worshippers breaking down, including the imam, television footages showed.

Palace spokesman Ernesto Abella said the humanitarian ceasefire was declared to underscore the government's solidarity with Muslims.

"It is a sincere gesture which shows respect to the Muslim faith and acknowledges our cultural diversity of our society," Abella said.

Abella said the BRP Davao del

Sur will deliver military supplies and relief goods to Marawi.

Civilians trapped

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said around 500 civilians remained trapped in areas where the fighting is concentrated.

Nearly 300 militants and 67 troops have been killed in the fighting, according to official figures.

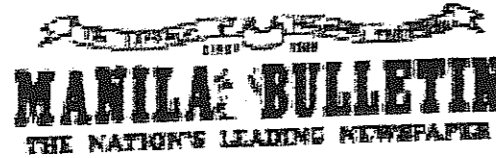
Regional military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Jo-ar Herrera said Sunday the military was still checking the report that Isnilon Hapilon, a leader of the Marawi attack and one of America's most wanted terrorists, may have slipped out of the city.

"He (Hapilon) is not being heard or monitored by commanding troops on the ground," Herrera said in Marawi.

Australia has sent two high-tech surveillance planes to help Filipino troops in Marawi, joining the United States in providing military assistance.

WITH LLANESCA PANTI AND AFP

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Another NPA fighter surrenders to Army battalion

SANTA CRUZ, Ilocos Sur – Another communist rebel surrendered to Army's 81st Infantry Battalion last week at its headquarters at Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur.

The name of the said surrenderer was withheld pending the processing of his status.

Lt. Col. Eugenio Julio C. Osias IV, the commander of the 81st IB, said the former New People's Army (NPA) fighter turned in a M1 Garand rifle.

Osias said the rebel is a member of the NPA's Militiang Bayan (MB) that operates in the boundaries of Abra, Mountain Province and Ilocos Sur.

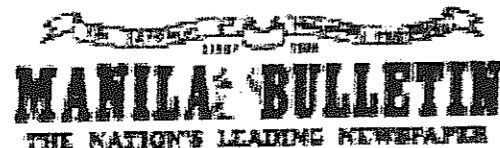
He is the eighth rebel to surrender to the 81st IB this year.

In an interview, he claimed that what drove enticed him to surrender was the help the former rebels received under the government's Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) and the security that the 81st IB gave to the surrendering NPA cadres.

Major General Angelito M. De Leon, commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division said, "This is the time where the Army is gaining its momentum in yielding surrenderees with the help of the Government in reintegrating them back to the mainstream of society is much needed to sustain the trust. We will continue to help these former rebels to live in peace again." (Freddie G. Lazaro)

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Suspected NPAs launch another attack in Agusan

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City – Heavily armed men, believed to be members of the New People's Army (NPA), reportedly burned a 10-wheeler truck loaded with coconuts along the national highway in Banga, Barangay Cuyago, Jabonga town, Agusan del Norte, a sketchy report reaching here on Sunday said.

A flash report reaching here said the truck was flagged down by some 10 heavily armed men, and ordered the driver to get down before they doused the vehicle with gasoline and set it on fire.

The incident happened at 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 24, field report said.

The truck was traversing along the national highway from Surigao del Norte

bound for Medina town, in Misamis Oriental when the incident took place.

The truck belonged to Axelum Resources Corporation, it said.

The perpetrators immediately fled to an unknown direction after the attack, military report said.

The driver was not harmed during the incident.

Initial report coming from the Army's 29th Infantry (Matatag) Battalion (29th IB) said the perpetrators were members of the guerrilla-Front Committee 16 of the CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines)-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee.

Troops from the 29th IB, led by Lt. Col. Glenn Jot U. Aynera, were dispatched to hunt down the suspects.

B

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Uneasy Eid'1 Fitr in Mindanao amid conflict

By JOHN UNSON

MAGUINDANAO – Security issues made the outdoor Eid al-Fitr congregational prayers yesterday in Marawi City and other areas in Mindanao markedly uneasy and somber.

Many of the designated worship sites in southern provinces were guarded by

combined police and military teams tasked to ward off outcast Islamic militants hostile to Christians and moderate Muslims who disagree with their religious malpractices.

The Army's 6th Infantry Division (ID) opened to moderate worshippers the Camp Siongco in Datu Odin Sinsuat town here where

they can perform an open-field *sambahayang* (prayer) without fear of being sabotaged.

ID commander Major Gen. Arnel dela Vega led soldiers in providing the worshippers food and drinks after their obligatory prayer rite.

An important religious holiday in Islam, the Eid al-Fitr marks the culmination of the Ramadan fasting season that lasts for one lunar cycle, or from 29 to 30 days.

Muslims fast at daytime during the Ramadan as an obligation and in keeping with the five pillars of the Islamic faith, which include belief in Allah, praying five times a day facing the direction of Makkah in Saudi Arabia, giving of *zakat* (alms) to the poor, and for those who can afford the cost of travel, performing the hajj even at least once in a lifetime.

Fasting during the Ramadan, besides being a form of reparation for wrongdoings, is also meant to inculcate among Muslims the importance of self-restraint to achieve spiritual perfection.

Salma Ansao, a mother of three elementary pupils, said she and her children first planned to perform the religious rite in another town in Maguindanao, but, apprehensive of an attack by extremists, they decided to proceed to Camp Siongco instead.

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Members of local groups claiming allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) conveniently calls *munafiq* (hypocrite) neutral Muslims rabidly opposed to their extreme interpretation of teachings in the Qur'an to suit their vested interests.

"We're scared to be seen as only remains with cardboard signs written with *munafiq*. We're not like that. We are Muslims who do not want terrorism," Ansao, 37, told The STAR.

Many clerics who delivered *khutab* (sermons) after leading Eid prayers yesterday spoke of the Islamic principles on respect for non-Muslims and love for neighbors, regardless of race and religion.

They also discussed Islamic values promoting religious tolerance and fraternalism among Muslims and non-Muslims.

One firebrand imam said it is wrong to promote hatred against non-Muslims the way the despised Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups, now together in the Dawlah Islamiya, are advocating for.

"There is no teaching in the Qur'an about that and nowhere in the teachings of Prophet Mohammad did he ever order the killing of Christians and Muslims

for religious goals. What we have are teachings on keeping as remembrance all goodness non-Muslims have extended to Muslims," the cleric said.

He cited as examples how Christian doctors provided medical care to Muslims in past decades when Muslim physicians were still rare and how non-Muslim teachers served in remote areas when there were still few Muslim mentors working in barrio schools.

"And now here comes misguided groups wanting Muslims to kill Christians or people with other faiths. That is wrong and absolutely against the principles of Islam," the imam pointed out in his fiery *khutab*.

Separate prayers

In Marawi City, male relief and emergency workers and local executives held congregational prayers in a mosque in the capitol compound of Lanao del Sur province.

Marawi City is the capital of Lanao del Sur, a component province of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Female provincial government employees prayed separately inside a large multi-purpose hall in the capitol building.

"Thanks to Allah, there were no gunshots and explosions in Marawi City during our prayer sessions," said Salma Jayne Tamano, provincial information officer.

Those who came to the provincial capitol from nearby areas to join the prayer rites were subjected to rigid body searches by policewomen and soldiers deployed in the surroundings.

Tamano said the sermons delivered during their group prayers were about the need for Maranaos to be resilient and forgiving in the wake of the trouble besetting Marawi City, which Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists instigated.

"In context, the sermons stated that everything in this world happens by the permissiveness of Allah and that if we were crippled by this conflict, there is a reason and that by Allah's grace, we will rise again," Tamano said.

