

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

29 May 2017

Monday

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

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BusinessMirror

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BusinessMirror

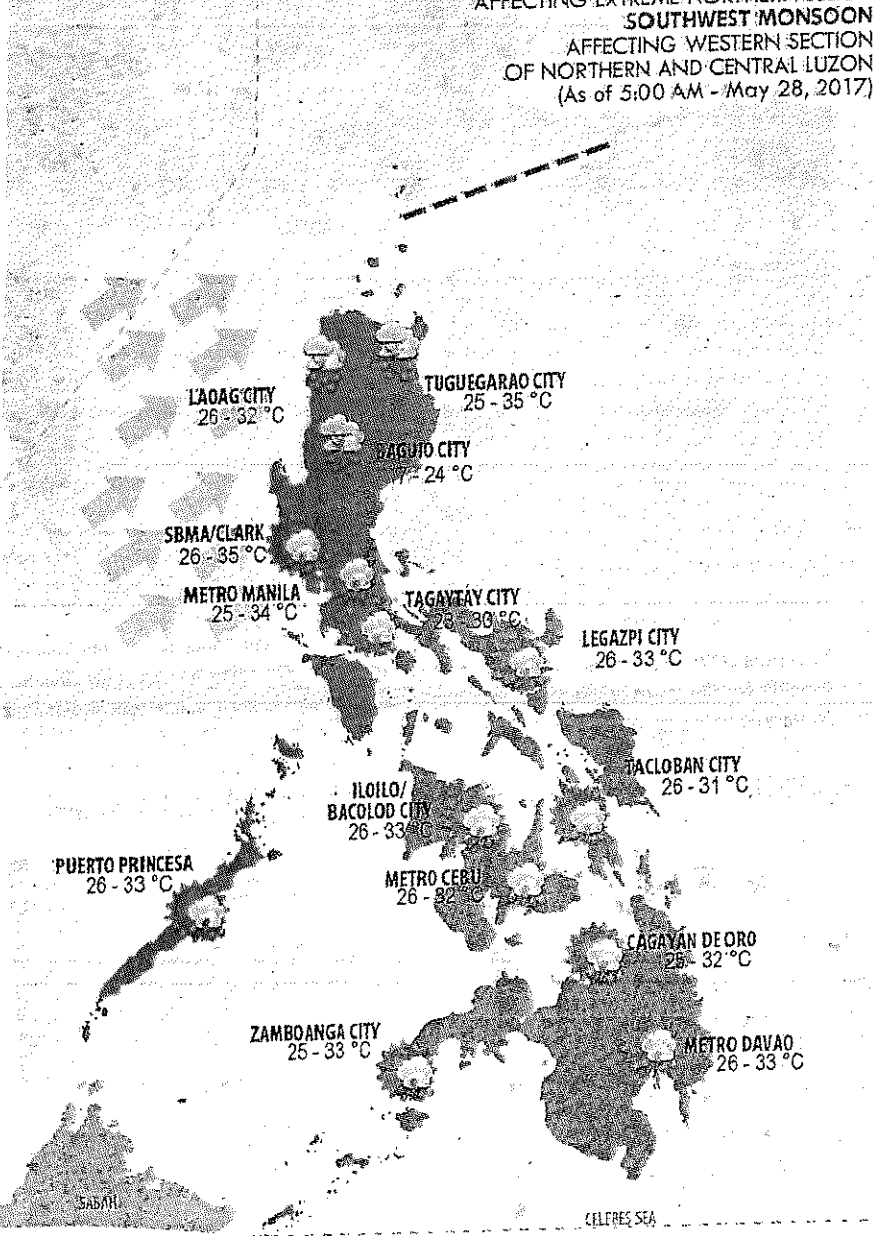
A broader look at today's business



ODAY'S WEATHER

MAY 29, 2017 | MONDAY

FRONTAL SYSTEM
AFFECTING EXTREME NORTHERN LUZON
SOUTHWEST MONSOON
AFFECTING WESTERN SECTION
OF NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON
(As of 5:00 AM - May 28, 2017)



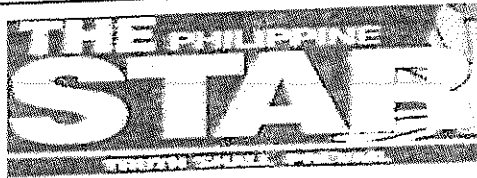
3-DAY EXTENDED FORECAST

| | MAY 30 Tuesday | MAY 31 Wednesday | JUNE 1 Thursday |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| METRO MANILA | 25 - 35 °C | 25 - 35 °C | 26 - 34 °C |
| TUGUEGARAO | 25 - 37 °C | 25 - 37 °C | 25 - 37 °C |
| LAOAG | 26 - 33 °C | 26 - 33 °C | 26 - 33 °C |
| BAGUIO | 17 - 25 °C | 17 - 25 °C | 17 - 26 °C |
| SBMA/CLARK | 26 - 36 °C | 26 - 36 °C | 26 - 36 °C |
| TAGAYTAY | 24 - 31 °C | 24 - 31 °C | 24 - 32 °C |
| LEGAZPI | 26 - 33 °C | 26 - 33 °C | 26 - 33 °C |
| PUERTO PRINCESA | 26 - 33 °C | 26 - 33 °C | 26 - 33 °C |
| ILOILO/BACOLOD | 26 - 32 °C | 26 - 33 °C | 26 - 33 °C |

Watch PanahonTV on DZRH News Television from Monday to Friday at 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM, and via Pilipinas HD at 6:00 AM, 6:30 PM and 9:00 PM.



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Duterte 'won't listen' to Congress, SC on ML

JOLO—President Duterte has vowed to ignore the Supreme Court and Congress as he enforces martial law across Mindanao despite the Constitution giving them oversight.

Duterte on Tuesday imposed martial law in Mindanao, home to 20 million people, following deadly clashes in the mostly Muslim-populated Marawi City involving the Maute group which, he said, was trying to establish a caliphate for the Islamic State group.

"Until the police and the Armed Forces say the Phil-

ippines is safe, this martial law will continue. I will not listen to others. The Supreme Court, Congress, they are not here," Duterte told soldiers on Saturday.

"Are they the ones dying and losing blood, bleeding, hemorrhaging because there is no help, no reinforcement? It's not they," he said.

The 1987 Constitution

imposes limits on martial law to prevent a repeat of the abuses carried out under the regime of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was deposed by the people power revolution in 1986.

The Constitution requires Congress to approve a president's declaration of martial law, and limits military rule

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Duterte

From Page 1

for 60 days. If a president wants to extend it, he or she must again get congressional endorsement.

The Supreme Court (SC) can also rule on martial law's legality.

"The Supreme Court will say they will examine into the factual (basis) Why I don't know. They are not soldiers. They do not know what is happening on the ground," Duterte said.

A day after declaring martial law, Duterte described the nine years of military rule under Marcos as "very good," and said his would be similar.

Duterte also told soldiers on Friday they would be allowed to conduct searches and arrests without warrants.

"During martial law, your commanders, you, you can arrest any person, search any house. There is no more warrant needed," Duterte told troops.

Local 5205, 5295

OFFICE OF THE ARMY

Duterte's comments contradicted a government statement released on Saturday to explain martial law.

"Warrants of arrest or search warrants should be issued," the statement from the government's information agency said.

"No person may be arrested and detained without orders coming from these civil courts."

Duterte has overwhelming support in Congress, which this week is widely expected to endorse his initial declaration of martial law.

Looming clash

Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, however, on Friday expressed concerns about martial law, saying the sins of martial law during the dictatorship of the late Ferdinand Marcos could possibly be repeated under the current martial law.

"Given the present day, when the possibility of history repeating itself looms imminent, no cause requires your commitment as much as the cause of human rights, justice, and democracy," Sereno was quoted as saying in her speech during the commencement exercise at the Ateneo de Manila University last Friday.

"Today, people's fundamental human rights and freedoms, the core of our democracy, face grave and blatant threats. The culture of impunity is on the rise. People are pressured to favor the easy choice over the right choice: expediency over due process; convenient labeling over fairness; the unlawful termination of

human life over rehabilitation," she further stated.

But Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II yesterday questioned her opinion, stressing that statements publicly made by Sereno might be uncalled for.

"I believe such statements are premature and imprudent on the part of the Chief Justice," he told The STAR.

Aguirre said that Duterte's declaration of martial law to neutralize the Maute terror group after its occupation of Marawi City is expected to be submitted for judicial review of the SC through petition by critics.

The justice secretary said prudence dictates that members of the high court, including the chief justice, must refrain from commenting on legal questions and issues up for SC review, adding that public statements by magistrates could be used as ground for inhibition in cases.

Aguirre believes Sereno's position should better be included in a magistrate's written opinion on the issue only after submission of arguments, hearing and deliberations in the high tribunal.

The SC has yet to lay down guidelines on the use of executive power to declare martial law after the Marcos regime.

Still no implementing guidelines

One week into the declaration of martial law in Mindanao through Proclamation 216, no ground implementation guidelines have been issued by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to the two major military commands in the area, the Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) and the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom).

"(Eastmincom) is awaiting guidelines from the (AFP) on how this will be implemented on the ground," the Eastmincom said in a statement

yesterday.

"We are yet to get a written guidance as to how the declaration will translate to our operations on the ground, especially here in Western Mindanao, where all threat groups are present," the Westmincom said in a separate statement.

"The guidelines will come out soon. They're working on them," Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea told The STAR.

Eastmincom officials said they have remained on heightened alert since May 11, when joint AFP-Philippine National Police operations encountered the group of Isnilon Hapilon in Marawi City.

While noting volatile situation in its area, which jurisdiction includes Marawi City, Westmincom assured the public it would use the current mandate to boost its campaign against terrorism, in accordance with the law and with respect to human rights and the International Humanitarian Law.

'Misguided commentaries'

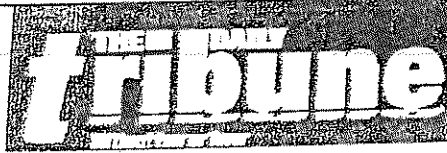
Meanwhile, Malacañang yesterday lashed at critics of the Mindanao martial law who feared it could lead to abuses and curtailment of civil and political rights.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella dismissed the criticisms as "misguided commentaries."

"The President's focus is on addressing the terrorist threat in Mindanao," Abella said in a statement yesterday.

"He is committed to succeeding in this mission and to restoring peace and order so that other people throughout Mindanao can fully participate in our nation's development." - AFP, Edu Punay, Edith Regalado, Alexis Romero

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'I WILL NOT LISTEN TO OTHERS'

State forces to say when ML ends – DU30

By Ted Tuvera

It will be the police and the armed forces and not the Supreme Court nor Congress that will determine the length of martial law declaration in Mindanao, President Duterte said yesterday before soldiers of the 2nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade HQ in Iligan City.

Duterte last Tuesday imposed martial law in the Mindanao region, home to 20 million people, following deadly clashes in Marawi City involving militants he said were trying to establish a caliphate for the Islamic State group.

"Until the police and the armed forces say the Philippines is safe, this martial law will continue. I will not listen to others. The Supreme Court, Congress, they are not here," Duterte said.

"Are they the ones dying and losing blood, bleeding, hemorrhaging because there is no help, no reinforcement? It's not them," he added.

Mr. Duterte also addressed the Supreme Court and a few lawmakers

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Sereno's veiled warning

In a commencement speech at the Ateneo De Manila University on Friday, the country's chief magistrate, Sereno, took exception of Mr. Duterte's claim that his brand of martial law will be no different to that of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos' way

"If President Duterte and the government authorities avoid the gross historical sins of Mister Marcos and his agents, then our country might reap the benefits of the legitimate use of the provision on martial law in the 1987 Constitution," Sereno said.

"Suffice it to say that the martial law power is an immense power that can be used for good, to solve defined emergencies, but all legitimate powers when abused can result in oppression," she added.

Most of the legislators, on the other hand, that oppose Mr. Duterte's decree are arguing on its necessity which appears to belittle military officials' claim that the "government remains on the top of the situation".

Critics of Mr. Duterte also questioned the imposition saying that previous presidents did not declare martial law despite emergency crises in Mindanao such as the President Joseph Estrada's "war" against Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels which successfully led to the government overrunning the separatists' largest base, Camp Abu Bakr. Also, President Aquino did not opt for military rule to quell the Moro National Liberation Front's (MNLF) attempt to seize Zamboanga City.

Presidential spokesman Eusebio Abella, moreover, said that President Duterte has no time to attend to what critics has to say.

"The President's focus is on addressing the terrorist threat in Mindanao, not on the misguided commentaries of critics," Abella said in a text message to Palace reporters.

"He is committed to succeed in this mission and to restoring peace and order so that people throughout Mindanao can fully participate in our nation's development," he added.

Duterte also told soldiers on Friday they would be allowed to conduct searches and arrests without warrants.

"During martial law, your commanders, you, you can arrest any person, search any house. There is no more warrant needed," Duterte told troops on Friday.

Duterte's comments contradicted a government statement released on Saturday to explain martial law.

"Warrants of arrest or search warrants should be issued," the statement from the government's information agency said.

"No person may be arrested and detained without orders coming from these civil courts."

Duterte has overwhelming support in congress, which is this week widely expected to endorse his initial declaration of martial law.

However the Supreme Court chief justice, Maria Lourdes Sereno, on Friday expressed concerns about martial law.

Palace to name Maranao spokesman

The Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) will appoint a civilian Maranao spokesman to specifically address the Lanao region on updates on the government's ongoing offensive against the Maute terror group in Marawi City.

The move is part of the PCOO's establishment of the "Mindanao Hour" Communications Center in Davao City which will serve as the main source of accurate and reliable information on the declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

"In this time of crisis, it is strategically wise for us to expand our communications language from national to regional in order to avoid marginalizing those who are most affected by the declaration of Martial Law," PCOO Secretary Martin Andanar said.

Communication flow will emanate from this center to and from the national government, including information released to the media.

All processed information from conflict areas will be relayed to the Mindanao Hour Communications Center in Davao and to Malacañang for the regular press briefings in Manila and Davao.

The Mindanao Hour Communications Center in Davao will be headed by Andanar while the Iigan Mindanao Hour Communications Center will be headed by Philippine Information Agency (PIA) Director General Harold Clavite.

The PCOO and its attached agencies including PIA, People's Television (PTV), Philippine Broadcasting Service (PBS), Philippine News Agency (PNA) and Radio TV Malacanang (RTVM) will

be on board and daily press briefings will be organized at the Mindanao Hour Communications Center in Davao.

The Mindanao Hour Daily Briefings will be aired live on PCOO's attached agencies and on their Facebook pages.

"The Mindanao Hour" and "The Maranao Hour Segment" updates will be available online through PIA's Mindanao Hour microsite and Mindanao Hour Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts and is scheduled to air starting on first week of June.

Rape joke sick - critics

Mr. Duterte's critics in the Senate, meanwhile, slammed Mr. Duterte over his latest faux pas, joking about answering for soldiers misdeed including rape under his declared martial law in Mindanao.

Senators Leila de Lima and Antonio Trillanes IV chastised the President's pronouncements, describing him as a sick man who could even poke fun of rape, in this trying time.

"Duterte's statement assuring legal absolution for soldiers who commit rape during martial law is as dangerous as it is sick. At a time when our people are looking for assurances that the abuses of the past martial rule would not resurface anymore, the Commander in Chief, in fact, does the opposite. How I long for the day the people would realize that they have a madman for President," Trillanes said.

De Lima said the same as she urged the public to express outrage over this latest rape joke of the President.

"My fellow Filipinos, why do we allow him to get away with so much?" she asked in a statement.

"Speak up. Do not allow this to continue. This is not right. Say so, for the sake of all that we hold as sacred and deserving of respect, do not be passive in the face of monstrosity. Otherwise, in the end, we might find that his sickness has become ours and our children's," De Lima said.

In giving a pep talk to soldiers last Friday, the President joked about soldiers committing rape with impunity under martial law.

"I will be imprisoned for you. If you rape three (women) I will say that I did it. But if you marry four, son of a whore you will be beaten up," he was quoted saying.

De Lima noted how the President about all the people he killed and had killed, even telling

"He curses at and disrespects people and institutions just because they ask him to respect the law and deliver justice, and not respond to every problem with even more heinous criminal acts. He promises to defend our sovereignty, but willingly surrenders more and more of our rights, territories and even the future of our children to foreign powers," she said.

"Now, he jokes about allowing soldiers to get away with raping women. The more, the better. In the middle of a crisis that he himself has characterized as being of such gravity that it necessitated the declaration of Martial Law over the whole of Mindanao, he insults women, soldiers and our entire

nation with a sick "joke" that once again draws back the curtain and allows us to see the beast that lurks behind," she added.

