

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

29 June 2017

Thursday

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

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PANAHON TV



www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV



TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JUNE 29, WEDNESDAY

REASON FOR DISAPPEARING SOUTHERN LUTON (As of 5:00 PM, June 28, 2017)

SUNRISE 5:36 AM **SUNSET** 6:29 PM

MOONRISE 10:25 AM **MOONSET** 11:02 PM

NEW MOON 06:25 AM **FIRST QUARTER** 08:17 AM

LOW TIDE 6:25 PM **HIGH TIDE** 08:17 AM

MANILA SOUTH

PHILIPPINE ARMY RESERVIST (PAR)

CITY	TEMPERATURE	WIND	MOON	WAVE	SEA
METRO MANILA	26 - 34 °C	26 - 35 °C	22 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C	25 - 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 35 °C	25 - 34 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C
LAOAG	26 - 35 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	15 - 26 °C	17 - 25 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C	26 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
TAGAYTAY	22 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C
LEGAZPI	26 - 33 °C	26 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
METRO CEBU	26 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
TACLOBAN	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	25 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
METRO DAVAO	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
ZAMBOANGA	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C

DZRH NEWS MONDAY - FRIDAY 11AM & 5PM

PILIPINAS 10 WEEKDAYS 6AM, 6:30 PM & 9PM WEEKENDS 6AM

AIR 21 SMART NO. PABLO INDI

29 June 2017

Manila
Standard

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Hostages turn into 'sex slaves'

Maute terrorists rape women-captives — AFP

By John Paolo Bencito

Maute terrorists rape women-captives — AFP

By John Paolo Bencito

MAUTE terrorists are forcing female hostages into marriage and sexual slavery, the military said Wednesday.

"There are women hostages who became sex slaves. These are information told to us by those who escaped from the fighting in Marawi," Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Regino Padilla said in a briefing at the Palace. "Hostages told us of these, and

we are not inventing them," he added. On Tuesday, Task Force Marawi spokesperson Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera said that hostages in Marawi were being forced to convert to Islam and the women's dignity "destroyed."

"The worst thing, cases of female hostages who were forced to marry... They are being forced to be sex slaves," he said.

"This is what is happening inside. As I said, these are evil personalities," he added in Filipino.

He said seven hostages related what was happening inside the conflict zone of the war-torn city.

"While they were in captivity, they were being used. The hostages were tasked to loot houses, especially for ammunition, firearms, gold, jewelries. These were the tasks given to them by the Maute."

Herrera said. Civilian hostages were also forced to carry firearms and fire against the military and bring wounded terrorists back to mosques, where some of the Maute members were hiding.

Herrera said Fr. Teresito Suganob, held hostage by the terrorists since May 23, was still alive.

On Wednesday, the Justice department said it would train 30 Metro Manila prosecutors to handle the rebellion cases in continuous trial against the Maute group terrorists. *Next page*

Hostages...

From A1

Once training is completed, the prosecutors will be divided into two panels of 15 members, each headed by a senior state prosecutor.

Under the continuous trial system, postponements of hearings are generally prohibited and courts are directed to promulgate a decision no later than 90 days from the time the case is submitted for decision.

Case will be tried from Mon-

day to Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The continuous trial system was set up by Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno when she assumed the top post to enable the speedy disposition of cases.

Citing security risks, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre earlier asked the Supreme Court to transfer the cases from Cagayan de Oro to Taguig City but the justices have yet to issue a resolution.

With Rey E. Requejo

26 June 2017

The Manila Times

Page: 1

BEIJING DONATES RIFLES, AMMUNITION

China vows to help fight IS

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

CHINESE Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua vowed on Wednesday to help the Philippines in its fight against terrorism amid the continuing military offensives against Islamic State (IS)-linked Maute bandits.

In his speech during the ceremonial turnover of China's "urgent" military assistance to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in Pampanga, Zhao said the Chinese government was committed to helping the Philippines in combating terrorism.

"The donation of arms to the Armed Forces of the Philippines will contribute to the success of your battle against the ISIS-related terrorists," Zhao said, using another name for IS.

"Mr. President I would like to take the opportunity to announce... [that] the Chinese government and the Chinese military forces will continue to fully support you!

>FightA2

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■ FIGHT FROM A1

China vows

fight against terrorism and we're looking forward to enhancement of cooperation in the areas of fighting terrorism bilaterally," he added.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the donations consisted of rifles and ammunition worth 50 million yuan.

Zhao said a second batch of military donations was being prepared by the Chinese and would be delivered in the coming months.

"This is only the beginning... Terrorism is the enemy both China and the Philippines are facing that requires our two militaries to further enhance cooperation in this area," he said.

"The Chinese side would like to explore the possibility of joint training, intelligence sharing and joint military exercises in the area of fighting terrorism," Zhao added.

The Chinese envoy also announced that his country would donate P5 million to the families of soldiers killed in the battle

in Marawi, and to the wounded soldiers.

President Rodrigo Duterte thanked the Chinese government which he said had expressed willingness "to unconditionally help" the Philippines amid the ongoing Marawi crisis.

"Seven months after my visit, terrorist groups advocating the [IS] ideology launched a rebellion in Marawi City. Our troops valiantly fought to retake the city. China reiterated its offer to help. As a result, our governments formally entered into two agreements where China committed to turn over P590 million worth of military equipment to help in our campaign against ISIS-inspired terrorist holding up in Marawi," Duterte said.

"To Ambassador Zhao, please relate our sincerest thanks to President Xi Jinping and the government of the People's Republic of China for its military aid... This is not only to strengthen our country's commitment to support each other during times of need, but also highlights the dawn of a new era in Philippine-Chinese relations," he added.

Assistance welcome, but...

The President also sought assistance from the country's international partners for the rebuilding of war-torn Marawi City, as long as there were no strings attached.

"This invitation extends to our allies who share with us the principles of goodwill and non-interference in our domestic affairs," Duterte said.

"Through the unremitting efforts of the brave men and women of the AFP and PNP (Philippine National Police) and the assistance of our friends and allies, I am confident that we can end this dark episode and move on to restoring peace and order throughout Mindanao. You know, we are fighting an enemy without or whose bankruptcy in their mind and heart is very clear," he added.

Earlier, the Chinese government donated P15 million for the rebuilding effort in Marawi City.

In a statement, the Palace said the donation "will significantly augment the resources of the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Social Welfare and Development

(DSWD) for health and welfare operations in Marawi and other areas.

It said 264,000 displaced individuals had sought refuge in areas outside of Marawi City since the fighting in the Islamic City broke out on May 23.

"The said donation from China to the Philippines is an example of the flourishing partnership between the two countries and their shared commitment towards sustainable peace in the region," the statement said.

Duterte to visit Marawi

Duterte earlier on Wednesday said he would visit the besieged Islamic city of Marawi this Friday.

"I think I'll go there on Friday. It's about too late in the day to be hesitating to go there. I will go there," Duterte said in a speech during the celebration of the 120th founding anniversary of the Presidential Security Group.

"You know, I cannot just sit on my a** *dijan-se-episina ko na hirap yung ag down* [in the office when the people are suffering]," the President added.

Duterte lamented that the "fractured ideology" of terrorists to de-

stroy and kill innocent civilians had infiltrated Philippine territory.

"Well, they are not members of the Geneva Convention (on armed conflict). They are just plain bandits, gangsters, and what they really want is just to kill. And if you want to destroy us, we will also destroy you," the President said.

Duterte, who was last seen in public on Tuesday when he visited Iligan and Cagayan de Oro cities, said he had been visiting military camps to boost the morale of government troops, who have so far suffered 71 deaths since violence erupted on May 23.

The battle for the Islamic City of Marawi has been raging for more than a month now, with martial law imposed over the entire Mindanao. At 6 p.m. Tuesday, the government counted 397 deaths in Marawi - 299 terrorists, 71 government troops and 27 civilians.

During the "Mindanao Hour" Palace news briefing, AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said the number of civilians killed in the ongoing Marawi clash could "significantly increase" as more killings had yet to be verified by the military.

Padilla said the military got hold of

footage showing the terrorists carrying out executions.

The death toll arising from these killings was not included in the official figure on civilians killed, which stands at 27.

"We are not certain on exactly how many civilians [have been killed] because the number you have now, which is 27, may increase significantly once we are able to validate all these information," Padilla told reporters.

"There have been a significant number [of slain civilians] seen in the video but again we could not include many of these [to the official death toll] because we have not validated or authenticated [this] information. Until such time, we will remain with those numbers," he added.

Padilla said the terrorists who laid siege to Marawi took footage of some of their killings supposedly to gain recognition from the IS, to which they had pledged allegiance.

"Whatever the objective of the terrorists from inside - either to scare people or to communicate across other members of the country of their extreme and radical ways - has been achieved because of that," he said.

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MILF OPEN TO HELP END MARAWI CRISIS

will be a difficult job for the MILF, says Mohagher Iqbal. 'We know the stand of the government regarding the Maute group. We also know how the group regards the government.'

By Ryan D. Rosaura
@inquirermindanao

DZAMIZ CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is open to helping resolve the Marawi crisis, a leader of the group that has signed a peace deal with the government said on Wednesday.

Mohagher Iqbal, chair of the MILF peace implementation panel, said the group was willing to take an active role to help put an end to fighting between government

forces and Islamic State (IS)-inspired terrorists in Marawi, but would intervene only "in the greater regard of civilian interest."

But the MILF has not received a request for intervention, he said.

"It is not impossible, especially if the civilian interest is at stake. If there is a request, the MILF leadership will probably consider the idea," Iqbal told the Inquirer by phone.

The fighting between government forces and gunmen from the

Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorist groups who seized Marawi on May 23 has reduced much of the city to rubble.

Most of the city's more than 200,000 residents have fled the fighting and are now sheltering in government-run evacuation centers in nearby Iligan City and surrounding areas.

Sanitation has become a problem in the overcrowded shelters, raising fears of an outbreak of disease.

At least 24 people have died from

dehydration, pneumonia and other illnesses in the shelters, according to the Department of Health.

The fighting for control of predominantly Muslim Marawi has entered its sixth week, with 397 people killed, including 299 terrorists, 71 soldiers and police, and 27 civilians.

After rampaging through Marawi—seizing and killing Christians, burning their homes and desecrating a cathedral—the terrorists who had pledged allegiance to

AG

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MILF OPEN TO HELP END MARAWI CRISIS

FROM A1

the IS group in Iraq and Syria had been driven to a square-kilometer pocket of the city, holed up in houses and buildings, and holding civilians as human shields.

They were looking for a way out and told Muslim emissaries who came to talk to them on Sunday that they were willing to withdraw from Marawi if the MILF would intervene.

Trade Catholic priest

A source who went with the emissaries said Abdullah Maute, one of the leaders of the group that he was willing to trade a Catholic priest he was holding for his parents and relatives who had been captured by the authorities.

Fr. Teresito "Chito" Sug-

anob, vicar general of Marawi, was seized by the terrorists together with about 200 civilians as they laid siege to the city on May 23 to establish an IS enclave in Southeast Asia.

The government on Tuesday rejected negotiations with the terrorists.

No negotiations with gov't

The terrorists did not want to negotiate with the government, either, preferring representation by the MILF.

But Iqbal said the MILF had never been officially involved in the search for a resolution to the Marawi conflict.

Rescuing trapped civilians

Iqbal said his group was involved only in rescuing civilians trapped in the fighting through the Joint Coordinating, Monitoring and Assistance Center of the MILF and

the government.

The government and the MILF signed a peace agreement in 2014, and were working out a law that would establish a homeland for the Moros in Mindanao.

Cooperation

They have a long history of cooperation, including the expulsion of suspected terrorists from various rebel strongholds in Mindanao in 2005 and the rescue of high-profile kidnap victims, among them Irish missionary priest Michael Sinnott, in 2009.

Iqbal said getting involved in resolving the Marawi conflict would be a difficult job for the MILF.

"We know the stand of the government regarding the Maute group. We also know how the group regards the government," he said. INQ

29 June 2017



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Decapitated bodies found

Military sees sharp rise in number of slain civilians

By JAIME LAUDE

The decapitated bodies of five civilians have been found in Marawi City in an area previously occupied by the Maute group, the military said yesterday, warning the number of residents killed by extremist "atrocities" could rise sharply as troops retake more ground.

The discovery of the five victims among 17 bodies retrieved would be the first evidence that civilians trapped in besieged Marawi City were decapitated during the five-week stand by militants loyal to the Islamic State (IS) group, as some who escaped the city had previously reported.

Lt. Col Emmanuel Garcia of the Western Mindanao Command said the troops found the five decapitated among 17 civilians in Barangay Gadun-

gan previously under control of the terrorists.

"Government troops, together with policemen, elements of the Bureau of Fire Protection and civilian volunteers recovered at around 11:40 a.m. yesterday 17 cadavers while conducting retrieval operations in Barangay Gadungan," Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla reported.

Troops also retrieved the

Turn to Page 6

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Decapitated From Page 1

bodies of two foreign looking militants somewhere in the battle zone.

"They resemble Middle Easterners," Padilla said.

Padilla could not say, however, how many foreign fighters are actually involved in the Marawi conflict.

"We don't have any documents as basis for the existence of all these foreigners except information that have been coming in from various sources," he said.

Padilla said the military got hold of footage showing the terrorists carrying out executions.

However, the death toll arising from these killings was not yet included in the official figure on civilians killed, which currently stands at 27, he said.

"We are not certain exactly how many civilians (have been killed) because the number you have now, which is 27, may increase significantly once we are able to validate all these information," Padilla said in a news conference in Malacanan.

"There have been a significant number (of slain civilians) seen in the video but again we could not include many of these (in the official death toll) because we have not validated or authenticated (this) information. Until such time, we will remain with those numbers," he said.

Padilla said the terrorists who laid siege on Marawi took footage of some of their killings supposedly to gain recognition from IS, to which they have pledged allegiance.

"Whatever the objective of the terrorists - either to scare people or to communicate across other members of the country of their extreme and radical ways - has been achieved because of that," he said.

Videos have appeared this month on the website of Islamic State's *Amaq* news agency and its social media channels of hostages in Marawi pleading for their lives, saying they would be beheaded if air strikes were not stopped.

Clips have also appeared of people on their knees, shot in

the head from behind.

The military has so far been reluctant to discuss the possibility that the real impact of the fighting on civilians could be far more severe than has been reported.

It has played down the impact of daily air strikes and mortar assaults aimed at rebel sniper positions, which have reduced areas of the lakeside town to rubble and alarmed people stuck there, some of whom have said the shelling was a bigger threat than the militants.