Tamano said the eight-hour suspension of military operations in Marawi City in keeping with the Eid al-Fitr, dubbed "humanitarian pause," gave residents, whose houses are far from the battle zones, the chance to pray after sunrise on Sunday without disruption.

"But the mood was both tense and gloomy, not the kind of Eid'l Fitr we had years before. Sadness filled the air, felt deep in the hearts," Tamano said.

26 June 2017

Tempo

Page. 4

Amid ceasefire, NPAs burn truck in Agusan

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City – Communist rebels flagged down a 10-wheeler truck carrying fruits Saturday in Agusan del Norte, poured gasoline and set it on fire, according to a military report.

The attack came a week after the government and the National Democratic Front (NDF) agreed to a ceasefire in Mindanao in the

aftermath of the ongoing conflict in Marawi.

The Hino Prime Mover truck owned by Axelum Resources Corp. was cruising along the national highway in Banga, Barangay Cuyago in Jabonga town before it was stopped by a group of armed men at around 3 p.m., the military reported.

The driver was ordered to get out of the vehicle before the gunmen

burned the truck. The driver was left unharmed.

The truck came from Surigao del Norte and was bound for Medina, Misamis Oriental.

The gunmen left the driver and the burning truck.

The Army's 29th Infantry (Matatag) Battalion (29th IB) named the perpetrators as members of guerilla-Front Committee 16 of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) Northeastern Mindanao regional committee.

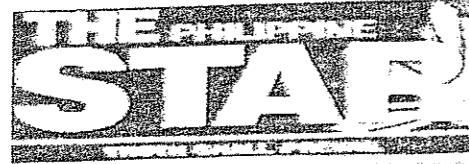
Troops of the 29th IB under Lt. Col Glenn Jot Aynera were deployed to track down the fleeing NPAs.

Meanwhile, Chief Supt. Rolando B. Felix, regional director of the Northeastern Mindanao Police Regional Office 13, ordered Jabonga Municipal Police Station and Agusan del Norte Police Provincial Office (PPO) to conduct investigation on the motive of the burning incident.

The region's police chief also ordered the field unit commanders of the regional and provincial mobile forces and Agusan del Norte PPO to assist the 29th IB in the pursuit operation.

As of press time, hot pursuit operation is still ongoing.

24 June 2017



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Soldier survives Marawi, but not motorcycle accident

TUGUEGARAO CITY - The young soldier awarded by President Duterte after he got wounded in the Marawi City siege died in a motorcycle accident while on vacation in his hometown in Barangay Centro West, Allacapan, Cagayan last week.

Pvt. Relly Boy Dalire, 22, died while undergoing treatment at the Far North Hospital in Luna, Apayao at 11:30 p.m. of June 21.

His cousin Eric Dalire, 22, who was riding with him when the accident happened, was also confined

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in the hospital.

Allacapan chief of police Sr. Insp. Efren Tangonan said the victims were about to go home after a drinking spree at the house of their relative, former vice mayor John Dalire, when they crashed against the tricycle driven by Jayson Time around 8:30 p.m.

Dalire was among those who survived when the terrorist Maute group blew up a tank a few days after attacking Marawi City.

The President awarded Dalire a gold cross medal and a cash award.

He was also given a brand new pistol for his bravery.

Before his death, Dalire posted on his Facebook page that he wanted to go back and fight in Marawi again.

He said he felt he had not yet given his utmost service to the country.

The siege, which began on May 23, has already claimed the lives of 69 soldiers and policemen and 26 civilians.

Only four villages out of the 19 that were occupied earlier remain in the hands of terrorists.

- Raymund Catindig

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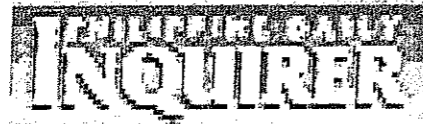


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COMBAT-READY. Philippine Marines hold a drill at the Antonio Bautista Air Base in Puerto Princesa City while a C-130 cargo plane is on standby to take them to the battlefields of Marawi, where the IS-linked Maute terrorists are holding out after a failed siege. **Manny Palmero**

20 June 2017



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RECOGNIZING HEROISM IN MARAWI

IN BOHOL TOWN, A HERO'S BURIAL IN ITS SIMPLEST FORM

By Leo Udtohan
@leoudtohanINQ

TAGBILARAN CITY—The only indications that the burial rites held at a church in the town of San Miguel, Bohol province, were those for a hero were the sound of 21 gunshots being fired into the air and of taps being played on a trumpet.

Honored with the most basic of military rituals, John Romulo Garcia, 28 and a Marine corporal, was buried a hero past noon after Mass at San Miguel's San Labrador Church.

Garcia was among 13 Marines who were killed during a 14-hour clash with members of the Maute group, a homegrown organization of Muslim converts and bandits who had, according to the military, been trying to stick to the Islamic State.

The 21-gun salute was given to Garcia as his parents—Romulo and Sylvia—showed both pride and sadness at their son's death.

Taps

The taps played as Garcia's remains were being lowered to their resting place.

Conrada Caresosa, Garcia's grandmother, said it was mission accomplished for her grandson.

Caresosa said that instead of the usual condolences, the family received congratulatory messages for the heroism of her grandson.

The provincial board of Bohol officially honored Garcia



Relatives and friends of Marine Cpl. John Romulo C. Garcia bid farewell to the hero of San Miguel town who, along with 12 other Marines, was killed in a clash with members of the Maute group in Marawi City. —RIZALITA PETALCORIN/CONTRIBUTOR

on June 16 with a resolution passed during its regular session.

Bohol Gov. Edgar Chatto, who attended the wake at the Garcia home in Barangay Kagawasan in San Miguel town, turned over a bronze plaque containing the board resolution and financial assistance to the Marine's family.

Chatto thanked Garcia's parents "for having a brave son who offered his life so that the

country may be at peace."

Rare chance

"Not everybody is given the chance to die for love of country," Chatto said in a statement.

Garcia was the eldest among five siblings and a graduate of Central Visayas State College of Agriculture, Forestry and Technology.

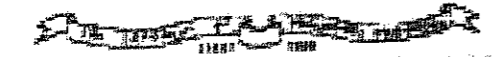
He joined the Marines in 2012.

The Garcia family had been expecting his return after his short vacation in November 2016.

He was unable to return home in April as he took an assignment to provide additional security in Manila during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit.

But April came and Garcia's homecoming did not materialize. Instead, he was sent to Marawi City. INQ

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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8-hour truce in Marawi

Humanitarian pause opens peace corridor for trapped residents

By **FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD**
and **ALI G. MACABALANG**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday declared an eight-hour humanitarian pause in military assault in Marawi City as part of the

celebration of Eid'l al-Fitr, opening the "peace corridor" for the evacuation of residents trapped by the fighting since May 23.

In a statement, AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, said AFP chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año, in approving the recommendation of

Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. declared a "humanitarian pause" in military operations in Marawi City from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday.

Padilla said the declaration was meant to allow the Islamic faithful to celebrate prayer- ▶4

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

fully and peacefully Eid al-Fitr which happened to fall on a Sunday in Marawi City.

“We declared a lull in our current operations in the city on that day as a manifestation of our high respect to the Islamic faith,” Año said.

“This is a testimony to the AFP’s solid commitment to provide our brother Muslims especially in the City of Marawi an opportunity to observe this festive event marking the end of the month-long period of Ramadan,” he added.

Padilla said the “humanitarian pause” in the AFP’s offensive operations only covered a halt in the employment of its capabilities during the inclusive period.