In a radio interview, Trillanes said the President cannot claim that he made the comment in jest saying that issues such as martial law and rape are not taken lightly especially by a Commander in Chief.

Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero, in a separate interview, said Duterte should get used to fact that he's the president and anything he says is a reflection of his presidency.

Escudero said that while the public should get the hang of it, the way the President speaks in public, Duterte himself should also get accustomed to the fact that everything he says could easily be given color.

While the President was obviously not egging the soldiers to commit rape and was not serious what he uttered those words, the senator said it's unfortunate that Duterte has to crack a joke about a highly sensitive issue such rape.

6

War veterans back Rodry

The Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP), however, declared its full support to President Rodrigo Duterte's decision to place Mindanao under Martial Law.

This was part of VFP president ret. Col. Bonifacio de Garcia's statement on Sunday in the recently concluded National Presidents Convention (CY-2017) participated in by the country's veterans' leaders from Regions 1 to 13, including Cordillera Administrative Region, NCR, Charter, and Affiliate Organizations of the government-owned and-controlled corporation.

De Gracia, speaking before veterans presidents, said that the President "(He) may not have been here physically, but we can greatly feel his presence and concerns about veterans. Through the power vested in him by the people, as head of the state, he has pushed for the expedition of AFP Retirees' pension. And as of late, his decision to declare Mindanao under Martial Law is one of the best decisions ever for the welfare of the people."

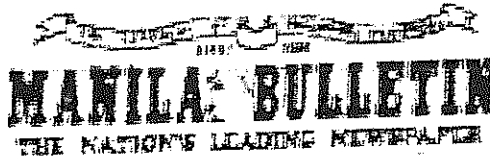
Department of National Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana was the guest of honor and speaker of the event hosted by the VFP which was also participated in by World War II veterans and their descendants.

The Secretary also quoted former President Carlos P. Garcia's words spoken during the organization's first ever National Convention in 1958 when he said, "Obstacles can never be overcome if the various organizations continue to exist serving their own individual ends and working, more often than not, at cross purposes."

"VFP has its set of ups and downs, but it is the truth and unity that save you from all the trials such as the criminal case filed against the VFP that was formally dismissed by the Ombudsman last January 2016" Lorenzana said

"At the end, it is the truth and your genuine service to the veterans that prevailed." he added.
Angie M. Rosales, Mina Diaz, AFP

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More time, more airstrikes

Mission to end Marawi siege proves difficult – Año

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD and PNA.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) assured yesterday that its mission is to end the siege of Marawi City at the soonest possible time, but while government troops have the upper hand, more surgical airstrikes and more time are needed for the extremist threats to be fully neutralized.

Lieutenant General Eduardo Año, AFP Chief of Staff, admitted it will take some time before Marawi is totally cleared of terrorist threats, citing how government troops engaged in urban warfare has proven to be a difficult task.

"We are in total control of the whole area, but it has not been cleared of the terror group because of the urban terrain," Año told reporters on the sidelines of the visit

More time, more...

of President Duterte to the Philippine Army's 2nd Mechanized Battalion headquarters in Barangay Maria Cristina late Friday afternoon.

As fighting reached its fifth day yesterday, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, AFP spokesman, said that as much as they would like to avoid collateral

damage, the rebels are forcing the hand of government by hiding and holding out inside private homes, government buildings and other facilities.

"Their refusal to surrender is holding the city captive. Hence, it is now increasingly becoming necessary to

use more surgical airstrikes to clear the city and to bring this rebellion to a quicker end," Padilla said.

"We desire to free Marawi City of these evil forces and make way for a peaceful Ramadan for our citizens there who have supported our efforts," he added.

Death and destruction

At least 40 Maute Group members have already been killed as a result of the airstrikes. The military assured that no civilians were hurt during these military operations.

Still Padilla appealed for every one's understanding for the destruction to both public and private property caused by the continuing military operations in order to accomplish its mission and prevent the loss of more innocent lives.

Following the discovery of 16 civilian deaths, including the eight bakery workers executed at a roadside yesterday, the military put the death toll of the Marawi siege at 92.

Año has placed the number of the Maute Group occupying some structures and houses within Marawi's downtown at less than a hundred, but the challenge is the insurgents' position.

"We have to clear one step at a time, house to house, block by block," he said, adding that the military operations will not be easy in an urban terrain as compared to the rural area.

He said the soldiers used simple tactic in operating in a rural setting which cannot be applied in a city battle. "Here (Marawi) all it takes is for an armed person to position himself inside a building... it would take time before it could be cleared.

To fast-track the clearing operations of the military, Año said they had sent more soldiers to Marawi.

"We have enough troops, but we need additional reinforcement to speed up our clearing," he said without divulging the actual number of soldiers deployed to Marawi.

Defense Secretary Delf-

in Lorenzana said the situation in Marawi would be normalized before the expiration of the 60-day martial law declared by Duterte.

The AFP Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) said all its personnel in Western Mindanao were ordered to carry out security measures to ensure that the vicinity of mosques (masjids) will be secured and that the Islamic faithful "are free to go there to exercise their religion."

More airstrikes

Lieutenant General Carlito G. Galvez Jr, AFP WestMinCom chief, said as fighting continues in Marawi, their units are constrained to launch airstrikes on identified specific targets occupied by the Maute/ISIS terrorist group.

"The terrorists actions prevent their fellow Muslims to peacefully and solemnly observe Ramadan by continuing to occupy buildings and structures in Marawi City. They serve to delay impede our troops in restoring peace and order in the City," Galvez said.

"These terrorist atrocities continue sow terror and confusion even to non-combatant Muslims and Christians. Establishments remain non-operational and government services unavailable causing extreme deprivation and hardships to the people," he added.

Galvez said the AFP cannot and should not allow these terrorists Maute/ISIS to ruin the lives of our fellow Filipinos and give Islam a bad name.

He said it is in this light that there is a need to deliberately employ forces and air assets to target with precision selected, identified, and already isolated terrorist locations.

Galvez said due to the ongoing military assault in Marawi City, they are asking the local community and Muslim brothers especially members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) for understanding and patience.

"We hope in this trying times, we all unite and further intensify the friendship that was formed as a result of past trials that we've gone through," he said.

"Even our Muslim soldiers are

given time to practice their faith."

Galvez said normally, a Ramadan break is granted to Muslim soldiers however, with the declaration of Martial Law and the mission to immediately address the havoc caused by the Maute /ISIS in Marawi, their Muslim soldiers for now, need to give their share of sacrifices in order to make sure that Islam believers from Marawi can soon go back to their homes and observe Ramadan.

Plight of refugees

As of press time, civilians from Marawi continue to arrive at various evacuation sites in neighboring towns and in Iligan City.

In Saguiaran, Lanao del Sur, for instance, there are about 1,300 families staying in the town gymnasium, according to the information provided by the Provincial Crisis Management Committee.

The municipality of Ditsaan Rain has some 2,737 households, and around 13,000 individuals seeking shelter in the public gymnasium.

In Iligan, there are about 2,000 evacuees at the temporary shelter in Barangay Buru-un, and more than a thousand in Barangay Maria Cristina.

A time to unite

All would be well if Filipinos could unite and cooperate with government forces pursuing the lawless armed rebels in Marawi City, according to a Palace official.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella called for public vigilance and cooperation amid reports that members of the Maute terror group have embedded in the population.

"Government troops proceed with their sustained precision operations in pursuit of the Maute group who have embedded themselves among innocent citizens," he said. "We call on our patriotic civilians to remain vigilant and cooperate with the military," he said.

Abella also asked the public to pray for the "peaceful and swift operations to clear the city of violent extremists (VE), an end to this rebellion and its spread to other areas of Mindanao."

"Let us pray for unity among Filipinos. All will be well," he added. (With a report from Genalyn D. Kabling)

29 May 2017

The Manila Times

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MARAWI SIEGE ON 6TH DAY

Thousands trapped, death toll nears 100

MARAWI CITY: Two thousand fearful civilians were trapped on Sunday in Marawi City where troops are battling Maute Group militants. Authorities said the death toll from almost a week of fighting neared 100. The military intensified a bombing campaign on parts of Marawi on Mindanao island, as it accused the gunmen of atrocities including *murdering women and a child.*

The initial fighting prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to declare martial law in Mindanao to quell what he said was a fast-growing threat from terrorists linked to the Islamic State (IS) group.

Most of the city's 200,000 residents have fled because of the fighting, but 2,000 remain trapped in areas controlled by the militants, according to Zia Alonto Adiong, spokesman for the provincial crisis management committee.

"They have been sending us text messages, calling our hotline, requesting us to send rescue teams but we cannot simply go to areas which are inaccessible to us," Adiong said.

» Trapped A2

TRAPPED FROM A1

Thousands trapped

"They want to leave. They are afraid for their safety. Some are running out of food to eat. They fear they will be hit by bullets, by airstrikes," he said.

The military announced on Saturday, the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, that it would step up the bombing.

"In as much as we would like to avoid collateral damage, these rebels are forcing the hand of government by hiding and holding out inside private homes, government buildings and other facilities," military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

"Their refusal to surrender is holding the city captive. Hence, it is now increasingly becoming necessary to use more surgical airstrikes to clear the city and to bring this rebellion to a quicker end."

The militants have killed at least 9 civilians, including three women and a child who were found dead near a university, regional military spokesman Lt. Col. Jo-arr Ferrera said.

"These are civilians, women. These terrorists are anti-people," Ferrera said.

An Agence France Presse photographer saw eight bodies dumped off a bridge on the outskirts of Marawi on Sunday, with local residents identifying them as employees of a rice mill and a medical college.

It was unclear whether those eight were included in the military's count of civilian deaths.

Fifteen soldiers, two policemen and 61 militants have died in the fighting, according to authorities. This brings the combined official death toll to at least 97.

The military said it has rescued 24 trapped civilians since the start of its operations.

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) has put up a crisis command center in Iligan City where relief goods and medical services will be coursed through for families affected by the conflict in Marawi City and other parts of Mindanao.

"Civil protection is paramount in situations like this. In every hazard may it be natural or human-induced, we are committed to serving our nation by protecting the communities," National Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Council Executive Director and Civil Defense Administrator Ricardo Jalad, said.

IS flags

The violence began when dozens of gunmen went on a rampage throughout Marawi in response to an attempt by security forces to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, a veteran Filipino militant regarded as the local leader of IS.

The United States regards Hapilon as one of the world's most dangerous terrorists and has offered a bounty of \$5 million for his capture.

The gunmen on Tuesday planted black IS flags, took a priest and up to 14 other people hostage from a church, and set fire to buildings. Authorities said Saturday the fate of those hostages remained unknown.

Duterte and military chiefs have said most of the militants belong to the local Maute group, which has declared allegiance to IS and which the government estimates has about 260 armed followers.

Duterte has said local criminals are also backing the Maute in Marawi. He said he was prepared to enforce martial law for as long as was necessary to

end the terrorist threat, and even ignore constitutionally mandated safeguards such as the Supreme Court and congressional oversight.

"Until the police and the armed forces say the Philippines is safe, this martial law will continue. I will not listen to others. The Supreme Court, congress, they are not here," Duterte told soldiers on Saturday.

"Are they the ones dying and losing blood, bleeding, hemorrhaging because there is no help, no reinforcement? It's not them."

The 1987 constitution imposes limits on martial law to prevent a repeat of the abuses carried out under the regime of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was deposed by a famous "People Power" revolution the previous year.

The constitution requires con-

gress to approve a president's declaration of martial law, and limits military rule for 60 days. If a president wants to extend it, he or she must again get congressional endorsement.

The Supreme Court can also rule on martial law's legality.

"The Supreme Court will say they will examine the factual (basis). Why I don't know. They are not soldiers. They do not know what is happening on the ground," Duterte said Saturday on Jolo, a southern island that is under martial law.

Duterte has overwhelming support in congress. However Supreme Court chief justice, Maria Lourdes Sereno, on Friday expressed concerns about martial law.

AFP WITH A REPORT FROM JING VILLAMENTE

Philippines Government troops battling Islamists militants in Marawi



Martial law in force on Mindanao since Tuesday

© AFP

29 May 2017

Malaya
The Nation's Newspaper

Page: B1

Marawi conflict: Air strikes continue; 61 Maute men killed

BY VICTOR REYES

SIXTY-ONE members of the Maute Group have been killed since Tuesday last week when clashes with government forces erupted in Marawi City.

Aerial fire continued yesterday to dislodge the armed group from the city.

Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the firefights have also resulted in the death of 15 soldiers and policemen and 19 civilians, with 16 bodies retrieved on Saturday and yesterday.

Attack helicopters continued to deliver machine gun fire and rockets toward positions of the Maute members who, Padilla said, are "still held up within the pockets of the city."

"Precision air strikes and artillery fire will likewise continue at specific targets to hasten the clearing," he said. The military began

aerial attack of enemy positions last Thursday.

Plumes of smoke were seen on the horizon and helicopters fired at least eight rockets on rebel positions. A surveillance drone circled the sky above Marawi City.

Some civilians left on foot, others were seen tying white cloths to poles to distinguish themselves from militants as soldiers huddled behind armored vehicles slowly advanced. An ambulance was seen speeding away from the fighting and soldiers said a captured militant was inside.

Tens of thousands of people have fled Marawi since Tuesday, when militants went on the rampage seizing a school, a hospital, and a cathedral.

Christians were taken hostage, according to church leaders, and more than 100 inmates, among them militants, were freed when rebels took over two jails.

Padilla said 124 trapped civilian residents have been rescued by government forces since the start of the operations. He implied more residents are trapped as he said the "priority of ongoing military action is likewise aimed at aiding residents who are still trapped in the city's interiors."

Padilla appealed to civilians for cooperation.

"Our forces are working overtime to hasten the restoration of the rule of law and Marawi's return to normalcy. We can only do this if we have the full cooperation of our citizens in these affected areas," he said.

Asked if government forces are close to clearing Marawi City of Maute men, Padilla said, "We're leaning forward to do that. But if there are changes on the ground, complications that will crop up,

See MARAWI ► Page B2

MARAWI

that will not be hastened.”

On Wednesday last week, the military said it is eyeing to clear the city of Maute men in two to three days. Padilla said “tactical considerations on the ground” affect the timeline.

“So right now, we are not giving any timeline because of the developments,” he said.

FATALITIES

Padilla said of the 61 slain Maute members, only 42 bodies were recovered. The 19 other deaths were confirmed by eyewitness accounts, he said.

On the government side, he said 11 of the 15 fatalities were soldiers. One of the four slain policemen was beheaded by the Maute, he also said. Thirty-nine soldiers and policemen were wounded.

Padilla reported that eight civilians -- three women, a child and four males -- were found dead along a roadway about 300 meters away from the Mindanao State University on Saturday. He said eight more male cadavers were retrieved yesterday near a bridge.

“This development validates a series of reports of atrocities committed by the militants earlier and brings to 19 total number of civilians killed by the terrorists. We are still validating other reports of

atrocities,” he said.

Padilla said authorities earlier confirmed the death of an ambulance driver and two more civilians.

Previous reports said nine civilians were also slain by the Maute Group but the military has yet to validate this. “It’s possible that this is separate from the nine workers reportedly killed whose remains have yet to be recovered,” he said.

“If there are more, they will be added to the (casualty) figures but there is still no basis to add these because they are yet to be reported (by the PNP),” he said.

‘TRAITOR’

Bodies of what appeared to be executed civilians were found in a ravine outside the city.

The eight dead men, most of them shot in the head and some with hands tied behind their backs, were laborers who were stopped by the Maute men on the outskirts of Marawi City while trying to flee clashes, according to police.

Nine spent bullet casings were found on a blood-stained patch of road at the top of the ravine. Attached to one of the bodies was a sign that said “Munafik” (traitor).

Marawi police officer Jamail C Mangadang told Reuters the eight men found dead were carpenters who were part of an evacuation convoy stopped by rebels late on

Saturday.

Recalling information provided by their manager, Mangadang said the victims were pulled off a truck because they were unable to cite verses of the Koran, the Islamic Holy text.

“We heard gunfire, although I’m not sure if it was the same people who were shot,” he said at the scene.

The violence erupted in the moments after a failed attempt by security forces to capture Isnilon Hapilon, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group

who the government believes is Islamic State’s point-man in the Philippines.

The military is certain the Maute are protecting Hapilon and had narrowed down his location.

Islamic State’s Amaq news agency last week claimed responsibility for the Maute’s brazen siege. Unverified statements claiming to be from the extremists have appeared online, declaring the city of 200,000 people the “Islamic City of Marawi”.

