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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
**NEWS CLIPPINGS**

03 March 2017


Friday

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

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

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## 03 MARCH 2017



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**P 200,000,000.00**

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**1000-1000**

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

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TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | MARCH 3, 2017 | FRIDAY

**LAAG CITY**  
24 - 31 °C

**TUGUEGARAO CITY**  
22 - 28 °C

**BAGUIO CITY**  
14 - 21 °C

**SBMA/CLARK**  
23 - 32 °C

**METRO MANILA**  
23 - 31 °C

**TAGAYTAY CITY**  
20 - 29 °C

**LEGAZPI CITY**  
24 - 30 °C

**ILOILO/BAGOLOD CITY**  
25 - 31 °C

**TACLOBAN CITY**  
24 - 31 °C

**METRO CEBU**  
25 - 34 °C

**PUERTO PRINCESA**  
25 - 32 °C

**CAGAYAN DE ORO**  
24 - 30 °C

**ZAMBOANGA CITY**  
24 - 32 °C

**METRO DAVAO**  
24 - 32 °C

**SUNRISE**  
6:12 AM

**SUNSET**  
6:04 PM

**MOONRISE**  
9:41 AM

**MOONSET**  
10:32 PM

**NEW MOON**  
Feb 26  
10:48 PM

**FIRST QUARTER**  
Mar 5  
7:32 PM

**LOW TIDE**  
7:58 PM  
0.64 Meter

**HIGH TIDE**  
1:10 AM  
0.64 Meter

**MANILA SOUTH HARBOR**

☁ Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers

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

☁ Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

☁ Light rains

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AREA	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	☁ 23 - 32 °C	☁ 23 - 32 °C	☁ 21 - 29 °C	☁ 21 - 30 °C	☁ 24 - 31 °C	☁ 24 - 30 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	☁ 22 - 28 °C	☁ 23 - 30 °C	☁ 24 - 31 °C	☁ 24 - 31 °C	☁ 24 - 31 °C	☁ 24 - 30 °C
<b>LAAG</b>	☁ 23 - 31 °C	☁ 24 - 32 °C	☁ 25 - 32 °C	☁ 25 - 32 °C	☁ 24 - 33 °C	☁ 23 - 31 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	☁ 14 - 21 °C	☁ 14 - 22 °C	☁ 25 - 30 °C	☁ 25 - 31 °C	☁ 24 - 32 °C	☁ 24 - 31 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	☁ 24 - 33 °C	☁ 23 - 32 °C	☁ 25 - 31 °C	☁ 24 - 30 °C		
<b>TAGAYTAY</b>						
<b>LEGAZPI</b>						
<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>						
<b>ILOILO/BAGOLOD</b>						
<b>METRO CEBU</b>						
<b>TACLOBAN</b>						
<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>						
<b>METRO DAVAO</b>						
<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>						

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03 March 2017

PHILIPPINE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
**INQUIRER**

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# 'Duterte liable for drug killings'

## FROM A1

By Kristine Angeli Sabillo  
@KSabilloINQ

President Duterte and his senior officials are "criminally liable" for extrajudicial killings in his war on drugs, a human rights watchdog said on Thursday.

In a 124-page report titled "License to Kill: Philippine Police Killings in Duterte's 'War on Drugs,'" New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) said Mr. Duterte and his senior officials instigated and incited the killings of drug suspects in a campaign that could amount to "crimes against humanity."

HRW also accused the Philippine National Police of falsifying evidence to justify the killings, and said the so-called vigilantes responsible for many of the deaths were working for the police or were actually policemen themselves.

The report said poor communities were being terrorized by the killings, which appeared to be "systematic."

## 'Human rights calamity'

More than 8,000 drug suspects—the latest count—have been killed by the PNP and unknown assailants since Mr. Duterte launched the crack-down on narcotics after taking office in June last year.

"[Mr. Duterte's] first six months has been a human rights calamity for the Philippines," HRW said in the report, which documented the President's statements encouraging the PNP to kill drug suspects.

"President Duterte has ordered and instigated and incited these killings," said Peter Bouckaert, HRW's emergencies director and author of the report.

Bouckaert traveled to the Philippines last November and in January, staying for weeks in-



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investigating the killings.

Malacañang disputed HRW's findings, insisting that the killings were not sponsored by the state.

"The observation that the Philippines is in the midst of a 'human rights calamity' is thoughtless and irresponsible," presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said in a statement.

"Is it human rights calamity when more than 1.1 million drug pushers and addicts have voluntarily submitted themselves to authorities?" he said. "Is it a human rights calamity when rehabilitation centers are being constructed to treat drug dependents? Is it a human rights calamity when the sheer scope and magnitude of the emerging narcostate have been exposed?"

The HRW investigation covered 24 police operations that resulted in the deaths of 32 people.

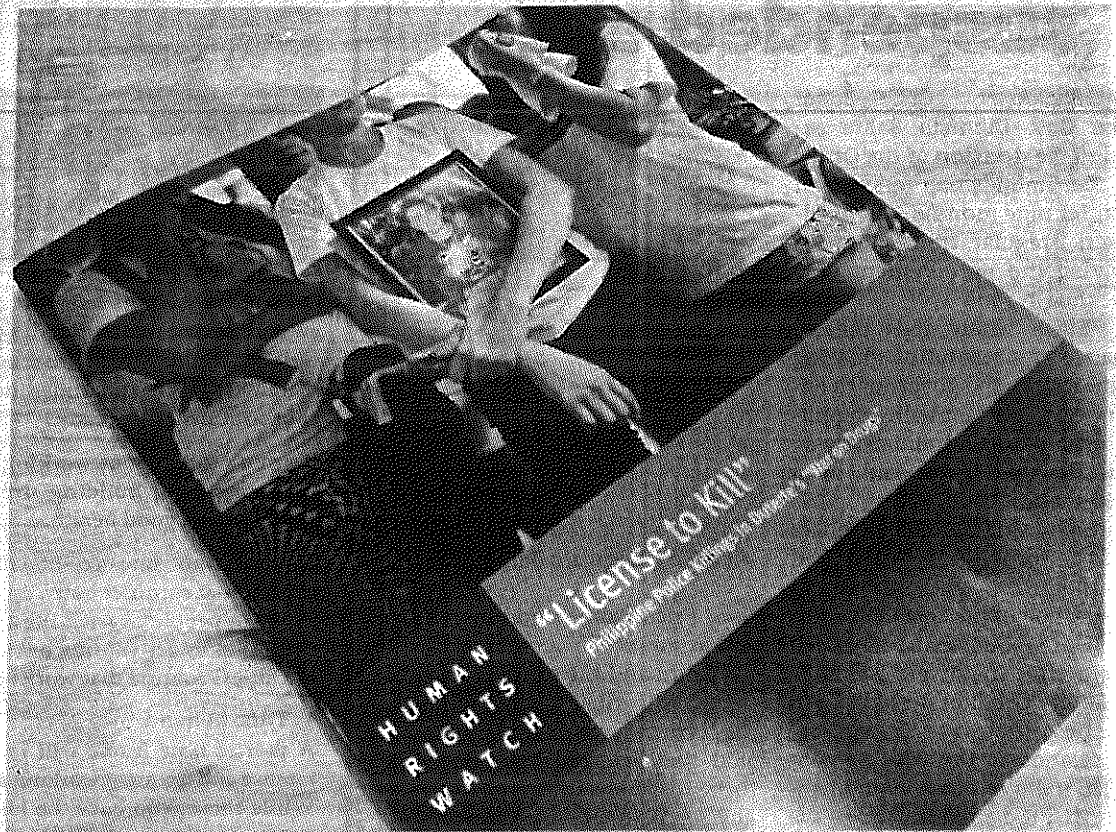
Through interviews with 28 witnesses, relatives of victims, journalists and human rights advocates, and analysis of spot and other police reports, Bouckaert concluded that the PNP was involved in the killings, including the so-called vigilante killings.