Shortly after yesterday’s conduct of shortened convergent Eid’l Fitr prayers, workers of the “peace corridor” of the government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) conducted quick rescue efforts for residents still trapped in their respective residences in this strife-torn city.

Rescue volunteers mostly MILF cadres accompanied by Marawi City’s Agakhan “Bin Laden” Sharief started retrieval efforts on areas deemed by security forces as “war zones” in this city where about 1,000 residents are believed to be trapped since the start of fighting here on May 23.

“When you hear calls via megaphones, please come out immediately and identify yourselves. You have to be quick because of possible sabotage and in deference to the limited period of ceasefire,” Drieza Lininding, a fellow worker of Sharief, said in text messages and Facebook posts directed to trapped residents.

The unprecedented rescue efforts started shortly after 9:30 a.m. but there were no reports of residents being rescued as of press time yesterday.

Two major “peace corridors” have been established in this city and along the highway between here and Malabang, Lanao del Sur since June 4 on joint undertaking by the government and MILF panels mainly for the smooth delivery of relief goods and services to people displaced by the Marawi crisis.

Yesterday’s unprecedented massive rescue operation was timed with the military’s declaration of ceasefire from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the safe conduct of Eid’l Fitr congregational prayers here.

PN ship off to Marawi

Meanwhile, the government has sent a massive new ship to help troops battling extremists in Marawi City as well as assist in the rebuilding efforts afterwards.

Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella said BRP Davao Del Sur, a strategic sealift vessel, would deliver military supplies and relief goods as well as treat injured troops during its mission.

“The Philippine Navy has deployed BRP Davao del Sur in Cotabato. BRP Davao del Sur will greatly assist in our military operations in quelling the rebellion in Marawi,” Abella said.

“Apart from delivering military supplies and relief goods, the vessel will be utilized as a back-up floating medical facility to treat the wounded,” he added.

Abella said Navy vessel is also ready to provide the support required once the reconstruction, rehabilitation, and rebuilding of Marawi begins.

BRP Davao del Sur is the country’s second SSV that can serve as a military sealift and transport vessel. The ship, which arrived in the country from Indonesia last month, can also act as one-stop operations center at sea for quick deployments as such humanitarian aid and disaster relief response.

Peace in MM

Meanwhile, Muslim leaders in Metro Manila have assured the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) of their commitment to help maintain peace and order in the metropolis amid fears of spillover of the ongoing gunfight in Marawi City.

Chief Insp. Kimberly Molitas, NCRPO spokesperson, said the declaration of cooperation was made by the Moslem leaders in Metro Manila in a meeting with police commanders in Metro Manila headed by Director Oscar Albayalde.

“They declared their cooperation with us in maintaining peace and order, they will keep their communication line open with us and that they will police their own ranks,” said Molitas.

The meeting was initiated by the NCRPO leadership amid the Marawi City attack and the spread of fake news and information about the supposed bombing plots in Metro Manila. (With reports from Genalyn D. Kabling and Aaron B. Recuenco)

OFFICE OF THE ARMY

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

26 June 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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AFP halts strikes in Marawi

Gov't emissaries talk with Maute leader

BY VICTOR REYES

GOVERNMENT forces yesterday halted their operations against members of the terrorist Maute Group in Marawi City to allow Muslims there to observe the religious feast Eid al-Fitr which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

Taking advantage of the ceasefire, Muslim religious leaders who entered the conflict area with rescue teams also managed to talk with Abdullah Maute, one of two brothers leading the Maute group.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, commander of the military's Western Mindanao Command, said the unilateral ceasefire or "humanitarian pause," which was observed from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., was successful.

"The outcome was very good,

very encouraging because our intention is to pay respect to the one of the most sacred Muslim holidays. It held on both sides," Galvez told a phone interview.

Yesterday's ceasefire was the second to be implemented during the Marawi crisis. The first was on June 4 when the military implemented a four-hour humanitarian pause for the recovery of trapped civilians but it was marred by enemy fire that wounded two rescuers.

Dickson Hermoso, who coordinates efforts to free trapped civilians, said the unilateral eight-hour truce was extended to enable the talks, details of which he withheld to avoid jeopardizing chances for a dialogue.

"We need to balance this be-

.....
See AFP > Page B2

AFP

cause this is very precarious," said Hermoso, a retired Army colonel and now an assistant secretary at the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process.

"We have only established a foothold with the Maute," he said. "We hope both sides will again grant us the respite."

The military on Saturday said Abdullah Maute had fled from the town and was no longer in the fight. Though they have no solid evidence, authorities believe his brother, Omarkhayam, was among three of the seven Maute brothers killed.

A source familiar with the meeting said the emissaries were from Marawi and were granted access to Maute only because they were of the same "Maranao" clan.

The armed conflict in Marawi City broke out on May 23 when Maute members fought with soldiers out to arrest senior Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon who has reportedly been declared by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) as its Southeast Asia leader.

The conflict has resulted in the death of 276 Maute members, 67 soldiers and policemen and 26 civilians.

Galvez said operating troops implemented the ceasefire on the approval of AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año. "We don't want to disturb the observance of that (Eid al-Fitr)... We are professional soldiers and we know the feelings of our Muslim brothers. We want

to the people to have a peaceful celebration," he said.

Muslims attended prayers at a Marawi mosque in an emotional gathering.

"This is supposed to be a day of happiness," said Imam Aleem Ansari Abdul Malik, who led Sunday's prayers.

"Families should be together but they were torn apart by violence, some lost their loved ones and thousands are in evacuation centers."

He reminded Muslims to shun the advances of radical groups.

"This is just a small fire, do not allow the flames to go bigger by joining extremists," he said.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the military stopped its operations to give way to a "peaceful, joyous and festive spiritual celebration" of Eid al-Fitr in the city, adding this also serves as a "gesture of our strong commitment and respect to the Muslim world particularly to the Muslims of Marawi City."

The military had set three conditions for cutting short the ceasefire: If the troops' security is jeopardized; if the safety of civilians is threatened; and if the enemy starts firing, at which point, anyone can exercise their right to self-defense.

"Reports from the field indicated that there was no exchange of gunfire (during the humanitarian pause)... It was a success because we were able to hold the humanitarian pause for the purpose intended, which is to provide

a solemn atmosphere of the Eid al-Fitr," said Padilla.

Asked if another humanitarian pause will be observed again by the military in Marawi in the future, Padilla said: "That's the ground commander's decision. We cannot say."

Galvez said the humanitarian pause actually was implemented beyond 2 p.m. to allow the return of government negotiators and Muslim religious leaders who negotiated for the release of hostages.

"One life is very important to us," said Galvez. He said the group of negotiators was led by Hermoso.

RECOVERED HOSTAGES

In an interview, Hermoso said he and eight Muslim leaders came out of the conflict zone at around 3 p.m. with five hostages -- two female and two male adults and a child. They also brought with them a cadaver that was already in a state of decomposition.

Hermoso said military operations against the Maute members resumed shortly after they returned to the safe zone.

"We should have recovered more, but Maute and Abu Sayyaf members started firing," said Hermoso. "One ustadz (teacher) was hit in his pants. It's fortunate it wasn't on his leg," he said.

Galvez said the Maute Group was holding about 100 hostages, including elderly and children. He said they received reports that

some of these hostages are not eating, apparently due to lack of food

Galvez said Hermoso's group was also supposed to fetch Maute members who may want to surrender.

MAUTE KILLED ESCAPING MEMBERS

Citing information from captured Maute members, Galvez said some group members were executed by their superiors when they tried to escape. He said one of the captured Maute members narrated how he and his companions were fired upon by their comrades as they escaped.