Padilla belied reports that soldiers and policemen who are manning checkpoints in the city have no badges or identification.

“Checkpoints follow strict protocols and are strictly complied with. These reports if true, may be of unauthorized armed elements and should be discretely documented and reported. We have issued orders to our forces

to ascertain these reports and deal with it,” said Padilla.

Some of those trapped in Marawi had called and text-messaged a hotline pleading with the military to stop the air strikes, according to Zia Alonto Adiong, a local politician coordinating complex efforts to evacuate civilians, dead and alive.

“Some have no food at all. Some fear for their lives,” he told Reuters.

“This is a conflict that has gone beyond proportion. The magnitude of the degree of the damage and the people that are affected ... it’s really massive.”

PASS THE HAT

Deputy Speaker Miro Quimbo of Marikina said he would spearhead a fundraising campaign to help the victims of Marawi City crisis by asking his colleagues to donate money from their salaries.

Rep. Sherwin Tugna (PL, Cibac) backed the fund drive as well as Rep. Ben Evardone (PDP-Laban, Eastern Samar).

Deputy Speaker Raneo Abu of Batangas called on huge corporations to provide cash and food items to support the immediate relief efforts in conflict areas.

“The country’s biggest corporations can contribute hugely in extending assistance to the victims and the rebuilding efforts, hopefully the Marawi City crisis will be over very soon,” said Abu. — *With Wendell Vigilia and Reuters*

24 May 2017



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For fear of ML, 7 Sayyaf yield

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Fearing martial law, seven suspected Abu Sayyaf militants separately surrendered in Basilan and Tawi-Tawi, officials said yesterday.

Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) spokesperson, said four Abu Sayyaf militants surrendered to the troops of the Army's 18th Infantry Battalion at Ungkaya Pukan town in Basilan.

Another three Abu Sayyaf surrendered last Tuesday to the marines in Tawi-Tawi. They were identified as Angki Haradja, Nickson Abdulmari Jalil and Asil Sainuddin - followers of slain group sub-leader Aljine Mundok.

On the other hand, the four Abu Sayyaf in Basilan were identified as Usman Mussa, Balie Kasaran, Sadar Tutuh Kasaran and Sarwin Askalin Kasaran, all residents of Al-Barka.

Col. Juvymax Uy, Joint Task Force Basilan (JTFB) commander, said the four militants were followers of Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Nurhassan Jamiri.

The Abu Sayyaf members claimed they decided to surrender after learning that President Duterte had placed the entire Mindanao

region under martial law on Tuesday.

The military said the Abu Sayyaf militants were fearful that soldiers might soon knock on their doors with court-issued warrants unnecessary.

Uy said during the debriefing, the militants revealed their initial plan to surrender after their two sub-leaders Muamar Askali alias Abu Rami and Alhabsy Misaya were killed in Bohol and Sulu last month, respectively.

Uy said the four militants took the generosity of the military to reunite them with their families.

"But the martial law declaration made them more fearful for their safety as soldiers can already knock at their doorstep without the necessary warrants," Petinglay added.

Brig. Gen. Custodio Parcon, Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi (JTFT) commander, said the three militants also yielded two high-powered firearms.

Parcon said the three militants were involved in the encounter with troops at Barangay Tugasin Patikul in May 2014.

Parcon said Sainuddin was also responsible for the death of Datu Nixon Tarsum, brother of Patikul town vice mayor Datu Adjuwanda Tarsum in 2015.

29 May 2017



Pahina. 2

Death toll sa Marawi tumataas

Umakyat na sa kabuuang 41 miyembro ng Maute group at 13 sa tropa ng pamahalaan ang nasawi sa pagpapatuloy na operasyon sa Marawi City.

Ayon kay Lt. Col. Joar Herrera, tagapagsalita ng Philippine Army's 1st Infantry Division, ang 31 mga katawan ng mga miyembro ng Maute members ay narekober ng mga tropa, habang 13 sundalo ang nasawi, at 45 ang

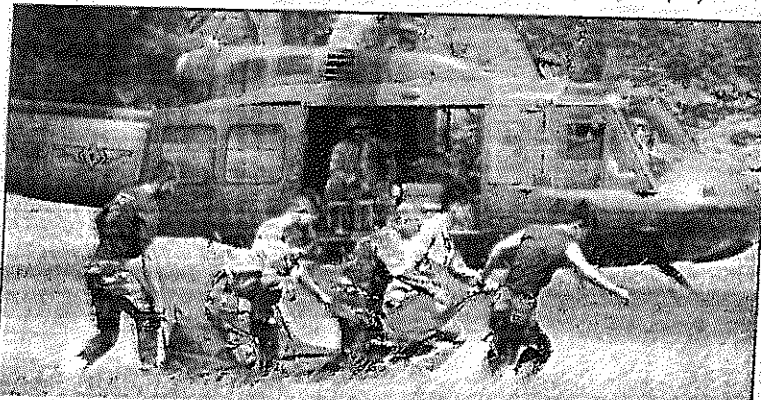
nasugatan.

Narekober din ng militar ang 16 na piraso ng mataas na kalibre ng armas mula sa mga bandido.

Samantala, ayon naman kay Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, tagapagsalita ng AFP, ang walong bangkay na nakuha ay pawang mga sibilyan, karamihan ay kababaihan at isa o dalawang kabataan, na natagpuan nitong Sabado ng gabi.

Dagdag ni Padilla, nagsasagawa na ng surgical operation ang military para malinis ang siyudad sa miyembro ng Maute, na pinaniniwalaang nagpakalat ng snipers at kahit mga child warriors laban sa tropa ng pamahalaan.

Ang mga lokal na terorista ay naglunsad ng pag-atake sa siyudad nitong nakaraang Martes, sinunog ang mga paaralan, isang simbahan at city jail. (Ricky Tulipat)



Bitbit ng mga sundalo ang labi ng kanilang kasamahan na napatay sa patuloy na labanan ng tropa ng pamahalaan at Maute sa Marawi City. (EPA)

29 May 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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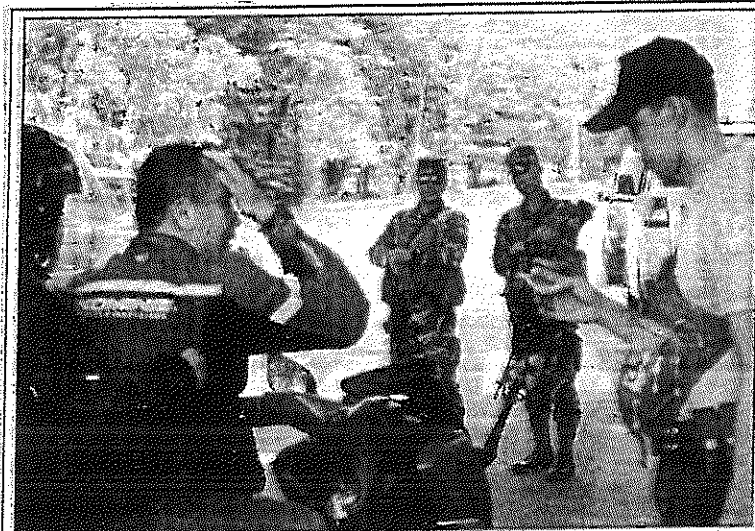


SECURING METRO MANILA – Police and military personnel man a checkpoint at the entrance of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, yesterday. Security has been stepped up in Metro Manila after lawless elements raided Marawi City in Mindanao last week. (Federico Cruz)

29 May 2017



Pahina. 2



Nagsagawa ng checkpoints kahapon ang pulisya at militar sa UP Diliman para higitin ang seguridad sa lugar matapos na magdeklara si Pangulong Duterte ng Martial Law sa Mindanao.- Michael Varcas-

29 May 2017



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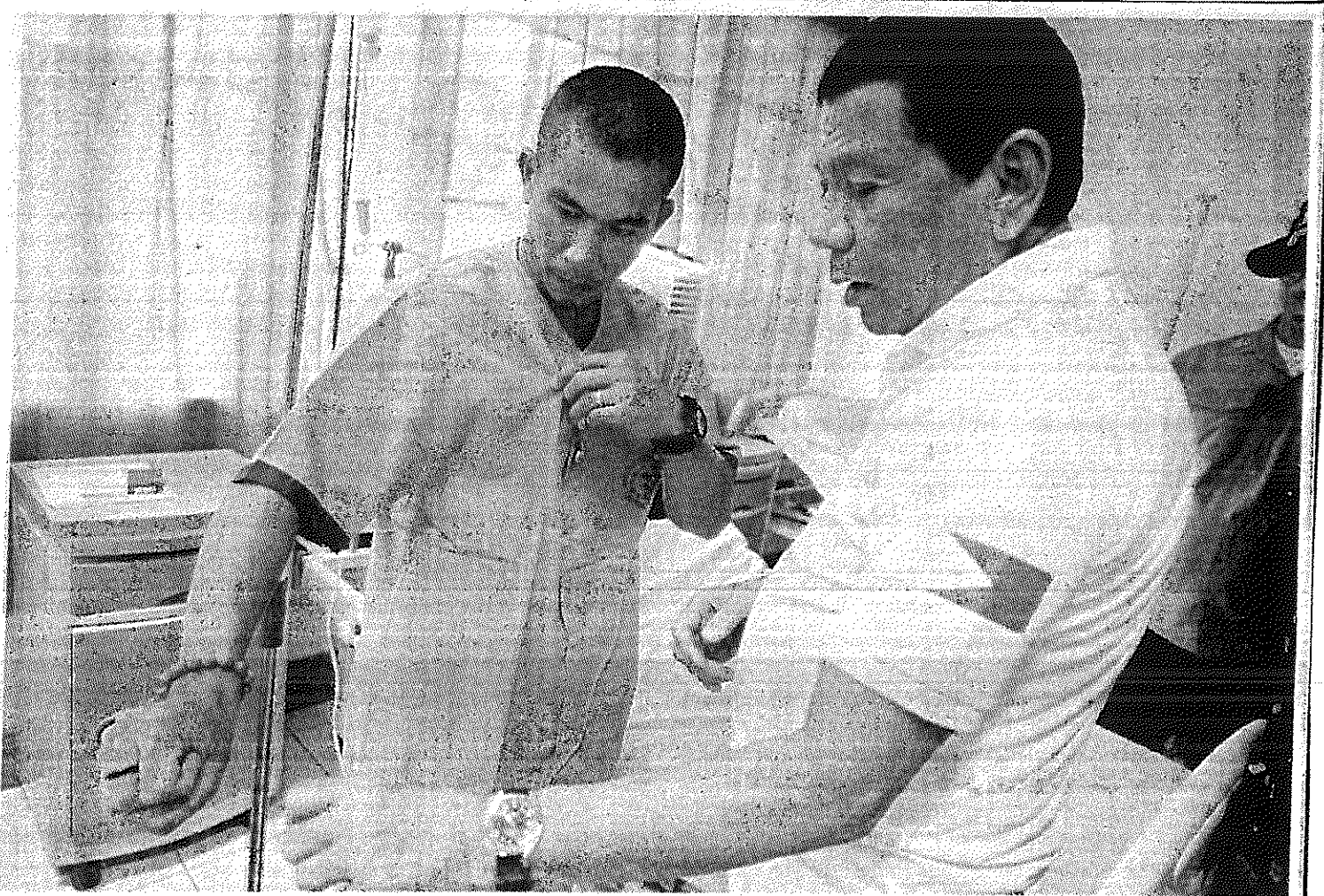
PRESIDENT Duterte gives a pep talk to troops of the Joint Task Force Sulu prior to visiting wounded soldiers at Camp Teodulfo Bautista in Jolo, Sulu. With Duterte are Presidential Adviser on Military Affairs Arthur Tabaquero, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año, Philippine National Police Director General Ronald M. dela Rosa, and JTF Sulu commander Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, among others. (Presidential photo)

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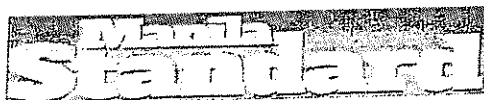
The Manila Times

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ABU SAYYAF VICTIM President Rodrigo Duterte checks on Corporal Sancho Antipolo who is being treated at the Camp Teodulfo Bautista Station Hospital in Sulu. Antipolo was among those injured in an ambush by the Abu Sayyaf Group on May 25. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

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Terrorists kill 27 civilians in 5-day siege

MARAWI—Islamist militants locked in street-to-street battles with security forces in Marawi City have killed 27 civilians, the military said Sunday, bringing the official death toll from nearly a week of fighting to at least 103.

Military officials said the death toll after five days of fighting had topped 100, including 61 fighters from the terrorist Maute Group and 15 soldiers and policemen.

The violence prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to declare martial law on Tuesday across the entire island of Mindanao to quell what he said was a fast-growing threat of militants linked to the Islamic State (IS) group.

Authorities said the militants had killed 27 civilians in Marawi, a mostly Muslim-populated city of 200,000 people. These included three

Next page

women and a child who were found dead near a university.

"These are civilians, women. These terrorists are anti-people. We found their bodies while conducting rescue operations [on Saturday]," regional military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Jo-ar Herrera said.

An AFP photographer saw another eight bodies by a road in the outskirts of Marawi on Sunday, with local residents identifying them as employees of a rice mill and a medical college.

Herrera said the military had yet to investigate the reported deaths.

The violence began when dozens of gunmen went on a rampage throughout Marawi after security forces attempted to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, a veteran Filipino militant regarded as the local leader of IS.

The gunmen planted black IS flags, took a priest and up to 14 other people hostage from a church, and set fire to buildings.

Thirteen soldiers, two policemen and 51 militants have died in the fighting, according to authorities. This brings the combined official death toll to at least 85.

Most of the city's residents have fled because of the fighting, which has seen the military heavily bomb residential areas where the militants were believed to be hiding.

The military announced on Saturday, the start of the Holy month of Ramadan, that it would intensify the bombing campaign.

"In as much as we would like to avoid collateral damage, these rebels are forcing the hand of government by hiding and holding out inside private homes, government buildings and other facilities," military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

"Their refusal to surrender is holding the city captive. Hence, it is now increasingly becoming necessary to use more surgical airstrikes to clear the city and to bring this rebellion to a quicker end."

Duterte and military chiefs have said most of the militants belong to the local Maute group, which they estimate has about 260 armed followers and has declared allegiance to IS.

But Duterte has said local

in Marawi.

Padilla said the bodies of civilians found validated reports of atrocities committed by the Maute Group terrorists.

Earlier, reports said Maute bandits stopped a truck-load of fleeing civilians, who were told to disembark. They were then tied up and executed.

Padilla said 42 bodies of bandits were recovered from the site of the fighting, while 19 others were confirmed killed based on eyewitness accounts.

Fatalities from the government side climbed to 15, 11 of whom were soldiers, and four were policemen, including an officer. Thirty nine soldiers were also wounded.

Padilla said troops took 28 high-powered firearms, including machine guns from the slain bandits during the two days of continued military hunt against the Maute group.

He said the military was still clearing pockets of resistance in the city while aiding residents trapped by the fighting.

"We have successfully rescued and assisted 124 trapped civilian residents since the start of the operations," Padilla said.

Air strikes and artillery fire continue to pound areas where Maute members are holed up.

"Our forces are working overtime to hasten the restoration of the rule of law and Marawi's return to normalcy. We can only do this if we have the full cooperation of our citizens in these affected areas," Padilla said.

"We count on everyone to unite as one nation and do their patriotic duty for the restoration of peace in our country," Padilla said.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, commander of the Western Mindanao Command has earlier projected that Marawi would be retaken in two or three days, but fighting entered its fifth day Sunday.

On Sunday morning, unidentified gunmen dumped the bodies of eight men into a ravine along the national highway in Barangay Matampay in Marawi City, less than a kilometer from a checkpoint.

Police said they heard a burst of gunfire at 2 a.m.

One of the bodies bore a tagged with an Arabic word "Monafik" or hypocrite.

Police Officer 3 Jamail Mangadang said the victims

and bore gunshot wounds to the head.

Also on Sunday, a hospital official dispelled reports that Amai Pakpak Medical Center (APMC) in Marawi was taken over by the Maute Group.

Dr. Amer Saber said the report that the medical facility was overrun by members of the Maute Group was not true and appealed to media outlets to verify any information before airing or publishing it.

Saber, however, confirmed that a team of Maute fighters went to the hospital and brought an injured comrade at the start of fighting Tuesday.

He said two armed insurgents entered the facility and asked if they could bring in a patient for treatment.

Their companions, four or five of them and who were also armed, stayed outside the hospital gate and kept watch.