Disaster officials are keen to start dangerous missions to recover what they believe are large numbers of bodies in the streets near the conflict zone.

President Duterte said on Tuesday he was prepared from the outset for a long fight against a well-armed Maute motivated only by murder and destruction.

"It seems to be limitless supply. They were able to stockpile their arms," he said.

"Some of those who traveled to the Middle East got contaminated, brought the ideology back home and promised to declare war against humanity."

"Significant number"

Padilla said it was likely that many civilians had been killed and the death toll - already at 27 before the latest 17 were announced - was only what the authorities could confirm independently.

He said a "significant number" of dead had been seen by those who had escaped the fighting.

"(It) may increase significantly once we are able to validate all this information," Padilla told reporters.

"There have been a significant number that have been seen but again, we cannot include many of these," he said.

Padilla said the cause of those deaths would be "atrocities committed by the terrorists."

Among those atrocities, the military said, have been residents being forced to loot homes, take up arms or become sex slaves.

Nine more civilians were rescued Tuesday by the military from the battle zone.

Some 71 soldiers and policemen and 299 militants have been killed and 246,000 people displaced by the conflict.

The Department of Social

Welfare and Development said there are some 334,304 people accommodated in at least 83 evacuation centers in Lanao del Norte, Iligan City, Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro City. Some 293,069 individuals or 60,029 families had sought shelter with their relatives.

Padilla, on the other hand, called for patience and said troops needed more time to flush out the gunmen and secure the city.

"Our combat environment is sensitive. First, there are trapped civilians that we have to protect. They also have hostages and third, there are many traps so we have to clear buildings slowly," he said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana earlier said the conflict in Marawi could be over before President Duterte delivers his State of the Nation Address next month.

Padilla, however, stressed the military is doing everything it can to end the fighting at the soonest.

"We are not setting any deadline and I have been citing why. We are doing our best to finish this, to liberate Marawi at the soonest possible time," Padilla said.

Padilla likened the battle of

Marawi to the cities invaded by the IS in the Middle East.

He mentioned Mosul, Iraq's second most populous city, where Iraqi forces worked their way to regain the historic city after it fell to IS in June 2014.

"These cities in the Middle East are like what is happening now in Marawi. It is a complicated thing for them (Iraqis) who have bigger armed forces and more challenging for those fighting in the Middle East, how much more for us?" he remarked.

He stressed the battle in Marawi is challenging and it would not end abruptly.

Padilla said the militants had the tactical advantage of fighting the troops in their terrain.

He said the troops are not used to fighting in an urban setting and confronting the militants who are using civilians as human shields.

The military also denied allegations that troops committed abuses on women and children evacuees.

Various groups called on the evacuees to report any abuses committed by security forces. - With Reuters, Edith Regalado, Roel Pareño, Lino de la Cruz

29 June 2017

The Manila Times

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Army ensures security vs terror threat in Luzon

CAMP O'DONELL, Capas, Tarlac The Army's Mechanized Infantry Division (MID) based here assured the public that security plans against terror threats in Northern and Central Luzon regions are in full gear.

In a text message to The Manila Times, 3rd Mechanized Infantry Battalion (3MIB) commander Lt. Col. Roderick Balbanero said they have been ordered to conduct constant mobile security routine to hasten their visibility in their areas of jurisdiction.

The 3MIB covers the provinces of Tarlac, Zambales and Pangasinan.

At Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, 7th Infantry Division (7ID) commander Major General Angelito de Leon said they are prepared for any eventuality as most of their men come from the Army's 72nd Division Reconnaissance Company and are deployed in various areas for operations reinforcement.

The 7ID covers Northern and Central Luzon, including seven towns in Nueva Vizcaya.

Recently, the 7ID and Central Luzon Philippine National Police (PNP) regional

office 3 signed a re-affirmation of commitment to communications and cooperation in the sustained efforts to secure peace and order in the region.

De Leon said that as peace-keeping forces, the Army and the PNP are united in its mandate to keep spoilers of peace at bay, especially in illegal drugs operations, crimes and terror threats.

PNP regional director Senior Supt. Aaron Aquino has admitted that their ranks meet difficulties in identifying concrete information useful in the performance of their duties without the help of the military.

He said the joint patrols being conducted by the peace-keeping forces are more effective particularly in patrolling, serving of warrant of arrest, buy-bust and in foiling terrorist threats.

Aquino urged the public not be instruments in propagating false information and instead report any incidence of such to police regional hotline 0917-6235700 or to hotline 911.

JERRY M. HERNANDEZ

21 June 2017

Batita

Page. 5

ANG KANALING BANGSA: PAKIKIBAGONG TACALOG SA BANGSA *P.L.00

MisOr: Mga baril, bomb materials nasamsam sa bahay ni Salic

Sinalakay kahapon ng umaga ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng pulisya at militar ang isa pang bahay ni dating Marawi City Mayor Fajad Salic sa Misamis Oriental at nasamsam mula roon ang ilang granada at gamit sa paggawa ng bomba.

Sinabi ni Supt. Lemuel Gonda, tagapagsalita ng Police Regional Office (PRO)-10, na isinagawa ng pulisya ang raid katuwang ang mga kasapi ng Martial Law Special Action Group ng militar, bandang 5:30 ng umaga kahapon

sa bahay ni Salic sa Purok 3, Barangay Consuelo sa bayan ng Magsaysay.

Nakumpiska sa operasyon ang isang granada, dalawang rifle grenade, isang 40mm cartridge, 30 rounds ng mga bala ng M16 rifle, anim na non-electrical blasting caps, isang customized electric switch, isang pilot valve na nakakabit sa jack connector, isang battery, at dalawang pakeite ng hindi tukoy na gray powder.

Hunyo 7 nang dakpin si Salic, dating asawa ng aktres na si Ajma

Moreno, sa bayan ng Villanueva sa Misamis Oriental para sa kasong rebelyon.

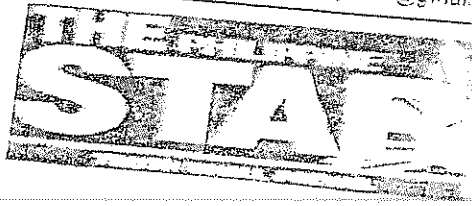
Iniuugnay si Salic sa pagsalakay ng Maute Group sa Marawi City at nasa listahan ng ipinaacresto ng Department of National Defense (DND) kaugnay ng krisis.

Sa naunang pagsalakay sa bahay ni Salic sa Cagayan de Oro City, nakakumpiska ang mga pulis ng isang mataas na uri ng baril, mga bala at nasa 10 kilo ng shabu.

Aaron Recuenco

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29 June 2017



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Firearms, ammo seized from ex-Marawi mayor's house

BY JAIME LAUDE

Security forces yesterday seized firearms and ammunition during a raid on a house in Misamis Oriental of former Marawi City mayor Fahad Salic, who is under arrest for rebellion.

Reports reaching Camp Crame said a fragmentation grenade, two rifle grenades, 30 rounds of M-16 bullets, six pieces of blasting caps and two packs of undetermined grey powder were found in Salic's house in Magsaysay tower.

In Panday town in Maguindanao on Wednesday, authorities arrested five suspected drug traffickers with alleged links to the Mindoc East-base Islamic State (IS).

Magsaysay police chief Senior Insp. Philip Quilala, Northern Mindanao Regional Public Safety Battalion head Inspector Jaser Felcidia and 1 Lt. Jaser Sabanal of the 23rd Infantry Battalion, spearheaded what authorities described as martial law enforcement operation against the former mayor.

Salic and his brother, incumbent Marawi City Vice Mayor Abdul Salic, were tagged as being leaders of the Maute militants who laid siege to some parts of Marawi City — the country's own Islamic City — last May 23.

Arrests ended during a raid on his house in Marawi and is now being taken to the military side by side with the Maute terrorists.

The military and the police are still trying to flush out the militants from Marawi City where they had intended to establish their IS-inspired Southeast Asia "caliphate."

The militants were using snipers and hostages to delay the advance of troops.

Currently, only four of the 96 barangays in the city are in the hands of the terrorists, according to the military.

Earlier, troopers and anti-drug agents also raided and seized five kilos of shabu worth P25 million from two houses of the Sabes in Xavier Estates Subdivisor located inside the Mindanao State University (MSU) compound.

The Sabes were believed to be financing Maute's terror and criminal activities using drug money.

Narco-Terrorists

In Panday town, Major martial commander police and military operatives arrested Earn Kararam, 34, Jay Datar, 21, former 1st Lt. Bak Marangan, 29, and Jerry Tiar, 31, former member of the Philippine Independent Drugs Agency, all in shabu possession and firearms.

Maguindanao police chief Senior Supt. Agustin Telle said police and soldiers from the 33rd Infantry Battalion launched the operation against the five based on a tip from their neighbors, including barangay officials and Muslim community elders.

Recovered from the five suspects were shabu, assorted firearms, a fragmentation grenade, a laptop, gun parts, cameras and P15,000 cash.

"We ought to thank the LGU of Panday and the 23rd IB for this feat," Telle said.

Panday Mayor Zihan Malmatia-Mangudadatu, chair of the municipal peace and order council, said the local police and barangay tanods in the municipality are on alert against possible retaliation by the accomplices of the five suspects.

Meanwhile, the three men accosted last Sunday by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) at the Cagayan de Oro City port while reportedly attempting to move P30 million in cash to Cebu without notifying authorities have been charged before the prosecutor's office. PCG spokesman Commander Armand Balic said the three unnamed employees of the United Coconut Planters Bank were charged with violation of special banking laws before the CDO prosecutor's office upon recommendation.



Police inspect firearms, ammunition, drugs and communications equipment seized from five drug suspects in Pandag, Maguindanao yesterday.

JOHN UNSON

by representatives of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

"They were presented before the prosecutor for request proceedings. Our arresting PCC law enforcement team submitted affidavits and testified against them," he said in a text message yesterday.

After the inquest, the prosecutors are expected to issue a resolution and decide whether or not to file the case against the three before the Capayaran or Oroquieta regional trial court.

The PCC official said they would respect the findings of prosecutors, including the possibility that transport of the cash was a legitimate exercise as claimed by the bank.

But when asked if authorities are looking into possible link of the incident to the ongoing clash in Marawi City, Balilo answered in the affirmative.

"Of course on the side of the security forces we are being very careful on the disposition of the money to include

possible link with the situation in Mindanao. We have to be vigilant," he explained.

The PCC earlier said the three employees of UCPB were about to board a Trans Asia ship bound for the Port of Cebu when intercepted by operatives of the Northern Mindanao District last Sunday.

The estimated P30 million was placed inside four Styrofoam boxes and reportedly declared to be documents. - With John Unson, Edu Punay

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Man killed in shootout with soldiers

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

BUTUAN CITY - An armed man was killed, while two Army soldiers were wounded in a gunfight in Barangay Pamosaigan, Socorro, Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte, a police report reaching this city yesterday said.

Killed was Bienvenido T. Liquido, Jr., 55, a local resident, while those wounded were identified as Staff Sgt. Omar Pansar and Cpl. Reynaldo E. Malaya of the 30th Infantry Battalion

(30th IB).

From Socorro hospital, the wounded soldiers were evacuated to Surigao City hospital for further medical treatment.

An initial report received by Chief Supt. Rolando B. Felix, regional director of Northeastern Mindanao Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) from Surigao del Norte Police Provincial Office (PPO), said elements of Socorro Municipal Police Station (MPS) together with personnel of the 30th IB, responded to a call from residents of Pamosaigan

about the presence of armed men in their barangay at 6:30 in evening on Friday, June 23.

However, upon reaching the area, Liquido and his companion, identified as Bernardo L. Makinano, 37, allegedly shot at the lawmen, prompting them to return fire, a Surigao del Norte PPO report said.

The police and military personnel managed to maneuver and hit Liquido in the process while neutralizing Makinano, it said.

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6 arrested in Maguindanao drug raid

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Combined operatives of the Army's 33rd Infantry Battalion and the Fourth Special Action Battalion arrested six persons reported to be involved in drug trafficking in Maguindanao.

Lt. Col. Harold M. Cabunoc, the Commanding Officer of the 33rd Infantry Battalion, said the operation was held in Sitio Mamalinta, Kayaga Village, Pandag, Maguindanao, at 7 a.m. Wednesday.

He said a certain Dante Dalaten, 34, and five of his cohorts were caught by surprise when soldiers and policemen swooped down on their hideout, and arrested them.

The troops seized four firearms, a hand grenade, and 26 grams of suspected shabu with a street value amounting to ₱130,000.

Chief Inspector Vernido Villamor of the 43rd Special Action Company led the assault of the main drug den where five of the six suspects were arrested.

The five were identified as Roy Datukali, 27; Jomar Jainal, 20; Dante Karatuan, 34; Gale Mangandaong, 18; and Jerry Talib, 39.

First Lt. Austin John Jamora, the Commanding Officer of the A/33IB, cornered Dante Dalaten in an adjacent house.

"He was forced to surrender when I threatened to shoot his position. We ensured that his rights are respected," Jamora said.

Cabunoc said the troops have recently culminated their CQB (close quarter battle) training under the tutelage of Special Action Force (SAF) instructors prior to the operation.

"We have set the standard on how to implement a successful operation without collateral damage," Cabunoc said.

"We have trained together with SAF troopers and I emphasized the need to maintain our credibility by respecting human rights and ROE provisions," he added.

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17 BODIES FOUND IN RUINED CITY

By Zaida
Delos
Reyes-
Palanca

SEVENTEEN bodies of civilians, five of them reportedly beheaded by ISIS-inspired Maute Group terrorists, were recovered by government troops during clearing operations in Marawi City.

This was confirmed by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

Padilla said the bodies were found in Gadungan, Marawi City by government troops and civilian volunteers at around 11:40 a.m.

The victims were recovered by government troops carrying out clearing and retrieval operations with the help of members of the Philippine National Police and Bureau of Fire Protection.

"The recovered cadavers are believed to be among those civilians who were helplessly murdered by the Maute/ASG terrorists," Padilla said.

Joint Task Force Marawi Commander Brig. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista said the civilians killed in cold blood bore signs of Maute and Abu Sayyaf's brutality.

Elements of PNF SOCC worked to identify the bodies to allow their families to claim them and give them decent burial.

Padilla said retrieval operations continue in Barangay Gadungan and other areas in the battered city where civilians were seized and held by the terrorists.

P5B for Marawi rehab

The government has set aside P5 billion for the rehabilitation of Marawi City this year as clashes be-

tween government troops and Maute terrorists are expected to end soon.

