

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

30 May 2017

Tuesday

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

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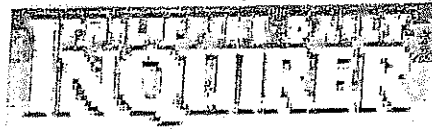
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS - FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | MAY 30, 2017 | TUESDAY

FRONTAL SYSTEM AFFECTING EXTREME NORTHERN LUZON (As of 5:00 PM - May 29, 2017)


City	Temperature
LAOAG CITY	24 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO CITY	25 - 34 °C
BAGUIO CITY	16 - 25 °C
SBMA/CLARK	26 - 34 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY	24 - 31 °C
METRO MANILA	26 - 35 °C
LEGAZPI CITY	26 - 33 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY	26 - 32 °C
TACLOBAN CITY	25 - 31 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	26 - 33 °C
METRO CEBU	26 - 32 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	26 - 32 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY	24 - 32 °C
METRO DAVAO	26 - 32 °C

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:26 AM	6:21 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
9:48 AM	10:49 PM
NEW MOON	FIRST QUARTER
MAY 28 5:41 AM	JUN 1 6:51 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
8:18 PM	12:31 PM
0.16 Meter	0.26 Meter




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

Closely eyes with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	MAY 31	JUNE 1	MAY 31	JUNE 1	MAY 31	JUNE 1
METRO MANILA	25 - 35 °C	26 - 34 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 35 °C	25 - 37 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
LAOAG	25 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	17 - 25 °C	17 - 25 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	26 - 34 °C	26 - 37 °C	26 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C		
TAGAYTAY						
LEGAZPI						
PUERTO PRINCESA						
ILOILO/BACOLOD						
METRO CEBU						
TACLOBAN						
CAGAYAN DE ORO						
METRO DAVAO						
ZAMBOANGA						



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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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AFP thwarts Marawi burning

Gov't forces in full control of besieged city; surgical airstrikes continue

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD and GENALYN D. KABILING

The plan of the Islamic-State-linked Maute Group to burn down the besieged city during the month of Ramadan was

thwarted when government forces raided one of the hideouts of the local terrorist group, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) revealed yesterday.

AFP Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año said the Maute plan was uncovered following a recent raid on one of the terror group's hideouts in Marawi City. Other significant information were also uncovered during the raid, but Año

declined to disclose it.

"The terrorist Maute-ISIS Group was surprised by raiding security forces in that safe house in Barangay Basak Malutlut, Marawi, occupied by Isnilon Hapilon - the touted "Amir" of ISIS in

the Philippines," Año said.

AFP Public Affairs Office chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo said the grand plan to burn down the entire city of Marawi in the ensuing two weeks was thwarted as a result of the raid. ▶8

AFP thwarts Marawi...

"Hence, what others termed to be a 'botched raid' turned out to be an 'abortive raid' that prevented what could have been carnage of an Islamic City in two weeks yet," Arevalo said.

"And this explains why at the time of the raid, the terrorist group was able to pull out almost instantaneously and simultaneously counter actions in various locations in the city to distract the focus of the raid," Arevalo added.

So far, Arevalo said the terrorist Maute-ISIS Group has suffered 61-42 physically accounted for and 19 based on eyewitness accounts - dead and undetermined number of wounded in the ongoing government offensive Marawi.

On Monday, government forces traded heavy gunfire with the Maute militants, as fears grew for up to 2,000 people unable to escape a week of fighting.

"They are texting us and calling us for help," Zia Alonto Adiong, spokesman for the provincial crisis management committee, said of the 2,000 people his office had recorded being unable to leave areas held by the militants.

afraid of running into checkpoints put up by the gunmen."

Myrna Bandung, a Catholic woman, told reporters at a checkpoint on Monday how she was spared by the militants, survived as she accompanied one of those bodies out of the city that she had been with the eight when they were murdered.

"They did not kill me because I was able to recite a Muslim prayer. The others were not so lucky," said a visibly shocked Bandung, who was with eight other who accompanied one of the bodies out of the city.

Cleared by June 1?

But the military declared Monday that it is already in full control of Marawi, expressing hope that it can clear the besieged city of Maute terrorists by June 1.

In a text message sent to reporters, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said as far as they are concerned the area should be cleared of the militants by Thursday, June 1.

In a press briefing in Malacañang, AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla told reporters that when he says they are in full control it means

that they can control who comes in and who comes out, and moves around and who doesn't in the city.

"We have complete control of the city, contrary to what is coming out in social media and other information, perhaps some fake news," Padilla said.

"We are trying to isolate all these pockets of resistance that have remained," he added.

"Although we do not have a timeline, we're seeking to end this as soon as possible. Our ground commanders have assured that the end is almost there so we hope to get clear results," Padilla said in a Palace press conference.

"It is not true that half of the city is controlled by the rebels. Totally untrue. The armed forces and the police and all armed - our forces are in complete control of the city, except for certain areas of the city where they continue to hold. These are the subject of clearing operations that are continuously being conducted," he said.

Padilla assured that martial law in Mindanao will be lifted as soon as law and order have been restored in the region, especially in Marawi City.