#### No distinction

"While the Philippine National Police [has] publicly sought to distinguish between suspects killed while resisting police arrest and killings by 'unknown gunmen' or 'vigilantes,' Human Rights Watch found no such distinction in the cases investigated," the report said.

"Our research also shows that the so-called unidentified gunmen involved in these killings were also working in cooperation with the police and are often policemen themselves," Bouckaert said.

"It appears the police themselves are carrying out a lot of the killings," he said, adding that the killings were slightly different from the extrajudicial



**DRUG KILLINGS** The New York-based Human Rights Watch released this report on drug-related killings perpetrated by the Philippine National Police under President Duterte. —KRISTINE ANGELI SABILLO

killings in Davao when Mr. Duterte was mayor of the city.

In the Davao killings, Bouckaert said, the attacks were carried out by a so-called death squad.

But in the war on drugs killings, the policemen involved "operate out of uniform" and wear civilian clothes that resemble those of the unidentified gunmen, Bouckaert said.

#### International investigation

HRW urged the United Nations to "urgently create an independent, international investigation into the killings to determine responsibility, and ensure mechanisms for accountability."

It also called on the National Bureau of Investigation and the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate and prosecute those responsible for the killings, and

for Congress to hold extensive hearings and adopt measures to prevent further killings.

HRW encouraged foreign donors and partners of the Philippines to suspend financial assistance and other programs "until the Philippine government ends its abusive 'war on drugs' and initiates meaningful investigations into alleged unlawful killings."

The group also had specific recommendations to the United States, including a moratorium on weapons sales to the Philippines, deferment of grants from Millennium Challenge Corp. and reduction of direct assistance and cooperation between the US military and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

HRW said Mr. Duterte and his senior officials could be held

criminally liable before a Philippine court or the International Criminal Court.

"No evidence thus far shows that Duterte planned or ordered specific extrajudicial killings, but his repeated calls for killings as part of his antidrug campaign could constitute acts instigating law enforcement to commit murder," HRW said.

"His statements encouraging the general population to commit vigilante violence against suspected drug users could be criminal incitement," it added.

#### Protecting the citizenry

Abella said Mr. Duterte was protecting the citizens by going after criminals.

"A war on criminality is not a war on humanity. On the contrary, it is a war precisely to pro-

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protect humanity from modern-day evil," he said.

Abella also belittled the HRW finding that police were carrying out the killings and planting evidence on the victims.

This, he said, is a mere "allegation, nothing more," and "hearsay" unless proven in court.

Mr. Duterte swatted aside the HRW report, saying criminals were not humans.

"When you kill criminals, it is not a crime against humanity. The criminals have no humanity, goddamn it," he said in an interview in Cebu City.

Mr. Duterte reiterated that he would answer for policemen who had killed drug suspects.

He also brushed off the HRW finding that police were falsifying evidence to justify the killings.

"You can go after so many who are culpable, why would you plant evidence on others?" he said.

#### **Show 'solid proof'**

The PNP demanded "solid proof" of the HRW findings.

"Provide us affidavits and accounts. We have nothing to hide," Senior Supt. Dionardo Carlos, PNP spokesperson, said in a news conference.

Carlos pointed out that the HRW report covered only 24 cases, which did not reflect the PNP's entire antinarcotics operations.

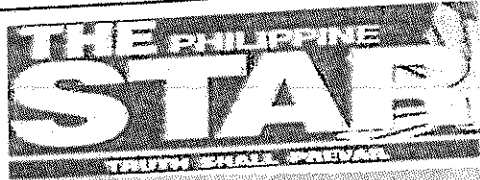
"Let's look into these 24 cases, but if they're saying it's the entire organization, I don't think that's right," he said.

Carlos said the PNP had confirmed only around 2,600 suspects killed in police operations since the crackdown began last year.

The PNP insists the killings were done in "self-defense" after the suspects resisted arrest.

—WITH REPORTS FROM DONA Z. PAZ-IBUGAN, LEILA B. SALAVERRIA, PHILIP C. TUBEZA AND JULLIANE LOVE DE JESUS' INQ

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# Death penalty to reach SC

By JESS DIAZ

With Congress one step closer to reviving capital punishment, the fight of a small group of congressmen against the bill reimposing the death penalty will definitely reach the Supreme Court.

"I for one will challenge the measure before the high court, if the Senate approves it and President Duterte signs it into law," Rep. Harry Roque of party-list group Kabayan told a news forum in Quezon City yesterday.

Catholic prelates and a group of

scientists also expressed opposition to the bill, citing various reasons.

Roque said a death penalty law would be unconstitutional since the Charter prohibits the reimposition of capital punishment "unless for compelling reasons involving heinous crimes, the Congress provides for it"

He said the reported proliferation of illegal drugs is not a compelling reason for the restoration of the death penalty.

Roque added another reason for the unconstitutionality of a death penalty law is the commitment the

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# Death penalty From Page 1

country had made to at least two international treaties that it would "never reimpose capital punishment."

He added the Constitution recognizes such treaties as part of national law.

House Bill 4727, which seeks the restoration of the death penalty, is now limited to a few drug-related offenses.

On Wednesday night, the House of Representatives approved the bill on second reading after abruptly closing the period of amendments, a decision that prevented several members from proposing changes in the measure.

Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas made the decision, telling his colleagues that those opposed to the bill "did not intend to present honest-to-goodness perfecting amendments" and were only out to delay the proceedings.

He made the move after the House voted down three amendments proposed by opposition Rep. Edcel Lagman, who wanted the death penalty deleted from the bill and replaced with lesser punishment.

Roque and other opponents of capital punishment claim the majority railroaded the approval of the measure.

Despite this, he said he could not raise procedural issues before the SC at this time because the "high court would just treat these issues as internal to the House."

He said there is no stopping the House majority from approving HB 4727 on third and final reading next week.

"After that, it goes to the Senate. Its approval will be the first major leadership test for Senate President Koko (Aquilino) Pimentel (III). I think he would try to have the votes for this priority bill of President Duterte," Roque said.

Roque revealed that during Wednesday night's deliberations, he saw several members of the Liberal Party siding with those opposed to the death penalty bill.

He said among them were Jose

Christopher Belmonte and Jorge Bernal of Quezon City and Kaka Bag-ao of Dinagat Islands.

"I also saw GMA during the initial part of the proceedings but she later disappeared," he said.

He was referring to Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who is against the death penalty. It was during her nine-year presidency that capital punishment was abolished. The former president is a deputy speaker.

Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez has warned House officers and committee chairmen that they would lose their posts if they voted against HB 4727.

Another forum guest, Rep. John Bertiz of OFW Party, said he would still vote for the measure despite its adverse repercussions on scores of overseas Filipino workers who are facing the death penalty in their host countries.

"I want to support the President on this," he said.

## Religion and science

Catholic bishops vowed to fight it out against the House to the end as they criticized the lawmakers for going against the teachings of the Catholic Church, which remains as the nation's predominant religion.

"Today's first reading from Deuteronomy says choose life. The legislators choose to go against the Word of God. They choose death in the name of the people," Lipa, Batangas Archbishop Emeritus Ramon Arguelles lamented in an interview.

Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo agreed. The bishops reiterated the stand of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) that the imposition of capital punishment is evil.

Arguelles stressed the proposed death penalty even only for drug related offenses is "anti-God, anti-life and anti-humanity."

The retired archbishop further lamented how the passing of the measure came exactly at the start of the

Lenten season, particularly on Ash Wednesday, which ironically should have been "the first day of conversion from evil ways."

He cited the CBCP's argument that the death penalty is anti-poor because only the poor drug suspects are unable to pay lawyers to defend them.

Arguelles also questioned why the lawmakers exempted plunder from heinous crimes punishable under the new measure.

"Those who plunder and use people's money for their evil deeds 'legally' elude death penalty," he added.

While the Church's crusade to stop the reimposition of the death penalty has suffered a major setback with the development in the House, it has no plans of giving up.

"We do not give up the fight. In life there is hope," Pabillo stressed.

"Since we fight for life we do not lose hope. This is our resurrection faith," he vowed.

Scientists, on the other hand, are urging legislators to clarify provisions in the proposed legislation that would impose the death penalty on several drug-related crimes, warning lawmakers against passing a measure that may criminalize legitimate acts.

"The Philippine Chemistry Society, represented by the Philippine Federation of Chemistry Societies (PFCS), strongly urges legislators to use science in drafting laws," the federation said in a statement.

Calling the death penalty bill at the House "not scientifically rational," the group called out the failure of the measure to define what precursor and essential chemicals are.

"The bill will criminalize legitimate users and raise the cost of goods and damage the economy," it added.

The PFCS noted the possession of precursor or essential chemicals does not necessarily translate to possession or intent to manufacture illegal drugs.

"Virtually all precursor chemicals and essential chemicals are multi-use chemicals. Precursor chemicals may also be precursors to other important products, such as phar-

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maceuticals, fragrances, cosmetics, agro-chemicals and others," the group said.

"Likewise, essential chemicals may also be essential for many other purposes, including household and health uses," it added.

The statement was signed by PCFS president Armando Guidote, and the presidents of the four organizations under the federation: the Integrated Chemists of the Philippines, Kapisanang Kimika ng Pilipinas, Philippine Association of Chemistry Teachers and the Philippine Association of Chemistry Students.

On penalizing drug-related offenses, the bill amended various provisions of Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 to include the death penalty.

It specifically stated that those who violate the provisions may face sanctions "unless authorized by law."

The law also defines controlled precursors and essential chemicals as those identified in the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

The lists include substances such as ephedrine, acetone and hydrochloric acid.

In its statement, the PFCS noted that the provisions in the proposed legislation also equate pure substances with mixtures.

"It does not distinguish a compound that is relatively pure with its presence in an essential oil or spice at one percent composition. It will criminalize possession of many medicinal plants and cooking ingredients," it said.

The group also noted that passage of the measure may provide many opportunities for corruption.

"This topic of precursor chemicals and essential chemicals should be discussed extensively with experts in the field and with industry manufacturers," it added.

### Impact

Meanwhile, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) said it would come up with a study on the possible impact of the passage of the death penalty bill from the perspective of international law.

"This is not a question of domestic law. This is also a question of international treaties that we are a state party to," CHR commission Karen Gomez-Dumpit told **The STAR**.

She noted that the Philippines is party to various treaties, including the Second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that provides for the abolition of capital punishment.

"We are a member of the community of nations and we have committed, in perpetuity, to abolish or to implement all efforts to abolish death penalty," she said.

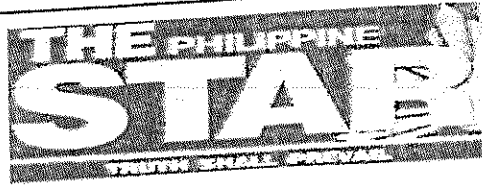
"We are going back, and that's not something that we want to happen because that will also impact our credibility as a member-state of the United Nations. . . Is this the path we want to take?" Dumpit added.

Also yesterday, students from the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) walked out from their classes to protest the passage of the death penalty bill on second reading.

ADMU president Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin previously issued statements vehemently opposing the reimposition of capital punishment in the country. – **With Edu Punay, Janvic Mateo, Delon Porcalla**

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## Ex-NPA rebels welcome to join Army

Former New People's Army (NPA) rebels can join the Philippine Army, which is recruiting 13,900 new members this year, an official has said.

"The recruitment does not distinguish anybody. As long as they are qualified they're welcome to apply," Army chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda told a media briefing at Fort Bonifacio on Wednesday.

Miranda said the recruitment is in line with government efforts to infuse fresh blood into the ranks.

"New soldiers are needed to replace and take over positions of around 3,000 personnel who retire each year," he said.

Miranda said the new recruits would be deployed to various units, including the newly created 54th Army Engineering Brigade.

He said the recruitment of additional personnel

would make their job easier, especially during field operations.

"If we have five soldiers doing the job that is supposed to be done by 10 troopers, they can perform and accomplish their mission easier and faster," he said.

Army spokesman Col. Benjamin Hao said President Duterte approved the hiring of 349 Army officers and 8,892 soldiers.

"Most of the new recruits will fill vacant positions in the infantry, cavalry and artillery units. Some will be assigned to the engineering, communication, logistics and administrative units," Hao said.

He said applicants could visit Army recruitment centers at Fort Bonifacio, Camp Lapu-Lapu in Cebu City and Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City.

– Jaime Laude

03 March 2017



Page: 1

# Army recruiting 14,000 this year

FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Philippine Army will recruit some 14,000 individuals this year to fill up units throughout the country

Army spokesman Col. Benjamin Hao said that 349 officers (2nd lieutenant) and 8,892 soldiers are needed for the special quota approved by President Duterte, 1,069 soldiers for

the newly organized 54th Engineering Brigade; and another 3,600 soldiers for the annual quota replacement in the Army

Colonel Hao said that most ▶12

## Army recruiting 14,000... ◀1

of new recruits will go to the Army infantry, cavalry, and artillery units. The other recruits will carry out engineering, communication, logistics, and other administrative functions of the Army.

“Out of the total number of recruits, 10 percent is allocated for female recruits and 5 percent for the indigenous people,” he added.

Once a recruit becomes a trainee, he or she will receive a gross monthly income of ₱16,852.

If enlisted, the new private will receive a starting gross income of ₱23,204 plus a number of allowances and benefits.

Hao said the Philippine Army will follow the following order of priorities in its recruitment: Graduates of Military Science 43 and Advance ROTC, college graduates, those with 72 units and up in college, and high school graduates with technical and vocational skills needed

by the Philippine Army

Hao said an applicant must be a natural-born Filipino, at least 18 to 23 years old on the date of appointment as candidate soldier, at least 5 feet tall, single and without children, of good moral character, passed the Philippine Army Aptitude Test Battery/Armed Forces of the Philippines Service Aptitude Test, passed the pre-qualifying physical fitness test and medical exam, and must be physically and mentally fit for military training.

Interested applicants were advised to visit the Army Recruitment Centers in Fort Bonifacio in Metro Manila, Camp Lapu-Lapu in Cebu City, or Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City.

They were advised to bring with them identification cards, NBI clearance, and other pertinent documents.

They may also visit the Philippine Army website at [www.army.mil.ph](http://www.army.mil.ph) for further details, Colonel Hao said.



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**POLICE FILES**

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## ***Matatapang dyan... aplay na!*** **14K sundalo kailangan ng Phil. Army**

NASA 14,000 na mga bagong sundalo ang ire-recruit ng Philippine Army ngayong 2017.