Budget Secretary Ben Diokno bared yesterday that an initial rehabilitation fund of P5 billion will come from the contingent fund and funds being held by different government agencies.

"Makakalikom kami ng mga P5 billion this year kasi second half na diba? Eh hanggang ngayon di pa naman namin alam talaga ano yung mga pagkakagastusan natin," Diokno said.

The P5 billion initial fund this year will most likely be doubled next year, according to Diokno.

Based on the 2017 national budget, the government has a contingency fund of P5.5 billion and a calamity fund of P37.255 billion.

Diokno added that his department has also alerted state-owned banks Landbank and Development Bank of the Philippines for possible loans.

Interior and Local Government (DILG) Officer-in-Charge Catalino Cuy yesterday said the government for now will not provide cash assistance for the repair and rehabilitation of houses and buildings that were damaged by air strikes and ground assaults. Loans however are being made available.

Diokno said there is also no need to pass a supplemental budget to augment rehabilitation funds for Marawi this year since they will submit the proposed 2018 national budget right after the President's State of the Nation Address.

With EMontano

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5 decapitated bodies, 12 others retrieved in Marawi

By FRANCIS WAKEFIELD and REUTERS

The bodies of 17 civilians, five of them decapitated, believed to have been executed by the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Maute Group in Marawi City, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) **4**

said on Wednesday.

In a statement, the AFP Joint Task Force Marawi disclosed that the bodies were discovered while government troops, together with the Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and civilian volunteers, were conducting retrieval operations in Barangay Gadungan, Marawi City at 11:40 a.m. Wednesday.

"The recovered cadavers are believed to be among those civilians who were helplessly murdered by the Maute/ASG terrorists," said Brig. Gen. Roselito Bautista, the commander of Joint Task Force Marawi.

Lieutenant Colonel Emmanuel Garcia of the Western Mindanao Command said in a text message to reporters the five decapitated were found among 17 civilians killed by militants.

Garcia did not respond immediately to repeated requests for more details.

It was not clear when the bodies were found. A civilian rescue worker, Abdul Azis Lomondol, told Reuters earlier there were body parts found on Wednesday, but there was "no proof of beheading."

The battle for Marawi entered its 11th day on Wednesday, with intense fights and bombing in the heart of the town and black-clad fighters seen afar running between buildings and explosions rang out. Marawi is on northern Mindanao island.

As this developed, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla on Wednesday said the death toll on the side of the Maute Group has already reached 299.

In an interview, Padilla said that of the 299 terrorists killed, half of them were accounted for via body count.

Asked if there are foreign terrorists among the bodies retrieved, Padilla said there were reports that at least two bodies look like Middle Eastern or coming from the Middle East.

Padilla, however, said that just like his previous statements, they don't have any other documents to prove or can use as basis "for the existence of all these foreigners except information that have been coming in from various sources."

Asked about the possibility that foreigners are still part of the more than 100 Maute Group fighters still holed up in Marawi City, Padilla said it could be.

"Perhaps, perhaps," Padilla said.

"We don't know what their specific role, we don't have any information on that."

But we do believe that there are still a number of them (there)," Padilla said.

Meanwhile, the military is not setting a deadline to end the Marawi conflict, Padilla said in response to a question asking him to comment on the statement of Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana that they are looking to end the conflict before the State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA) of President Duterte.

"We are not setting any deadline

and I have been citing why, because of the complexity of the environment, the combat environment, and the terrain. But that is also about the same time when the period for martial law would end so that's why we are doing our best to finish this... to liberate Marawi the soonest time possible," Padilla said.

As troops continue to their assault, Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, spokesman of both Joint Task Force Marawi and the Army's 1st Infantry Division, ground troops have monitored increasing intentional arson activities in various parts of the city due to the Maute Group's growing desperation.

Marawi students in Makati

Meanwhile, the local government unit (LGU) of Makati has accepted a high school pupil and six college students from war-torn Marawi after the city-run University of Makati (UMak) opened its doors to the displaced students weeks ago.

Makati Mayor Abigail Binay reiterated her call to students affected by the fighting in Marawi and children of soldiers killed in combat to take advantage of the opportunity to complete their college education as full scholars of the city government.

"We welcome students from Marawi who would like to pursue their college education as scholars of the city government. This is our simple way of showing that we care for our brothers and sisters whose lives have been disrupted by the conflict in Marawi," Binay said.

Based on the records of the Office of the Registrar (OR) at UMak, as of June 27, two transferees from Marawi were officially enrolled in the university, while five more, including a senior high school student, are completing the enrollment process.

UMak-OR revealed that both officially enrolled students are taking up Bachelor of Science in Management Accounting, one on her third year and the other on her second year.

The other five transferees still completing the enrollment process are two third year students taking up BS in Management Accounting, a third year BS in Civil Engineering student, a freshman taking up BS in Information Technology Service Management, and a Grade 11 student enrolling at UMak's senior high school, UMak-OR added. (With a report from Martin A. Sadongdong)

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8 cited for wildlife resources conservation

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

Eight individuals were awarded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for their exceptional and valuable contribution to the conservation and protection of the country's rich wildlife resources.

DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Director Therese Maudina Lim said the first set of awardees consisted of outstanding individuals who have helped the bureau fulfil its responsibilities in the last three decades.

The awardees and their contributions to biodiversity conservation and protection are:

• Lidia Leyang Lacerna-Widmann for the conservation and protection of Philippine cockatoos, marine turtles and pangolins;

• Marner Garcia-Balboa for the conservation of Philippine crocodiles;

• Dr. Jayson Ibanez for his contribution to

the Philippine eagle conservation;

• Dr. Angelina Am. Ingie for the conservation of Philippine bats;

• Anna Oposa for helping in coastal environment and resources protection;

• Esmie Mahat for sustainable management and protection of crocodiles;

• Manso Anoraima for her role in the management of biodiversity conservation and protection of wildlife resources; and

• Lt. Gen. Edgar Fajorna for the utilization of Philippine Air Force aircrafts for biodiversity site visits and country-hosted biodiversity-related conferences.

"These achievements are not only because of the agency's efforts, but also because of those who have the same advocacies as our mandate and chose to work alongside us," she added.

Lim expressed her gratitude to those who have contributed to the success of all the projects and programs initiated by the BMB during the last 30 years.

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Marines on the hunt for snipers



By MARINE CORPS NEWS SERVICE
By Cpl. ROBERT M. STORM

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, CA - "We're hiring," says Staff Sgt. Timothy C. La Sage, 28, native of Milwaukee, Scout Sniper Platoon, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, when speaking of his unit's effort to recruit for their scout sniper platoon. Marines applying for sniper status must not only be mentally sound but they also must be physically fit. They also must be an expert shooter from the infantry Military Occupational Specialty.

To become a sniper, applicants must pass a two-day screening.

"This includes a physical fitness test, swim qualifications, land navigation, ruck run, and night observation exercise. In total for the two days, they get about four hours of sleep," said Sgt. Adam E. Dery, Scout Sniper Platoon, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment.

"We're looking for individuals that can operate on their own. They have to be responsible and they can't

have any negative issues like a driving under the influence or other similar lapses in judgment," La Sage said.

The reason for such strict requirements is the responsibility the job carries. During operations Marine snipers report real time enemy information to senior commanders.

A unit could base their movements off sniper-provided information to include raids and offensive actions against enemy forces.

After indoctrination, sniper applicants attend a four-week local training course on sniper basics.

"In the first week, we teach basic skills like stalking, observation skills, radio classes, and memory games. There is always physical training, too. We have to bring them to a higher standard than they're used to," La Sage said.

"During the second week, we teach more stalking, observation reporting, night training, tracking, and how to build a hide, which is a field expedient covered and concealed position snipers can shoot from.

It's similar to a fighting position. We call it a 'snipe hole,'" La Sage said.

"The third week is the mission week and they learn to operate on their own. We conduct a three-day field exercise in which we insert them approximately six kilometers from their target. They move to and observe the command center that we set up. Senior members of the platoon role-play in the camp as enemy and as the higher command, the trainees then report the movements of the enemy to the command," La Sage said.

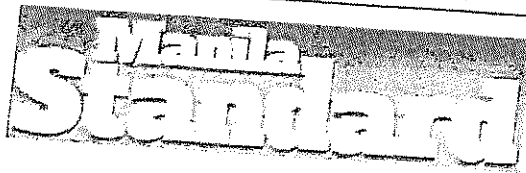
Finally on the fourth week we teach them how to shoot at Range 117, where we use known distances of up to 1,000 yards. After that, we train in unknown distances," La Sage said.

"After the training package is done, the Marines are known as Professionally Instructed Gunmen and are on a six-month probation period in the platoon," he said.

"During this time, they may get the chance to attend the formal Scout Sniper School and upon completion are given the 8541 Military Occupational Specialty and the title Hunters of Gunmen," La Sage said.

"We take a lot of pride in our job. Much of our gear is aftermarket and we buy it ourselves," said Cpl. J. Eric Roblez, 21, of Anaheim, Calif., Scout Sniper Platoon. "We make our own ghillie suits and have to repair or replace them after every stalk. It's very time consuming and you have to be dedicated, but it is worth it," he added. The Balance

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Military retracts claim 'Omar' dead

By John Paolo Bencito

THE military on Wednesday retracted its claim that terrorist leader Omar Maute was dead, after religious leaders said they saw him Sunday.

On Sunday, Omar's brother, Abdulrahman Maute, offered to release a Catholic priest that they have been hostage in exchange for the release of their parents in a meeting that the military said was not sanctioned.

"If we go by what the religious emissaries said, they

talked to Abdulrahman and Omar," Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Resurreccion Padilla said in a Philippine during a news briefing at the Palace.

Earlier, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief General Eduardo Año told reporters that Omar may have been killed in an encounter with soldiers.

Joint Task Force Marawi spokesman Lt. Col. Arsenio Mente also said there was a "strong indication" that Omar was killed during military operations two weeks ago, since he could no

longer be heard giving orders to their followers.

But an intelligence source who spoke on condition of anonymity to the Manila Standard they were still checking the veracity of the information and said Omar and Abdulrahman might have already escaped Marawi.

The sources added that what was confirmed was that a younger Maute brother, Mad, had been killed.

Padilla said that while the emissaries were simply there to

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Military...

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negotiate the rescue of trapped civilians, the talks were not sanctioned by the government.

"If that was their aim and if that was the topic by which they were discussing with the enemy, that's well and fine because every life saved from inside Marawi, particularly of civilians or innocent civilians who are still trapped there, is relevant. But anything other than that... is not sanctioned," he said.

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News of Hapilon's escape may have been a ruse

By ARGYL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday said it was still verifying reports that Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon was able to leave Marawi City undetected because these may just be a false trail floated to throw off his pursuers.

During the Mindanao Hour press briefing Wednesday morning, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the report may have been floated to divert the attention of the government troops from pursuing the highly-valued local terrorist leader.

"Maaari ring disimpormasyon ito para ma-distract ang ating mga tropa sa paghahanap sa kanya. Kasi alam niyo, sa mga naiwanpo sa Marawi, siya ang may pinakamataas na presyo ng ulo (This may also be disinformation to distract out troops from pursuing him. Because of all personalities still inside Marawi City, Hapilon's head has the highest value)," Padilla said.

Based on information from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, the US State Department is offering a reward of



ISNILON HAPILON

up to \$5 million, or about ₱250 million, for information leading directly to the apprehension or conviction of Hapilon.

President Duterte has also offered a ₱10-million reward for information leading to the capture of Hapilon or to those who can bring him Hapilon dead or alive.

"So ang perang 'yan ay napakalaki at maaaring nararamdaman niya ang imit ng maaaring gustong i-surrender siya

para makakuha ng ganitong kalaking halaga (That is a huge amount of money so may have felt that people are now out to get him)," Padilla said, adding that the huge amount of money only shows how important Hapilon's apprehension or conviction is.

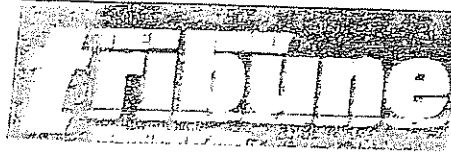
Hapilon is reported to be the appointed emir or leader of the Islamic State (ISIS) in the Philippines who also led the combined elements of the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups in their attacks in Marawi City on May 23, 2017.

An armed conflict has been ongoing in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur since then, prompting Duterte to immediately declare martial law in Mindanao and suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in the entire island for 60 days.

In a video footage recovered by the AFP during one of their clearing operations in the city earlier this month, Hapilon can be seen plotting their attack in Marawi City along with Abdullah and Omar Maute of the Maute group.

Padilla said they were still trying to figure out how Hapilon managed to escape without being detected.

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Hapilon not capable of sowing chaos outside Marawi – military

By Mario J. Mallari,
Ted Tuvera, Julius N. Leonen
and Angie M. Rosales

Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, believed to be the Islamic State (IS) emir in Southeast Asia, no longer has the capacity to mount attacks in Mindanao similar in scale to what happened in Marawi City, the military yesterday said.

According to Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., Hapilon's capacity to sow terror in Mindanao has significantly decreased after security forces thwarted the Maute terror group's plan to establish a caliphate for IS fighters in Marawi.

"We don't believe he (Hapilon) still has the capacity to launch any hostile acts," the military official told a press conference in Malacañang.

"There have been significant developments in the past few weeks (in Marawi City). And his capacity to sow terror, on the scale we observed in Marawi, he could not do that," Padilla stressed.

The statement came after the military reported that there had indications that Hapilon "abandoned" the Maute group in Marawi City.

The AFP official described Hapilon's possible escape as "an act of cowardice" if reports that he indeed fled from the strife-torn city were to be believed.

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Hapilon not capable of sowing chaos outside Marawi - military

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"It was an act of cowardice if he abandoned his fellow terrorists from inside. And showing that he fled from the battle and left many more of his companions inside would not sit well and may be indicative of an infighting that is occurring among them," said Padilla.

He added it is important that Hapilon be caught "dead or alive."

"It is important that he be caught dead or alive. And it is in the interest of our country because he's been wanted for a long time," he said.

Padilla, however, noted that there are still foreign fighters among the Islamic State-inspired terrorists still putting up resistance against government forces in Marawi City.

Among those killed were foreign jihadists from Malaysia and Indonesia. Only recently, two recovered cadavers were described as having Middle Eastern features.

There are reports saying Hapilon also has in his group jihadists from Yemen and as far as hechnya.

"We do believe that there are still a number of them," said Padilla when asked if there are still foreign fighters with the Maute group.