Director General Ronald dela Rosa, chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), said he will recommend the lifting of the martial law in Mindanao as

OFFICE: "They can't leave because they are

soon as the security situation in Marawi City normalizes.

But right now, Dela Rosa said it is too early to predict the outcome of the ongoing police and military operations against the Maute Group since a lot of its fighters are still holed up in Marawi City.

Reconstruction plan

Meanwhile, Malacañang assured that the government will find ways to reconstruct the lives of the people affected by the attacks in Marawi City as the total number of civilians rescued by the military climbed to 390 as of Sunday evening.

Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Assistant Secretary Marie Banaag said both the provincial and national government will look into how to deliver the assistance to the residents affected by the ongoing armed conflict in Marawi City. According to Banaag, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) will work with the local government units (LGUs) at the municipal level first. But if that is not enough, she said the calamity fund of the LGU will be utilized.

“Pero kung hindi kakayanin [ng calamity fund] (But if the calamity fund will not be enough), the provincial government and the national government will look into it kung papaano (on how we can extend the assistance),” she said during the first episode of the Mindanao Hour Monday morning.

Rescue ‘child warriors’

As this developed, Senator Nancy Binay called on the AFP, members of the media, and the local government of Marawi City to rescue the children allegedly being used by the Maute Group as “child warriors.”

Binay said the reported participation of children in the ongoing conflict in Marawi is seriously alarming and if true, is “inhumane and morally unacceptable.”

“I’m asking the AFP, local officials, residents, and the media to confirm the presence of child warriors in Marawi,” Binay said in a statement.

“It is inhumane and morally unacceptable to use children in armed combat roles, and expose them to extreme violence,” the senator said.

Based on the account of a policeman involved in the clearing operations in Marawi City, the Maute Group is using children aged 10 to 16 years old to carry out their ambushes and were reportedly carrying baby armalites.

If indeed the reports are true, Binay said she is appealing to the military to do everything to spare the children.

“They are not combatants nor should they be treated as rebels. Sila din po ay mga biktima ng karahasan at maling ideolohiya (They, too, are victims of violence and wrong ideology). It is our moral duty to save them from the horrors of war,” Binay added. (With reports from AFP Aaron B. Recuenco, Argyll B. Geducos, and Hannah L. Torregoza)

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2 MUSLIM WOMEN DEFEND CHRISTIANS

You have to kill me first before you can touch my employees, Farida told the Maute terrorists

By **Ryan Rosaura**
@inquirermindanao

ILIGAN CITY—Two Maranao women put their lives on the line to defend Christians when terrorists from the Maute group attacked Marawi City on Tuesday, prompting President Duterte to declare martial law in all of Mindanao.

Cris, a Bisaya (as Muslims and "lumad" [indigenous people] call non-Muslims) who lived with his family in Marawi, recalled that when a group of terrorists barged into the gun store in Basak Malutlut where he worked, "Ma'am Farida confronted them."

"The confrontation was really eye to eye, which indicated the seriousness of the message and the personal re-

solve that Ma'am Farida was showing [to the gunmen]," Cris said.

The group's leader ordered the guns and ammunition in the store hauled off and questioned Farida about her employees.

Farida stepped back to stand between her 13 male employees who were huddled together and the group of about 10 terrorists.

"You have to kill me first before you can even touch them!" Cris quoted Farida, speaking in the Maranao language, as telling the terrorists, mostly boys in their late teens.

Cris is one of Farida's 17 employees who man her family's two gun stores in Marawi, one in Basak Malutlut and another in Banggolo district, which was also looted.

At the start of the siege, 13 of the employees were in the Basak Malutlut store while four were in the Banggolo store.

Most of the 17 have been employed by Farida for more than a decade. Many live with their families at a compound in Basak Malutlut.

Had the terrorists seized them, their families would have

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been taken, too, Cris said.

Although official statistics show that non-Muslims account for just 1 percent of Marawi's population, the actual proportion could be higher, as many Bisaya work and live in the city, mostly in commercial establishments and in the homes of well-off families.

These Bisaya have learned to speak Maranao and have as-

similated well into the community.

The bulk of the non-Muslim population lives on the campus of Mindanao State University (MSU), designed as a social laboratory for cross-cultural interaction among the peoples of Mindanao, Sulu and Palawan.

Moro insurgency

Although without religious underpinnings, the Moro insurgency has created tensions between Muslims and Christians,

especially in the conflict areas.

Decades of efforts at inter-faith dialogue have contributed much to easing the situation. But the advent of Islamic radicalism has shaken anew these fragile relations.

The beheading of two sawmill workers by Maute terrorists in Butig town last year sent a chill through the Christian community in the city and caused unease even among Muslim employers.

Cris said he believed that be-

cause the gun store employees were not harmed, the terrorists might have been interested in their technical skills.

When the terrorists left, Farida ordered the employees to get their families and led them to a relative's house in Bangon, 6 kilometers away, Cris said.

There they were fetched by Farida's uncle and taken to the family home in Padian, near the lake, where they were joined by the four other employees from the Banggolo gun store.

The following day, they crossed the lake to Binidayan town and from there traveled to Iligan City.