Ayon kay Philippine Army Chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, nasa kabuuang 13,910 ang kanilang kailangan ire-recruit para punan ang mga bakanteng tropa mula sa iba't ibang Army units sa buong bansa.

Ani Miranda, nangangailangan ng 349 officers na mga 2nd Lieutenant, 8,892 na mga sundalo para sa special quota na ma-

prubahan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte; 1,069 para sa bagong organized na 54th Engineer Brigade at nasa 3,600 na mga sundalo na siyang annual quota replacement sa Philippine Army.

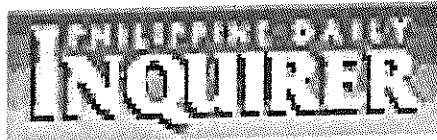
Karamihan sa mga bagong recruits ay ilalagay sa Army infantry, cavalry at artillery units.

Habang ang ibang recruits naman ay idedeploy sa engineering brigade, communication, logistics at mga administrative function.

Binigyang din ni Miranda na sa kabuuang bilang ng mga recruits, 10 percent dito ay mga babae habang five percent mula sa indigenous people.

At kapag na-recruit na ang isang candidate soldier ay makakatanggap ito ng gross income na nasa P16, 852 at kapag enlisted na ang bagong Private ay makakatanggap ng gross income na nasa P23,204.00 bukod sa mga allowances at benefits.

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## PNP ORDERS CRACKDOWN ON PRIVATE ARMIES IN SAMAR AS VIOLENCE RETURNS

By **Joey A. Gabieta**  
@joeygabietaINQ

TACLOBAN CITY—Police in Eastern Visayas region have started a crackdown on private armed groups maintained by politicians in Samar province after incidents of violence have resurfaced in the province.

Chief Supt. Elmer Beltejar, Eastern Visayas police director, said this was among the security measures that the police had put in place, particularly in Calbayog City and San Jorge town.

Beltejar said he had ordered Senior Supt. Nestor Tiempo, Samar police chief, to dismantle private armed groups, regard-

less of who were maintaining them.

He also ordered the Samar police to conduct checkpoints, strengthen the barangay defense system and deploy troops from the regional public safety battalion to Calbayog City and San Jorge, where police noted a resurgence of violence this year.

### Ambush

On Jan. 28, Lester Bisnar, who ran but lost to Mayor Joseph Grey in San Jorge in last year's election, was wounded in an ambush. Four days later, bombs were lobbed at Grey's house.

Grey's wife, Vice Mayor Nancy Grey, survived an am-

bush on Feb. 6.

Police said Bisnar's mother, Luz, was shot and killed by unidentified suspects after she attended Mass on Feb. 19.

At least 10 shooting incidents were reported in Calbayog City since the start of the year. Among the victims was Mardone Repol, a public elementary school teacher. These cases have yet to be solved, according to the police.

Maj. Gen. Raul Farnacio, commander of the Army's 8th Infantry Division, said private armed groups could only be dismantled if their financiers would stop supporting them.

—WITH A REPORT FROM ROBERT DEJON INQ

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

# Jungle Fighters encounters NPA members in Rodriguez Rizal

Posted by Lui Claudio on March 2, 2017 at 2:07 PM

Troops of the 2nd Infantry "Jungle Fighter" Division encountered an undetermined number of armed members of the New People's Army (NPAs) today, March 2, 2017, 8:00 in the morning, at So Lam-aw, Brgy Puray, Rodriguez, Rizal.

The said encounter which lasted for 10 minutes happened after a resident in the area tipped-off the presence of the armed rebels. The report says the NPA terrorists consolidated in order to launch a tactical offensive at Patrol Base Apia in Brgy Calawis, Antipolo City, and to liquidate their former supporter known as Ka Egay at Sitio Dapis, Brgy. Puray, Rodriguez, Rizal.

No casualties was reported from the government side while on the side of the enemies is still undetermined.

According to Major General Rhoderick Parayno, Commander of 2nd Infantry Division, the troops in the area are still conducting pursuit operations in order to track down the fleeing rebels.

Meanwhile, as per record, after the ceasefire was terminated by the NPAs, and later by the government, the 2ID has already neutralized two NPA leaders, and recovered four high-powered firearms along with various ammunitions and explosives.

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## CAREER GUIDANCE | 14IB Conducts Info Drive to 200 Youths of Maydolong

Posted by Lur Claudio

**Brgy Dao, Oras** – Your Army in Eastern Visayas thru personnel of 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry (AVENGER) Battalion, Philippine Army facilitated an Information Awareness Drive to two hundred (200) youths from the Eastern Samar State University Maydolong Campus, Maydolong, Eastern Samar last February 23, 2017.

The topic discussed was the Career Guidance on how to apply to become an officer and soldier in the Philippine Army.

This Information Awareness Drive was initiated by the 14<sup>th</sup> IB to encourage more applicants to join the profession of arms to supplement the needs of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. 2Lt. Dennis S Carig, CMO Officer of 14<sup>th</sup> IB, emphasized that *"being a soldier is a noble profession, that each individual dedicates their lives for his/her love of the country."* Leaflets about the Army recruitment were also distributed to the youths for their reference.



Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Manuel Leo Gador reaffirms the commitment of 14<sup>th</sup> IB in reaching out to the academe and youth sector in order to bring inspiration on their role on nation-building. *"We hope that our partners from the academe followed suit and also be our active partners in molding the youth as agents of peace and development of our country,"* Gador said.

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## 8ID Renders Send-off Ceremony to Newly Enlisted Privates

Reporter: Lui Claudio | Editor: L. T. at 9:42 AM

**CAMP GENERAL VICENTE LUKBAN, CATBALOGAN CITY** – A send-off ceremony was rendered to the 242 newly enlisted privates of this Command during the Monday Flag Raising at Openiano Field on February 27, 2017.

The newly enlisted privates will report to the line units of the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Eastern Visayas and units deployed in Mindanao to carry out their mandated task in sustaining operation against any lawless elements that disturbed the peace and development of our nation.

The newly enlisted privates were blessed by Capt. John O. Geronimo, the Division Chaplain to keep them safe all the time while performing their duties.

Brig. Gen. Cesar M. Idio, the 8ID Assistant Division Commander, in his message reminded the newly enlisted privates the difficult process they went through before they became part of the AFP. "As new soldiers, love and take care of your profession. Your job will bring a better life not only for you but also for your family. Likewise, respect each human rights, rule of law and international humanitarian law. Always remember, the security of the people lies on you. May the Lord bless you every day to bring you success in your chosen profession," Idio added.

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## Capitol offers P300,000 to rebel surrenderees

From the Sun Star-Bacolod (Mar 2): **Capitol offers P300,000 to rebel surrenderees**

**THE Negros Occidental Provincial Government is offering as much as P300,000 to communist rebels who will surrender to the authorities.**

This was announced Wednesday by Governor Alfredo Marañon Jr. during the turn-over of command ceremony of the 303rd Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army in Camp Major Gerona, Murcia town.

**Marañon, in a speech, said the provincial government will give a maximum of P300,000 for every rebel returnee.**

**"This is on top of the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (Clip) program benefits,"** the governor said.

Clip, introduced by the Department of Interior and Local Government, is a collaborative program of the provincial government and the Philippine Army aimed at providing psycho-social and socio-economic security to former rebels to guide them to become productive members of the society.

**Marañon said there will be conditions in giving out the financial assistance, adding that their names will have to be verified by the Army first.**

**The governor said the rebel returnee can get as much as P300,000 if he/she will also surrender high-powered firearms. If none, he could get P100,000.**

Marañon said he had been calling on the members of the New People's Army (NPA) to go back to mainstream society because war is useless.