"We heard that some of them no longer want to fight and this was confirmed by captured Maute members... We have heard that they have already executed some of the Maute members who really want to escape," he said.

Galvez said the number of Maute men still in Marawi City is around 150, based on revelations of rescued hostages and captured Maute members.

On reports that Hapilon has escaped from conflict areas, Galvez said: "We are looking at this report but we have reports that he is still in the vicinity." He declined to elaborate so as not to compromise the operations.

The seizure of Marawi has caused the biggest internal security crisis in decades for the Philippines, and a realization that the long-feared arrival of Islamic State could be a reality. — *With Reuters*

June 2017



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Emissaries, Maute meet during truce

MARAWI CITY – Emissaries met yesterday with a leader of a terror group loyal to Islamic State, officials said, taking advantage of a short truce in a battle over Marawi.

The eight Muslim leaders entered the conflict zone in the heart of the city alongside rescue teams. It was not immedi-

ately clear what was discussed with Abdullah Maute, one of two brothers in charge of the group named after them.

Ret. Gen. Dickson Hermoso, who coordinates efforts to free trapped civilians, said a unilateral eight-hour truce by the military to mark Eid'1 Fitr was

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extended to enable the talks, details of which he withheld to avoid jeopardizing chances for dialogue.

"We need to balance this because this is very precarious," Hermoso told reporters.

He said the Maute group released some women and children yesterday and the emissaries had come under fire briefly from rebel snipers.

"We have only established a foothold with the Maute," he said. "We hope both sides will again grant us the respite."

The military last Saturday said Abdullah Maute had fled from the town and was no longer in the fight. Though they have no solid evidence, the authorities believe his brother, Omarkhayam, was among three of the seven Maute brothers killed.

A source familiar with the meeting said the emissaries were from Marawi and were only granted access to Maute because they were of the same Maranao clan.

Fighting between government forces and Islamist rebels holed up in Marawi City immediately resumed after the eight-hour ceasefire that allowed residents to celebrate the end of Ramadan.

The military enforced a temporary truce to mark the Eid'1 Fitr Islamic holiday where air assaults and artillery bombardment stopped at the start of Islamic prayers at 6 a.m. Gunfire erupted as soon as the truce ended around 2 p.m. yesterday.

Small skirmishes took place earlier in the day in parts of Marawi City, where Islamic State-inspired Maute group of extremists were clinging on for a fifth week, as rebel snipers fired on positions held by troops who held on to the ceasefire until early in the afternoon.

Muslims attended prayers at a mosque in Marawi in an emotional gathering marred by the violence that has displaced some 246,000 people and killed more than 350, most of them rebels, and about 69 members of the security forces.

"This (Eid) is memorable because we are celebrating it away from our homes," Marawi Mayor Majul Usman Gandamrahe said.

"We are hoping that this problem will soon be over... I urge everybody to continue praying so that the turmoil in our city of Marawi will end," he said.

"This is supposed to be a day of happiness," said Imam Aleem Ansari Abdul Malik, who led yesterday's prayers in the city.

"Families should be together but they were torn apart by violence, some lost their loved ones and thousands are in evacuation centers."

He reminded Muslims to shun the advances of radical groups.

"This is just a small fire, do not allow the flames to get bigger by joining extremists," he said.

Hundreds of Maute militants, flying the black flag of the Islamic State (IS) and backed by foreign fighters, seized swathes of Marawi City last month, sparking bloody street battles and raising regional concern.

The fighting prompted President Duterte to declare martial law across Mindanao in the bid to contain the Islamic militants who wanted to carve out a caliphate in the region.

Troops have launched a relentless air and ground offensive but failed to dislodge the Maute gunmen from entrenched positions in pockets of the city.

Much of the lakeside city is now in ruins while most of its 200,000 residents have fled to evacuation centers or to the homes of relatives and friends in other towns.

In nearby Iligan City, evacuees dressed in colorful flowing robes marked the end of Ramadan by holding prayers on the grounds of city hall.

Armed commandos from the police Special Action Force stood guard as the prayers were held.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said yesterday a Philippine Navy ship was sent to Cotabato City to bring supplies for soldiers involved in the fighting and serve as a floating hospital for the wounded.

Troops from Army's 7th Infantry Division based in Fort Magsaysay in Laur, Nueva Ecija were deployed to

augment government forces fighting the Maute terrorists in Marawi.

Collateral damage

Twenty-six civilians have been killed but officials believe scores of bodies of residents may still be in the heart of a conflict zone battered for weeks by air strikes and artillery bombardments.

Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, spokesman for the military's Task Force Marawi, said they are validating reports that the Maute group are forcing hostages to pick up bombs within the battle zone.

"We have reports on the ground that hostages are being used as human shields. They are using the hostages to pick up explosives as part of their manpower. These are all the things that we have to verify. This is really a violation of the rights of these hostages," Herrera told a news conference in Marawi.

Herrera added they have also

received reports of several hostages executed by the Maute gunmen.

"These are all unverified. We want to collate evidence-based results," he stressed.

The military has yet to determine the actual number of people being held hostage by the militants.

Among them was Fr. Chito Suganob, who was kidnapped along with several parishioners on May 23, when the siege began.

The military has confirmed that 26 civilians have been killed in the clashes, either caught in the crossfire or executed by the militants. Padilla said around 500 civilians remain trapped in areas where the fighting is concentrated.

After the ceasefire ends "we will continue to try to enter the areas occupied by them and liberate Marawi," Padilla said on radio station dzBB.

Nearly 300 militants and 67 troops have been killed in the fighting, according to official figures.

Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia, head of civil-military operations in Western Mindanao, said Saturday there were "strong indications" that three of seven brothers of the Maute family had been killed, as had a top Malaysian operative, Mahmud Ahmad, believed to be key to the group's fundraising.

However, Garcia told reporters concrete evidence was still lacking. He said Abdullah Maute and Abu Sayyaf Isnilon Hapilon, the IS anointed "emir" of Southeast Asia were no longer calling the shots in Marawi.

"Based on intelligence information on the ground, they have evacuated their top leadership from the city's commercial center due to intense bombings and artillery shelling," he said. – Reuters, AFP, Ding Cervantes, Roel Pareño

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2 ASG 'medics' charged with rebellion

By REY G. PANALIGAN

Two arrested Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) members, who were believed to have acted as "medics" to wounded terrorists in Marawi City, have been charged with rebellion before the prosecutors' office in Cagayan de Oro City.

Department of Justice (DOJ) Undersecretary Erickson Balmes identified them as Jadzrie Harad Saabdula and Jamal Kalib, who were presented before prosecutors Saturday morning for summary proceedings.

Balmes said the two Abu Sayyaf members were arrested in line with the orders of Defense Secretary and Martial Law Administrator Delfin Lorenzana.

Saabdula, 50, and Jamil, 18, were arrested last week while purchasing assorted

medicines at a pharmacy in Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur.

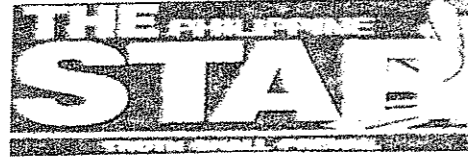
Saabdula, a nurse at the Banguingui (former Tongkil town) municipal hospital who went on absence without leave, is the brother of slain Abu Sayyaf leader Nadzmi Saabdula alias Commander Global.

Several members of the Maute Group have earlier been charged with rebellion.