"We don't have any documents to prove or use as basis for the presence of these foreigners except information that have been coming from various sources," he added. According to Padilla, the military has yet to establish the actual role of foreigners in the siege.

There were previous reports of some of the terrorist snipers being foreign-looking.

"We don't have any information per se on what they are doing," he said.

The military said there are still around 150 terrorists putting up pockets of resistance in four barangays of Marawi City.

The terrorists are holding around 100 civilians as hostages and human shields, including Catholic priest Father Teresito "Chito" Saganob.

On Monday, Malaysian Mamoud, tagged as among the financiers of the Maute group, was reported killed in Marawi City.

Padilla said not all of the 298 listed terrorists killed were accounted for but more than half of the number were recovered. He did not say the exact number of recovered bodies.

At least 27 civilians and 71 government troops have died since the clashes erupted.

Troops and rescuers, meanwhile, yesterday retrieved 17 bodies believed to be of villagers killed by Muslim militants aligned with the IS group who seized parts of southern Marawi city last month.

Padilla said authorities will try to identify the bodies before they're added to the civilian death toll.

ML in Visayas?
President Rodrigo Duterte,

meanwhile, has warned of declaring martial law in the Visayas group of islands should the IS-inspired militants manage to escape Mindanao and begin to organize forces in the Visayas.

"Martial law may extend to Visayas if there is a spillover of violence from Mindanao," the Commander-in-Chief yesterday said in a speech at the Clark Air Base in Pampanga.

Mr. Duterte cited that Davao has become the "bedrock" of narco-politicians which, he said, have "partly funded" extremist terrorism.

He also defended his martial law declaration in Mindanao, saying if the remaining 30 days or less of his 60-day time period will not be enough to quell the Maute bandits in Marawi City, he will have to extend it.

He reiterated that he will only listen to top state security officials' recommendations regarding martial law.

"I declared martial law in Mindanao to save lives... but for as long as it is not safe, then martial law will continue to exist in Marawi," the President said.

"Marawi conflict will not end until the last Maute terrorist is taken out," he added.

More guns seized

Relatedly, joint police and military operatives yesterday served another search warrant against a residence owned by former Marawi City Mayor Fajad Salic in Magsaysay town, Misamis Oriental.

The search was conducted by the Magsaysay Municipal Police Station and 25th Infantry Battalion (IB) around 5:30 a.m. at Salic's house in Purok 3, Barangay Consuelo.

The operation resulted in the seizure of an MK2 fragmentation grenade, two rifle grenades, one 40-mm cartridge, 30 rounds of 5.56 mm ammunition, six pieces of non-electrical blasting caps, customized electric switch, a pilot valve attached to a jack connector, one nine-volt battery and two packs of undetermined gray powder.

The search was witnessed by Salic's caretaker Angelita Sulla and barangay officials.

Salic was arrested earlier by virtue of the arrest warrant issued by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana as a martial-law administrator in connection to the ongoing Marawi City siege.

DoJ to tap NCR fiscals for Maute trial

The Department of Justice (DoJ), meanwhile, will designate 30 Metro Manila-based prosecutors to undergo training for the possible continuous trial on rebellion cases filed against elements of the Maute terrorist group.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II yesterday said they are already choosing the prosecutors who will handle the criminal charges filed against members and

supporters of the terrorist group in connection with the Marawi terror siege.

"We are already choosing at least 30 prosecutors who will serve as members of the panel, for them to undergo training on the continuous trial in those rebellion cases," Aguirre said in a text message.

Under the continuous trial system, trial is conducted from Monday to Thursday and courts must call the cases, starting at 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and then at 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. This is designed to cut trial duration in criminal cases from the usual three to five years to just around three months.

Postponements of hearings are prohibited unless on exceptional grounds. Courts are directed to promulgate the decision not later than 90 days from the submission of the case for decision.

Earlier, the DoJ has already indicted several arrested members and supporters of Maute - including Cayamora Maute and Ominta Romato-Maute, alias Farhana, parents of the Maute brothers who led the group behind the attack in Marawi City last May 23.

Also charged with rebellion before the Cagayan de Oro RTC were former Marawi City Mayor Fajad Salic; Mohamad Maute, alias Abu Jadid, alleged bomb maker of Maute Group; and Faridah Pangompig Romato, Aljadid Pangompig Romato and Abdulrahman Dimakuta Sevad.

Rebellion is a non-bailable offense.

Over 300 individuals identified as members of the Maute group, the Abu Sayyaf group, and their sympathizers earlier ordered arrested by the government for the crime of rebellion.

Marawi rehab

Meanwhile, President Rodrigo Duterte's P30-billion additional offer to rebuild and rehabilitate Marawi City received a bipartisan support in the Senate.

Administration and opposition members of the upper chamber rallied behind the President's move even as there's no assurance on the fire fight between the government troops and the extremist Maute groups ending soon.

Minority Leader Franklin Drilon, in expressing support to the Chief Executive's desire to help Marawi recover from the tragic incident, said the government can use a portion of the P15.7 billion in national risk reduction and management fund to properly capacitate government relief and long-term rehabilitation efforts.

"However, in view of the considerable loss and damages brought about by the ongoing fight, we urge the President to exercise his power to realign funds in accordance with the recent Supreme Court decision on the use of savings," he said.

29 June 2017

The Manila Times

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'Abu Sayyaf chief not capable of new attack'

Abu Sayyaf chief of the Philippines...
The Abu Sayyaf leader was indicted in the United States for his alleged involvement in the kidnapping of three Americans in 2001. The US government has placed a \$5-million bounty on his head.

And showing that he has been in the...
The Abu Sayyaf leader was indicted in the United States for his alleged involvement in the kidnapping of three Americans in 2001. The US government has placed a \$5-million bounty on his head.

"That is when we were working and...
The Abu Sayyaf leader was indicted in the United States for his alleged involvement in the kidnapping of three Americans in 2001. The US government has placed a \$5-million bounty on his head.

"It is important that we be caught...
The Abu Sayyaf leader was indicted in the United States for his alleged involvement in the kidnapping of three Americans in 2001. The US government has placed a \$5-million bounty on his head.

'Abu Sayyaf chief not capable of new attack'

in the interest of our country (because) he's been wanted for a long time," he added.

The Abu Sayyaf leader was indicted in the United States for his alleged involvement in the kidnapping of three Americans in 2001. The US government has placed a \$5-million bounty on his head.

his alleged involvement in the kidnapping of three Americans in 2001. The US government has placed a \$5-million bounty on his head.

Hapilon was the target of government security forces in an entrapment launched on May 23, but the attempt to arrest him was foiled as they engaged in a firefight

with Islamist armed men...
Fighting among government troops and extremists in Marawi City forced President Rodrigo Duterte to declare martial rule in Mindanao.
CATHERINE S. VALENTE

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BusinessMirror

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Duterte reaffirms all-out support for troops

PRESIDENT Duterte on Wednesday led the 120th founding anniversary of the Presidential Security Group (PSG), reassuring the troops of his commitment to modernize the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

In his speech, Duterte vowed to provide soldiers with proper services through the modernization of their medical and defense equipment.

"I assure you of my loyalty to you and the best of the service that I can give you," he said before the officials and members of his security group. Prior to delivering his speech, Duterte led the groundbreaking ceremony for new PSG

Station Hospital Compound at the Malacañang Park.

He directed Health Secretary Paulyn Jean E. Rosell-Ubial, who accompanied him during the event, to fast track the construction of the hospital and other pending acquisition of medical equipment for the military.

He likewise promised the soldiers that they will get the needed equipment for their hospital, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), CT scan and hyperbaric or decompression chamber.

"I want it 60 days, *para'yung capital ninyo* by December. You will get all these equipment, *Isa!*" he said.

Also in his speech, the President reiterated his commitment to defend Filipinos against all forms of threat, be it drug menace or terrorism.

"My order is, 'If you destroy my country, I will destroy you. Be it drugs or terrorism,'" he said. Amid the ongoing conflict between government troops and Maute rebels in Marawi City, the Chief Executive expressed assurance that he would continue to fulfill his constitutional mandate of preserving the welfare of every Filipino.

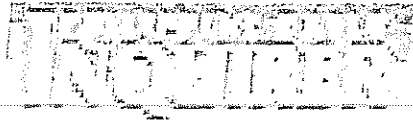
"On terrorism. Well, they are not members of the Geneva Convention. They are just plain bandits, gangsters, and what they really

want is just to kill. And if you want to destroy us, we will also destroy you," he said.

The President stood by his order for the military to keep conducting counterattacks against Maute militants, who continue to wreak havoc in the Marawi City.

He, meanwhile, took the opportunity to apologize for the atrocities in Marawi, saying that he has to declare martial law to quell terrorism in Mindanao. "Let's share your grief this afternoon. I'm very sorry that this had to happen. I do not like it, but I had to because that is my Constitutional duty. I would be violating the law if I allow this country to go to the dogs," he said. *PNA*

29 Jun 2017



Page AS

DONATIONS FOR MARAWI

BLACK UNDERWEAR FOR THE TROOPS

By Ador Vincent Mayol
@adorCDN

CEBU CITY—A Filipino-Chinese group on Wednesday donated at least 6,000 pieces of black underwear for soldiers fighting the Maute group in Marawi City.

Michael Que, chair of the SDS International Charities, turned over the items to Lt. Gen. Oscar Lactao, commander of the Armed Forces of the Philip-

pines' Central Command, at the Camp Lapu-Lapu in Cebu City.

"We want to support our troops in Marawi and to uplift their morale. We're happy and honored to be part of this program," said Que in a message he delivered during a simple turnover ceremony.

He did not say why the group chose underwear as its donation to the troops or why they were all black. They were all size medium and large. INQ

The number of civilians killed “may increase significantly once we are able to validate all this information,” Padilla told reporters in Malacañang, referring to video recovered.

The video showed a “significant number” of civilians, he said.

500 still trapped

“But again, we could not include many of this because we have not validated or authenticated many of this information yet. Until such time, we will remain with those numbers,” he said.

As of 6 p.m. on Tuesday, the record stood at 299 terrorists and 71 soldiers and police killed in the fighting.

Padilla said local officials estimated about 500 residents trapped in the conflict zone in Marawi.

He said the military was trying to rescue the trapped civilians and was not negotiating with the terrorists for the release of hostages.

The terrorists could kill the hostages whether there are talks

for their release or not, he added.

Padilla said the military was pressing the offensive, hoping the pressure would force the terrorists to release their captives.

Hostages rescued

In Marawi, Herrera said government troops had rescued nine hostages who had been held by the terrorists for 34 days.

He identified them as Ariel Anaw, Ronie Albacete, Lando Albacete, Dilbert Macatulag, Michael Ongos, Mario Mangubat, Jimboy Guinsayao, Bryan Calipay and Algin Generalao.

Herrera did not say when the nine men were rescued, but said they were given immediate medical attention.

The fighting entered its 36th day on Wednesday, with intense gunfights and bombing in the heart of the city and black-clad fighters seen from afar running between buildings as explosions thundered.

Marawi is the only city in the Christian-majority Philippines that the government has decreed to be “Islamic” because of

its large population of Muslims.

The terrorists’ hold on it, while incurring the full force of a military for years trained by its US counterpart, has much of Mindanao on edge, concerned that IS influence may run deeper than thought.

Cross-border network

Those fears are being felt also in Malaysia and Indonesia, whose nationals are among the Maute terrorists fighting in Marawi, suggesting the group may have built a cross-border network that has gone largely undetected.

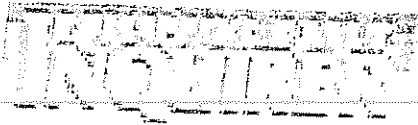
President Duterte on Tuesday said that from the outset, he was prepared for a long fight with a well-armed Maute motivated only by murder and destruction.

“It seems to be limitless supply. They were able to stockpile their arms,” he said.

“Some of those who traveled to the Middle East got contaminated, brought the ideology back home and promised to declare war against humanity,” he said. —WITH REPORTS FROM LEILA B.

SALAVERRIA AND REUTERS INQ

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CONFLICT ZONE

DU30 PLANS MARAWI VISIT

By **Leila B. Salaverria**
@LeilasINQ

President Duterte on Wednesday expressed a desire to go to Marawi, saying he could not sit in his office while people were dying in the city occupied by terrorists.

"I want to go to Marawi. I think I'll go there on Friday. It's about too late in the day to be hesitating to go there," he said in a speech at the 120th founding anniversary of the Presidential Security Group.

Friday is June 30, the first anniversary of Mr. Duterte's presidency.

He appeared to shrug off concerns about the danger of going to a battlezone.

"I will go there and if unlucky, I will return as cargo as well, in a C-130. Anyway, there is a Vice President, so what's our problem?" he said. "You know, I cannot just sit on my ass in my office while the people suffered there."

Mr. Duterte said he had been revisiting military camps in recent weeks to make sure that the morale of government troops was high.

He was supposed to visit Marawi earlier this month, but the trip was canceled.

The official reason given for the cancellation was bad weather.

'Moral burden'

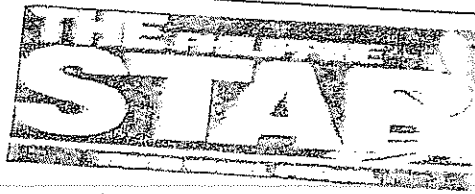
In his speech, Mr. Duterte also spoke about the "moral burden" he carried because of the conflict in Marawi, where many government troops had been killed.

He spoke about the thinning hair in the back of his head due to his constant head-scratching.

"At night, I grapple, especially when I read the briefers and how many soldiers I have lost for the day," he said.

"More than anybody else, I am the one hurting. I really wallow in sorrow because I gave the order to go there and fight. That is the moral burden that I carry all day and all night, to tell you the truth," he added. INQ

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China pushes joint training, intel gathering with Phl

BY CHRISTINA MENDEZ

China yesterday pushed for joint military training and intelligence-gathering exercises with the Philippines in the fight against terrorism.

Chinese Ambassador Zhao Hanhua stressed this last night during the turnover of donation of military assistance from the Chinese government of C-130 Field in Mabalacat Pampanga.

"The Chinese side also wants to explore the possibility of joint training, intelligence and joint exercises in the fighting in the area of terrorism," he said.

Zhao also announced China is giving an additional P5 million for the families of soldiers killed and wounded in the hands of Marawi City on top of the P17 million earlier provided for rehabilitation of the war-torn city.