"They were very courteous and even greeted us with 'As-salam Alaikum' before asking us if they can bring in their patient," Saber said.

The patient did not survive since he was already in critical condition when he was admitted.

At about the same time, a police car arrived at the hospital. One of the police officers aboard the vehicle was Senior Insp. Freddie Solar, the intelligence unit chief of the Marawi City Police.

Saber said Solar brought his wife to APMC as she was suffering from appendicitis.

Footage from the hospital's CCTV camera showed the policemen were taken hostage by the Maute fighters outside the APMC gate.

Of the police officers who were held at gunpoint, only Solar was shot. He was then brought inside the hospital but died shortly due to blood loss, Saber said.

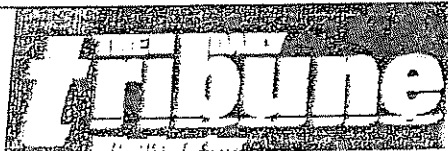
He said the Maute fighters left the hospital early Wednesday morning.

Saber said the APMC is ready for any emergencies and they are expecting more patients as the military conducts clearing operations.

The Amai Pakpak Medical Center is a government-run 438-bed capacity hospital, with about 700 staff, 108 of them doctors with various specializations and 300-plus nurses. AFP, Jaceo, Basconga, Francisco

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Casualties rise to 97 in Marawi City battle

By Mario J. Mallari

The raging battle for the control of Marawi City, which the Islamic State (IS) sympathizers Maute Group had occupied, had thus resulted in 97 casualties, including 61 militants, 17 state troopers and 19 civilians who were mostly executed by members of the terrorist groups.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the figures were based on reports from May 23 to 26.

Of the 61 slain Maute Group members, 42 were confirmed through body count while 19 others came from reports of witnesses.

Government losses included four police officers while 36 other state forces were wounded in battle.

"The AFP focus continues on safely clearing Marawi of terrorist elements still holed up within pockets of the city. Priority of ongoing military action is likewise aimed at aiding residents who are still trapped in the city's interiors. Significantly, we have successfully rescued and assisted 124 trapped civilian residents since the start of the operations," Padilla stressed.

Precision airstrikes and artillery fire will likewise continue at specific targets to hasten the clearing operations, he added.

Troops on the ground also recovered 24 high-powered firearms during the last 24 hours of military operations.

"The AFP and the PNP also belie reports of checkpoints being conducted by uniformed elements without badges or identifications. Checkpoints follow strict protocols and are strictly complied with. These reports if true, may be of unauthorized armed elements and should be discretely documented and reported. We have issued orders to our forces to ascertain these reports and deal with it," Padilla said.

"Our forces are working overtime

Turn to page 2

to hasten the restoration of the rule of law and Marawi's return to normalcy. We can only do this if we have the full cooperation of our citizens in these affected areas. We count on everyone to unite as one nation and do their patriotic duty for the restoration of peace in our country," he said.

Islamist militants were still locked in street-to-street battles with security forces in Marawi city as if yesterday.

The violence prompted President Duterte to declare martial law last Tuesday across Mindanao to quell what he said was a fast-growing threat of militants linked to the IS group.

Authorities said the militants had killed civilians in Marawi, a mostly Muslim-populated city of 200,000 people, who included three women and a child who were found dead near a university.

Deadly rampage

"These are civilians, women. These terrorists are anti-people. We found their bodies while conducting rescue operations (on Saturday)," regional military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Joar Herrera told AFP.

An AFP photographer saw another eight bodies by a road in the outskirts of Marawi on Sunday, with local residents identifying them as employees of a rice mill and a medical college.

Herrera said the military had yet to investigate the reported deaths.

The violence began when dozens of gunmen went on a rampage throughout Marawi after security forces attempted to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, a veteran Filipino militant regarded as the local leader of IS.

The gunmen planted black IS flags, took a priest and up to 14 other people hostage from a church, and set fire to buildings.

Most of the city's residents have fled because of the fighting, which has seen the military heavily bomb residential areas where the militants were believed to be hiding.

The military announced on Saturday, the start of the Holy month of Ramadan, that it would intensify the bombing campaign.

"In as much as we would like to avoid collateral damage, these rebels are forcing the hand of government by hiding and holding out inside private homes, government buildings and other facilities," Padilla said.

Duterte and military chiefs have said most of the militants belong to the local Maute group, which they estimate has about 260 armed followers and has declared allegiance to IS. But Duterte has said local criminals are backing the Maute in Marawi.

The group of Hapilon are still holed up within the pockets of Marawi City five days after staging wide-scale atrocities in the city and amid the ongoing massive military operations.

2,000 civilians trapped

Two thousand fearful civilians were believed trapped inside Marawi city where troops are battling Islamist militants, authorities said.

Most of the city's 200,000 residents have fled because of the fighting, but 2,000 remain trapped in areas controlled by the militants, according to Zia Alonto Adiong, spokesman for the provincial crisis management committee.

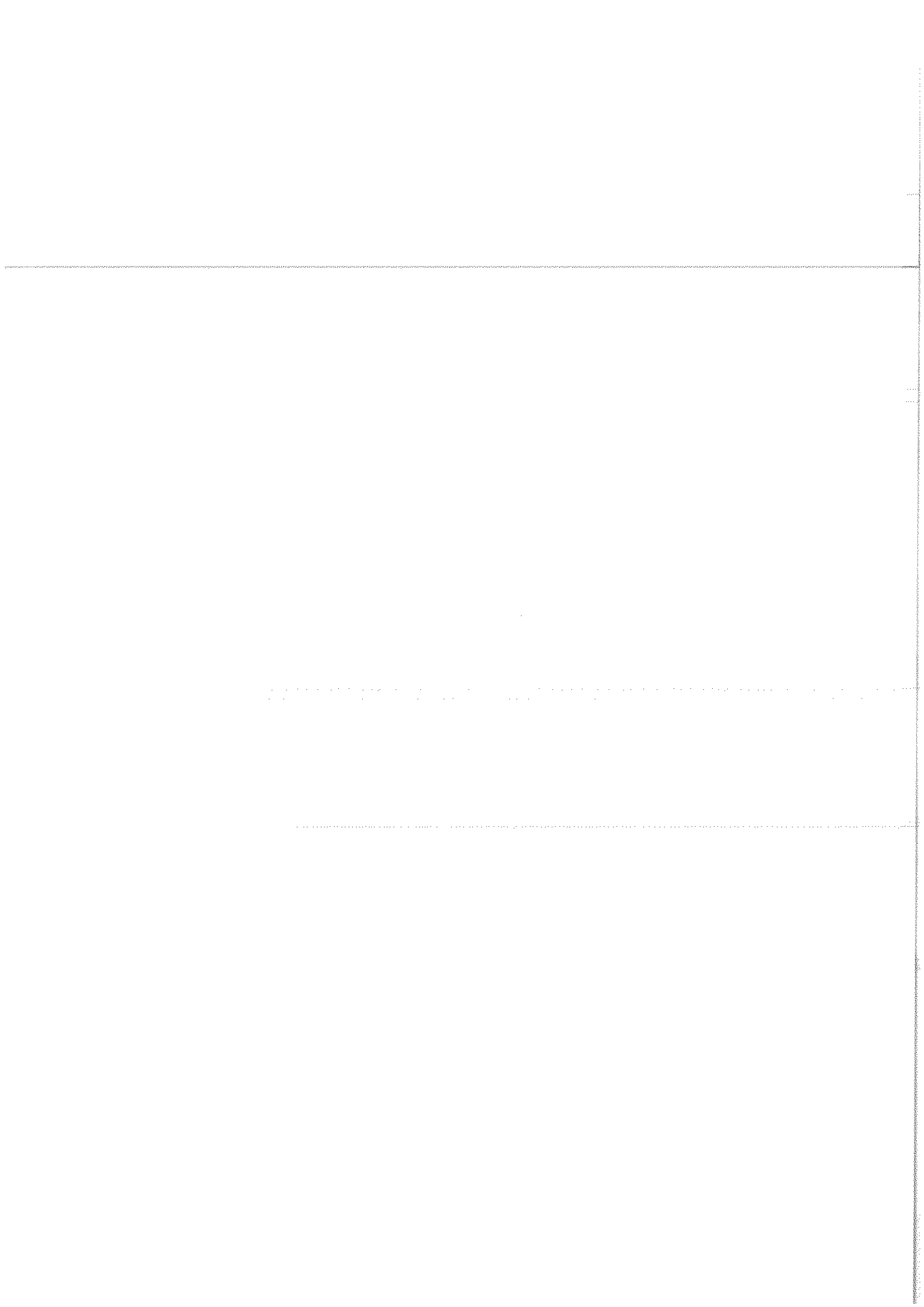
"They have been sending us text messages, calling our hotline, requesting us to send rescue teams but we cannot simply go to areas which are inaccessible to us," Adiong said.

"They want to leave. They are afraid for their safety. Some are running out of food to eat. They fear they will be hit by bullets by airstrikes," he said.

The military announced on Saturday, the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, that it would step up the bombing.

"In as much as we would like to avoid collateral damage, these rebels are forcing the hand of government by hiding and holding out inside private homes, government buildings and other facilities," said military spokesman Brigadier-General Restituto Padilla.

"Their refusal to surrender is holding the city captive. Hence, it is now increasingly becoming necessary to use more surgical airstrikes to clear the city and to



bring this rebellion to a quicker end."

The militants have killed at least 19 civilians, including three women and a child who were found dead near a university, regional military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Joar Herrera told AFP.

"These are civilians, women. These terrorists are anti-people," Herrera said.

An AFP photographer saw eight bodies dumped off a bridge on the outskirts of Marawi on Sunday, with local residents identifying them as employees of a rice mill and a medical college.

It was unclear whether the eight were included in the military's count of civilian deaths.

Cooperation between Islamist militants, criminals and corrupt politicians is common across Mindanao, where a Muslim separatist rebellion has claimed more than 120,000 lives since the 1970s.

The main Muslim rebel groups have signed accords with the government aimed at forging a final peace, giving up their separatist ambitions in return for autonomy.

The Maute, Abu Sayyaf and other small hardline groups are not interested in negotiating and have in recent years looked to IS to help them.

Solons start fund drive

Lawmakers from the Liberal Party (LP) yesterday started a fund drive to help the victims of terrorist Maute group in Marawi City.

The fund will be coming from the salaries of lawmakers.

"I will initiate a fund drive among my colleagues and to hopefully pass a multi-party resolution setting aside part of our salaries for the people of Marawi City as well as for the soldiers that died in the line of fire," said Deputy Speaker and Marikina City Rep. Miro Quimbo.

Quimbo, a member of the Liberal Party (LP) said details of the fund drive would be discussed with other political parties in the House.

Deputy Speaker and Batangas Rep. Raneo Abu, of the Nacionalista Party (NP), also urged the nation's largest corporations to provide cash and food to support the immediate relief efforts in conflict areas in Mindanao.

"The country's biggest corporations can contribute hugely in extending assistance to the victims and the rebuilding efforts, hopefully the Marawi City crisis will be over very soon," said Abu.

Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone said "that is a very good gesture. I am all for it."

Parañaque City Rep. Gus Tambunting, who chairs the House committee on games and amusement, said a fund drive is the best way to help the victims of Marawi City crisis.

"There will be a fund drive. We will pass the hat and also solicit from other well meaning friends who wish to extend assistance to our brothers and sisters in Marawi City," said Tambunting, a member of the PDP-Laban.

Citizens Battle Against Corruption (Cibac) party-list Rep. Sherwin Tugna, who chairs the House committee on suffrage and electoral reforms, said the fund drive "can be done by members of the House of Representatives by contributing their own personal funds to help our distressed fellow Filipinos."

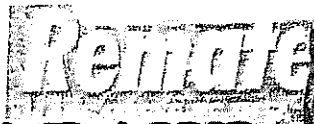
Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Rodel Batocabe and Akbayan party-list Rep. Tom Villarin underscored the necessity of assessing the extent of damage in Marawi City.

"For the Marawi relief, we should hold our horses and purses first. First, we should know the extent of damage. Second, we should ensure that there is a system or conduit of aid to ensure that this will reach the right persons. Third, we make sure that the government can not adequately answer the needs. In the meantime, please channel our generous spirit to the millions of urban and rural poor waiting to be helped," Batocabe, president of the Party List Coalition.

For his part, Villarin said "we still will discuss concretely how we can help the people of Marawi. It has turn into a big humanitarian crisis with internally displaced persons in thousands."

Garry Baldo, AFP

29 May 2017



Pahina. 3

PATAY SA MARAWI NASA 100 NA

PUMALO na sa halos isandaan ang namatay sa nagpapatuloy na operasyon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines at Philippine National Police laban sa Maute Group sa Marawi City.

Ayon kay Brigadier General Restituto Padilla, ang tagapagsalitang AFP, animnapu't isa sa mga napatay ay miyembro ng Maute Group kung saan 42 ang narekober na bangkay ng mga terorista habang ang 19 ay batay sa pahayag ng mga nasaksi.

Samantala, may labing siyam na sibilyan na ang kabuuang napapatay sa gitna ng glyera at pinaniniwalaang pinatay sila ng Maute Group.

Napag-alaman kay regional military spokesman Army Lt. Col. Jo-ar Herrera, kabilang sa mga pinagpapatay ng pinag-isang grupo ng Maute at ASG ay tatlong babae at isang bata na pawang nakita malapit sa Mindanao State University (MSU).

Unang nadiskubre ang mga bangkay nang magsagawa ng clearing operations ang militar sa lugar kung saan ay paunli-unliing napapasok ang kinubkob na lugar ng mga terorista.

Nadiskubre rin ng militar sa clearing operations ang bangkay ng walong iba pang sibilyan sa kalsada sa labas na bahagi ng Marawi City ng Barangay Imebito na pawang nakatali ang mga kamay at sinasabing mga empleyado sila sa isang local bakery shop. Hindi kalayaan sa mga bangkay ay iniwan ang karatulang may katagang "munaliq" na ang ibig sabihin ay traydor.

*PUMANAW NA

INIULAT ng AFP kahapon na pumanaw na ang isa sa tat-

lumpu't pitong sundalong nasugatan sa Marawi siege bagama't hindi na linukoy ang pangalan nito. Binawian ng buhay ang sundalo habang ginagamot sa Adventist medical center sa Iligan City.

Nakaburof ang labi ng sundalo kasama ang dalawa pang fallen soldiers sa isang punerary sa Iligan City.

Sa tatlungpu't pitong sugatang sundalo sa Adventist Medical Center, pilo na lamang ang sinasabing kakailanganin pa ng masusing obserbasyon at gamutan dahil sa tinamong mga grabeng sugal.

***AIRSTRIKES TITINDI PA** MAS pangitngin pa umano ang isasagawang "surgical airstrikes" laban sa mga nagkukubling terorista sa ilang tahanan sa dakong timog na bahagi ng syudad sa pag-umpisa ng Ramadan nilong Sabado.

Yan lamang umano ang paraan na ginagawa sa ngayon ng bandidong grupo na nagtatago sa mga kabahayan at patuloy na lumalaban na siya ring dahilan ng pagpapahirap sa operasyon na mapuksa ang mga ito ng government troops.

***80 SIBILYAN NA-TRAP** INIHAYAG din ng AFP na may nasa walumpung sibilyan ang na-trap sa isang mosque sa Marawi City kung saan ilang dipalang mula sa kanila ang nangyayaring bakbakan sa pagitan ng security forces at mga terorista.

Pinipilit ngayon ng mga awtoridad na matukoy ang lugar ng mosque upang isagawa ang rescue sa mga ito.

Napag-alaman din na base sa pakikipag-usap ng mga awtoridad sa mga naiipil na sibilyan sa pamamagitan ng cellphone ay wala na rin umano silang suplay ng pagkain at tubig dahil simula nang mangyari ang pagkubkob ng Maute sa kanilang lugar ay hindi na sila umalis roon kaya naman ang kanilang paghingi ng saklolo na sila'y masacip.

isipan ng mga residente sa lugar.

Pero ayon kay Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. General Restituto Padilla na malaki ang posibilidad na ang mga preso na pinatakas ng Maute group ay umamib na sa teroristang grupo.

Sinabi pa ni Padilla, posibleng isa sa ibinigay na kondisyon ng Maute sa mga pinalayang bilanggo ay ang pag-anib sa kanila kapalit ng kanilang kalayaan.

Ito rin umano marahil ang dahilan kung bakit nadaragdagan ang puwersa ng Maute habang dumaraan ang mga araw ng paglatago ng mga ito sa Marawi City.

JEFF GALLOS

*NARCO-TERRORISM

IBINULGAR ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na nagsanib-puwersa ang mga poliitkong sangkot sa droga at Maute Group sa patuloy na kaguluhan sa Marawi city.