They are Cayamora Maute and Ominta Romato Maute, alias Farhana, parents of the Maute brothers who led the group that attacked Marawi City last May 23; former Marawi City Mayor Fajad Salic; Mohaamad Maute, alias Abu Jadid, alleged bomb maker of Maute Group; and Faridah Pangompig Romato, Aljadid Pangompig Romato and Abdulralman Dimakuta Sevad, the three Maute members intercepted by Philippine Coast Guards while on their way to Manila.

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2 Sayyaf 'medics' charged

By EDU PUNAY

Two arrested Abu Sayyaf group members believed to have provided medical treatment to wounded terrorists fighting government troops in Marawi City have been criminally charged before government prosecutors.

Jadzrie Harad Saabdula, 50, and Jamal Kalib Jamil, 18, were presented before a special panel of prosecutors of the Department of Justice (DOJ) for inquest proceedings on rebellion charges before the Eid'l Fitr holiday.

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An inquest is an informal and summary investigation conducted by the public prosecutor in a criminal case involving persons arrested and detained without the benefit of a warrant of arrest issued by court.

Just like the other Maute group members arrested earlier, the two Abu Sayyaf members were arrested pursuant to the arrest orders issued by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana as martial law administrator.

After the inquest, the prosecutors are expected to issue a resolution and file the case against the three before the Cagayan de Oro regional trial court, which was tapped by the Supreme Court to hear the cases against the Maute terrorists.

The hearing was held last Saturday morning at Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City, where most of the arrested Maute terrorists are temporarily detained, according to DOJ undersecretary Erickson Balmes.

Saabdula and Jamil were arrested last Wednesday morning while they were purchasing a bulk of assorted medicines at a pharmacy in Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur.

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Palace disturbed by recent NPA attacks in Mindanao

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS
and FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Malacañang yesterday said it was disturbed by the recent attacks being carried out by the New People's Army

(NPA) in Mindanao despite their leaders' pronouncement that the Communist group will refrain from launching offensive operations in the island.

According to Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella, ▶4

Palace disturbed...

the recent offensives allegedly committed by the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA-National Democratic Front of the Philippines (CPP-NPA-NDFP) was fueling the public's doubts on whether it was still worthwhile to continue the peace negotiations with them.

"We are disturbed by the recent NPA attacks, considering that their leaders in Europe issued a statement condemning the incident in Marawi," Abella said over Radyo ng Bayan.

Abella also noted that the NDFP even offered to refrain from undertaking offensive operations in Mindanao to enable the government troops to focus on the ongoing rebellion.

The latest of these attacks was a foiled raid at a Panabo City police detachment last Friday, June 23, where three rebels and a police officer were killed.

"These NPA attacks disrupt the conducive and enabling environment indispensable in peace making and peace building," Abella said.

"In the meantime, we will await fur-

ther validation of these recent incidents and will undertake corresponding and appropriate steps to deal decisively with the situation," he added.

The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) also issued a similar statement.

"This is a blatant violation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHR-IHL), which the CPP/NPA/NDF committed to uphold and respect," OPAPP said.

Last week, around 50 to 70 NPA rebels raided a municipal police station of Maasin in Iloilo, the same day the Philippine government (GRP) reciprocated NDF's offer.

Although the raid was not in Mindanao, Abella said the attack was opportunistic and disregarded 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,"

Abella said.

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

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman, earlier said this excuse has been used for so many times already, and that people should not buy it.

"Panis na 'yung excuse na 'yon. Huwag niyo nang pinapatulan (You should not buy that old excuse)," Padilla said during the same press briefing.

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

According to Padilla, the NPA attacked Maasin because many of the government troops went to help in the rebellion in Mindanao.

Presidential Peace Adviser Jess Dureza, in a statement, said the attack in Maasin should be dealt with accordingly, as it did not take place in Mindanao and since there is yet no mutually agreed bilateral ceasefire agreement in place nationwide.

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BIFF-AFP BATTLEGROUND

NORTH COTABATO VILLAGERS RETURN HOME—RELUCTANTLY

By **Edwin O. Fernandez**
@inquirermindanao

COTABATO CITY—Despite uncertainty, villagers displaced in the attack by the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) returned to Barangay Malagakit and nearby communities in Pigcawayan, North Cotabato province, on Saturday.

Many of them, with their valuables in tow, were sent back to the villages by the local government.

The displaced, mostly farmers, said they would return and stay in Malagakit at daytime but would move to the town center at night. Males, they agreed, would remain to secure their communities.

But one of them will never go back to Malagakit.

Slain civilian

Gloryjane Cutay, whose husband was killed by the BIFF attackers in front of her and their children, vowed not to return home.

She recalled that her husband, Abraham, had told her to stay inside a rice mill, when the rebels struck on June 22.

Abraham was to become a full-time member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit by June 30.

Friend refused to shoot

One of the BIFF members was his friend who refused to shoot him despite his su-

perior's order.

"Finish him (Abraham) or he will finish you in the future," Gloryjane recalled a senior BIFF man telling her husband's friend.

Instead, another BIFF member shot Abraham, killing him outright.

"I will move to another place," she said at the evacuation center in Pigcawayan.

No other options

Anasita de la Cruz, 49, said she and her family and relatives had to return to Malagakit despite uncertainty "because we have no other options."

With farming as their main livelihood, De la Cruz said they had to go home at their own risk.

"I know the BIFF will return, we just have to be ready all the time."

On Saturday, De la Cruz joined about 400 families who returned to their home villages.

8 killed

Capt. John Arvin Encinas, speaking for the regional military, said the villages had been cleared of booby traps and secured by an Army detachment.

Six BIFF fighters, a militiaman and a farmer were killed when about 50 armed men attacked a militia outpost in Malagakit last week.

The gunmen also looted some houses and desecrated the San Jose Chapel. INQ

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INQUIRER

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BRP DAVAO DEL SUR NAVY SHIP JOINS MARAWI FIGHT

By Philip C. Tubeza
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The Philippine Navy has sent one of its biggest ships to Mindanao to help soldiers fighting terrorists in Marawi City, a Palace official said on Sunday.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said the Navy deployed the BRP Davao del Sur, an amphibious landing dock, to Cotabato province.

"[The] BRP Davao del Sur will greatly assist in our military operations in quelling the rebellion in Marawi," Abella said. "Apart from delivering military supplies and relief goods, the vessel will be utilized as a back-up floating medical facility to treat the wounded," he said.

The BRP Davao del Sur will also provide the support that will be needed once the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi begins, he added.

President Duterte has set aside P20 billion for the reconstruction of the city. The money would come from state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Abella said.

The BRP Davao del Sur was built in Surabaya, Indonesia. It arrived in Manila on May 10. It is the Philippine Navy's second strategic sealift vessel after the BRP Tarlac.

And just like the BRP Tarlac, the BRP Davao del Sur is meant to also serve as a floating command and control center, especially in the conduct of humanitarian assistance and disaster response, and will also serve as a military sealift

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BACK TO LIFE

GOV'T READIES P5-M GRANT FOR REBEL HALFWAY HOUSES

By Jeannette I. Andrade
@jiandradeINQ

Local government units may get P5 million to build halfway houses for communist rebel returnees, according to the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

The DILG has issued guidelines for the construction of halfway houses for former members of the New People's Army in the provinces of Kalinga, Mountain Province, Northern Samar, Negros Oriental, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, South Cotabato, and North Cotabato.

LGUs, including highly-urbanized cities, may access the fund under the Comprehen-

sive Local Integration Program if they qualify based on the systems, procedures, and regulations prescribed by the department.

"Hopefully, many provinces and [highly-urbanized cities] can comply with the requirements in order to access fund for the construction of halfway houses," said DILG officer-in-charge Catalino Cuy.