President Duterte received the military assistance from China's Minister of National Defense, which included sets of three different models of FN-85 7.62mm sniper rifle, CS-Like A type precision rifle and a C-130E transport plane and ammunition.

Before the turnover, Duterte and President Duterte had a short meeting about the programs.

Accompanied by Defense Secretary Ermita, Lorenzana and top military officials, Duterte thanked Beijing for its help in the country's efforts to fight terrorism.

During the renewed visit in Philippines-China relations, Duterte stressed the importance of the bilateral assistance to the country to also build peace and stability.

lands of infrastructure.

As a result, the government entered into two agreements to turn over P510 million worth of military equipment in the campaign against Islamic militants holding out in Marawi City.

Duterte who has extended the hand of friendship to China, then extended the Philippines gratitude a Beijing through Zhao for the military aid package.

Duterte's independent foreign policy has distanced the country from its long-time defense ally, the United States.

Duterte said the assistance will strengthen commitment to support each other during times of need but also highlights the dawn of the new era between Philippine and Chinese relations.

Duterte said he saw China's offer as a sign of goodwill with the Philippines.

In the same speech, the President also opened the door for assistance from other nations, a bid to get more help for the rebuilding of Marawi overrun by self-styled local terrorists.

"As it goes with our relations to Marawi, I also welcome other nations and partners looking forward to rebuilding this city. The invitation extends to our allies who share with us the principles of goodwill and non-interference in our domestic affairs," he said.

New era of friendship

In his speech, Zhao underscored the importance of the handover of equipment from Beijing and its significance in the improvement of the country's infrastructure.

armed forces.

"It is a demonstration of our growing bilateral relationship. It is also a demonstration of a new era of friendly and cooperative relationship between our two militaries," Zhao said.

"The fact that President Duterte is present at this handover ceremony highlights the great importance of the bilateral relations between the two countries," he added.

Zhao also lauded Duterte for his "friendly policies" towards China.

"The donation is not big but it's big in a sense that it marks a new era between our two militaries. And it has come at a right time," he said.

"At this challenging and crucial juncture, the donations of arms to the Armed Forces will contribute to the success of your battle against the ISIS-related terrorism," Zhao said.

He also announced the Chinese government and its military forces will continue to firmly support the Duterte administration's fight against terrorism.

He added that fighting terrorism is very important, citing the need to address the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty.

"China is ready to implement the important consensus reached by President Duterte and President Xi Jinping to give a helping hand to overall development of the Philippines," he added.

Zhao also vowed the cooperation will cover development in Mindanao, aimed at helping the comprehensive settlement of the issue of terrorism.

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INQUIRER

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CHINA GUNS President Duterte inspects a Chinese-made sniperrifle, which is part of the military hardware donated by China to the Philippines. The arms were turned over in a hangar at Clark Air Base in Pampanga in rites attended by Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua. —JOAN BONDOC

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29 June 2017

RESTRICTED

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Headless bodies of 5 civilians found

By Jeffrey Maitem
and Julie S. Alipala
@inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—The decapitated bodies of five civilians had been found in Marawi, the military said on Wednesday, warning the number of residents killed in “atrocities” by terrorists holed up in the city could rise sharply as government troops retake more ground.

The discovery of the five victims among 17 bodies retrieved would be the first evidence that civilians trapped in besieged Marawi have been decapitated during the five-week stand by Maute group and Abu Sayyaf terrorists who have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in Iraq and Syria, as some who have escaped the city have previously reported.

Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, spokesperson of the Army's 1st Infantry Division and the Joint Task Force Lanao, told reporters the bodies were found on Wednesday morning by police, soldiers and civilian volunteers in Gadungan village, which had been cleared of terrorists.

‘Killed in cold blood’

Herrera said the bodies were found in two different locations in the village.

“The recovered [bodies] are believed to be those of civilians who were helplessly murdered by the Maute-Abu Sayyaf terrorists,” he said.

“This is a manifestation of the Maute’s brutality. [They] killed these innocent civilians in cold blood,” he added.

Reuters reported that Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia, commander of the 4th Civil Relations Group of the military’s Western Mindanao Command, gave the information about the decapitated bodies in a text message to reporters.

‘Uncertain’

He did not respond immediately to requests for more details.

A civilian rescue worker, Abdul Azis Lomondot, told Reuters earlier that body parts were found on Wednesday, but there was “no proof of beheading.”

Herrera was uncertain about the beheadings.

“We are not sure if they were beheaded because the bodies

were in an advanced state of decomposition,” he said.

“The retrieval operations are concentrated in some areas previously held by the Maute,” he added.

Reuters reported that videos have appeared this month on the website of the IS group’s Amaq news agency and its social media channels of hostages in Marawi pleading for their lives, saying they would be beheaded if airstrikes were not stopped.

Clips have also appeared of people on their knees, shot in the head from behind.

Reuters said it was unable to confirm the authenticity of the reports.

More civilians killed likely

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said it was likely that many civilians had been killed and the death toll—already at 27 before the latest 17 were announced—was only what the authorities could confirm independently.

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THE ARMY STAFF

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Army troopers heading to the frontline look on as their fellow soldiers drive past them in the outskirts of Marawi City yesterday.

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INQUIRY

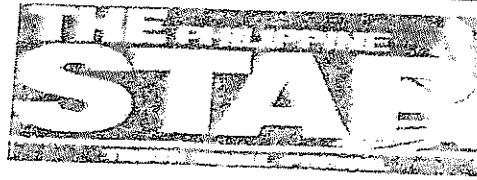
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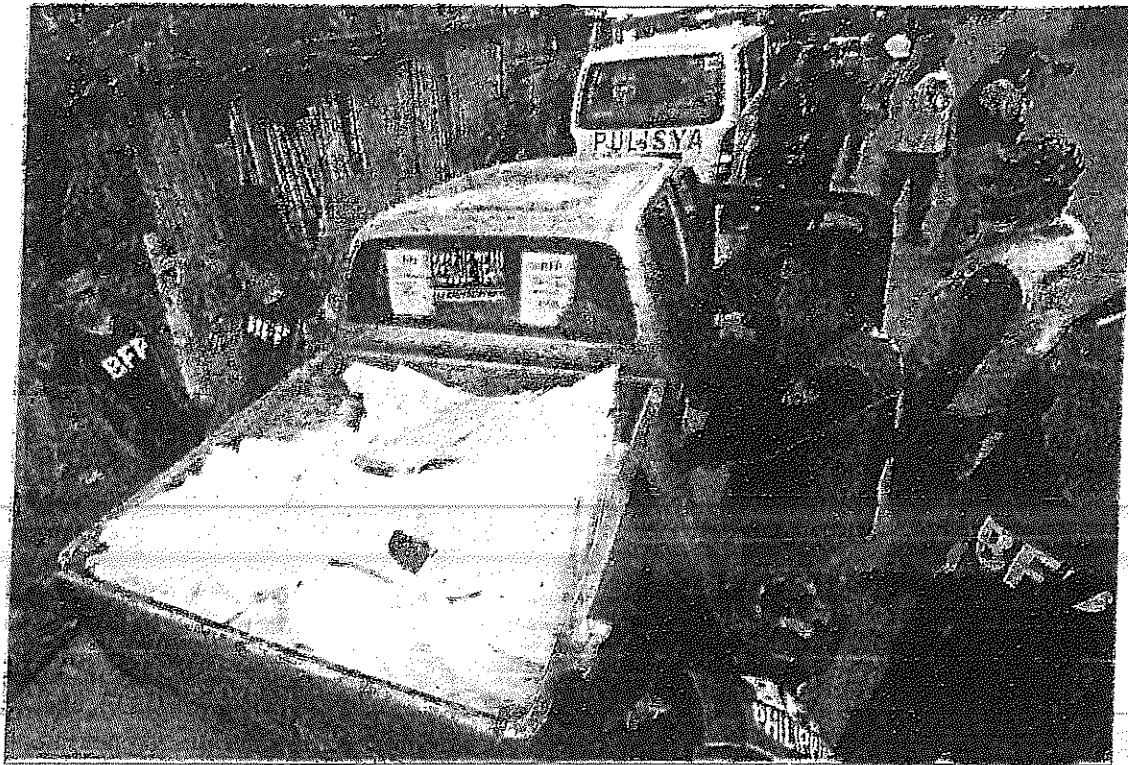
ATTLE-READY Army soldiers on trucks enter the battle zone in the heart of Marawi City as the military presses its assault on terrorist positions. —REUTERS

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Rescue teams and soldiers guard a truck carrying bodies of casualties retrieved from the fighting zone in Marawi City yesterday.

REUTERS

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MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING METROPOLITAN

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MNLF forms anti-kidnap and anti-terror task force

By NINOYE E. LACSON

ZAMBOANGA CITY - The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has created an Anti-Kidnapping and Anti-Terrorism Task Force composed of well-trained combatants who will help the government go after kidnapers and terrorists operating in Sulu province.

About 1,500 members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) from all over Mindanao are expected to converge on Saturday, July 1, at the main headquarters of the MNLF in Indanan, Sulu for the formal launching of the task force.

MNLF Central Committee deputy secretary general for military affairs Abuamri Taddik said the front has initially readied one battalion of

MNLF forms anti-kidnap... ◀1

MNLF combatants for the task force in Sulu but later grew this to four companies of MNLF combatants.

A company of MNLF is composed of about 130 combatants, and a battalion is composed of about 700 MNLF combatants and officers, Taddik explained.

"Initially, we will create four companies of MNLF for the task force and they will be deployed in the troubled towns of Talipao, Parang, Indanan and Patikul in Sulu," he said.

He said these are the four towns in Sulu known which are known as havens for kidnapers and terrorists, most of them members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) with links to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

He further said the creation of the task force in Sulu is aimed at making Sulu province peaceful and not a dumping ground for kidnapped victims.

Abdul Sahrin, MNLF central committee secretary general said the MNLF decided to form the task force

to help the government in its peace building efforts.

"We want to use this battalion of MNLF combatants to help the government neutralize kidnapers and terrorists in Sulu province. Dahil ito ang malaking problema sa komunidad (This is the biggest problem facing our community)," Sahrin said.

"We want to help the Duterte government in its peace effort as we also want to bring back the peace and tranquility of Sulu as experienced by the people in the '60s," Sahrin added.

Sahrin also explained that before the MNLF combatants engage the terrorists, they will first talk to them and to their relatives about their activities and will ask them to stop or face the consequences.

"We will exhaust every effort by means of advising them, and if they will insist (on doing) what we do not like them to do, we are going to use our force," Sahrin said.

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page 1

Grenades, IED parts seized from ex-Marawi mayor's house

By AARON RECQUENCO

Joint police and military operatives raided Wednesday morning another house of former Marawi City mayor Fajad Salic in Misamis Oriental and seized grenades and items used in the manufacture of improvised explosive devices (IED).

Supt. Lemuel Gonda, spokesperson

of the Northern Mindanao regional police, said the raid was conducted by the Martial Law Special Action Group at around 5:30 a.m. at the house of Salic in Purok 3, Barangay Consuelo in Mag-saysay town.

Seized during the operation were a hand grenade, two rifle grenades, a 40mm cartridge, 30 rounds of bullets for M16 rifle, six pieces non-electrical

Grenades, IED parts...

◀1

blasting caps, a customized electric switch, a pilot valve attached to a jack connector, a battery and two packs of undetermined gray powder.

Gonda said the raid came after authorities secured a search warrant for possible violation of the law on illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

Salic, the former husband of actress Alma Moreno was arrested June 7 in Villanueva town, Misamis Oriental for rebellion.

Salic is being linked to the Marawi City attack and one of those ordered

arrested by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, the martial law administrator.

Police and military officials earlier claimed some politicians were supporting the Maute Group prior to the Marawi City attack on May 23.

During a raid in Salic's house in Cagayan de Oro City, police seized a high-powered firearm, bullets and at least 10 kilos of shabu.

The raid lasted for 30 minutes and was witnessed by barangay officials, according to Gonda.

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The Manila Times

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To defeat IS, Mindanao Muslims must reject it

BY RICARDO SALUDO
Columnist

As the Armed Forces clear Marawi of remaining terrorists, and government agencies, private firms, and foreign aid groups help 200,000 displaced residents

► Saludo A5

The battle is just about over. The war is just beginning.



REPUBLIC SERVICE

RICARDO SALUDO

to build and recover, the anti-terror war shifts to the vastness of Mindanao. Having shown that Islamic State-given guerrillas can take and hold able city districts against a full-scale military assault, IS and its cohorts will use the Marawi conflict to raise funds and recruit fighters.

Funds will come mainly from abroad, with IS and its backers keen to show the flag and flex their might outside the Iraqi and Syrian redoubts where the terrorist group is losing ground to armies of two regimes, backed by Western and Russian air power.

Warm bodies too are flocking to Mindanao: the Southeast Asian extremists who joined IS in the Middle East and are coming back to the region. So warned experts at a major international security conference in Singapore in April.

IS targeted Mindanao

The Marawi conflict shows that Mindanao offers a prime area for IS expansion. The region has millions of impoverished, poorly educated Muslim youth, who can be lured by IS cash and propaganda. Plus: ignorant parents willing to let jihadists

take boys supposedly for madrasah instruction, plus board and lodging.

IS-driven groups, which include Abu Sayyaf, Maute, and Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, have carved out secure enclaves beyond military or police control. They can also find shelter in rebel-held areas of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which has extremist elements in its fold.

Not to mention the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), despite its 1996 peace accord with the government, and the communist New People's Army (NPA), which continues to attack security forces and business establishments despite on-and-off peace talks.

Also helping fuel extremism in Mindanao are centuries-old grievances of the Muslim minority, who feel robbed of their freedoms and ancestral lands by the Spanish and

American colonial regimes in centuries past, and by the Christian-dominated Philippine government and rich, powerful and well-connected Christian settlers and big businesses, including multinationals Dole and Del Monte, taking over vast lands.

Peace negotiations are supposed to blunt jihadist appeal, but the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, born of the MNLF pact, remains the most impoverished region in the country, where kidnappings, killings, and bombings are still facts of death.

Besides Mindanao's rich recruiting grounds with guerrilla-held areas, there are the interminable and largely unsecured coastline, among the world's longest, and corrupt or lax border controls with hardly any maritime patrols to watch for IS infiltrators on boats.

As if all that weren't enough to get IS cells mushrooming in Mindanao, drug lords are joining forces and wallets with jihadists, as President Rodrigo Duterte tells it.

And local politicians, too, like those whose signatures appear on checks found in a terrorist lair in Marawi, part of the P79 million in plastic-wrapped wads of cash and bank checks cap-

tured by Marines.