With the new program, the governor said he is hopeful that many rebels will surrender.

"I pity them. They have to endure rain, heat, and hunger in the mountains. With this program, it could help their livelihood. They could send their children to school and improve their lives," the governor said.

### Mass recruitment

**Major General Jon Aying, commander of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division based in Capiz, said there is "mass recruitment" of rebels in the region.**

He said the NPA has to recruit because many have left the rebel movement.

**"There's mass leave," Aying said, adding that the rebels prefer no ceasefire so they can have "full influence" on the communities.** Aying said he is confident that peace will be achieved in a few years time, but "we have to work together from the grassroots.

There should also be an effort from the community level."

### Marching order

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Aying's marching order to the new 303rd IB commander, Colonel Eliezer Losañes, is to take charge of "focus operations," which means more effort on combat operations, civil military operations, intelligence operations, and delivery of basic services.

Losañes said he is thankful for the support of the provincial government as it is a big boost to the Army's anti-terrorism campaign. He added that he would continue what his predecessor, Brigadier General Francisco Delfin, has started.

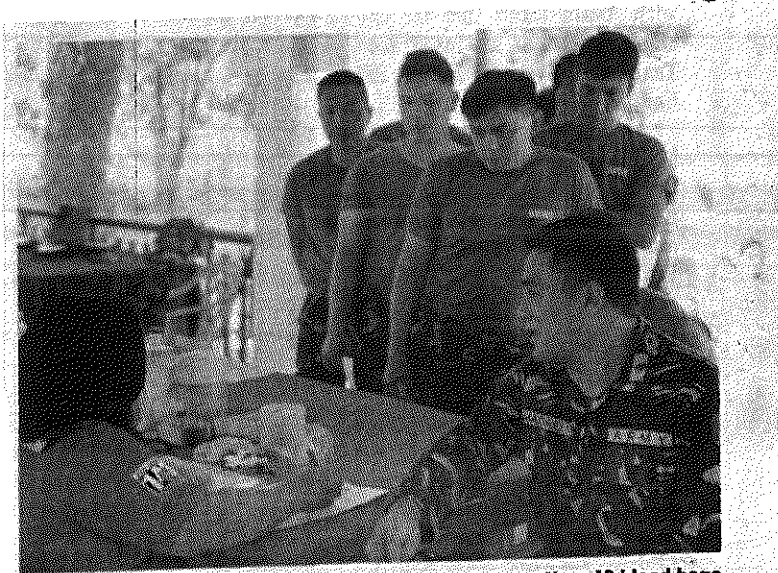
<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/bacolod/local-news/2017/03/02/capitol-offers-p300000-rebel-surrenderees-528705>

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**Blood warriors** Philippine Red Cross yields more than 40 blood bags (19,000 cc of blood) from 38 soldier donors of the 403rd Infantry "Peacemaker" Brigade of the Army's 4th Infantry Division in partnership with Malaybalay City government and POINTY-Bukidnon Youth Organization. During the bloodletting drive, one of the troopers said "We do not just bleed in battles; we also bleed in events like this in order to save lives."

P.N.A



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DEFINING THE NEWS

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# Troops assault ASG lair, kill 5

*All-out attack follows beheading of a German*

By Florante S. Solmerin and Francisco Tuyay

**F**IVE Abu Sayyaf Group terrorists were killed while dozen others—including 11 soldiers—were wounded as the military pressed its assault Wednesday on enemy positions in Indanan, Sulu, a military spokesman said Thursday.

The latest encounter occurred at 5:15 p.m. in Barangay Bud Taran when members of the 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion attacked terrorists believed to be holding hostages, said Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command. "Heavy skirmishes ensued resulting in the wounding of a soldier, while 10 other personnel

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## Troops...

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incurred minor splinter injuries," Petinglay said.

Casualties were heavier on the enemy side, she added, noting that at least five terrorists were killed and many more were wounded.

Wounded soldiers were airlifted to Kuta General Teodulfo Bautista Hospital.

Wesmincom commander Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. ordered more troops sent to the area to pursue the fleeing terrorists.

Galvez said the local government units, the Moro National Liberation Front, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and the traditional leaders are helping the government troops in fighting the ASG by providing information.

"Terrorism is a sickening problem that needs all sectors of society's cooperation for it to be defeated. With the renewed vigor of those who are against it, we are optimistic that we will be able to crush the bandits within six months," he said.

Last week, the ASG beheaded German captive Jurgen Kantner, 70, after his family failed to deliver ransom for his safe release.

The terrorist group posted video footage of Kantner's beheading on its website.

This infuriated the public and

President Rodrigo Duterte, who ordered the military to intensify operations against the terrorist group.

Military officials say more than a dozen local and foreign captives are still in the hands of the ASG.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana described the Abu Sayyaf as "animals."

"This will feel the wrath of the entire Filipino nation through the might of its armed forces," Lorenzana said.

Col. Cirilito Sobejana said the Abu Sayyaf fighters who figured in the latest clash were those responsible for the beheading of Kantner.

"Yes, this are the group, comprising more or less 70 members," Sobejana said.

During the clash, Sobejana said the troops spotted ASG Commander Muamar Askali, also known as Abu Rahmi, a sub-leader of ASG leader Radulan Sahiron, who was behind the beheading of Kantner.

The site of fighting was estimated seven miles away from the outskirts of Buanza town in Sulu where the killing of Kantner took place.

The all-out offensive is being supported by the deployment for the first time of naval gunboats armed with surface-to-surface missiles, Lorenzana said.

The deployment of the gunboats shows the determination of President Duterte to crush the Abu Sayyaf once and for all, he said. With PNA

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

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# AFP deploying missiles vs ASG

## 5 Sayyaf bandits slain, 11 soldiers hurt in Sulu clash

By THE PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY and FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

**T**he military will further intensify its all-out offensive against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) by deploying for the first time

naval gunboats armed with surface-to-surface missiles.

Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana revealed this in an exclusive inter-

view with the state-owned Philippine News Agency (PNA) last Wednesday. He said the surface-to-surface missiles are the latest weapons acquired by the Philippine Navy (PN) as part of the modernization of the Armed **►12**

## AFP deploying missiles... ◀1

Forces of the Philippines (AFP). They will be mounted on the existing navy gunboats.

Lorenzana said the deployment of naval gunboats armed with surface-to-surface missiles against the terrorist group shows the determination of President Duterte to crush once and for all the Abu Sayyaf.

The military's Joint Task Force Sulu, headed by Army Col. Cirilito Sobejana, has mounted a relentless offensive against the Abu Sayyaf in the island of Sulu since Monday following the beheading of Jurgen Gustav Kantner, a German national held hostage by the bandits since November last year.

Sobejana – a recipient of the Medal of Valor, the highest AFP medal for bravery in combat – has ordered ground and air assaults on Abu Sayyaf lairs in the jungles of Sulu without letup.

Wednesday afternoon, at least five Abu Sayyaf bandits were killed while scores of others, including 11 soldiers, were wounded in following an encounter with government troops.

Army Captain Jo-Ann D. Petinglay, the spokeswoman of the AFP's Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), said the encounter between the Abu Sayyaf and soldiers from Joint Task Force Sulu took place in Indanan, Sulu, at about 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, amid the intensified offensive against the ASG, which is still holding at least 30 hostages, comprising of a Dutch national, 12 Vietnamese, seven Indonesians, six

Filipinos and five Malaysians.