Some of the criteria in the selection and prioritization for the fund are the high number of enrolled former rebels, the absence of a halfway house, the availability of donated lot or site to build the structure, and the accessibility of functional skills training programs. INQ

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AMID MARITIME DISPUTE

PH, VIETNAM NAVIES PLAY SPORTS ON SOUTH CHINA SEA ISLAND

Philippine and Vietnamese navies have been playing soccer, volleyball and tug-of-war games together on a South China Sea island, the latest get-together by two countries concerned by Chinese assertiveness in the disputed waters.

The two sides played in mixed teams on Thursday on Southwest Cay in the Spratly archipelago, the Philippine navy said, the third event of its kind since 2014 on an island held four decades ago by the Philippines, but now under

Vietnamese control.

The games are among a series of exchanges between two countries, quietly demonstrating their unity in the face of Beijing's expanding presence and signs of militarization of manmade is-

lands in the Spratlys.

Ariesh Climacosa of the Philippine Naval Forces West said the games showed how the two sides could get along and would trust and understand each other better.

Relations strengthened under

the previous Philippine administration, leading to the signing of a strategic partnership in 2015, at a time when both countries were locked in fierce disputes with China and enjoying warm ties with the United States.—REUTERS

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Panel to submit draft Bangsamoro law July 10

By Nikko Dizon
@NikkoDizonINQ

The formal submission of the new draft of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) by the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) has again been postponed due to the unavailability of congressional leaders.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) explained on its official website that Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III and Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez III will not be available on June 28.

Instead, the submission of the draft law—the result of

years of talks between the government and the MILF—was “tentatively” set for July 10.

The MILF noted that Pimentel and Alvarez are the “two most important personalities as far as legislation, and for this matter, the passage of BBL in Congress, are concerned.”

BTC chairman, MILF vice chairman Ghadzali Jaafar, told the Inquirer last week he hoped President Duterte will endorse the draft BBL as a priority measure in his State of the Nation Address on July 24.

The MILF said the proposed bill was supposed to be submitted on June 1 but the BTC was

still debating the measure.

At a meeting between President Duterte and the MILF leadership on May 29, Jaafar suggested June 14 and 15 as dates of submission but there was no concurrence on the dates by the Office of the President (OP), the MILF said.

The dates June 16, 22, and 24 were also mentioned but the OP suggested June 28, only to postpone it to July 10, the MILF said.

The MILF said “such a litany of postponements do not bode well” for the ordinary Moro even if government has the final say on the schedule.

“The ghost of the previous

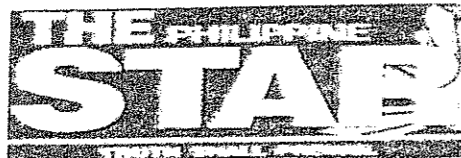
BBL still lingers well in their minds. If there was Mamasapano then, now we have Marawi City. What an unhappy consequence!” the MILF said.

In an official statement for Eid al-Fitr, MILF chieftain Murad Ebrahim urged the Bangsamoro to be “more patient” as the implementation of the peace process can be “painstakingly slow.”

“On this blessed occasion of Eidul Fitr or Feast of Breaking the Fast, I once again reiterate that the MILF has never, and will never, abandon the legitimate aspirations of the Bangsamoro people,” Murad said. INQ

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Erap downplays Maute terror threat

Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada has downplayed reports circulating on social media that the Islamic State-inspired Maute terrorist group was planning to stage bombings in Quiapo and other parts of the metropolis.

Estrada called on the public not to spread unverified information on the Internet.

"The likelihood of an imminent terror threat in the city of Manila is minimal. So there's nothing to worry about," he said.

Last week, a copy of a supposed confidential memorandum alerting police units on the alleged plans of the Maute group to conduct terror attacks in Metro Manila circulated on Facebook.

The one-page memorandum dated June 16 and allegedly signed by Chief Inspector Jowilouie Bilaro, head of the Valenzuela City police station intelligence branch, directed Police Community Precinct commanders to implement security measures.

Bilaro was relieved from his post on Tuesday pending investigation on the leakage of the memorandum.

"The information is being validated. It's a directive for all Philippine National Police personnel to be on alert and to conduct intelligence operations to verify if there is really a terror threat," Chief Superintendent Joel Coronel, Manila Police District director, said.

On orders of Estrada, Coronel placed the local police force on full alert to thwart possible terror attacks.

"We are conducting round the clock checkpoint operations, mobile and foot patrols in different areas in the city," Coronel said.

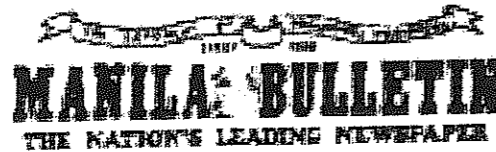
He urged netizens to refrain from posting unverified information about terror threats on social media so as not to cause panic among the people.

"We are asking the public to remain vigilant and report suspicious individuals or activities to police," Coronel said.

- Jose Rodel Clapano

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VP Leni off to Marawi on aid mission today

By RAYMUND F. ANTONIO

Vice President Ma. Leonor “Leni” Robredo is taking her chances and visiting Marawi City today to personally check the status of the relief operations of her office and its partners.

“We don’t know if we would be allowed to enter Marawi, ▶4

VP Leni off to Marawi... ◀1

but if not, we would just go to nearby areas, in Iligan,” Robredo said in her weekly hour-long radio program, “BIS-Erbisyong Leni” aired over DZXL, yesterday.

The Vice President is set to fly to Mindanao for the second time after clashes erupted last month between government forces and the Maute Group. On May 29, Robredo visited wounded soldiers at Adventist Medical Center in Iligan City and went to the wake of those killed in action. She was also at the Maria Cristina Evacuation Center in Iligan.

This time, her trip falls on the observance of Eid’l Fitr, the culminating event of Ramadan. Robredo said her office wants to set up temporary learning centers in Iligan City and other adjacent areas.

“We already have donors. In fact, they donated chairs that are needed in schools. This is one of the reasons why we are going there. We want to look into how this would materialize as soon as possible,” said Robredo.

She stressed that the armed conflict in Marawi City should not be a hindrance for displaced students to continue their studies.

Marawi City is one of the areas selected by the Office of the Vice President (OVP) for its “Angat Buhay” antipoverty program through convergence with private companies and other development partners.

Earlier this month, a team from the OVP traveled to war-ravaged Marawi City and extended livelihood program

assistance and assessed how Angat Buhay partners can further help displaced families.

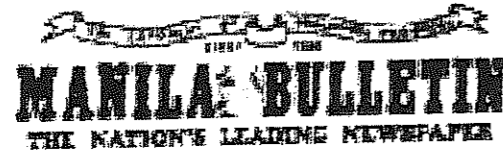
While the OVP team was in Marawi City, Robredo’s spokesperson Georgina Hernandez met with Mayor Majul Gandarra and other local officials to discuss the current relief efforts and rehabilitation plan.

“They were able to enter Marawi. They came from the provincial capitol and city hall. They inspected sites where temporary learning centers would be put up,” she said.

Unlike their previous trip, Robredo is unsure if she and her team can penetrate to Marawi because of the security protocol in place.

“But because of the incident where a member of the foreign media was shot by a sniper, civilians are not allowed again to enter Marawi,” she said.