Can the jihadists be stopped?

With all that going for the terrorists, can they be stopped?

It's a terrible thought, but given what terrorists and rebels have done for decades, and the IS support local extremists now get, jihadists will unfortunately still wage violence and build forces, at least in the immediate future.

Think about it: After many months of sustained military offensives, the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups were still able to build forces, plan, coordinate and mount the Marawi attack, taking over much of the city, and holding out for more than a month.

And don't for a moment think that jihadists and the young, impressionable minds they sway would see Marawi as anything but a great triumph stalemating a vastly superior enemy, helped by Western military advisers and surveillance aircraft.

Nor are they scared of the joint air and sea patrols mounted by Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. The waters and beaches of Mindanao

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are just so vast, and the modes of concealed transport so difficult to interdict, that many extremists and weaponry can get through.

Islam can stop Islamic State

This is not to say that security initiatives can do nothing against IS-driven groups in Mindanao. Indeed, under martial law, key Maute family members, including the matriarch thought to handle finances, have been arrested. Ditto other operatives like the man who allegedly smuggled arms and ammunition into Marawi, and spirited out wounded fighters via Lake Lanao.

The fighting men and the weaponry, material and money expended by the terrorists are gone, and building up forces of the same size and power is probably no longer possible, at least for some years.

But zeroing IS recruits, funding, and arms is highly unlikely, too, just as the AFP could never wipe out the MNLF, MILF, NPA, or even the 400-strong Abu Sayyaf. IS is here to stay, at least for some years, and its cohorts will mount more attacks, though probably

not another Marawi.

But for all their potency, it is not security counter-measures that will decide how far jihadists go along their bloodstained roadmap of terrorism and caliphate ambition. As we are seeing in the Middle East, what will decide how far and wide IS and other extremists reach is Islam itself.

On the sands of Arabia and now in the fields and streets of Southeast Asia, Muslims high and low are having to choose between the tenets of peace and spirituality which true Islam has espoused for centuries, and the brutal, insane perversion of Mohammed's teachings which IS foists.

In Mindanao, Muslims are being lured by a foreign ideology that beheads innocents, trains lads to shoot and bomb, uses hostages as human shields and conscripted fighters, and forces women into sex slavery, as recounted by rescued Marawi residents.

Our Muslim compatriots must decide if that is really what Islam is. If IS ideology wins, Mindanao could descend into civil war, as President Duterte warned. If Muslim Filipinos reject it, both their religion and our republic triumph. *In sha Allah*. So help us God.

29 June 2017

The Manila Times

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Marawi fog of war: Govt is winning, but thorny questions await

BY YEN MAKABENTA
Columnist

political leaders are contradicting each other and confusing the situation with their statements.

First, I was transfixed by a statement attributed to AFP officials and released on June 27 that said time is running out for the remaining Islamic State (IS)-inspired

terrorists holding out in Marawi and that victory for the government forces is now irreversible. The military is now making a final push against the terrorists' remaining pockets of resistance.

Then I was discombobulated by a state-

► **MakabentaA4**

First word

IN the fog of war in Marawi, I thought it prudent to hold back on any conclusions while our military commanders and

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5 MARAWATI (1)

Marawi fog of war: Govt is winning, but thorny questions await

Then I was discombobulated by statement from Malacañang and Amp Aguinaldo that said the war would go on up to the delivery of the president's second state of the nation address (SONA) on July 24.

Situation desperate for Maute

Western Mindanao Command chief, Gen. Carlito Galvez, Jr., provided the most arresting description of the situation of the Maute rebels. He said: "Some of the terrorists do not want to fight any more, as is made apparent by a leadership vacuum and the use of human shields. The situation has become so desperate for the IS sympathizers that those who quit the fight are being executed by hardcore terrorists, according to reports reaching the military." AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgar Galic joined him with a statement saying: "With the focusing of the military's combat power, more and more defense positions of the Islamist group are being neutralized as fighting in Marawi City reaches its sixth week." "From this, I said to myself, we are witnessing now the endgame of the Battle of Marawi. I got so carried away by the allusion to chess, I started thinking of writing a column titled, "Maute checkmate" (the rhyme between the two words is guilting), but then what followed discombobulated me.

Maute still strong

Conference in Malacañang on June 27 attended by top



OBSERVER

YEN
MAKABENTA

government leaders and military officials, President Duterte issued an open-ended assessment of the battle in Marawi.

He said he knew that the government was in for a long fight when he declared martial law in Mindanao. "I knew how long it would take for us. I knew their deployment of snipers and where they had hidden their firearms. I already had a complete picture and I knew it would be a long fight."

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana chimed in with an even more elastic assessment of the situation by expressing the hope that the fighting in Marawi will end before the President delivers his second SONA on July 24.

Said he: "There is somehow pressure, because if [the conflict in Marawi is still ongoing and everyone is killing each other, it will not be good for the President's SONA."

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Jr. said the war could last longer while other officials said it was nearing its end.

"These Maute members, as we observed them, they are willing to fight to the death but we always tell them since we have a bullhorn there, to go down and surrender, you cannot win, but they still continue to fight," Padilla said.

Lorenzana punctuated the flood of words with a statement saying that the

Maute group remains strong despite more than a month of fierce fighting.

I thought at first that this was a case of civilian leaders being confused about conditions on the ground and the balance of forces. But the most confusing words were emanating from men in uniform and the defense secretary himself.

There is no difference in perspective. There is unanimity in the confusion.

Government forces are winning

That said, I will venture to write here that we are now witnessing the endgame in the battle of Marawi. And I will go farther to assert that government forces are winning the war.

In the game of chess, the endgame is the closing stage of a game, in which only a few pieces are left on the board.

The contest can still go on fiercely at this stage. But normally, this is the point where the winner and the loser go their separate ways. This comes when the position becomes untenable for one player, and the forces of the other have become so overwhelming that further resistance is futile. The losing player's king is under direct attack from which it cannot escape.

In formal chess, most players resign an inevitably lost game before being checkmated. It is usually considered bad etiquette to continue playing a completely hopeless position.

The situation of the Maute Group in Marawi is analogous to a losing player's position in chess. It has lost 300 of its fighters in battle, many of

them foreign fighters. Defeat is now inevitable. Some can hide in the ground like Saddam Hussein did. The question is, will Maute for the sake of etiquette surrender?

This I strongly doubt. For this is the point where the ultimacy of faith and ideology comes in. The serious radical Islamist will not hesitate a moment in giving up his life to meet his Maker. Etiquette be damned.

Thorny questions await

There are many questions that government policymakers and military strategists must face in the resolution of the crisis in Marawi.

Government officials have tried to finesse the thorny questions by turning the discussion quickly to the rehabilitation of Marawi. They have talked about the possible establishment of a rehabilitation commission to handle the task.

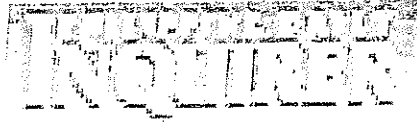
They cannot get off that easy. There are serious questions to address and answer, among which are the extent of foreign involvement in the war, the stake of the world in the outcome, and the war's impact on the peace process in Mindanao and the proposed Bangsamoro autonomous government.

There is a saying that wars are always clarifying. Government no less than the citizenry must set about now to understand what this costly Maute rebellion has clarified for the Filipino nation.

I shall discuss these questions and issues in my next column.

yenmakabenta@yahoo.com

29 JUN 2017



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Michael, a victim in Marawi

COMMENTARY

MACABANGKIT B. LANTO

Michael Molina was the caretaker of our house in Marawi City, but he was more a member of our family. He was diligent and dedicated to the work assigned to him. He was recruited by the missus in a nearby Christian town, and he came with his wife Robella and their two-year-old daughter Russel, who easily became the playmate of my grandson, Abdul Jalil.

Michael had a simple dream: to own a motorcycle just like Boloy, our neighbor's helper, so that he could take his family on a leisure trip to nearby Iligan City on Sundays.

Our house is far from palatial. But its wide living room showed off a collection of rare decorative artworks and priceless antiques painstakingly collected by the missus through the years of our foreign travels. Each ornament represented its country of origin, but mostly they were from Egypt here I once served as our country's envoy.

When Marawi was attacked on May 23, Michael volunteered to stay and guard the house. I told him not to worry because I know some of the Maute leaders who were brilliant or scholars at Cairo Al Azhar University when, as ambassador, I played surrogate father to them. And because our house fronts a big mosque, it will not be violated by soldiers, I told him. Alas, it was not to be. Now an overpowering guilt haunts me.

On the seventh day of the extremists' attack, Michael called the missus by mobile phone, telling her that our house was swarm-

ing with fully armed, black-clad rebels. He then bid farewell to her, saying he would go with Boloy and a Muslim named Alim to escape to Iligan. That was the last we heard from them. Friends told us Michael, Boloy and their families had been hit by bombs and air strikes: others said they had been summarily executed by the rebels for being Christians.

How they died is not important to us now. We are not even sure if Michael's name is listed among the victims because his body and those of the others have yet to be recovered. He will just be a statistic.

But Michael represents everything that is bad and wrong about the Islamic militants' war. He was the ugly face of the Marawi crisis—i.e., the slaughter of innocent civilians who neither had anything to do with nor could care less about whatever is the cause of the rebellion. He is the symbol of how bestiality has reached its peak in the struggle for religious dominance.

The jihadists claim they are fighting to bring back pure Islam which has been corrupted. Granting that it is true, why vent their anger on the people of Marawi? They are barking up the wrong tree. The real culprit is the creeping debased Western culture and moder-

nity. The other religions are not to be blamed because they are victims, too.

How did the people of Marawi wrong the Mautes that the latter would inflict upon them this devastation that has flattened their city? Were the Mautes motivated by vengeance against the people of Marawi for voting down their relatives in the last election? How many Michaels have been sacrificed on the altar of pseudo jihad?

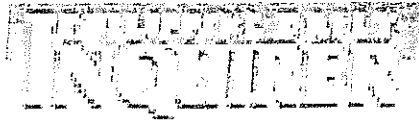
Many nameless people are still buried in the rubble and ruins in Marawi. What kind of God is He who orders or condones the slaughter of innocent human beings? I don't know about the jihadists, but I worship a God described by the Holy Koran as forgiving, "most merciful and most beneficent." My Allah is not an angry and vengeful deity. Do jihadists worship the same Allah? Am I being naive?

We haven't heard any report about our house, but we have conditioned our minds for the worst. Yet it is too cheap a price to pay compared to the life of Michael or that of the gallant soldier who died defending Marawi. For Michael and those martyred soldiers, we shed copious tears. As for the charlatan mujahideen, your death doesn't deserve a single tear from us.

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

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June 2017



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EDITORIAL

War and rape

There's something unsettling about the campaign to collect lipsticks and other personal stuff for the women evacuees of Marawi.

One can understand how the collection of scarves and head coverings (hijabs) would help Muslim women in terms of providing privacy and protection, enhancing modesty, and complying with a religious imperative. But lipstick? To be sure, looking good can make people feel better, but in the midst of war—when survival is of the utmost concern—painted lips are not exactly foremost on women's minds. And while it wouldn't hurt for women to look good, it's quite clear that efforts and resources should go to more urgent needs—food, hygiene kits, mats and blankets, more tents for greater privacy, sanitary toilet facilities, ample water supply.

Much more unsettling is the subtext underlying the idea that women are expected to look good even under the most trying circumstances, as though their worth rests solely on their appearance. This undue focus on women's looks and desirability ultimately bolsters the idea of women as objects, or, in Marawi's grim setting, as spoils of war.

A member of a National Interfaith Humanitarian Mission who visited Iligan City last June 15 recalled talking to a 22-year-old woman who fled Marawi even when fighting had yet to start in her village because a soldier supposedly told her to behave or he would rape her. Gabriela Rep. Arlene Brosas has expressed alarm over stories that she said she had heard from women evacuees from Marawi. She said policemen in the city had threatened to rape women in evacuation centers, an aggressive stance she attributed to President Duterte's public remarks on rape. (In a speech before military men when fighting broke out in Marawi last month, the President expressed full support for government forces and joked that they could even rape up to three women and he'd take responsibility for them.)

The Philippine National Police on Monday challenged Brosas' claim, and said Gabriela must show proof, or it could file a complaint, present evidence and prove its allegation. The police force does not tolerate such abuses, said Chief Supt. Dionardo Carlos, spokesperson for the PNP.

True or not, such stories illustrate the particular perils afflicting women during wartime. With fathers, husbands, brothers and sons forced to fight in wars, women are often left to fend for themselves and their children, and become vulnerable prey. As a tactic of war, rape is meant "to humiliate, dominate, instill fear in, disperse and/or forcibly relocate civilian members of a community or an ethnic group."

Rape also brings with it its own brand of shame, a potent means of emasculation as it renders the men of the vanquished group helpless and unable to protect their women. At the same time, rape dilutes and taints the purity of one's race, as raped and impregnated women are often forced to bear the enemy's offspring in the absence of other options.

In societies where chastity is seen as a premium, raped women are ostracized by families and communities and often subjected to domestic violence by husbands who believe this is the only way they can reassert control over their household. The strong communal reaction to the violation of rape thus leaves its stamp on entire families and communities. With women seen as the repository of cultural and spiritual values, rape becomes an attack that tears at the very fabric of society.

In recent times, rape has also become a painful route of transmitting disease, with very young girls targeted in the twisted belief that sex with virgins could cure HIV-AIDS.

But rape in evacuation centers also becomes a very real threat, there being little or no privacy in this communal space, and very sparse resources, forcing women to wander far to explore other means to feed their children. The breakdown in law and order thus exposes women to malcontents in remote areas.

With such a ripe prospect in the face of the continued fighting in Marawi, it would do well for all parties—government agencies, officials, military forces, and private individuals to weigh their words and check their actions, lest these result in unintended consequences in the battlefield where hardy any rules apply.

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24 June 2017



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Firing Line

Robert B. Roque, Jr.

Reinforce our troops

THERE is an apparent need to reinforce our troops battling the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)-inspired Maute group in Marawi and other security threats in other parts of the country.

Hence, Senator Antonio Trillanes IV filed a bill providing for an increase in the standing force of the the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) through the recruitment and special enlistment of what he calls provisional enlisted personnel (PEP).

Trillanes pointed out that at this time, a larger force from the military is needed to better handle the Mindanao crisis, among other security issues.

Under his proposed Senate Bill No. 1473, a new system for the recruitment of enlisted personnel called PEP would be established.