Ayon kay AFP Chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Commanding General ng Wesmincom, dahil sa pagsuporta ng mga narco-politician sa bandido ay lumalakas pa ang puwersa ng mga ito na nagawang mag-raid sa siyudad.

Gayunman, hindi muna pinangalanan ng AFP ang mga naturang poliitiko na nagkakanlong sa mga terorista dahil magsisilbi itong balakid sa misyon para maibalik ng tropa ng pamahalaan ang kapayapaan.

Nanawagan din si Galvez sa Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) na huwag makigulo sa bakbakan sa mga operasyon ng militar dahil posibleng malagasan ang kanilang hanay.

*PROV'L TERRITORY

KINUMPIRMA ng Western Mindanao Command na layon ng Maute Group na makapagtayo ng banda ng international terrorist group na ISIS sa Marawi City at ito ay kanilang gagawing provincial territory.

Ayon kay AFP Chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Jr., Com-

*KAANIB NA RIN

NASA isandaan at pitong pugante ng Malabang District Jail ang patuloy na tinutugis ng mga awtoridad matapos pakawalan ang mga ito ng Maute sa unang bugso ng kanilang pag-atake sa Marawi City noong Martes.

Isa-isang ipinaskil ang mga larawan ng mga pugante sa lansapagan para pagluunap ng pahisrat hindi mawaglit sa

manding General ng Wesmincom, ang paglalagay ng banda ng ISIS na lang ang kulang para makapagdeklarang "wilayat" o provincial territory

ng ISIS ang lugar.

Ani Galvez, ito ay para magkaroon ng suporta ang Maute mula sa international terrorist group. MARY SAPICO

29 May 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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AFP says 16 civilians shot dead in Marawi; death toll rises to 92

By AP FRANCIS WAKEFIELD and PNA

MARAWI CITY, Lanao del Norte— Government troops found the bodies of 16 civilians on the streets as they fought yesterday to drive out groups of Maute and Abu Sayyaf gunmen who have occupied parts of Marawi City for the fifth day. The overall death toll has risen to 92.

Brigadier General Restituto Padilla, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman, said the latest find

were the bodies of eight civilians shot and thrown into a shallow ravine off the road close to the Mindanao State University in Barangay Emi, Marawi City.

The decomposing remains of eight men were found about 6 a.m. Sunday, a police report received by police regional office for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (PNP-ARMM) here showed.

"The all-male victims' hands were tied with rope and had bullet wounds,"

a report from Lanao del Sur Police Provincial Office (PPO) said.

The identities of the victims were not immediately available as of posting but they were identified by residents as "bakery workers."

A paper sign attached to one of the men indicated the victims "betrayed their faith" as written in Arabic.

Police officer Jamail Mangadang also told AP that among the dead civilians found in the city were three women and a child. ▶ 4

AFP says 16 civilians... ◀ 1

In battles that raged in the city since Tuesday, Padilla said the death toll is now at 92.

As of 2 p.m. yesterday, Padilla disclosed that of the 61 Maute Group members killed, 42 bodies were recovered while 19 were confirmed killed by eyewitness accounts.

He added that the government suffered 15 killed in action (KIA) — 11 belonging to the AFP and four from the Philippine National Police (PNP).

"We're also focusing on house-to-house clearing of areas and rescuing trapped residents," Padilla told The Associated Press by phone.

He added that troops rescued about 100 civilians trapped in their homes Saturday while pressing their assaults on the militants continued yesterday.

Lanao del Sur Governor Zia Alonto Adiong said more than 2,200 civilians stranded in their homes by street fighting have been sending

cellphone messages asking to be rescued and brought to evacuation centers.

They were also reporting widespread damage in the city of 200,000 people.

Duterte ready to recruit rebels to fight terrorism

President Duterte said he is ready to recruit members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the Moro National Liberation Front (MILF), and even the New People's Army (NPA) if doing so would end the threat of terrorism in Mindanao.

Duterte gave these remarks as he revealed that MNLF founding leader Nur Misuari wrote him a letter to offer Duterte his men in the fight against terrorists on the island, particularly in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur which has been under siege since May 23.

Duterte, reading from Misuari's letter, said the situation in Marawi is a "truly auspicious opportunity for

your brothers to show their mettle in helping their beloved President and the people to restore peace in Mindanao."

"For this purpose, we would like to suggest that the number of officers be formed or at least 500 to 700 of their men, to be drawn from the AFP Division 1 and Division 4," said Duterte as he read further from Misuari's letter.

"That they will be allowed to form their common post under MNLF founding chairman, major camps in Lanao, specifically Lanao Jabal Nur in Ganassi and Maguing. That they will be allowed to invite MNLF volunteers," he continued.

Duterte said he is accepting Misuari's offer and he will be willing to offer the same pay, privileges, and even houses for MILF, MNLF and even NPA soldiers who want to fight for peace in Mindanao.

He said this is better for the NPA instead of fighting a fruitless war that has been going on for 50 years already. (With a report from Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)

29 May 2017

NGAYON

Pahina. 2

Mga Kristiyano minamasaker ng Maute

Kongresista mag-aambagan para sa Marawi siege victims

Mag-aambagan ang mga kongresista mula sa iba't ibang partido sa Kamara para makatulong sa mga biktima na nahipit sa bakbakan sa pagitan ng mga sundalo at teroristang grupo na Maute.

Ayon kay House Deputy Speaker at Marikina Rep. Miro Quimbo, pangungunahan niya ang fund drive at maaaring magpasa rin sila ng multi-party resolution na otomatikong nagbabawas sa kanilang mga sweldo para sa mga appektado ng bakbakan sa Marawi City gayundin para sa mga sundalo na namatay sa pakikipaglaban.

Tumanggi naman si Quimbo na stalwart ng Liberal Party (LP) na kaalyado ng supermajority sa Kamara na magbigay pa ng ibang detalye dito habang nakikipag-usap pa siya sa mga kasamahan sa Kamara.

Para naman kay Cibac party-list Rep. Sherwin Tugna maaari din nilang kunin sa kanilang sariling balsa ang pondo para makatulong sa mga taga Marawi City.

Sang-ayon din dito si Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone at Paranaque Rep. Gus Tambunting.

Subalit para kay Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Rodel Batocabe at Akbayan party-list Rep. Tom Villarin hindi pa napapanahon para magbigay ng tulong pinansyal sa nasabing lugar.

Giit ni Batocabe dapat munang malaman ang damage ng bakbakan sa Marawi City at magkaroon ng sistema kung paano masiguro na ang mabibigyan ng tulong ay tamang tao.

Sa ngayon ang dapat umanong gawin ay ilipat ang "generous spirit" sa milyong mahihirap na Pilipino na nasa urban at rural areas.

"We still will discuss concretely how we can help the people of Marawi. It has turn into a big humanitarian crisis with internally displaced persons in thousands." ayon naman kay Villarin. (*Gemma Garcia*)

Minamasaker umano ng teroristang Maute group ang mga Kristiyano sa Marawi City.

Sinasabing hinaharang ng mga armadong kala-lakihan ang mga sasakyan sa itinayong checkpoint ng Maute saka tatanungin kung mga Kristiyano o Muslim ang mga pasahero.

Kapag mga Kristiyano ang lulan ng sasakyan ay raratratin umano kaagad at kapag Muslim ay palu-

lusutin ng mga terorista.

Nabatid na 16 mga bangkay ng sibilyan ang natagpuang patay sa magkakahiwalay na lugar sa Marawi City.

Ayon kay Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, nakita ang walong bangkay kahapon na pawang mga kababaihan at bata, may

300 metro malapit sa Mindanao State University.

Pawang nakasuot ng itim na damit at nakatali ang mga kamay ng mga lalaki na nakita sa bangin na wala nang buhay.

May karatula din umanong nakalagay sa mga ito na may nakasulat na "munasik" na nangangahulugan na traidor o sinungaling.

Suspetsa ng mga otodidad, pinatay ng Maute ang mga kala-lakihan matapos na magbigay impormasyon sa mga kinauukulan ukol sa pangyayari sa nasabing lungsod.

Sa ngayon aniya ay patuloy pa rin ang ginagawang imbestigasyon ng mga otoridad para matukoy ang pagkakilanlan ng nasabing mga biktima.

Samantala, umaabot naman sa mahigit 42,000 katao ang lumikas dahil sa nagpapatuloy na military operations sa nasabing lungsod.

Sa ulat ng ARMM Crisis Management Committee, 42,142 katao ang kabuuang bilang ng mga nagsilikas magmula nang magsimula ang gulo sa Marawi City.

Kabilang sa nasabing numero ang 30,602 katao o 6,299 pamilya na nana-

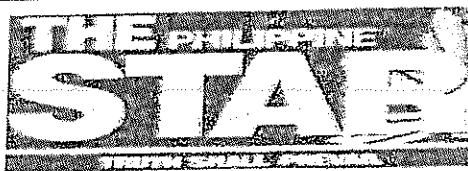
natili sa evacuation center at 11,540 "home-based internally-displaced persons."

Bukod dito, 2,279 katao naman daw ang "stranded" sa 25 barangay sa Marawi City.

Sa ngayon ay hindi pa rin matiyak ang eksaktong bilang ng mga miyembro ng Maute group na lumusob sa Marawi City noong Martes.

Samantala, ayon kay Tong Pacasum ng Lanao del Sur Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, problema nila ngayon ang mga pamilyang nagpaparescue sa lugar, dahil wala na umano silang makain. Ang naturang pamilya ay mga nagpangsilikas magmula nang magsimula ang giyera at dahil may kahirapan ngayon ang rescue operations ay namomproblema sila kung paano nila ito gagawin.

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AFP: Maute executed civilians fleeing Marawi

By **MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN**

Bodies of what appeared to be executed civilians were found in a ravine outside the besieged Marawi City yesterday as a six-day occupation

by Maute group extremists resisting a military onslaught took a more sinister turn.

The eight dead, most of them shot in the head and some with hands tied behind their backs, were laborers who

were stopped by Islamic State-linked militants on the outskirts of Marawi City while trying to flee clashes, according to police.

Nine spent bullet casings were found on a bloodstained patch of road

at the top of the ravine. Attached to one of the bodies was a sign that said "Munafik" (traitor), which also means hypocrite in Arabic.

"These are civilians, women. These

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OFFICE

terrorists are anti-people. We found their bodies while conducting rescue operations (on Saturday)," regional military spokesman Lt. Col. Jo-ar Herrera said.

The discovery confirms days of speculation that Maute gunmen had killed civilians during a bloody takeover of Marawi City, that the military believes is aimed at winning the Maute recognition from the Islamic State group in the Middle East as a Southeast Asian affiliate.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) deployed additional ground troops over the weekend and dispatched helicopters to carry out rocket strikes on Maute positions as fighters held buildings and a bridge deep inside a predominantly Muslim city where few civilians remained.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said

61 militants have been killed together with 11 soldiers and four police since Tuesday, when a failed raid to capture Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon triggered an attack on the city.

Officials said 19 of the casualties were civilians including the eight who were executed.

"The eight we recovered earlier today were mercilessly killed. Four men, three women and a child," Padilla said.

"We're also focusing on house-to-house clearing of areas and rescuing trapped residents," he stressed.

Marawi police officer Jamail Mangadang said the men found dead were carpenters who were part of an evacuation convoy stopped by rebels late Saturday.

Recalling information provided by their manager, Mangadang said the victims were pulled off a truck because they were unable to cite verses from the Koran, the Islamic Holy text.

"We heard gunfire, although I'm not sure if it was the same people who were shot," he said at the scene.

"Early in the morning, at 08.20, there are civilians, concerned citizens, who said 'can you verify these dead bodies?'"

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Gov. Mujiv Hataman has ordered an inquiry on the brutal execution of the eight victims.

Getting them out

Fierce battles restarted yesterday as ground troops engaged the Maute fighters with heavy gunfire.

Plumes of smoke were seen on the horizon and helicopters fired at least eight rockets on rebel positions.

A surveillance drone circled the sky above Marawi City.

Some civilians left on foot, others were seen tying white cloths to poles to distinguish themselves from militants as soldiers huddled behind armored vehicles slowly advancing.

An ambulance was seen speeding away from the fighting and soldiers said a captured militant was inside.

Tens of thousands of people have fled Marawi since Tuesday, when militants went on the rampage seizing a school, a hospital and a cathedral.

Christians were taken hostage, according to church leaders, and more than 100 inmates, among them militants, were freed when rebels overran two jails.

"The AFP focus continues on safely clearing Marawi of terrorist elements still held up within pockets of the city. Priority of ongoing military action is likewise aimed at aiding residents still trapped in the city's interiors. Significantly, we have successfully rescued and assisted 124 trapped civilian residents since the start of operations," Padilla said.

Zia Alonto Adiong, a local politician coordinating efforts to get people out of the city, said there were bodies of dead civilians in Marawi.

He criticized the military for conducting air strikes and for hampering efforts to evacuate civilians.

"Some have no food at all. Some fear for their lives," he said. "This is a conflict that has gone beyond proportion. The magnitude of the degree of the damage and the people that are affected... it's really massive."

According to Adiong, more than 2,200 civilians stranded in their homes by the street fighting have been sending text messages asking to be rescued and brought to evacuation centers. They were also reporting widespread damage in the city of 200,000 people.

Myrna Jocelyn Henry, a staff of the ARMM, said some Muslims facilitated the safe relocation of more than a hundred Christians to safer areas in the past four days.

Henry said they are validating reports that a Muslim state prosecutor rescued 42 Christians trapped in a school that was burned down by the militants last Friday.

"We don't have complete details on how the reported rescue was done. Just the same, we are grateful for the big help. The ARMM government is thankful to these Muslim Marawi residents for helping save the lives of non-Muslims," Henry said.

Lanao del Sur Vice Gov. Mamintal Adiong Jr. said one of the rescuers was Salma Jayne Tamano and her Maranao relatives. He said Tamano works as the information officer of the provincial government of Lanao del Sur.

Provincial police director Senior Supt. Oscar Nantes said 39 people who have not eaten for days just lay flat on the floor of houses in Lilod Madaya and Saduc areas where they hid for more than 36 hours due to the presence of gunmen.

Nantes said Tamano's team also rescued two Muslim elders who provided the 39 Christians sanctuary.

The violence in Marawi erupted in the moments after a failed attempt by security forces to capture Hapilon, the Abu Sayyaf leader who the government believes is Islamic State's point man in the Philippines. - With John Unson, Reuters, AFP, AP

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BLOODBATH

By Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca

INNOCENT lives, including of women and children, are being snuffed out as the Marawi City crisis drags on.

Nineteen civilians were among the latest death toll of 95 persons.

This was confirmed yesterday by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brigadier General Restituto Padilla.

Padilla said as of 2 p.m. yesterday, the AFP recorded 61 terrorists killed, 42 of them were recovered and 19 others were confirmed dead by eyewitness accounts.

On the part of the government, the AFP recorded 15 killed in action including 11 soldiers and 4 policemen.

Nineteen civilians were also confirmed dead, eight of them were recovered Sunday morning some 300 meters outside MSU and along a roadway. They are composed of four males, three females and one child.

Padilla said the civilians were mercilessly killed by the terrorists.

"This development validates a series of reports of atrocities committed by the militants earlier. We are still validating other reports of atrocities by militants. To date,

we have confirmed 19 civilians killed by militants," Padilla said.

The AFP also recorded 39 wounded as of May 26, 2017. The figure is being updated as of press time.

Padilla stressed that the AFP is focused on the safety of residents trapped in Marawi City as they continue on safely clearing Marawi of terrorists who are still holed-up within pockets of the city.

"Priority of ongoing military action is likewise aimed at aiding residents who are still trapped in the city's interiors," he said.

Right now Padilla said government forces rescued and assisted 124-trapped civilian residents since the start of the operations.

Troops on the ground also recovered 24 high-powered firearms during the 24-hour military operations.

Meanwhile, the AFP and the PNP also denied reports that there are checkpoints being conducted by uniformed elements without badges or identifications.

Padilla stressed that checkpoints follow strict protocols.

"These reports, if true, may be of unauthorized armed elements and should be discreetly documented and reported. We have issued orders to our forces to ascertain these reports and deal with them," he said.

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Senators review ML report in Mindanao

By BUTCH FERNANDEZ [@butchBM](#)

SEN. Panfilo M. Lacson Sr. warned over the weekend against potential abuse of martial-law (ML) powers, including taking over private establishments, as the Senate is set to tackle a Malacañan Palace report on the basis of imposing martial law in Mindanao.