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400 Pigcawayan families displaced by BIFF back home

PIGCAWAYAN, North Cotabato (PNA) — About 400 families from remote villages here who were displaced by the at- ▶4

tack of Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) last Wednesday have already returned to their homes, officials said yesterday.
The families who hurriedly left when BIFF rebels stormed the villages of Malagakit, Simsiman and Banucagon have returned, Jezler Garcesa, spokesperson of Pigcawayan Crisis

Management Committee, said.
Garcesa said the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) started returning to their villages after the military gave the “green light.” “The area has been cleared of gunmen and possible explosives,” Garcesa told reporters.
Capt. John Arvin Encinas, speaking for the regional military, said the

◀1 three adjoining villages have been cleared of booby traps left by the outlawed armed group.
However, Garcesa said some residents preferred to stay in evacuation centers in Pigcawayan National High School, Bulucaon covered court and Panatan Barangay Hall.
“They are still undergoing stress debriefing,” he said of the civilians who remained in temporary shelters.

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AFAD honors PNP, AFP heroes in Marawi siege

In recognition of the bravery and dedication to their sworn mission, the Association of Firearms and Ammunition Dealers of the Philippines (AFAD) is set to honor members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) who are risking their lives to save Marawi City from lawlessness.

World shooting champion Jethro Dionisio, AFAD president, said that aside from financial assistance coming from their ranks, AFAD will also be accepting care packages and donations at the 25th Defense and Sporting Arms Show (DSAS) on July 13 to 17, at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City for the so-called "modern-day heroes."

"We honor our soldiers and policemen in Marawi for their patriotism, courage and sacrifice," AFAD said in a statement. "Let's show our appreciation for our soldiers and policemen in Marawi!"

Being a long-time partner of the PNP in promoting responsible gun ownership, AFAD, now on its 28th year, has honored numerous men in uniform who have rendered exemplary service to their fellow countrymen in the past years.

AFAD will set up a special booth for the PNP and AFP, which will be in charge of accepting donations for policemen and soldiers defending Marawi City.

Dionisio expressed belief the country's responsible firearms owners who will visit the DSAS will heed to the call for support and assistance for the heroes of Marawi City since they share with the government forces a common goal of promoting peace and order in their respective community.

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Another 'Marawi' foiled in Cotabato

By Florante S. Solmerin

THE military foiled a plan by the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters to launch a Marawi-like siege on Cotabato City, a security official who spoke on condition of anonymity said Sunday.

"The BIFF was able to mobilize maybe about 200 men plus more than 100 men from different private and criminal armed groups to launch a siege in Cotabato City. But they could not cross military lines so they just terrorized communities in Pigcawayan, North Cotabato," a military commander based in Central Mindanao said.

The senior officer asked to go unnamed because he was not authorized to speak on the matter.

Next page

On June 21, BIFF rebels attacked a school in Barangay Malagakit and took civilian hostages and used them as human shields when the military and police responded to the attack. The gunmen also shot dead a militiaman and destroyed a Christian church before they fled.

The military quickly dismissed speculation that the attack was a spillover from Marawi City, but said it could have been a diver-

sionary tactic to distract the military in Marawi.

The BIFF, founded by the late Ameril Umbra Kato, was known for its alliance with local terrorists groups such as the Abu Sayyaf and Maute groups. The government had also declared the BIFF a terrorist group for coddling foreign terrorists and for supporting the Islamic State.

Based on an intelligence report, a copy of which was obtained by Manila Standard, the BIFF was among "other possible threat groups" that could conduct terrorist acts in some parts of Cen-

tral Mindanao while government forces were focused on defeating the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups in Marawi.

"The BIFF's plans will be mostly launched in Maguindanao and Cotabato City," the report said.

A total of seven improvised explosive devices made of 60mm mortar shells with hand-held radios as detonators were already transported to the city more than a week before the Marawi siege.

"These IEDs were manufactured during the second week of May," the report said.

It added that the BIFF plan was in response to President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao; to support the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups' siege in Marawi; and retaliation for military operations during the past months.

The military might have foiled a Cotabato City siege but it is closely monitoring the deployment of some BIFF elements in the Davao region.

"The monitored presence of BIFF elements in Davao region suggests that they could have established networks in the area as

well as focused their activities on trainings to enhance their military capabilities," the source said.

The military was doing everything to avert "test mission bombings" after these BIFF training and surveillance activities.

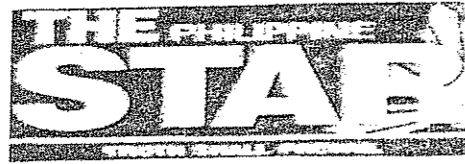
It said key cities, including Davao, are "probable targets" of these terror acts.

Sources said a BIFF plan to conduct a series of bombings in Davao City last February was averted.

They said BIFF members conducted training on casing, surveillance and counter-surveillance for 28 people.

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Salute to our heroic soldiers

As the war rages on in Marawi, it claimed the lives of many of our soldiers – as they heroically repel the rebellion of the Maute brothers, allegedly connected with the dreaded ISIS. It caused the grave difficulties, sufferings, and massive dislocation of several thousands of our Maranaw sisters and brothers.

Their deaths are not in vain ...for we are forever grateful for laying their lives on line, so the rest of the Filipino race, shall live in peace and free. Our beloved Inang Bayan intact ... as handed down to us by our forebears, who valiantly, courageously, heroically fought that we remain free.

It behooves upon all Filipinos to nurture, protect, defend our challenged freedom whenever needed. To all our heroic soldiers now fighting in Marawi and in other parts of our beloved land ... we salute, honor, and are grateful beyond words for the sacrifices, sufferings, grave risks you go through. For valiantly defending our beloved Motherland in our continuing quest for lasting peace and prosperity shared by all Filipinos!

To their loving, supportive families ... fully cognizant of the hardships, physical, mental, and emotional tolls these conflicts inflict on them ... our sympathy, appreciation, gratefulness. We thank you most profusely for your valuable contribution.

Sainyong lahat, ang aming taus-puso at WALANG HANG-GANG PASASALAMAT! Our fervent prayers are with you every hour... That our Almighty God help, bless, lead, and protect you all to safety and victory most expeditiously. MABUHAY, GOD BLESS AND PROTECT YOU ALL... AT ALL TIMES! "Ang bayan ko'y tanging ikaw, PILIPINAS KONG MAHAL... ang puso ko at buhay man saiyo'y ibibigay, tungkulin kong gagampanan na lagi kang paglingkuran, ang laya mo'y babantayan, PILIPINAS KONG HIRANG."!!! – ELVIRA PUNZALAN-ESTAVILLO, *mega_abundant_lv@yahoo.com*

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EDITORIAL

Apela ng kapayapaan sa Eid'1 Fitr

HINDI masaya ang magiging pagdiriwang ng Eid'1 Fitr para sa mga komunidad ng Muslim sa Mindanao ngayong araw. Sa unang pagkakataon sa nakalipas na dalawang dekada, walang enggrandeng selebrasyon sa open field sa harap ng Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) sa Cotabato City.

Sa halip, sinabi ni ARMM Governor Mujiv Hataman, na magdaraos ang mga kawani ng regional government at kanilang mga kaanak, ng congregational prayer at mga ritwal sa loob ng bakuran ng Blue Mosque. Ang bakuran ng ARMM sa Cotabato City ang kinikilalang sentro ng pamahalaang Muslim sa bansa – ang “regional Malacañang of the South.”

Sinabi ni Governor Hataman na hindi ipakikipagsapalaran ng ARMM ang posibilidad na samantalain ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), Abu Sayyaf, at Dawla Islamiya ang pagdiriwang ng Eid'1 Fitr upang magsagawa ng pag-atake. Ang Dawla Islamiya ang tinatawag ng militar na Maute Group na sumalakay kamakailan sa Marawi City sa Lanao del Sur.