Petinglay said troops from the 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion were scouring the area when they encountered the Abu Sayyaf members in Barangay Tubig Dakula, Indanan.

She said heavy skirmishes ensued, resulting in the death of the five Abu Sayyaf bandits and the wounding of several others.

Petinglay said all the wounded soldiers were promptly evacuated to Kuta Heneral Teodulfo Bautista Hospital and were immediately given medical attention.

"The Joint Task Force Sulu continues to intensify the conduct of offensives against the Abu Sayyaf to neutralize the bandits and ensure the safe rescue of the remaining hostages. All measures are being undertaken in accordance with the rules of engagement and with the support from the local government and the populace," said Major General Carlito G. Galvez Jr., the commander of the Western Mindanao Command.

Galvez said the command is right now at an advantage since the local government unit, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and the traditional leaders are helping the government troops in fighting terrorism by means of giving information, thus, resulting in the decisive encounter on Wednesday.

"Terrorism is a sickening problem that needs all sectors of society's cooperation for it to be defeated. With the

renewed vigor of those who are against it, we are optimistic that we will be able to crush the bandits within six months," Galvez said.

Lorenzana condemned the Abu Sayyaf for beheading Kantner, who had not committed a wrongdoing against the terrorist group, adding that beheading is inhuman.

Lorenzana, a retired Army major general and a highly decorated combat officer as commander of the famed Scout Rangers, said he expects the AFP to crush the Abu Sayyaf in a year.

The Defense chief said the Abu Sayyaf will feel the wrath of the entire Filipino nation through the strength of the military.

He said that based on intelligence report there are about 300 Abu Sayyaf armed with high-powered firearms.

Even before the beheading, the Joint Task Force has been pounding Abu Sayyaf lairs with 105mm howitzers and helicopter gunships of the Philippine Air Force (PAF), using air-to-ground rockets and M60 machine guns the past week in an effort to rescue Kantner.

Some of the government troops pursuing the terrorists are equipped with night vision goggles.

Lorenzana said the AFP will buy additional night vision devices to upgrade their fighting capability at night.

"We will buy more for our soldiers," Lorenzana said.

Night vision goggles enable the soldiers to operate at night and see the enemy where they are hiding during combat at night.

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## DEFENSE CHIEF VOWS: 'ANIMALS' WILL PAY FOR GERMAN'S BEHEADING

By Cynthia D. Balana  
@cynchdbINQ

Calling members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) "animals," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Thursday vowed to make the terrorists pay for the beheading of German hostage Jurgen Gustav Kantner in Indanan, Sulu, for nonpayment of the P30-million ransom.

Lorenzana said he was deeply saddened by what happened to Kantner at the hands of the terrorists whose name, he said, no longer deserved to be mentioned.

"What we can assure them

and the whole world is that we are going after these animals with the full force of the law," Lorenzana said.

"Make no mistake. They will feel the wrath of the entire Filipino nation through the might of its armed forces," he added.

While the AFP has confirmed the beheading based on its own "reliable sources," Kantner's body, however, has yet to be found.

Lorenzana described the beheading as the most heinous of crimes against humanity by a group which has made terrorism their business.

"We extend our most heart-

felt sympathies to the family and loved ones of Mr. Kantner. We cannot even begin to imagine the anguish and grief they are now through," he said.

Arsenio Andolong, chief of the public affairs service of the Department of National Defense, said since the ASG was on the move, it would be problematic on their part to dispose of Kantner's remains at the moment.

Andolong said both the Philippine and the German governments were firm on the no-ransom policy and did not deal with terrorists.

He said that as of last count, there were 31 hostages—12

Vietnamese, seven Indonesians, six Filipinos, five Malaysians, and one Dutch—in the hands of the ASG.

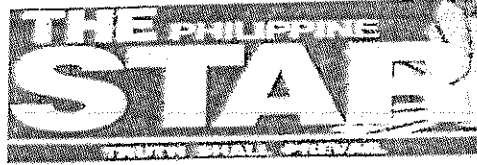
Andolong said that there were many factors affecting the operations against the terrorists.

"As far as the secretary of national defense is concerned, he is sad and angry at the same time for what happened and I think he is taking this very personally," he said.

He said there were already movements on the ground being made by the AFP, including a reshuffle of ground commanders, in Mindanao to better address the ASG menace. INQ



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# Abus still have 31 hostages

By JAIME LAUDE

The Abu Sayyaf group that beheaded German hostage Juergen Kantner last Sunday is still holding 31 foreign and local hostages, the Department of National Defense (DND) said yesterday.

Director Arsenio Andolong, chief of the DND's Public Affairs Service, said the bandits are still holding 12 Vietnamese, seven Indonesians, five Malaysians, a Dutchman and six Filipinos as hostages.

Andolong stressed military operations in rescuing the remaining hostages are being hampered by the support of civilian communities that the bandits have already established.

He said a good number of civilians and some dubious personalities in the province have been providing help to the bandits for financial considerations.

The military has deployed thousands of troops in the Abu Sayyaf strongholds of Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Jolo islands, yet despite air and ground offensives, the bandit group's piracy and kidnappings continue unabated.

The bandits are entrenched in local communities, complicating operations by a military that is wary of incurring civilian casualties.

It is common knowledge that part of the hundreds of million in ransom money that the bandits have amassed from their criminal activities are being used by the group to buy the support and loyalty of civilians in the villages as well as key personalities in the province for protection.

Without this unholy alliance, the bandits would have long been decimated by the 14 battalions of soldiers deployed to track them down and rescue the hostages.

"Without going into details, they (Abu Sayyaf) have support structures among the public and this has to be addressed," Andolong said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to implement a different approach to address the prevailing alliance between civilians and the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Without elaborating, Andolong said the military actions against the bandits will henceforth be different.

"The defense chief is angry and sad because of what happened and he is taking this very personally. This thing happened under his watch and he, being a Maguindanaoan, is very serious about dealing with this problem," Andolong said.

In a statement, Lorenzana vowed that the Abu Sayyaf, who he described as "animals," will feel the wrath of the entire Filipino nation through the might of its armed forces.

Describing the execution of Kantner as the most heinous of crimes against humanity, Lorenzana assured the family of the victim that the full force of the military will be applied against the bandits.

– With John Unson

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# Failure to save German hostage 'humbling'

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

**A**rmed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Air Force Brigadier General Restituto Padilla said on Thursday the beheading of Juergen Gustav Kantner by Abu Sayyaf bandits is a humbling experience for the military.

The Abu Sayyaf killed the 70-year-old German after the P30-million ransom was not paid.

"It is humbling to admit that we failed to rescue this foreigner in time and so with the other kidnap victims since this issue is no simple matter," Padilla said.

"We are not giving excuses but the conditions we face are complex. The problem on the ground is deeply rooted and goes back a long way in our history. This is why we have been pushing for a holistic approach that requires targeting systemic issues that are economic, cultural, social, political, etc," he said.

The killing of Kantner will further motivate the Armed Forces to work doubly hard in crippling the enemy, Padilla said.

Since last November, or following Kantner's abduction, 15 soldiers have been killed and over a hundred were wounded in efforts of rescuing the German and other kidnap victims.

"We have lost good men in this fight and we will never let go until we get the mission done. That is our commitment to our people and the Commander in Chief. No less than the Chief of Staff has said so," Padilla said.

AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo said the military has sent its best commanders and seasoned soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines to the front to hunt down the Abu Sayyaf.

"There are sufficient personnel and combat support wherewithal already deployed in Sulu. But even their deployment has to be calculated and military intelligence driven," Arevalo said.