Lacson aired the warning after Armed Forces Chief Gen. Eduardo Año, designated martial-law implementer, confirmed government options to take over private establish-

ments, including utilities.

Lacson voiced concerns in a radio interview over Año's statement that authorities can take over private establishments if necessary to end

the state of rebellion and foreign invasion that prompted President Duterte to issue Proclamation 216, placing the entire Mindanao area under martial rule.

Año was designated by Duterte on May 25 as martial-law implementer and was given six more months of duty, as he was due for mandatory retirement in October.

Lacson recalled in a radio interview that Año himself admitted the takeover of some private utilities, which, Lacson said, is not covered by the Palace Proclamation. "*Sabini Año, magte-takeover sila ng private facilities, eh hindi kasama ryan sa Proclamation 216.*"

The Senator suggested Congress can step in to check the potential abuse of martial-law powers in Mindanao.

"If we see excesses like indis-

criminate arrests, Congress can move if they don't file cases right away [against arrested suspects]," he said. "In case of takeover of private firms, Congress can revoke the order."

But Lacson hastened to clarify there is yet no cause for concern.

"Right now, there is no reason yet. But citizens can go to court as they did during the Arroyo administration," Lacson said, recalling the time when then-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared a state of national emergency in February 2006.

He said even under such a situation, affected citizens are not without recourse and can go after erring martial-law implementers.

"If there are abuses, those guilty are not immune; they are not protected because Duterte is not the one

who will be liable," Lacson said, even as Duterte had said "*Sagot ko kayo*", implying he will take responsibility for those accused in the course of carrying out his martial-law orders.

Lacson confirmed Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III was set to convene a majority caucus last Sunday night in advance of an all-senators' meeting on Monday to discuss details of the Palace report on the martial-law imposition in Mindanao.

He indicated lawmakers need to decide when the government can take over facilities and private utilities. "*Iyon ang dapat bantayan...mga abuses,*" Lacson said, adding the senators are also expected to discuss in Sunday's caucus the need for holding a joint session of Congress, which is required only to revoke or extend the martial-law proclamation.

Lacson said besides the takeover of private establishments, another potential area for abuse is the application of warrantless arrests.

He added warrantless arrest can be resorted to by the martial-law implementers for offenses covered by the basis for declaring martial-law because the ongoing rebellion or foreign invasion is considered a continuing crime. But other offenses unrelated to the grounds that prompted martial-law declaration must still go through the usual judicial process as mandated by the Constitution unless the alleged crimes fall under the usual definition of continuing crime. Even without martial law, Lacson said warrantless arrest is allowed, but strictly under the definition of "continuing crime".

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The Manila Times

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SECURITY OFFICIALS TO BRIEF SENATE

SECURITY officials will on Monday apprise senators on the situation in Marawi City as lawmakers deliberate whether or not the chamber will review the report of President Rodrigo Duterte justifying the declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

Defense Secretary Delwin Lorenzana, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. and Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Eduardo Año will brief senators on the military operations in Marawi where members of the Maute Group rampaged.

"We expect them (security officials) to come because they also want to explain to congress the reason behind the declaration," Sen. Panfilo Lacson said.

"If they will not attend, then the Senate won't have an idea on what is the actual situation in the area. We would just ask the lower house for a joint session to discuss the possible revocation of the declaration," he said.

Lacson however noted that congress can move to revoke the declaration if the security officials failed to brief the lawmakers.

He pointed out that the declaration of martial law does not only involve the executive branch because the Constitution clearly states the roles of the legislature and the judiciary in the martial law process.

Lacson said they will discuss the President's report today but he pointed out that holding a joint session is not mandatory. He explained that a joint session can only be convened if there is a move from the Senate or the House of Representatives to revoke the martial law proclamation.

While some senators had voiced the opinion that a joint session should be convened, Lacson said no formal motion was presented.

Members of the Senate majority bloc were to meet Sunday night to discuss the report of the President.

Warranted

Even if Lacson has yet to read the President's report and listen to the explanation of security officials, he is convinced that there was basis to declare martial law in Mindanao because there was an invasion by members of the Maute Group.

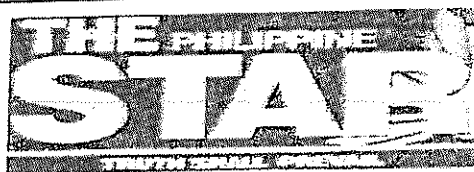
Section 18 Article VII of the 1987 constitution states that the President "in case of invasion or rebellion, when the public safety requires it, may, for a period not exceeding sixty days, suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus or place the Philippines or any part thereof under martial law."

"There was an attack and reports of foreign nationals who were among those killed by the government forces," he said.

"It was clear that group raised the Islamic state flag on areas and government facilities they have taken over and they killed soldiers and policemen and those are the requirements in the constitution to declare martial law," he added.

JEFFERSON ANTIPORDA

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Marawi City hospital not overrun – official

By GERRY LEE GORIT

ILIGAN CITY – A hospital official dispelled reports that Amai Pakpak Medical Center (APMC) in Marawi was taken over by the terrorist Maute group as fighting between armed extremists and government troops continued over the weekend.

Amer Saber, APMC chief of hospital, said the report that the medical facility was overrun by the Maute was not true as he appealed to media outlets to verify their information before airing or publishing it.

He clarified, however, that a team of Maute fighters went to the hospital on Tuesday afternoon and brought with them an injured comrade for treatment.

Saber recalled that two armed men entered the facility and asked them if they can bring in a patient. About five other armed men stayed outside the hospital gate and kept watch.

"They were very courteous and even greeted us with 'Assalam Alaikum' before asking us if they can bring in their patient," Saber said.

The patient, who was in critical condition, did not survive.

At about the same time that this incident was happening, Saber recounted, a police car arrived at the hospital premises with Senior Inspector Freddie Solar, intelligence unit chief of the Marawi City Police, among those on board.

He said Solar brought his wife to the hospital as she was suffering from appendicitis.

Based on footage from the hospital's CCTV camera, the policemen were taken hostage by the Maute fighters who were outside the APMC gates.

Of the policemen held at gunpoint, only Solar was shot. Although he was rushed to the APMC emergency room, he died shortly due to loss of blood, Saber said.

He added the terrorists left the hospital early Wednesday morning. He stressed that the episode where Solar was shot was the only incident where gunshots were fired within the APMC premises.

During the time the insurgents were there, Saber said the hospital personnel did not feel being harassed although, as an added precaution, he ordered some staff, especially the Christian personnel, to move out of Marawi for their safety as the Maute terrorists were said to be targeting Christian residents.

The hospital chief added that the APMC was spared from destruction at the height of the bombings and clashes Friday.

"(It was as if) we were in Syria, (with all) the bombing, shooting, firing," was how Saber described the sound of exploding bombs coupled with the gun battle on the ground.

As of yesterday, Marawi has been generally quiet and almost akin to a ghost town.

In a statement, Health Secretary Paulyn Ubial also belied reports that the Maute insurgents abducted and held hostage at least 21 health personnel of the APMC, stressing that all government hospitals in Mindanao are operational and fully secured by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

"(There is) no such event (hostage taking) and the APMC continue to be fully functional," Ubial said, assuring the public that all government-run health facilities can carry out immediate measures, facilitate recovery efforts, and reduce the impact of any emergency that may arise.

The Amai Pakpak Medical Center is a government-run 438-bed capacity hospital, with about 700 staff, including 108 doctors with various specializations and more than 300 nurses.

– With Mayen Jaymalin

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Duterte plans to tap MNLF, MILF, NPA against Maute

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte on Saturday said he is planning to hire members of the Moro National Liberation Front, Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and the New People's Army in the fight against the Maute Group in Marawi City.

The President issued the statement during a talk with the military in Busbus in Jolo.

He said he would provide the fighters of the MNLF, MILF and NPA the same pay and benefits that the government is providing the Armed Forces of the Philippines if they will join the "Republic."

The Communist Party of the Philippines, just last Thursday, ordered its armed wing, the NPA, to carry out more attacks in Mindanao because of Duterte's move to place the area under martial law. The order led to the cancellation last Saturday

of the fifth round of peace negotiations between government and the communist group.

Duterte said he would tap the MNLF, MILF and NPA forces if the Marawi conflict drags on.

"I am announcing to all na lahat ng sundalo ng MB (MILF), MN (MNLF), kung matagal pa ito at gusto ninyong sumali, malapagsapalaran sa Republika. I am offering them, kaniin ko layong sundalo, same pay, same privileges, and I will build houses for you in some areas. At lahat ng NPA nakikinig ngayon, kung iwanan ninyo yan, I am announcing to all the soldiers of ML, MN, if this drags on, and you want to join, take your chance with the Republic. I am offering them, I will hire you as soldiers - same pay, same privileges, and I will build houses for you in some areas. And all the NPA, listen now, if you leave the fight against

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DUTERTE PLANS

overnment)," he said.

Duterte said he is willing to create a special division composed of the fighters of the MILF, MNLF and NPA.

He said the idea stemmed from the offer of MNLF founding chairman Nur Misuari, through a letter, who volunteered the men under him to support the govern-

ment's campaign against the Maute group in Marawi and the other parts of the Lanao region.

The President said he does not want to declare martial law but the situation had forced him to do it. He said he is prepared to ignore the opinion of the Supreme Court and Congress about the imposition of martial law because they are

not aware of the actual situation in Mindanao.

Duterte also said he will come up with a general order amending the martial law proclamation to include illegal drugs as among the reasons for imposing military rule.

"I have no other recourse but to declare martial law. When will it end? I do not know. Hanggang hindi sinabi ng pulis pati Armed Forces na safe na ang Philippines, this martial

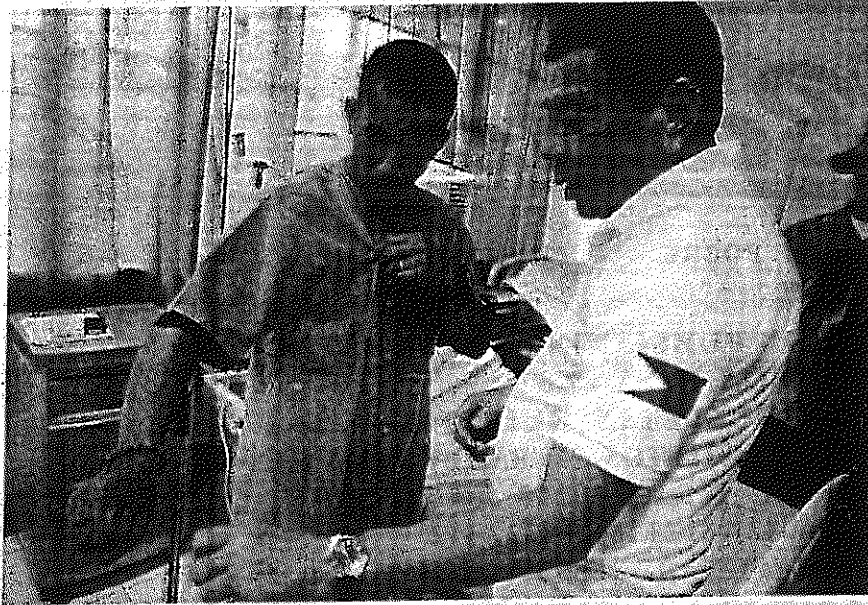
law will continue. Hindi ako making sa iba. Mga Supreme Court, iyung mga congressman, wala man sila dito. (I have no other recourse but to declare martial law. When will it end? I do not know. Until the police and the Armed Forces say the Philippines is safe, this martial law will continue. I will not listen to others. The Supreme Court, the congressmen, they are not here. I will not listen to them)," he said.

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Balita

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ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSANG P8.00



SALUDO SA KABAYANIHAN
Kinukumusta ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang mga sugat na natamo ni Cpl. Sancho Antipolo nang bisitahin niya ang mga sugatang sundalo sa Camp Teodulfo Bautista Station Hospital sa Sulu nitong Sabado. Kabilang si Antipolo sa mga miyembro ng 10IB Alpha Company na tinambangan ng umano'y mga miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf nitong Huwebes, na ikinasawi ng isang sundalo at ikinasugat ng 10 iba pa.

Sumukong Abu Sayyaf, 64 na—AFP

NI FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Sumuko nitong Sabado sa Joint Task Force Basilan ang apat na miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

Dahil sa pagsuko ng apat na bandido, nasa 64 na ang kabuuang bilang ng mga miyembro ng ASG na sumuko sa Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) simula Enero ngayong taon.

Sumuko ang mga terorista, na pawang tagasunod ng sub-leader na si Nurhassan Jamiri, sa mga tauhan ng 18th Infantry Battalion sa headquarters ng huli sa Sitio Camalig, Barangay Bohe Pahu sa Ungkaya Pukan, Basilan, bandang 2:00 ng hapon nitong Sabado.

Isinuko rin nina Usman Mussa, alyas "Akkus"; Balie Kasaran, alyas "Balie"; Sadar Tutuh Kasaran, alyas "Sadan"; at Sarwin Askalin Kasaran, alyas "Win", pawang taga-Al Barka, Basilan, ang dalawang M16 rifle at isang .30 caliber M1 Garand rifle.

Ayon kay Col. Juvymax Uy, commander ng Joint Task Force Basilan, sinabi ng mga bandido na pinili nilang sumuko matapos nilang malaman na napaslang na ang dalawang ASG sub-leader—sina Abu Rami, na napatay sa Bohol; at Alhabsy Misaya, na napaslang naman sa Sulu—sa loob lamang ng isang buwan.

Dagdag pa ng WestMinCom,

lalong nanganib para sa kanilang buhay ang mga sumukong bandido makaraang magdeklara ng batas militar si Pangulong Duterte.

Matatandaang Martes, Mayo 23, naman nang sumuko sa militar sa Tawi-Tawi ang tatlong tauhan ng napatay na ring sub-leader na si Aljine Mundok, na sina Angki Haradja, Nickson Abdulmari Jalil, at Asil Sainuddin.

Kaugnay nito, nilinaw ni Lt. Gen. Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., commander ng WestMinCom, na hinding-hindi nila tatantanan ang pursigidong pagdurog sa Abu Sayyaf kahit pa nakatutok ngayon ang malaking puwersa ng militar sa Maute Group sa Marawi City, Lanao del Sur.

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4 ASG bandits surrender

By **NONOYE LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Four Abu Sayyaf members affiliated with the terror group's sub-leader Nurhassan Jamiri surrendered to the military in Basilan province and turned over three high powered firearms on Saturday.

Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) Spokesman Capt Jo-Ann Petinglay said the bandits turned themselves in to the soldiers of 18th Infantry Battalion at their headquarters in Sitio Camalig, Barangay Bohe Pahu, Ungkaya Pukan, Basilan Province.

Petinglay identified the four Abu Sayyaf members as Usman Mussa alias Akkus, Balie Kasaran alias Balie, Sadar Tutuh Kasaran alias Sadan, and Sarwin Askalin Kasaran alias Win, all residents of Al Barka, Basilan province.

Colonel Juvymax Uy, the Commander of the Joint Task Force Basilan

in his report to Western Mindanao Command said that during the initial debriefing, the four ASG revealed that they decided to surrender after learning about the death of ASG sub leaders Abu Rami who was killed in Bohol, and Alhabsy Misaya who was killed in Sulu in just a span of one month.

According to Uy, the bandits also feared for their safety following the declaration of martial law in Mindanao. "Our efforts against the Abu Sayyaf will not and never will falter," Lt. Gen. Carlito G. Galvez, Jr, commander of the AFP-WestMinCom said.

"Despite the ongoing challenges our command is facing in Marawi, troops from Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi are more than eager to finish the Abu Sayyaf threat at the given deadline."

AFP-WestMinCom records showed, 64 Abu Sayyaf members have already surrendered to WestMinCom since January this year.

24 May 2017

The Manila Times

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■ TIGLAO FROM A1

Duterte's martial law: Risky but bold, required move

the mind of every soldier that martial law doesn't suspend the law nor the military's accountability.

One big failure actually of the Marcos regime, and of the Armed Forces Chief of Staff at the time, Gen. Romeo Espino, and the Philippine Constabulary Chief Fidel Ramos, was that they hardly publicized the fact that about 3,000 military personnel were dismissed as a result of complaints from their civilian victims.

A strong and clear signal from these top military leaders that military abuses will be severely punished would have made military scalawags think twice before committing crimes against civilians. I haven't seen any report though that a military man was imprisoned during martial law for committing crimes against the civilian population.

Unfortunately, while intended to bolster troops' morale, Duterte's statement that he alone would be responsible for anything soldiers did during martial law, and his joke that this would include rapes, send the opposite of the necessary signal he should be sending to the troops.