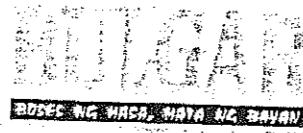
Sa mismong rehiyon ng Lanao, umapela ang mga Islamic cleric sa mga rebeldeng Islam at sa puwersa ng gobyerno na itigil ang bakbakan, kahit na isang araw lang, upang pahintulutan ang mapayapang selebrasyon ng Eid'1 Fitr, ang isa sa dalawang pinakababal na araw para sa mga mananampalatayang Muslim, ang isa ay ang Eid al-Adha.

Ipinagdiriwang ng mga Muslim sa mundo ang Eid'1 Fitr o ang pagtatapos ng Ramadan, ang banal na buwan ng pag-aayuno. Kinikilala ito ng gobyerno ng Pilipinas bilang isang opisyal na national holiday alinsunod sa Republic Act 9177 at Presidential Proclamation 1083. Ang Pilipinas ang nag-iisang bansang may mayoryang Kristiyano na mayroong ganitong batas.

Ilang araw matapos magsimula ang bakbakan sa Marawi City noong nakaraang buwan, nagtipon sa Cagayan de Oro City ang mga ulama sa Lanao region upang umapela sa magkabilang panig, sa ngalan ng mahigit 200,000 residente ng Marawi na nagdurusa sa labanan. Nanawagan sila kay Pangulong Duterte – “We believe you have a heart for us and you are the hope in our dream to bring finally our community to greater heights,” sinabi ni Alim Amerodden Sarangani alang-alang sa 23 grupong Islam na dumalo sa kumperensiya sa Cagayan de Oro. Kasabay nito, umapela siya sa “our younger brethren” sa Dawla Islamiya – ang grupong Maute na sinasabing suportado ng pandaigdigang Islamic State – na bitiwang muna ang kani-kanilang baril at lumayo sa Marawi.

Kaisa tayo sa pag-asam na pakikilingan ng lahat ng panig ang mga apelang ito para sa kapayapaan ng Eid'1 Fitr ngayon. Makapagkakaloob ang tigil-putukan ng oportunidad upang matuldukan na ang labanan na sumira sa napakaraming buhay, kasama ang maraming kabahayan at kinabukasan hindi lamang sa Marawi City kundi maging sa iba pang parig ng Mindanao.

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Pahina. 4



Shocking: Sarangani, Tawi-Tawi at Palawan, ginamit daw na entry points ng mga terorista

AYON sa intelligence report ng PNP, may walumpu't siyam na banyagang terorista sa bansa. Nakapasok daw umano sila sa tatlong lugar sa bansa – sa Sarangani, Tawi-Tawi at Palawan mula sa Indonesia at Malaysia.

Kumpirmado na nga na may mga banyagang manlalaban sa Marawi dahil may mga napapatay na ang mga militar.

Mga manlalaban na hindi naman mukhang Pilipino. Patunay na suportado ng ISIS ang gulo sa Marawi at may mga manlalaban mula sa ibang bansa ang kusang sumasali sa gulo.

Hindi pa matiyak kung napatay na ang sinasabing nagbibigay ng pondo sa mga manlalaban sa Marawi.

Napatay na raw si Mahmud bin Ahmad, isang taga-Malaysia na siyang namuhunan daw ng mga manlalaban sa Marawi. Pero kung tatanungin naman ang opisyal mula Malaysia, buhay pa raw ito.

Sana, mas totoo na napatay ng mga sundalo natin. Pera rin daw mula sa ilegal na droga ang nagbigay ng pondo sa mga manlalaban.

Ilang kilong droga ang nadiskubre mula sa

ilang tahanan sa Marawi.

Isang buwan na ang labanan at wala pang linaw kung kailan matatapos. Kung nakapasok na nga ang mga banyagang manlalaban, problemang malaki ito para sa bansa.

PATOK na patok sa internet ang larawan ng mga armored personnel carrier (APC) ng militar na binalutan ng mga kahoy, para dagdag na proteksiyon mula sa mga sandata ng mga terorista, partikular ang RPG.

May mga biro na nga na sa kabila ng modernong teknolohiya ng mga mayayamang bansa na maglagay ng karagdagang proteksiyon sa kanilang mga tangke at APC, kahoy lang pala ang katapat.

Hindi na kailangan ng hi-tech na proteksiyon, kahoy lang okay na, may "Free WiFi" pang nakasulat.

Hindi na tayo magtataka kung pag-aralan ng ibang bansa ang ginawa ng ating mga sundalo sa Marawi para proteksiyunan ang kanilang sarili.

Likhang Pilipino talaga ang kanilang ginawa. Hindi nga pinakamoderno ang ating hukbong sandatahan peto hindi naman madedehado sa labanan.

ONLINE NEWS 26 JUNE 2017

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Trillanes wants more troops recruited

From Malaya Business Insight (Jun 26): Trillanes wants more troops recruited

SEN. Antonio Trillanes IV is pushing for a massive recruitment of troops to bolster the Armed Forces in its drive against terrorism in Mindanao and other parts of the country.

Trillanes has filed a bill providing for an increase in the standing force of the AFP through the recruitment and special enlistment of Provisional Enlisted Personnel (PEP).

Under Senate Bill No. 1473, an additional 20,000 PEP will be recruited who shall only serve a tour of duty of 5 years. They will undergo the same training and receive the same salary as that of their equivalent Regular Enlisted Personnel.

After their tour of duty, in cognizance of their contribution, those who will not be reenlisted as regular EP will be entitled to training and educational benefits, and will be given priority in hiring in the Civil Service, particularly in the law enforcement services and related agencies.

"The situation in Mindanao, as well as other security threats, demands a larger force from our military. However, budgetary concerns continue to become a challenge in supporting the pension and retirement needs of the military retirees," Trillanes said.

"I am pushing for this measure to allow the armed forces to increase and strengthen its standing force while providing a long-term solution to the looming military pension crisis. More importantly, it hopes to address our security needs at this time," he said.

To resolve the budgetary concern brought about by the current pension system in the military, membership in the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) will be compulsory for the PEP and the PEP who will be absorbed later in the regular force, thereby creating a new and separate pension system for them to be managed by the GSIS. The current retirees and active personnel of the AFP will retain their old pension system.

<http://www.malaya.com.ph/business-news/news/trillanes-wants-more-troops-recruited>

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'Humanitarian pause' in Marawi City holds

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MANILA, June 25 -- The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Sunday announced that the eight-hour "humanitarian pause" it has implemented in Marawi City in honor of the Eid al-Fitr holidays has held.

"The humanitarian pause held and provided the much needed air of solemnity in the commemoration of the Eid," AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

He added that no gunfire was heard up to around 11 a.m.

The "humanitarian pause" started 6 a.m. and was supposed to end 2 p.m.

It was allowed by AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año in honor of the religious event.

"The Muslim world will be celebrating Eid al-Fitr, an important religious holiday that marks the end of Ramadhan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. For Marawi City, Eid al-Fitr will be celebrated Sunday, 25 June 2017," he added.

"To give reverence to the supposed peaceful, joyous and festive spiritual celebration, the AFP upon the approval of the CSAFP (Chief-of-Staff, AFP) declares a stop in our current operations in the city on that day to serve as a gesture of our strong commitment and respect to the Muslim world particularly to the local Muslims of Marawi City," Padilla stressed.

He said the "humanitarian pause" in offensive operations will only cover a halt in our employment of the military's capabilities.

The AFP official said "humanitarian pause" will be lifted immediately if any of the following conditions ensue:

- (1) our troops' security is jeopardized;
- (2) safety of civilians is threatened; and
- (3) if the enemy starts firing and at which point anyone can exercise their right to self-defense. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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