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## DND: Ransom not paid for German hostage release

The Department of National Defense (DND) said there are no indication that ransom was paid at the last minute to stem the execution of German captive, Juergen Kantner, by Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) bandits last February 26.

“Not to our knowledge, the German government and Philippine government understand each other that we have a firm no ransom policy as far as we are concerned,” DND public affairs office chief Arsenio Andolong said at a briefing yesterday.

And this includes third party negotiators, he added.

Andolong said that as of last count, the ASG are holding 31 hostages and this can be broken down into 12 Vietnamese, six Filipinos, one Dutch, seven Indonesians and five Malaysians.

The ASG earlier said it will behead Kantner if their P30-million ransom are not paid before 3 p.m. of February 26.

Kantner was kidnapped by the ASG bandits while his yacht *Rockall* was cruising off Sulu waters last November. **PNA**

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## Commonsense

By MARICHU A. VILLANUEVA

### 'Cottage industry' of Abu Sayyaf

For the second time in a row, President Rodrigo Duterte had to make a public apology involving foreign nationals killed one after the other while they were here in the Philippines. President Duterte apologized in behalf of the Filipino people and the government.

President Duterte first issued formal apology to the family and the government of South Korea for the death of Jee Ick-Joo. The South Korean national was abducted last month in Pampanga and later killed by rogue cops right inside Camp Crame in Quezon City.

Last Tuesday, President Duterte made another apology, this time to the family, government and people of Germany for the kidnap-slay of Juergen Gustav Kantner. The German national was beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf bandits after their P30 million ransom demand was not met. Kantner, 70, was held by the Abus in Jolo for more than three months. He and his woman companion Sabine Merz were seized by the bandits from their 53-foot yacht while sailing near Sabah in eastern Malaysia. Merz was shot dead when she tried to resist the bandits.

Duterte issued the public apology when Palace reporters sought his message about the latest Abu atrocity. "We really tried our best. We have been there, the military operation has been going on for some time already but we have failed," the President frankly admitted.

The President made it clear the Philippine government did not surrender its "no ransom" policy because it would only enable the Abus to grow in number. Much earlier, the former Davao City Mayor revealed they have confirmed reports the Abus have been trying to associate themselves with the Islamic State (IS) extremists, an international terror group also known for beheading their hostage victims while taping it in video and uploading it on social media.

The beheading of Kantner was the first one since the administration of President Duterte. Before this latest incident, Canadian nationals John Ridsdel and Robert Hall were beheaded by the Abus in April and June last year, respectively.

**It was very unfortunate but highly statesman of President Duterte to make such apology one after the other to these foreign governments.**



In making these apologies, President Duterte had to do this also in the names of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) also in his capacity as their commander-in-chief. The latest presidential apology came a day after he convened at Malacanang a command conference with the top brass of the AFP, PNP and Cabinet officials involved in national security, peace and order matters.

Given the limited resources of the Philippines, President Duterte disclosed, he sounded out China to help patrol the international waters along Malaysia and Indonesia. Many piracy incidents and Abu Sayyaf abductions have been taking place in these overlapping waters in the southern region of the Philippines. So far, China has not responded yet to this request.

It was very unfortunate but highly statesman of President Duterte to make such apology one after the other to these foreign governments.

To the officers and men of the AFP, the President's gesture served to heighten their resolve to gather support of all Filipinos to help the military and the civilian government put an end to the Abu Sayyaf's reign of terror in the country, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, the official spokesman of the AFP, declared.

To build up capacity to protect the seas from these bandits and pirates who use high-speed boats, Padilla announced the Philippine Navy will have this May its second Sealift vessel that was built in Indonesia. Padilla said the Navy's latest ship asset is capable of loading troops and heavy equipment not only for military operations but also for disaster rescue and relief activities. It has three helipads and could take two more helicopters below deck and fast speedboats, he said.

The first Sealift vessel of the Navy was delivered early last year during the administration of former president Benigno "Noy" Aquino. Hence, it was named BRP Tarlac, as in *Barko ng Republika ng Pilipinas* in honor of Mr. Aquino's home province. The second one to be delivered under the Duterte administration naturally will be christened as BRP Davao del Sur, obviously in honor of President Duterte's province.

Gen. Padilla cited a bit of history in trying to underscore the need for cooperation of neighboring countries like China, Indonesia and Malaysia to interdict these modern-day pirates doing the same kind of barbaric acts.

By way of trivia, Gen. Padilla recalled how the Philippines got to own an island off Mindanao without mentioning the name of the island for obvious reasons. The King of Brunei Darussalam gave this island (referring to Sabah) to the Sultan of Sulu as a reward in going after marauding pirates who also beheaded their victims, he quipped.

He reported to us during our weekly *Kapitan sa Manila Bay* at Cafe Adriatico in Malate there are still 31 hostages in captivity by the kidnap bandits held in their various lairs around their stronghold areas in Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-tawi, or collectively called as BaSulTa. Still being held hostages include 12 Vietnamese; seven Indonesians; five Malaysians; six Filipinos; and one Dutch national.

According to him, the AFP no longer include in their hostage count Japanese national Mukayama Mamaito who was kidnapped in July 2010 while in Sulu but who stays up to now with the Abus. The Japanese national has become their "cook," based from intelligence reports the AFP gathered. "That's why the Abus now enjoy eating sashimi, sushi," he wisecracked.

Levity aside, he explained, it turned out the Japanese national has no family or relatives from whom the Abus can demand ransom. But obviously, the hostage victim is now a case of "Stockholm syndrome," or the hostage victim has been brainwashed into believing the cause of his or her captors.

Although diminished in numbers, the 500 or so ragtag bandits, Gen. Padilla, however, conceded the Abu Sayyaf group continues to remain among major threat groups in the country. They have turned their kidnap-for-ransom criminal activity as a "cottage industry" in the BaSulTa areas where they can freely move around.

With so much money they have amassed from their kidnap-for-ransom activities, the Abus have not only acquired high-powered firearms but have also been buying the loyalty of the local folks. This is why, Padilla pointed out, the military could not keep pin down the bandits moving around with their hostages.

Thus, Gen. Padilla echoed AFP's support to President Duterte's economic programs to bring development in Mindanao to put an end to this "cottage industry" of the Abu Sayyaf.





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Pahina. 4

### *Editorial*

## **Pagbayarin na ang Abu Sayyaf**

**M**ARAMI nang inutang na buhay ang Abu Sayyaf kaya nararapat lamang na pagbayarin na sila. Kung hindi magsasagawa ng puspusang opensiba laban sa mga criminal, mauulit muli ang masama nilang gawain. Itutok ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang kanilang atensiyon sa mga teroristang ito at ubusin na.

Noong Linggo, pinugutan nila ng ulo ang German national na si Juergen Gustav Kantner. Naganap ang pagpugot sa Bgy. Buanza, Indanan, Sulu. Ang nagsagawa ng pagpugot ay nakilalang si Muamar Askali alias Abu Rami. Humihingi ng P30 million ang mga bandido. Dinukot si Juergen at asawa nitong si Sabine Merz noong Nobyembre 2016. Naniaban si Sabine kaya binaril ito.

Marami pang susunod na biktima kung hindi magsasagawa nang sunud-sunod na pagsalakay ang AFP. Hindi titigil ang mga terorista sa pangangidnap hangga't nakikita nilang may nagbiigay ng ransom. Kaya isa lamang ang solusyon sa probema — pibusin na!