Troops' accountability

He must instead emphasize to his troops that they cannot escape accountability for any abuses they commit, and that these in fact would severely damage his



RIGOBERTO
TIGLAO

own legitimacy, and defeat his purpose of declaring martial law in Mindanao. He must speak in Duterte-speak, like telling them in Filipino: "I'll hang you by the balls if you abuse civilians."

Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao—after less than a year in office—and the risks such a move entails underlines this President's determination to defend the integrity of the Republic. If any of his rivals had won the presidency last year, each one would have put as his or her priority his or her own political survival, and therefore shirk form undertaking such a risky move.

The best way to appreciate Duterte's move is to understand that a state's primordial duty is to ensure its existence, which requires that any threat to its existence posed by armed groups must be swiftly and decisively ended.

This is the reason why one of the most important characteristics of a state, as political scientists have pointed out, is that it is the only entity that has the legitimate authority to use force. And only a sovereign state can have an army.

A state is also defined as the entity that has absolute supreme authority within the boundary of its territory, "one that makes its own actions without the approval of a higher authority".

But how can it do this if it cannot enforce its authority and laws, which requires at the end of the day the use of violence? In fact this is the reason why the bloodiest wars in recent history were civil wars—in China, Vietnam, Korea, and even Spain—in which one group competes with another to win absolute authority over a territory. Even the purported font of democratic values, the US, fought a bloody civil war to defend the integrity of its Union.

Maute terrorists

For a group like the Maute terrorists to profess allegiance to an external power, the IS, and to claim a part of the Philippines as their own, is a very serious threat to our state, and must be exterminated immediately with the full might of our armed forces. Martial law suspends the normal processes of ensuring the rights of civilians, mainly the right to trial in a speedy manner. It is in essence the deployment of the state's armed power to defend its existence.

The most important reason for the continuing violence in Muslim Mindanao is that there has been

a historical tradition among the Muslims in that region denying allegiance to the Philippine state, that only the state can have an army. This tradition has resulted in small armed groups of clans, to kidnap-for-ransom gangs such as the Abu Sayyaf to a huge army such as that of the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The Ampatuan massacre in Maguindanao in 2009 and the Mamasapano slaughter of 44 elite police troops in 2015 are demonstrations of the fact that Muslim Mindanao has remained out of our Republic's sovereignty. The survival of the New People's Army for four decades now is not due to its ideology or vision for the Philippines but to the fact that it has replaced the state with an army in miniature form in the country's hinterlands.

Duterte is merely undertaking his sworn duty as head of this Republic by imposing martial law in Mindanao. The Constitution requires him to do it.

It should have been undertaken more than a decade ago when it became obvious that the MILF and the NPA really wouldn't lay down their arms and couldn't be defeated in the normal processes of purely civilian rule.

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He says, they say

President Duterte last week axed Benjamin Reyes as chairman of the Dangerous Drugs Board for using statistics which Mr. Duterte said contradicted the numbers he had given, many times in public, to justify his war on drugs.

In an interview with ANC also last week, Reyes bared the statistics of 1.8 million drug users in the country, nearly half of Mr. Duterte's claim of 4 million drug users, whom he vowed to annihilate in the first three months of his presidency. And when that failed, he asked for an extension of six months, and now three years.

"You do not contradict your own government... You're just a civilian member of a board. You're fired today. Get out of the service," Duterte said, as he further justified his numbers came from retired Gen. Dionisio Santiago, who fed him with the number of 3 million five years ago.

Santiago's numbers had been Mr. Duterte's bible truth when he waged his war against drugs. But they have also become his critics' source of strength as alleged extrajudicial killing victims could breach 10,000 deaths anytime, with a possible case before the International Criminal Court hanging above his head.

But it could be the least of President Duterte's worries. He has these numbers to correct for now.

President Duterte said the correct count should be that of the police and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Let's give it to Mr. Duterte. The president could not be wrong with his information. Reyes could have given an inaccurate estimate.

But Mr. Duterte had also been contradicted by his own military leaders last week.

He could not fire them, though, like he did with Reyes.

Last week, reports about the Daulah Islamiyah's presence in Marawi City caused the president to cut his visit in Moscow.

President Duterte had to announce he is leaving Moscow on very short notice and apologized to Russian President Vladimir Putin, by claiming the Philippines was under attack by the ISIS (Islamic State fighters).

Were they ISIS, though?

President Duterte says so.

In fact, Mr. Duterte officially acknowledged Daulah Islamiyah's link to the ISIS during a live televised speech on November 28 last year. The Maute group was no longer a gang of bandits since then, they have become a recognized terror group with links to the most dreaded IS which took over extremist leadership since the death of Osama bin Laden in Pakistan on May 2, 2011.

On Wednesday, President Duterte made yet another claim about ISIS presence in the Philippines when he sought soft loans from Putin for military equipment. Mr. Duterte plans to use to quash the Mindanao terror group once and for all. It is not clear as yet whether Putin would provide arms to

Duterte.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) remains adamant despite the President's claim, in front of his Russian equal, however. And not just one AFP official claimed there is no ISIS presence in the Philippines, or none yet.

After failures and lapses in intelligence gathering, however, it appears the military cannot be trusted with the information it gives the public.

The AFP could not even admit failure of intelligence when both the traditional and social media burst with reports of the presence of the armed Maute group in Marawi. Photos soon surfaced, including pictures of very young fighters barely out of their teens seemingly enjoying their "war games" out of their computer boxes. And with pay, this time supposedly coming from Baghdad, according to reports.

The military had also been rebuked when various camps confirmed the Maute group's killing spree, setting fire on houses and buildings in a town and check points where several non-Muslims were reportedly executed. Several people, including a priest, were also abducted by the group.

Marawi City Mayor Majul Usman Gandanra also confirmed on Tuesday night that the city jail and the Dansalan College were set on fire by the group.

"Hindi po kami okay dito (We are not okay here)," Gandanra said.

Military spokesmen initially branded these reports as hoaxes. This despite President Duterte acknowledging before Putin the supposed ISIS attack in Marawi.

The following Wednesday, just as President Duterte was to plane in from Moscow, the AFP put up a brave front by declaring the ISIS has not infiltrated the Philippines despite extremists pledging allegiance to the international terror group, which also according to reports by supposed eyewitnesses, had their flags flown in various places in Basak Malulut.

"Categorically, we are saying (that) we do not have ISIS in the Philippines," AFP spokesperson Colonel Edgard Arevalo said during a media briefing, contradicting Mr. Duterte's claim before Putin and his earlier statements confirming ISIS presence in the country.

Before president Duterte boarded the plane that was to bring him back to Manila, he declared martial law in Mindanao. That was to fulfill a promise that he would do so if terror does not stop in South.

At about the same time of the president's declaration of Martial Law, the AFP's Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom) declared Marawi City has come "under full control of the city officials," but with a warning: "We strongly advise the public to be wary of such disinformation and listen only to authorities and respectable media outfits in order to know the truth. Let us not propagate such disinformation and let us help Marawi fully recover the soonest



Alvin Cardona



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time possible."

For a reason, the AFP could not accept the ISIS had breached the Philippines with ease through what was then a small gang of bandits who double as Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels, who occasionally provides support to the Abu Sayyaf, an earlier incarnation of a terror group that had linked with Bin Laden and the al-Qaeda.

The Daulah Islamiyah was christened by the military as the Maute group, named after its leader Abdullah Maute, son of a senior leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which spawned from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) which first waged war for secession against government.

The AFP had claimed to have neutralized the Maute group after an intensive surgical strike at its base, resulting in the capture of its main camp in Piagapo town, Lanao del Sur in the final week of April.

Soldiers have killed about 36 militants after three days of air and ground assault, with no less than President Duterte claiming he believed Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon could have been killed in one of the air strikes, which had also claimed the life of Maute recruiter and sub-leader Abelino Bantayao, an Imam.

Brigadier-General Roland Bautista, an army division commander, even told reporters several Maute group members have split into smaller groups, possibly including suspected militants from Indonesia and Malaysia, whose records have been recovered from the site by the AFP.

Yet, Hapilon was said to have been spotted in Marawi City, along with younger Maute recruits, and we don't know anymore if it is the AFP, the government or the terror group that is which engaging in propaganda.

And for now, it is President Duterte's words which are strongest.

The ISIS is in the Philippines.



A classified map, purportedly created by the US National Counterterrorism Center, for top security officials and former US President Obama, can be accessed from the Web, detailing the ISIS expansion around the globe. It marked a near threefold increase in countries where it has full presence since 2014.

It is worth of note, however, that it lists 18 country where ISIS has fully operational networks, while "growing cells" have been recorded as appearing in Egypt, Indonesia, Mali, Somalia, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

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Pahina. 4

Patayin ang pangamba sa martial law

MAY mga sumasang-ayon at kumukontra sa pagdedeklara ng martial law sa Mindanao. Bakit daw sa buong Mindanao e ang mga teroristang Maute ay nasa Marawi City lamang. Maski si dating Pres. Fidel Ramos ay hindi pabor sa martial law sa buong Mindanao. Sabi naman ng sumasang-ayon sa martial law, nararapat lamang ito para ganap na maipatupad ang seguridad laban sa mga naghahasik ng kaguluhan. Kung sa Marawi lamang ipatutupad ang martial law, maaaring magpalipat-lipat lang ang mga terorista at walang katapusan ang kanilang panggugulo.

Sa kasalukuyan, patuloy ang opensiba ng AFP at PNP sa pinaglulunggaan ng Maute. Sabi ng AFP, balak nilang tapusin ang pakikipaglaban sa Maute sa sunod na tatlong araw. Nasa anim na araw na ang bakbakan sa Marawi at ayon pa sa AFP nasa 41 Maute terrorists na ang kanilang napapatay. Kung tatapusin sa sunod na tatlong araw, ibig kayang sabihin, tapos na rin ang imposition ng martial law sa Mindanao.

Sabi ni Pres. Rodrigo Duterte nang dumating mula sa Russia, maaaring abutin ng 60-araw ang imposition ng martial law pero maaari pa raw itong humaba depende sa nangyayaring krisis. Sa Russia pa nilagdaan ni Duterte ang deklarasyon ng martial law sa ilalim ng Proclamation 216.

Humaba man o tumagal ang martial law sa Mindanao dahil sa paglupig sa mga terorista ay maaaring matanggap ng mamamayan. Ang nararapat lamang bantayan ay ang maaaring pag-abuso ng mga sundalo habang pinatutupad ang martial law. Kapag umabuso ang mga sundalo at pinairal nila ang batas ng baril, dito magkakaroon ng kaguluhan. Sino ang hindi mababalisa kung ang mga sundalo ay gagawang pagmamalabis na walang pinagkaiba sa martial law ni Marcos noong 1972 na maraming dinukot. Nararapat patayin ni Duterte ang pangamba ng taumbayan sa pagdedeklara niya ng martial law.

Mabuti ang martial law para mapanatili ang katiwasayan sa bansa pero kapag ginamit ito sa pansariling kapakanan, dito na magsisimula ang pagkaligalig ng mamamayan. Ang pangamba ay nasa kanilang isip na anumang sandali ay maaaring ares-tuhin at ikulong.

Nangako naman si Duterte na hindi aabuso ang military. Tanging sa mga terorista lamang magiging "harsh" ang kanyang martial law. Sana nga, kakaiba ang martial law niya kaysa kay Marcos.

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SPEAKING OUT

Duterte's war against terror



By IGNACIO R. BUNYE

PRESIDENT Rody Duterte momentarily shifted his focus last week from the war on drugs to another front. This time, he had Islamist militants in his sights.

Duterte's target consisted of combined elements of the Maute Group, a relatively small band which claims association with ISIS, and the Abu Sayaf Group reportedly led by Isnilon Hapilon.

Hapilon, who was reported to have been severely wounded in his native Basilan in January, surprised the military when he resurfaced in Marawi City.

Hapilon was reported to be on a mission to link up with Maute and other militants in Central Mindanao.

What started initially as pursuit operations against Hapilon developed into full-blown running gunbattles in an area covering 11 barangays in Marawi City.

As these developed, the hostiles occupied buildings (including a hospital and a school), houses and bridges, taking civilians as hostages, and hoisting IS-style black flags.

The fighting triggered a massive exodus of Marawi residents to Iligan City with many, unable to find transport, escaping on foot. As of this writing, casualties mounted on both sides.

Duterte was in Russia, on a state visit, when the crisis began

to develop. He responded by cutting short his visit and issuing from Moscow on May 23, Proclamation No. 215, declaring martial law in the whole of Mindanao and suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

He also named AFP chief of staff Eduardo Año as martial law administrator. Año was originally scheduled for early retirement (to take on the post of DILG secretary) but Duterte extended his military service for another six months.

Duterte's move caught many by surprise. After all, initial pronouncements from military spokesmen described the situation as "contained," "under control" with several areas "cleared of Maute presence."

Analysts also earlier described Maute as "a small group" and "a manageable threat."

But to Duterte the actions of the militants constituted rebellion, one of the grounds for declaring martial law. And he was not taking any chances.

Critics of the President, including a group of Muslim lawyers, claim there is not enough factual basis for the declaration of martial law. Furthermore, declaration of martial law is supposed to be a last resort.

Let them go to court, countered Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre.

The President's allies further allayed fears of possible abuses similar to what occurred during the Marcos years. They cited that under the 1987

Constitution

1. The declaration of martial law may be revoked any time by a joint declaration of both houses of Congress.

2. The declaration may not last more than 60 days. Any extension must be approved by Congress.

3. The Supreme Court may also look into the factual basis for the declaration.

As of this writing, any chance of joint Congressional action appears to be remote. Mindanao congressmen are reported to be "concerned" but "generally supportive" of the Duterte's initial move.

Businessmen friendly to the administration are also cautiously optimistic that the rest of Mindanao will survive the effects of the fighting.

One businessman, who is in the 24-hour convenience store business, however, hopes that President Rody will not declare a curfew.

"When that happens, that will really be bad for our business."

Let us all hope for the best but be prepared for the worst.

Heard on the air:

DZBB's Rene Sta. Cruz: Hindi ba ang pagsunog ng mga gusali at pag-hostage ng mga sibilyan ay violation din ng human rights? Eh bakit wala man lamang akong naririnig mula sa Commission on Human Rights?

Note: You may also e-mail us at totingbunye2000@gmail.com. You may also "like" us on Facebook at "Speaking Out."

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GOTCHA JARIUS BONDOC



After martial law will come the hard part

Philipinos apparently dread Maute terrorists more than martial law. Dazed Marawi citizens accepted warrant-less searches and curbs on civilian movement as fitting to crush the brutal jihadists. That President Duterte included the rest of Mindanao under military control even came as a relief. Far too long have the similarly murderous Abu Sayyaf been terrorizing the west, Moro separatists marauding Christian villages in the central, and communist rebels extorting in the south. The Zamboanga besiegers of 2013 and Mamasapano massacres of 2015 remain at large. The general sentiment is to be rid of them at any cost. The constitutional limitation of martial rule to only invasion or rebellion was dismissed as mere technicality. Duterte's bad joke of allow-

eteered in military supplies. Munitions were even sold to the enemy.

Today's military brass are believed to be professional. Mindanao government, civic, and religious leaders trust them to rout in no time the terrorists, secessionists, and communists. There also are a slew of young governors and mayors who know that martial law alone will not suffice. The hard part is good governance to eradicate the poverty and injustice on which armed violence feeds.

After the fighting, civilian reconstruction swiftly should follow. Neglect, like what happened during Marcos' time, would only revert to war. Jolo, the capital of Sulu, used to be the foremost city in western Mindanao before its razing in 1973 from months-long battles between government forces and Moro separatists.

Roads, electricity, and Internet instantly will uplift people from economic and cultural morass.

able rapes by soldiers was tolerated, not deemed inconsistent with his assurance of no abuse by security forces. It is no different from the apathy towards nationwide killings of drug suspects, so long as neighborhoods can at last sleep in peace.

Survey after survey reiterates Duterte's popularity. People depend on him for deliverance from dystopia. Many have even given up on democracy. Hopes are being pinned on Marcos-type dictatorship, which Duterte suggests.

Popularity is not what will win the war against terror, however. Military skill and dedication are key. Ferdinand Marcos' martial law in fact failed to tame Mindanao in the 1970s-1980s. Soldiers' abuses - pillaging of farms, desecration of mosques, torture of suspects - only worsened the wrath of the barrio folk. Intelligence gathering from the best sources - the communities - thus faltered. Troops were wiped out in ambushes. Incompetent generals were put in high command simply because close to Marcos and cronies. Slyly those officers

That it was never rebuilt to its past glory partly fosters the people's continuing disaffection. Though only partly destroyed by the 2013 siege, Zamboanga City too remains to be restored.