The senator who was once a soldier himself explained that an additional 20,000 PEP would be recruited and would only serve a tour of duty of five years. They would go through the same training and receive the same salary like the regular enlisted personnel (REP).

But after their tour of duty, those who would not be reenlisted as regulars would be allowed to undergo training and educational benefits. Apart from this, they would also be given hiring priority in the civil service especially in law enforcement or other related agencies.

The budgetary concerns that would support the current pension and retirement benefits of the military retirees, however, would

remain a challenge.

To settle this, the senator proposed that membership in the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) would be mandatory for the PEP along with those who would be absorbed in the regular force. They would then fall under a new and separate pension system that would be managed by the GSIS.

The current retirees and active personnel of the military would still hold on to the old pension system and nothing would change.

Simply put, Trillanes said he wants the military to increase and strengthen its standing force while providing a long-term solution to the pension issue of the armed forces. But the bill's main focus remains in how to cope with our country's current security needs.

Since his former days with the AFP, Trillanes has always shown concern for our soldiers and the problems they encounter whether in the battlefield or in the barracks.

If his bill is meant for the betterment of the military and offers a solution to the current pension challenge, he can count on Firing Line and all its support.

Go for it!

* * *

SHORT BURSTS. For comments or reactions, email firingline@ymail.com or tweet @Side_View. Read current and past issues of this column at Tempo – The Nation's Fastest Growing Newspaper

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AP. NANGUNIHAN, PANGUNAHAN, TUKANG SA BAYAN P1.00



Wasak ang Marawi City

TULAD ng dalawang siyudad sa Syria – ang Mosul at Aleppo – ang Marawi City sa Mindanao ay wasak a wasak bunsod ng halos walang uklat na pambobomba ng militar na layuning mapalaya ang iungso sa mga demonyong terorista ng Maute Group (MG) na bigyang umatake sa Marawi City. Ang Marawi City ay 90 porsiyentong Muslim, isang pakaganda at maunlad na siyudad sa Mindanao.

Tahimik ang mga residente sa Marawi City, masisipag at gatrabaho. Sila ay sumusunod sa aral at katuruan ng Koran, gumamahal sa kapwa tao, nagalang ang kababaihan, at ibigyang proteksiyon ang mga taong may karamdaman at mga bata. Gayunman, sila ay impluwensiyang IS (Islamic State) na nais magtatag ng Caliphate sa buong mundo, maging ang Maute Group ay naging marahas na rin sa apog mag-aral sa Middle East, kung sa Jordan at Egypt. Sana

ay matapos na ang giyera sa Marawi City, muling malabangon ang siyudad at makapanuhay ang mga mamamayan na ang gabay ay ang mabubuting aral at turo ng Koran.

Nais ba ninyong panatalihing malusog ang utak kahit matanda na? Batay sa report ng National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, malaki ang naitatulong ng exercise at tamang diet para manatiling malusog ang utak sa panahon ng katandaan. Amnang ang siyensa at medisina na walang "proven ways" upang mapigilan ang paghina ng utak o isip (dementia).

Batay sa bagong report, sinasabing ang exercise pagkontrol sa blood pressure at iba pang uri ng pagsasanay sa utak, ay maaaring makatulong sa patuloy na paglusog ng utak. Hiniling ng National Institute on Aging sa National Academies na pag-aralan, kung makatutulong ang sumusunod:

1. Makontrol ang high blood pressure, lalo na sa middle age. Kailangan ng mga taong may altapresyon ang gamutan upang mapigil ang pagkakasakit sa puso at stroke (sa

utak); 2. Paglalaroon ng pinaigting na physical activity. Gaya ng payo sa high blood pressure, kung ano ang makabubuti sa puso ay mabubuting sa utak; 3. Ang cognitive training at specific techniques na ang layuning ay mapalakas ang pangangatwiran, paglutas sa problema, memorya at bilis ng mental processing. Aba, tama pala ang ginagawa ko at ng aking ex-OF na araw-araw ay naglalakad at nag-exercise.

Binaiwala lang ni "Weder-Weder President" Joseph Estrada ang mga report na kumakalat sa social media (Socmed) na may plano ang IS-inspired Maute terrorist group na magsagawa ng pambobomba sa Quiapo at iba pang parte ng Maynila. Nanawagan siya sa publiko na huwag magkalat ng di beripikadong impormasyon na nababasa sa Internet. "Walang dapat ikabahala tungkol dito. Malayong mangyari ang ganitong banta," pahayag ni Weder-Weder lang, este Pangulong Erap.

Si President Rodrigo Roa Duterte ay may dugong Maranaw. Madalas niyang sabihin sa publiko na ang

kanyang lola ay isang Maranaw. Humingi siya ng paumanhin sa mga Marawi City dahil sa kalapastanganan ng Maute Group na nagbunga ng pagkamatay ng marami, pagkakasugat ng iba pa, paglawasak ng napakagandang siyudad. Sa okasyon ng Eid'ul Fitr ng mga Muslim noong Hunyo 25, humikayat niya ang mamamayan na iton ang isip at lakas sa pagpapalaganap ng kapayapaan at kapatiran sa buong bansa.

Nakapagtataka nga lamang kung bakit ang tulad ng mga demonyong MG ay nakasasambit pa ng Allahu Akbar (Dakila ang Diyos) subalit karahasan at lagim naman ang idirudulot sa kapwa tao. Nakasisira sila sa pangalan at dangal ng mabubuting Muslim. Naniniwala si Mindanao Development Authority Chairman Datu Abul Khayr Alonto na "blasphemous" at hindi karapat-dapat na tawagin o ituring na Muslim ang mga kasapi ng MG na sumalakay sa Marawi City sapagkat labag sa banal na Koran ang mga pagpatay at kalapastanganan na kanilang ginawa.

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TRAYON

Pahina. 5



Puro masamang balita

PINUPUGUTAN na raw ang mga Kristiyanong sibilyan ng mga teroristang Maute. Ito ang mga pahayag ng mga nakatakas na mula sa labanan. Sinabi ko na hindi pa malaman ang lawak ng kalupitan na maaaring ginawa na ng mga terorista sa mga sibilyan. Ngayon, may report ang AFP na ilang babae ang ginagawang "sex slaves". Inuutusan din daw ang mga bihag na pasukin ang mga tahanan at maghanap ng armas, bala, aishas at pera. Ang iba pinipiliit na lumaban na rin sa panig nila. Maaaring hindi pa ito ang huling masamang balita na aabot sa atin habang nagaganap pa ang labanan.

Nahuli na ng mga sundalo ang lalaking nagdadala ng bala sa Maute at nagdadala ng mga nasugatan nilang kasamahan. Dito na rin daw nakatakas ang ilan mula sa labanan. Sa lawa raw nagdadaan ang lalaki. Dahil nadiskubre na ang dinadaan, binabantayan na nang husto ang lawa para hindi mapakinabangan ng Maute. Hindi ba nadiskubre ng mga tumutulong na Amerikano sa pagkalap ng impormasyon ang paggamit ng lawa bilang ruta ng bala at mga nasugatan?

Ayon sa isang analitiko, mahalaga na madurog ang Maute sa Marawi, dahil mukhang dito magtataguyod ang ISIS ng kampo para sa timog-silangang Asya. Ipinakita ng Maute at mga manlalaban na sumali sa kanila na kaya nilang harapin ang AFP sa labanan, kahit mas malakas ang puwersa ng gobyerno. Limang linggo na ang labanan sa Marawi at wala pang malinaw na kata-pusan sa kabila ng ilang pahayag na ng gobyerno. May mga ulat na rin ngayon na maraming banyaga ang kasangkot sa labanan, at hindi lang ilan. Ilang bangkay ng mga banyaga ang nakita ng mga sundalo. Lumalabas na ang Maute ay sanay na sa labanan, na maaaring patunay na may mga ibang tumutulong na sa kanila. Kung malapit na nga ang tagumpay sa Marawi maraming matututunan sa naganap na krisis. Hindi na puwedeng hindi bantayan ang mga kiialang armadong grupo sa Mindanac. Hindi rin puwedeng makapasok na lang ang mga banyaga, tulad ng nangyari sa Marawi.

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29 June 2017



Pahina. 2

ARMAS NG SUNDALO, MADE IN CHINA

MAY pantapat na ang mga tropa ng gobyerno sa mga sandata ng mga ISIS-Maute na naghabasik sa Marawi City nakaraang pormal na tanggapin ng gobyerno ang donasyong military assistance ng China sa Pilipinas.

Personal na sinaksihan at ininspeksyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kahapon sa Clark Airbase sa Pampanga ang umover ng mga baril sa pama nagitan ni Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Ji-chuan na kinapapalooban ng tatlong libong piraso ng assault rifles na may limang milyong bala at 90 units ng sniper rifles kasama ang walong daang libong mga bala.

Ang donasyong mga bala at baril ay may kabuuang halaga na 50 million yuan o P371 million.

Unang batch pa lamang ito ng donasyon at inihahanda na ang ikalawa.

Nagpasalamat naman si Pangulong Duterte sa China at sinabinitong hinang niya ang mga armas at bala kay Chinese President Xi Jinping dahil kailangan niya ito para labanan ang terorismo.

(Aileen Taliping)

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29 June 2017

Business Mirror

Page. AS

China donates P15M for relief operations, rehab of Marawi City

THE Chinese government donated P15 million to the Philippine government for the relief operations and rehabilitation of Marawi City in Lanao del Sur.

Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jinhua on Tuesday presented to Duterte a P15-million check donation for allocation to the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The DOH and the DSWD are in command of the immediate operations, such as medical response, evacuation and logistical support, to the victims of the conflict in Marawi City.

In a statement, Malacañang described the Chinese donation to the Philippines "as an example of the flourishing partnership between two countries and their

shared commitment toward sustainable peace in the region".

As of Monday, the DOH has spent P52 million for the medical checkups, immunizations, medicine and mental and psychological services to the displaced persons.

Meanwhile, the DSWD has shelled out P85.58 million worth of assistance to the affected families, mostly for food packs, hygiene and dignity kits, kitchen utensils and tents.

In a speech on Tuesday, Duterte vowed to make Marawi City great again.

"One thing I will promise you, my brother Moros. I will see to it that Marawi City will rise again as a prosperous city," he told an audience largely composed of representatives of the Muslim community.

The Chief Executive said he

would seek funding for the rehabilitation of the besieged municipality to ensure its swift and efficient recovery from the atrocities of the conflict.

"I will tell Sonny [Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez, III] that I will be needing a big amount because I will rebuild Marawi City," Duterte added.

Duterte said the government is doing everything to hasten the flushing out of the Maute Group terrorists from Marawi City. He said he instructed relevant government agencies to begin drawing up the rehabilitation plan.

"We have laid concrete plans on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of your lives and communities. Task Force Bangon Marawi, composed of various agencies of the government, is being created to

hasten recovery efforts in Marawi City," Duterte said.

The government has allocated P20 billion for the rehabilitation program and more funds will be added if deemed necessary, he added.

"Meaningful and long-term support will also be made available with the help of our partners in the private sector and the international community," Duterte said.

Fighting in Marawi City has been ongoing for more than a month now, and the conflict has left 897 people dead. The military has failed to fulfill its previous deadlines on putting an end to the war, citing several factors affecting its operations, such as the terrorists taking refuge in places of worship, which government forces cannot bomb. *Elijah Felice I. Rosales*

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24 June 2017

PUBLIC FILES

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Nasaksihan ng mga bihag Dugo ng pinugutang militar ininom ng teroristang Maute

EMOSYUNAL sa lahat upang makapagtago. Ikinuwento ng sibilyang Kristiyano ang nakita nila na pagpugot ng ulo ng teroristang ISIS-Maute sa nahuli nilang mga sundalo sa Barangay Marinaut, Marawi City, Lanao del Sur.

Ito ay matapos inilahad ng survivor na si Michelle Palacio ng Zamboanga Peninsula kung ano ang kanilang nakita nang magkapalitan ng mga putok ang panig ng militar at mga terorista sa lugar. Kuxvento ni Palacio matapos mahuli ang ilal sa mga sundalo ay pinugutan nila ito ng ulo kung saan inilagay sa maliit na baso ang tumulo na dugo at pinagkasyang ininom ng anim na terorista.

Sinabi ng survivor na tinangka silang hulihin ng mga terorista subalit biglang dumating ang aerial support ng mga sundalo at naghulog ng mga bomba kaya nagsitakbuhan na ang

Napunta umano ang kanilang grupo sa gilid ng Lake Lanao kung saan nanatili ng ilang oras bago pinagsikapan na makatawid sa lugar na hindi kontrolado ng mga terorista.

Ang survivor ay kabilang sa 11 na mailigtas ng Peace Corridor ng binuo ng governmento officials at Muslim leaders na nakapasok sa war zones moong pinag-utos ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang ilang oras na tigil-operasyon alinsunod sa pagdiriwang ng Eid'l Fitr ng mga kapatid na Muslim sa Marawi City noong araw na Lunes.

24 June 2017

PUBLIC FILES

Page. 2

Moral burden pinapasan ko sa pagkamatay ng mga sundalo sa Marawi - Du30

INAMIN ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na labis ang kanyang hinanakit sa pagkamatay ng mga sundalo sa giyera laban sa ISIS-Maute terror group sa Marawi City. Sa kanyang mensahe sa ika-120 anibersaryo ng Presidential Security Group (PSG) kahapon, sinabi ni Duterte na higit sa lahat, siya ang labis na nasasaktan dahil siya ang nag-utos sa mga sundalo para makipaglaban sa mga terorista.

Ayon kay Pangulong Duterte, ito aniya'y "moral burden" na kanyang pasan-pasan sa araw at gabi. Kasabay nito, inihayag ng panguic ang balak niyang pagpunta mismo sa Marawi City para bisitahin ang tropa ng pamahalaan doon.

Hindi raw pwedeng nakaupo lamang at mistulang nanonood habang nakikipagbakbakan ang mga sundalo.
(Vanz Fernandez)

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June 2017



Pahina. 2

Dayuhang snipers ng Maute nagkalat pa sa Marawi

"Nagkalat pa rin ang mga dayuhang teroristang snipers ng Maute-ISIS sa lungsod ng Marawi kaya matindi pa rin ang bakbakan na mahigiti isang buwan na.

"We do believe that there are still a number of them," pahayag ni AFP Spokesman Brig. Gen. Resituto Padilla nang matanong kung ilan pa ang mga dayuhang snipers ng Maute terrorists ang namonitor ng militar sa Marawi. Ayon kay Padilla, kabilang sa mga dayuhang jihadists na nakikipagbakbakan sa tropa ng militar ay mula sa Yemen, Chechnya at iba pa.