Noong nakaraang taon, dalawang Canadian ang pinugutan ng mga bandido. Ang una ay si John Ridsdel, 68, na hinihingan ng P20 milyong ransom subalit hindi nakatupad ang pamilya. Ang ikalawa ay si Robert Hall, 66, na pinugutan noong Hunyo 2016 nang hindi rin maibigay ang hinihinging ransom. Si Ridsdel at Hall, kasama ang Norwegian hotel manager na si Kjartan Sekkingstad at Pinay na si Marites Flor ay kinidnap noong Setyembre 21, 2015 habang nasa isang resort sa Samal Island, Davao del Norte. Napalaya naman sina Kjartan Sekkingstad at Marites.

Ang AFP na mismo ang nagsasabi na kakaunti na lamang ang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf. Kung kakaunti, bakit hirap na hirap silang durugin ang mga ito. Bakit nakakalusot sa kanila at patuloy na nakapangidnap.

Bakit hindi rin dukutin ng military ang mga kaanak ng Abu Sayyaf para mapilitang sumuko ang mga terorista.

O kung magsasagawa ng opensiba sa lugar ng Sayyaf, paaalisin muna ang mga residente at saka bagsakan ng bomba. Kung hindi ganito ang gagawin, wala nang pag-asang malipol ang mga kampon ng demonyo.

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## ONLINE NEWS 08 MARCH 2017

# AFP deploys missile firing naval gunboat to Sulu vs Abu Sayyaf

From the Philippine News Agency (Mar 2): **AFP deploys missile firing naval gunboat to Sulu vs Abu Sayyaf**

The government's all-out offensive against the Abu Sayyaf terrorists hiding in the jungles of Sulu and Basilan is being boosted with the deployment for the first time of naval gunboats armed with surface-to-surface missiles, according to Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana.

In an exclusive interview with PNA on Wednesday, Lorenzana said the surface-to-surface missiles are the latest weapons acquired by the Philippine Navy (PN) as the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) which is long overdue.

The Joint Task Force Sulu of the military presently commanded Army Col. Cirilito Sobejana, has mounted a relenting offensive against the Abu Sayyaf in the island of Sulu since Monday following the beheading of Jurgen Gustav Kantner, a German national hostage by the Abu Sayyaf since November last year.

Sobejana, a recipient of the Medal of Valor, the highest AFP medal for bravery in combat, has ordered a ground and air assaults on Abu Sayyaf lairs in the jungles of Sulu without letup.

Lorenzana said the deployment of naval gunboats armed with surface-to-surface missiles against the terrorist group shows the determination of President Rodrigo R. Duterte to crush once and for all the Abu Sayyaf.

He condemned the Abu Sayyaf for beheading Kantner, who had not committed a wrong doing against the terrorist group, adding that beheading is inhuman.

Lorenzana, a retired major general of the Philippine Army, and a highly decorated combat officer as commander of the famed Scout Rangers of the Philippine Army, said he expects the AFP to crush the Abu Sayyaf in a year.

He said that based on intelligence report there are about 300 Abu Sayyaf armed with high-powered firearms.

Even before the beheading, the Joint Task Force has been pounding Abu Sayyaf lairs with 105mm howitzers and helicopter gunships of the Philippine Air Force (PAF), using air-to-ground rockets and M60 machine guns the past week in an effort to rescue Kantner.

Some of the government troops pursuing the terrorists are equipped with night vision goggles.

Lorenzano said the AFP will buy additional night vision devices to upgrade their fighting capability at night.

"We will buy more for our soldiers," Lorenzana said.

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Night vision goggles enable the soldiers to operate at night and see the enemy where they are hiding during combat at night.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=968550>

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## 5 ASG terrorists killed, 11 troopers hurt in latest Sulu clash

From the Philippine News Agency (Mar 2): 5 ASG terrorists killed, 11 troopers hurt in latest Sulu clash

Five Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) terrorists were reported killed while 11 soldiers were slightly wounded by shrapnel during encounter in Sulu Wednesday afternoon.

The incident took place 5:15 p.m., said Western Mindanao Command (WMC) spokesperson Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay on Thursday.

The clash stemmed from ongoing focused military operations against the bandit group in Indanan town, of the said province.

Heavy fighting took place when troopers from the 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion flushed an undetermined number of ASG terrorists.

In the encounter, five bandits were killed and undetermined number wounded while 11 soldiers were slightly wounded by shrapnel.

Petinglay said all the wounded soldiers were promptly evacuated to Kuta Heneral Teodulfo Bautista Hospital and were immediately given medical attention.

"The Joint Task Force Sulu continues to intensify the conduct of offensives against the Abu Sayyaf to neutralize the bandits and ensure the safe rescue of the remaining hostages. All measures are being undertaken in accordance with the rules of engagement and with the support from the local government and the populace," said WMC commander Major General Carlito G. Galvez, Jr.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=968521>

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## NGCP tower in Cotabato bombed

From the Philippine News Agency (Mar 2): **NGCP tower in Cotabato bombed**

Power-grid operator National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) reported Thursday that its Tower 138 of the Kibawe-Kabacan 138-kV line in Kabacan, Cotabato was bombed Wednesday evening.

The NGCP said in a statement that "no major damage on the tower" was sustained in the first bombing of NGCP towers this year.

The Sy-led firm however stressed that bombings only "serve to increase the burden of the public, which must suffer through service interruptions when towers are bombed".

The company said inspection of the tower and repair will start as soon as the area is secured.

It also urged the local government, Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, local community leaders and the public to help identify the bombers.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=&sid=&nid=&rid=968566>

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## North Cotabato solon proposes Mechanized Agri Battalion to win war vs. rebellion

From the Philippine News Agency (Mar 2): North Cotabato solon proposes Mechanized Agri Battalion to win war vs. rebellion

A member of North Cotabato's provincial board has urged the defense and agriculture departments to establish a Mechanized Agriculture Battalion (MAB) in support of President Duterte's thrust to attain peace and food sufficiency.

North Cotabato 3rd District Board Member Socrates Pinol said under his proposed MAB, the military will be deployed to rebel infested areas to help farmers harvest their crops using rice harvesters, corn sheller, mobile grain harvesters and other state of the art agriculture equipment. Pinol stressed that the government should set an unconventional warfare by using mechanized farm equipment instead of mechanized battalion using artillery and canons.

"Let's bring the war against the rebels in an uncommon ground because the real battle fields are in the hearts of the people specifically in rebel stronghold communities wherein the rebels have very strong mass support," he explained.

"What if instead of bringing tanks, they will just bring farm machinery wherein farmers can avail of it for free or at a very low cost then bring the harvest of the farmers to the market using military trucks?" Pinol said.

He stressed that it will be cheaper and very effective approach if farm machinery will be fielded in this areas than tanks and canons.

"Tanks are very expensive and disastrous while rice harvesters are cheap and very effective approach in swaying public sympathy," he explained.

Pinol said a tank can exterminate a whole community of rebel supporters but it can never extinguish people's disgust against the government.

Anger, Pinol said, can never be doused off but hostility will sprout again and be carried out by the next generation.

"The reason poor people sympathized with the rebels is because the rebels were able to emphasize government's neglect. Rebellion is born out of peoples' disgust. The battle cry of the rebels becomes legitimate as they capitalize in government's long time neglect," he said.

"If our soldiers will be the channel of change and progress for these farmers in rebel infested areas, the negative impression will slowly change," he said.

"Win peoples support in rebel infested areas by addressing government neglect, help farmers become productive," he stressed.

When his proposal is realized, Pinol said the war against the rebels will be won without firing a single shot.

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The provincial board member is the younger brother of Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Pinol.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=2&sid=&nid=2&rid=968511>

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