A model to learn from is Datu Paglas town in Maguindanao. Separatists once reigned there too. Then one of them, Manila-educated Toto Paglas, became mayor. Knowing that his constituents needed livelihoods to return to normalcy, he established a banana plantation and export packaging plant. It was farmed by Muslims, financed by Christians, and technologically guided by Jews. With money in their pockets, the ex-rebels turned in their guns and put their children to school. Sadly Mayor Paglas died at a young age; still secession no longer is talked about.

Roads and transportation are vital to link backward communities to civilization. Last year Muslim Autonomous Regional Gov. Mujiv Hataman paved a highway into Al Barka town in Basilan, infamous for the beheading of 14 Marines and then 19 Army men in the early

BONDOC From page 15

000s. Instantly the impoverished folk had access to trade. Painfully working, they convinced their separatist kinsmen to relent. The Islamic State-inspired Abu Sayyaf persisted in kidnapping for ransom, however. The townsfolk themselves drove away the terrorists. That was why Abu Sayyaf hieftain Isnilon Hapilon ended up seeking succor from the Maute fellow-outlaws in Marawi. A raid on his hideout last week triggered the Maute counter-attack that made Duterte impose martial law.

Other impoverished towns need to be connected to the world. Not only roads and rides but also electricity and Internet are needed. Mindanao women's leader Amina Rasul often narrates the magic of television to inform and educate Moro barrio folk about normal Muslim life in other lands. They naturally aspire for the same peace and contentment.

Part of the problem is cultural, Governor Hataman stresses. Moros need to be weaned from the victim mentality that breeds radicalism. Deeply educated and thus moderate imams must be helped to expand their schools and congregations. Youths that stray into extremism quickly must be brought closer to

religious instruction.

Subsequently gun control must be enforced. "Rido" or clan wars must be prevented from erupting from land disputes by rule of law.

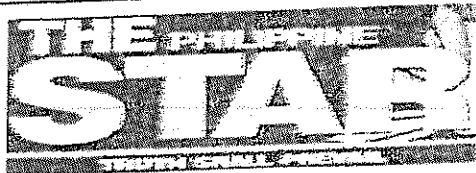
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Catch *Sapol* radio show, Saturdays, 8-10 a.m., DWIZ (882-AM).

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AS A MATTER OF FACT

SARA SOLIVEN DE GUZMAN

Maute Law or Martial Law?



When "lawless armed groups are attempting to deprive the President of his power, authority, prerogatives within Marawi City as a precedent to spreading their control over the entire Mindanao in an attempt to undermine his control over executive departments, bureaus, and offices in said area; defeat his mandate to ensure that all laws are faithfully executed, and remove his supervisory power over local governments," what does a President do?

When a major city in the country is taken over by militant groups with other international terrorists on the scene, motivated by ISIS ideology in their actions, what does a President do?

When there is a "clear, pronounced and unmistakable intent to remove Marawi City, and eventually the rest of Mindanao, from its allegiance to the government," what should a President do?

When the military is too weak to control peace in the land and ensure the safety and security of the people, what does a President do? When the President cannot trust local officials, who have become two-faced in this web of local terrorist attacks, what does a President do?

If the President doesn't make a move, he may be accused of indifference. And now that he has declared "martial law," he is accused of being a dictator right away. *Sanamagan!*

I remember one instance before we took off from the Los Angeles International Airport when the captain announced... Ladies and gentlemen, "On board with us are five gentlemen of the United States Marines, we thank you for your service." The passengers clapped their hands and some even stood up to acknowledge the young vanguards of liberty and democracy. That is how much Americans respect their men in uniform. Some even go to the extent of paying for the meals of soldiers in restaurants and sports activities are interrupted to warmly welcome a soldier coming home from military tour of duty.

It may be less dramatic in the Philippines but we do have nice stories of honoring with endearment our military men and women, especially those who have fallen for love of country. For after all, our soldiers readily put their lives on the line not only in the battlefield but also in rescue operations during natural disasters and calamities. They truly deserve the salary increase you have promised, Mr. President. Indeed, soldiers are our heroes, mandated by the Constitution to always be on the side of the people and the State. Thus, a Mindanaoan notes in a Facebook post that the presence of soldiers in their community gives them a sense of security.

By presidential proclamation, the whole of Mindanao was placed under martial law to neutralize the ISIS-influenced Maute terror group a.k.a. Islamic State of Lanao. While the declaration of martial law is purely within the constitutionally enshrined prerogatives of the President, a lot of varying opinions, from the mundane to the legalese, continue to pop out. Some quarters claim that it was an overkill because the Marawi incident is isolated. Yet, others argue that only the President could make an intelligent determination based on classified information not known to the public.

There are fears of possible abuses similar to what happened in the past, but others dismiss this concern as being purely speculative. I do not intend to add more to the confusing discourse on the factual and legal bases of the declaration, which is best left for Congress and the Supreme Court to decide. What appears clear to me however is that the framers of the 1987 Constitution made sure that safeguards and remedies are available to prevent a whimsical proclamation of martial law and thus avoid the mistakes of the past. Hence, Congress may revoke such proclamation and the Supreme Court may also review the sufficiency of its factual basis.

From where I sit, the problem in Mindanao is real and very serious that I could not, at this point, entertain the idea of an overkill. In desperation, some may even think that martial law could discipline our drivers and solve the traffic nightmare in Metro Manila (if only this could be done). Just the sight of the black ISIS flag on the streets of Marawi City brings shivers to the bones, as it reminds me of the publicized beheadings by this ruthless terror group. What more with armed terrorists occupying facilities, killing people, taking hostages, and burning churches?

I think the President has again displayed his political will and decisiveness in immediately declaring Martial Law to deal with the unrest in Mindanao. He did not dilly-dally as was apparent in the Mamasapano encounter. I feel that the President will continue to enjoy a high trust rating for this decision. At the very least, he deserves the benefit of the doubt because in the first days of martial law, we hear stories of hostages rescued and terrorists killed, although at the cost of our soldiers' lives.

Should we be afraid of Martial Law? Within the context of the Constitution, almost everything will be the same. All the three branches of government will still function to protect the rights of the people. Maybe our men and women in uniform would be very visible, but why should we be afraid of our protectors? I would rather meet hundreds of soldiers on the streets than one Maute recruit. More than anything, our Armed Forces have shown a high degree of professionalism in recent history, although there were isolated instances of soldiers disturbing hotels.

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The Constitution so aptly mandates – "The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory." The officers of the AFP surely will not allow the institution to be abused or misused by one Commander-in-Chief against the interest of the people and the State.

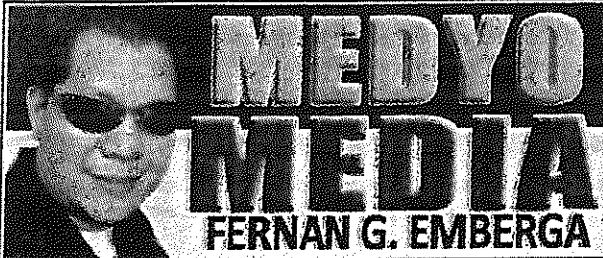
President Duterte indeed may have way too many faux pas. It is difficult to accept his rough ways but at the end of the day, this President of ours has brought us back in the map of the world. Many state leaders have recognized him for his strong convictions and actions in governance. They all want to get a piece of him. So, now why should he let us down. He will do anything and everything to show the world his might. God bless him and guide him in this time of crisis. Let's stop the grandstanding and unite as one in our fight against terrorism.

If you are presently in Marawi City at this time, would you like the rule of Maute Law or Martial Law? Rather than fomenting divisiveness with rhetoric speculations, it is best for us to pray for peace and order in Mindanao, as we remain vigilant so that the situation will not extend to the other parts of the country.

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POLICE FILES

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Martial Law, aksyunan ng Kongreso

UMAASA ang Malakanyang na kokonsintihin ng Kongreso ang deklarasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ng Martial Law sa buong Mindanao. Kasunod ito ng pag-atake ng Maute, BIFF, Abu Sayaff at ISIS terrorist groups sa Marawi City sa pangunguna ng lider ng Islamic State sa Pilipinas na si Isnilon Hapilon noong Maris ng hapon.

Tumpak mga kamedyo! Sinabi ni Solicitor General Jose Calida na hawak na ng Senado at Kamara de Representantes ang bola matapos maisumite ni Presidente Duterte ang kopya ng Proclamation No. 216 na nagpapailalim sa Mindanao sa martial law at nadsuspende sa pribelihiyo para sa writ of habeas corpus. Naisumite na rin ng Pangulo kina Senate President Koko Pimentel at House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez ang seven-page report na nakadetalye ang mga dahilan at justification ng martial law declaration bago ang 48-hours constitutional deadlines nung Huwebes ng gabi sa Davao City.

Kaugnay nito, hindi na raw magsasagawa ng joint session ang Senado at Kamara ngayong Lunes, ngunit nakatakodang gisahin ng mga senador ang mga opisyal ng security agencies at Malakanyang sa gagawing briefing sa mataas na kapulungan hinggil sa sitwasyon sa Mindanao.

Itinutulak sana nina Sens. Kiko Pangilinan at Risa Hontiveros ang pagsasagawa ng joint session. Subalit sinabi ni Majority Leader Tito Sotto na hindi na ito kailangan dahil hindi naman ito makatutulong. Maaari naman aniyang sagutin ang tanong ng mga mambabatas nina National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esporon, Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Ano at mga kinatawan ng Malakanyang sa isasagawang briefing ngayong Lunes.

"We will definitely scrutinize it (Duterte report) and determine whether or not there is factual basis for martial law," giit naman ni Sen. Richard Gordon

Magsasagawa naman ng executive session sa Kamara ngayong Lunes. Avon kay Majority Leader Rodolfo Parnas, iku-convene nila ang 293 House members bilang Committee of the Whole upang talakayin ang martial law declaration. Kailangan aniya ang executive session sa mga usaping may kinalaman sa national security upang matalakay ang mga detalye tulad ng lokasyon, tactics and strategy ng mga sangkot sa rebelyon at ng nakikipagbakbakang puwersa ng pamahalaan.

Naniniwala naman si SolGen Calida na bibigyang "consent" ng Senado at Kamara ang martial law declaration. Idiniin niya na kailangan ito upang malipol ang mga teroristang grupo na umatake sa Marawi City, sa Lanao del Sur.

"The ball is now in Congress. If Congress will not say anything about it, then there's no problem. In other words, it will be considered as acquiescence," wika ni Calida.

Ipinunto ng solicitor general na justified ang proclamation dahil sa "clear and present danger," lalupa't lumilinya ang Maute group sa international terrorist group na Islamic State (IS).

"What's happening in Mindanao is no longer a rebellion of Filipino citizens. It has transmogrified into invasion by foreign terrorists who heeded the clarion call of the ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) to go to the Philippines if they find difficulty in going to Iraq or Syria. It is the dream of the Maute group, which has pledged allegiance to the ISIS and to its flag, to transform Mindanao into an Islamic state or in their language Daulah Islamiyah," paliwanag ni Calida.

Pinayuhan naman ni Calida ang publiko na magtiwala lamang kay Pangulong Duterte sa determinasyon nitong puksain ang terorismo. "The least we can do as law-abiding citizens is to repose our trust in the wisdom and determination of President Duterte to (exorcise) this evil from our land," saad niya.

Nasagap aniya ng security at intelligence units ng pamahalaan ang IS at Maute literature at publications na naglalaman ng mga utos para atakehin ang gobyerno ng Pilipinas at magtayo ng "wilayat" o probinsiya ng IS sa Mindanao. Kasama rin umano sa utos ang pag-atake sa mga sibilyan, mapa-Muslim man o Kristyano, na hindi susuporta sa kanilang adhikain.

Ibinulgar din ni Duterte na matagal nang sangkot ang Maute group sa "narco-terrorism" o pagmamamunapatura at shabu business at ang kinikita nila sa ilegal na droga ang ipinambibili nila ng mga armas.

Lipulin ang mga salot!

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ONLINE NEWS

(29 MAY 2017)

www.pna.gov.ph

61 terrorists killed so far in ongoing Marawi City operations — AFP

By Priam F. Nepomuceno

MANILA, May 27 — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) announced that its units, aimed at dislodging Maute Group terrorists in Marawi City, Lanao City, has so far killed 61 militants.

This was disclosed by AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla in a message to the PNA Sunday. Figures are as of May 23 to 26, he added.

Of the 61 slain Maute Group members, 42 are confirmed through body count with the other 19 being reported by witnesses.

Government losses as of this posting are 11 troopers dead along with four police officers and 39 others wounded.

Civilians executed by the terrorists are placed at 19 as of this time.

"The AFP focus continues on safely clearing Marawi of terrorist elements still holed up within pockets of the city. Priority of ongoing military action is likewise aimed at aiding residents who are still trapped in the city's interiors. Significantly, we have successfully rescued and assisted 124 trapped civilian residents since the start of the operations," Padilla stressed.

Precision airstrikes and artillery fire will likewise continue at specific targets to hasten the clearing operations, the AFP spokesperson added.

Troops on the ground also recovered 24 high-powered firearms during the last 24 hours of military operations.

"The AFP and the PNP also belies reports of checkpoints being conducted by uniformed elements without badges or identifications. Checkpoints follow strict protocols and are strictly complied with. These reports if true, may be of unauthorized armed elements and should be discretely documented and reported. We have issued orders to our forces to ascertain these reports and deal with it," Padilla pointed out.

"Our forces are working overtime to hasten the restoration of the rule of law and Marawi's return to normalcy. We can only do this if we have the full cooperation of our citizens in these affected areas. We count on everyone to unite as one nation and do their patriotic duty for the restoration of peace in our country," he further disclosed. (PNA)

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

www.pna.gov.ph

DND allocates PHP5.9B for 2 long-range patrol aircraft

MANILA, May 28 — The Department of National Defense (DND) is allocating the sum of PHP5,976,000,000 for the acquisition of two long-range patrol aircraft.

The budget, which will be sourced from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Modernization Act Trust Fund, also includes the sensors, sensors integration, mission support facilities and integrated logistics support package.

Winning bidders must deliver the aircraft and its associated systems within 1,035 calendar days from the Notice to Proceed.

They must also have completed, within the last ten years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the project.

Pre-bid conference is slated for June 16, 10 a.m. at the DND Awards Conference Room, Basement, DND Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

While submission and opening of bids is on June 30, 10 a.m. at the same venue. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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www.rappler.com

19 civilians killed in Marawi siege – military

Islamist militants locked in street-to-street battles with security forces in Marawi City have killed 19 civilians, the military said on Sunday, May 28, bringing the official death toll from nearly a week of fighting to at least 85.

The violence prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to declare martial law in Mindanao to quell what he said was a fast-growing threat of militants linked to the Islamic State (ISIS) terrorist group.

Authorities said the militants had killed 19 civilians in Marawi City, a mostly Muslim-populated city of 200,000 people. These included 3 women and a child who were found dead near a university. (LOOK: Marawi: Images from a ghost town)

"These are civilians, women. These terrorists are anti-people. We found their bodies while conducting rescue operations [on Saturday]." regional military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Jo-ar Herrera told Agence France-Presse.

Another 8 bodies were found by a road in the outskirts of the city on Sunday, with local residents identifying them as employees of a rice mill and a medical college. Herrera said the military had yet to investigate the reported deaths.

The violence began when dozens of gunmen went on a rampage after security forces attempted to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, a veteran Filipino militant regarded as the local leader of ISIS. (WATCH: In Marawi, the exodus continues)

The gunmen planted black ISIS flags, took a priest and up to 14 other people hostage from a church, and set fire to buildings.

Thirteen soldiers, two policemen and 51 militants have died in the fighting, according to authorities. This brings the combined official death toll to at least 85.

Most of the city's residents have fled because of the fighting, which has seen the military heavily bomb residential areas where the militants were believed to be hiding.

The military announced on Saturday, the start of the Holy month of Ramadan, that it would intensify the bombing campaign.

"In as much as we would like to avoid collateral damage, these rebels are forcing the hand of government by hiding and holding out inside private homes, government buildings and other facilities," military spokesman Brigadier-General Restituto Padilla said.

"Their refusal to surrender is holding the city captive. Hence, it is now increasingly becoming necessary to use more surgical airstrikes to clear the city and to bring this rebellion to a quicker end."

Duterte and military chiefs have said most of the militants belong to the local Maute group, which they estimate has about 260 armed followers and has declared allegiance to ISIS.

But Duterte has said local criminals are backing the Maute group in Marawi.

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