"We don't have any documents to prove or use as basis for the existence of these foreigners except information that have been coming in from various sources," ayon pa sa opisyal.

Una nang sinabi ni AFP Western Mindanao Command Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez na nasa 80 snipers ng Maute, kabilang ang ilang mga dayuhan ang napatay sa bakbakan.

Ilan sa napatay na mga dayuhang jihadists ay mula sa Indonesia at Malaysia, at kamakailan lamang ay nakarekober ng dalawang snipers na mga Arab looking sa battle zone.

Sa kasalukuyan, tinatayang nasa 150 pang terorista ang nakakababakan ng tropa ng militar sa apat na lamang mula sa kabuuang 96 barangay sa lungsod. (Joy Camos)

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20 June 2017

Pahina 2

UPDATE

5 EVACUEES PINUGUTAN!

Nina Betchai Julian at Aries Cano

Limang bangkay ng sinasabing mga evacuees na pawang pinugutan ng ulong Maute Group ang narekober sa clearing operation ng mga tropa ng pamahalaan sa war zone ng Marawi City.

Kabilang umano ang limang biktima sa narekober na 20 mga bangkay na pinatay ng teroristang grupo noong nagsisimula pa lamang ang kaguluhan sa Marawi.

Hindi sinabi ng militar kung saang partikular na lugar natagpuan ang mga pinatay subalit ayon kay Lt. Col. Joar Herrera, spokesman ng Joint Task Force Marawi, matagal nang naroroon ang mga bangkay sa lugar kung

saan nakita ang mga dahil naagnas na Dadalhin sa Iligan City ang limang bangkay na pinugutan para iproseso ng Scene of the Crime Operatives.

Ayon kay Herrera, base sa impormasyon ang mga bangkay na pinatay ng Maute Group ay pawang mga naharang ng mga terorista habang lumilikas noong simula pa lamang ng gulo sa Marawi.

Tatlo sa mga bangkay ay miyembro umano ng Maute Group na narekober sa bahay ni dating Marawi City Mayor Fayad Salic na sinasabing financier ng teroristang grupo.

Matatandaang nakakumpiska ng mga ilegal na droga sa bahay ni Salic na nagkakahalaga ng P10

milyon sa isinagawang pagsalakay ng pulisya at militar kamakailan.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla na posibleng marami pang sibilyan ang pinatay ng Maute Group batay sa impormasyon ng mga sibilyang nakatakas sa battle zone subalit kanila pa itong kukumpirmahin.

SURVIVOR NASAKSIHAN ANG PAGPUGOT

Emosyunal naman na ikinuwento ng isang sibilyang Kristiyano ang nakita umano nilang pagpugot ng Maute Group sa mga nabuling sundalo sa Brgy. Marinaut ng Marawi City.

Sa kuwento ng survivor na si Michelle Palacio, taga-Zamboanga Peninsula, matapos ma-

huli ng Maute Group ang ilan sa mga sundalo ay pinugutan ang mga ito ng ulo saka imilagay sa maliit na baso ang tumutulong dugo at pinagkasyang ininom ng anim na terorista. Tinangka rin silang ihulihin ng mga terorista subalit biglang dumating ang airstrikes kaya nakatako sila upang makapagtago.

Napunta ang kanilang grupo sa gilid ng Lake Lanao kung saan nanatili ng ilang oras bago pinagsikapin na makatawid sa lawa na hindi kontrolado ng mga terorista.

Kabilang si Palacio sa 11 na-rescue sa war zone nang magdeklara ng 8-oras na tigil-publikan ang AFP bilang respeto sa Eid al-Fitr ng mga Muslim sa Marawi noong araw ng Linggo.

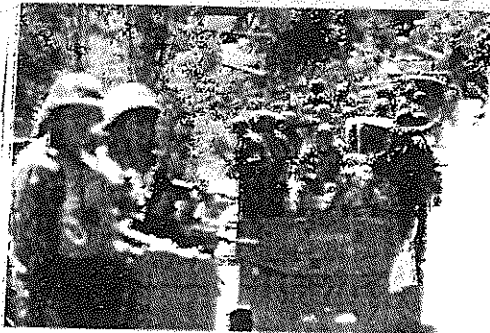
HAPILON KUNIN BUHAY O PATAY

Sa kabila ng mga ulat na nakatakas na sa Marawi City, inihayag ni AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla na mahalagang mahuli ng buhay o patay si Isnilon Hapilon.

"It is important that he'd be caught dead or alive. And it is to the interest of our country, kasi mataga! napo siyang wanted," ani Padilla sa Mindanao Hour press briefing sa Malacañang kahapon.

Sinabi pa ni Padilla na kung nakatakas na nga si Hapilon sa Marawi ay kinakailangang beripikahin itong mabuti dahil maaari anyang hindi ito totoo at nais lamang linlangin ang mga tropa ng gobyerno.

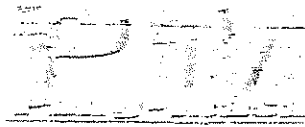
"Maaari ring disinformation ito para ma-distract ang ating tropa sa paghahanap sa kanya," ani Padilla.



Sakay ng military trucks ang mga tropa ng pamahalaan patungo sa battle zone ng Marawi City kahapon kung saan patuley ang sagupaan laban sa Maute Group. (AFP)

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25 June 2017



Pahina: 2

PAGPATAY NG MAUTE SA MGA SIBILYAN TUMAAS-AFP NI JOY CANTOS

Unilat ng Armed Forces of the Philippines na tumaas ang bilang ng sibilyan na pinapatay ng mga teroristang Maute matapos marekober ang 17 pang bangkay sa isinagawang clearing operations.

Sa 17 narekober na bangkay ng mga hostage, ang lima dito ay karumaldumal ang ginawang pagpatay nang sila ay pagtatagain ng mga nasabing terorista at nasa state of decomposition na

Sa ulat ni Joint Task Force (JTF) Marawi Commander Brig. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, tumaas pa ang bilang ng mga napatay na sibilyan na mula sa 27

biktima ay naging 44 sa patuloy na clearing operations ng security forces sa Marawi City.

Sa taas, sinabi ng opisyal na simula noong mangyari ang siege sa paglusob ng mahigit 100 Maute-ISIS terrorists noong Mayo 23 o nasa 36 araw na kahapon ay nasa 414 na ang namamatay.

Kabilang dito ang 299 Maute-ISIS na napatay sa bakbakan, tumaas na rin sa 71 ang nasawi sa security forces habang nakapagtala rin ng mataking bilang ng mga nasugatan sa tropa ng gobyerno.

Ayon naman kay AFP Spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, inaasahan na nila ang pagtaas ng

bilang ng mga nasawang sibilyan dahil marami pang biktimang sibilyan na pinaslang ng Maute ang nareport sa militar na hindi pa nakukuha ang bangkay sa battle zone.

Kaugnay nito, iniibayag naman ni Lt. Col. Jo-ar Herrera, Spokesman ng JTF Marawi na siyam pang hostages ang nasagip sa battle zone kamakalawa na kinilala

lang sina Ariel Ansaw; Ronie Albacete; Lando Albacete; Dilbert Macatulag; Micheal Onges; Mario Manggubat; Jimboy Guinsayao; Bryan Canipay; at Algin Generalao.

Sa kasalukuyan ay nasa 120 pang hostages na mga sibilyan ang hawak ng Maute-ISIS terrorists kabilang si Fr. Chito Suganob.

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Maute Group death toll in Marawi fighting now at 299 - AFP

Ongoing military operations against the Maute Group terrorists in Marawi City has so far neutralized 299 of the lawless elements as fighting has reached its sixth week, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen. Resilito Padilla said Wednesday.

Of the said figures, more than half are "body count" or actual remains recovered in the battlefield.

Padilla said two of the recovered bodies are "Middle Eastern" looking and seems like the foreign fighters reportedly supporting the Maute Group. "They (two recovered bodies) resemble Middle Easterners."

The AFP official, however, said they still do not have firm figures on the number of foreign terrorists helping the Maute Group.

"My previous statement still holds through, we don't have any other documents to prove (or) use as basis for the existence of all these foreigners except information that have been coming in from various sources," he added.

Conflict in Marawi City started when government security forces attempted to arrest Abu Sayyaf Group leader Isnilon Hapilon, the ISIS "Emir" in Southeast Asia, last May 23.

As of this posting, the number of government troops killed in action is placed at 70 while 27 civilians were executed.

The number of firearms recovered from the lawless elements is placed at 347, with the remaining hostages placed at 150 to 200.

The number of still active Maute Group terrorists is placed between 100 to 120. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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Hapilon no longer capable of launching another Marawi-like attack — AFP

By Eliano Mikee Cervantes

Abu Sayyaf Group leader Isnilon Hapilon, the Islamic State (IS) emir in Southeast Asia, no longer has the capacity to mount an attack in Mindanao similar in scale to what happened in Marawi City, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said on Wednesday.

During the Mindanao Hour press briefing in Malacañang, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said Hapilon's capacity to sow terror in Mindanao has significantly decreased after government forces thwarted the Maute terror group's plan to establish a caliphate for IS in Marawi.

Padilla made the remark following reports that Hapilon, who had joined forces with the Maute, might have escaped the strife-torn Marawi City. He however reiterated that they are still validating Hapilon's alleged escape.

"Kasi pagka may bakbakan po, ang pinakamahirap at pinakamasakit na mangyari ay liwanan ka ng isang kinikilala mong leader... Ang kapasidad niya (Hapilon) na maglunsad ng anumang klaseng panggugulo, hindi po kami naniniwala na keya pa niya," Padilla said.

"Malaki na po ang nangyari na ang mga tumagal ng mga nakaraang linggong ito at 'yung kapasidad na magsagawa ng kaguluhan, sa scale na nakita natin sa Marawi, hindi na po nila kakayarin 'yan,'" he added.

The AFP official described Hapilon's possible escape as "an act of cowardice" if reports that he indeed fled from the strife-torn city were to be believed.

"It was an act of cowardice if he abandoned his fellow terrorists from inside. And showing that he fled from the battle and left many more of his companions inside would not sit well and may be indicative of an infighting that is occurring among them," said Padilla.

According to the latest update, at least 27 civilians and 71 government troops have died since the clashes erupted. Meanwhile, 299 terrorists have been killed. A total of 1,711 civilians have been rescued.

The AFP said the clashes prevented a bigger attack that the terrorists had planned, as confirmed in a confiscated video which showed Hapilon and Maute group leaders Omar and Abdullah planning the takeover of Marawi City.

President Rodrigo Duterte placed the entire Mindanao under martial law after fighting broke out between security forces and members of the Maute terrorist group on May 23. The fighting started when security forces attempted to arrest Hapilon. (PNA)

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Lawmaker commends AFP, PNP for orderly martial law

A lawmaker at the House of Representatives on Wednesday lauded government forces following a recent report by the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) that there has been no formal complaint of rights violations since martial law was declared in Mindanao.

In a statement, Quezon City Rep. Winston Castelo commended members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) for their "professionalism" amid the ongoing clashes against the Maute terrorist group in Marawi City.

In its report issued last June 24, the commission said it has not received any formal report on human rights abuses in Mindanao, a month after it was placed under military rule.

The CHR however said it would continue to monitor closely the human rights condition in Mindanao amid the armed conflict in the besieged city of Marawi.

"While the Commission has yet to receive formal complaints of human rights violations in Mindanao, this does not hinder initiatives from our concerned regional offices to continue monitoring, as well as initiate investigations, on the human rights condition, on the ground towards preserving the dignity of all amidst this conflict," the CHR statement read.

The assessment of an orderly conduct of martial law a month after it was declared is instrumental in preventing Islamic State (IS) sympathizers from winning more adherents in their deadly campaign, Castelo said.

He likewise urged the human rights body to keep an eye on the atrocities being committed by the Maute Group and its adherents, who are the main source of rights violations in the conflict zone. (FMC/PNA)

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www.retrivedanavst.blogspot.com

Army's 7ID ready to deploy more forces to Marawi

The Philippine Army's 7th Infantry Division (7ID) remains on standby mode for possible sending of troops in Marawi City, a ranking official said

Major Gen. Angelito de Leon, commander of the 7ID, said they have already sent 100 soldiers from their 72nd division reconnaissance as soon as the war between government security forces and ISIS Maute Group broke out last month.

"Augmenting troops to operations like in Marawi is a function of an infantry division," de Leon said

But, he said it will all depend on orders from the higher headquarters.

"The order for us is to be ready and alert," he said

Last Friday, de Leon signed an agreement with Police Chief Supt. Aaron Aquino, regional director of the Police Regional Office-3, for an stepped up coordination particularly on exchange of intelligence information and capabilities in government's fight against illegal drugs and other crimes.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/997621>

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AFP eyes to end Marawi clashes soon

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Wednesday said it is striving to end the clashes in Marawi City as soon as possible.

"Sinisikap natin na matapos ito sa pinakamadaling panahon. Kasi 'yun nga, hindi maganda na naglalagag 'yung mga ganitong labanan." AFP Spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said during the regular Mindanao Hour press briefing at Malacañan Palace.

The AFP official made this statement when asked by newsmen if the fighting in Marawi City will be finished before President Rodrigo Duterte delivers his second State of the Nation Address on July 24.

Padilla noted that evacuees are hoping they can already return to their normal lives.

"Unang una, naiinip na po ang ating mga kapati na Maranac na nanyari po sa mga evacuation centers. Ninanais din nila na magbalik sa normal ang kanilang buhay," he said.

He added that the military is working on expediting clearing operations but noted the sensitive environment in Marawi.

"Kaya't ang ating pagtuon ng pansin ay bilisan talaga itong pag-clear. Pero masehan kasi ang combat environment natin. Mahirap. At ang kahirapan diyan ay, una, dahil sa presensya ng mga naiipit pa nating mga sibilyang kapati na nasa loob na maaaring maipit sa bakbakan. So dapat pangalagaan natin 'yan," he said.

Padilla also cited that the terror group continues to hold hostages and there are still explosives and traps in the area.

"Kinakaliangan po talagang dahan-dahan kini-clear ang mga buildings," he said.

During the same briefing, Presidential Communications Office Assistant Secretary Marie Banaag gave an update on the situation in Marawi noting that as of 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, there are 1,711 civilians rescued, while 71 government troops were killed-in-action and 27 civilians were killed by terrorists.

Banaag said terrorists killed stood at 299 and firearms recovered were 358. (PND/PNA)