Escape to Iligan

At about 5 p.m. on Tuesday, as the terrorists took control of Marawi's main districts, Zaynab, a development and humanitarian relief worker, was counting Christians who had taken refuge in the center.

The following day, she gathered 20 of them, several staffers

and a family member, and put them in vehicles that took them to Iligan, traveling the long southern route through Malabang to avoid the gridlock on the Iligan-Marawi road.

They traveled for 15 hours—thrice the normal time of the ride to Iligan—skipping meals, which was risky for a diabetic like Zaynab.

"I never minded the danger. I was prepared to die first before they (terrorists) could harm the Christians," she said. INQ

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NGAYON

Pahina. 2

Marawi crisis: 100 na patay

Mahigit 100 katao na ang napaslang sa ika-pitong araw ng bakbakan ng tropa ng pamahalaan at Maute-ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) sa Marawi City, Lanao del Sur.

Ayon kay Lt. Col. Jo-ar Herrera, spokesman ng Army's 1st Infantry Division (ID), kabilang sa mga napaslang ay 61 mula sa Maute at ilang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) na mga tauhan ni Commander Isnilon Hapilon.

Sinabi ni Herrera na sa 61 napatay na Maute, 42 dito ay narekober ang mga bangkay sa encounter site habang 19 ay base sa testimonya ng mga assets at mga testigo.

Samantala, 20 naman sa security forces ay napatay sa bakbakan, 16 dito ay mga sundalo at apat ang pulis kabilang ang dalawang opisyal. Ang umaatikabong bakbakan ay patuloy sa kabila ng Ramadan.

Naitala rin na lumobo na sa 27 sibilyan ang nasawi mula sa unang datos na 19.

Ayon kay Herrera mayroon silang nakitang panibagong mga bangkay ng mga hinhinalang empleyado ng isang rice mill at medical college na pinaslang ng Maute.

Una nang natagpuan ang bangkay ng apat na lalaki, tatlong babae at isang bata malapit sa Mindanao State University (MSU) habang walong bangkay ng lalaki naman ang nakita sa Brgy. Matampay na pawang may nakadikit na karatulang 'munafiq' na nangangahuluhan na mga traydor sa Muslim at mga ipokrito.

Inatasan ni AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Aña sa tropa ng militar na tapusin ang krisis sa lalong madaling panahon para mapanumbalik na sa normal ang sitwasyon sa lungsod.

Pangunahing misyon ng tropa ay masagip ang mga hostages at iba pang sibilyang na-trap sa bakbakan na tinatayang nasa 3,000 residente. (Joy Santos/Rhoderick Beñez)



Makikita sa larawan ang mga bangkay na narekober ng pulisya at ng mga Disaster Team sa loobang bahagi ng Marawi City, nakahilira ang mga narekober na bangkay na karamihan ay mga sibilyan na napaslang ng mga Maute Terror Group. Tadtad din ng tama ng bala ang isang gusali sa nangyaring engkwentro ng militar sa mga teroristang Maute Group. (Kuha ni Rhoderick Beñez)

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Pahina. 2

Iligan City isinailalim sa lockdown... MAUTE-ISIS HUMAHALO SA MGA SIBILYAN

Ni JOY CANTOS

Upang mapigilan ang pagpasok ng mga nagsisitakas na Maute-ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) ay isinailalim na sa lockdown ang buong lungsod ng Iligan City, Lanao del Norte kaugnay ng umaatikabong bakbakan na nagpapatuloy sa kanugnog na lugar ng Marawi City, Lanao del Sur.

Base sa report, nagpanggap umanong mga sibilyan ang Maute-ISIS terror group na tumakas sa krisis sa Marawi.

"Mayroon na po tayong reports na some of their comrade itong mga armed groups na ito humalo na sila sa mga evacuees na sibilyan lalo na yung mga wounded," ayon kay Col. Alex Aldu-

ca, Commanding Officer ng Army's 4th Mechanized Infantry Battalion.

Katunayan dito na may nasakote na ang mga sundalo ng Maute terrorist na naharang sa checkpoint na itinurnover na sa himpilan ng pulisya para maisailalim sa imbestigasyon kaugnay ng partisipasyon sa krisis sa Marawi City.

Alinsunod sa lock-

down, sinabi ng opisyal na hindi basta pinahihintulutan ang mga evacuees na pumasok sa lungsod ng Iligan ng hindi dumadaan sa masusing proseso.

Pinalawig pa ang implementang curfew sa Iligan mula alas-8:00 ng gabi hanggang alas-5:00 ng umaga.

Humingi rin ng pang-

unawa si Alduca sa publiko sa ipinatutupad na lockdown na iginiit nito para sa kaligtasan ng lahat

Samantalá patuloy na nasa red alert status ang puwersa ng militar upang mapigilan ang posibleng

'spillover' ng krisis sa Marawi City sa iba pang urban centers sa rehiyon ng Mindanao.

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INJURED WARRIOR – Vice President Leni Robredo checks on wounded Corporal Benie Flores, member of the Philippine Army, during her visit to wounded soldiers and policemen at the Adventist Medical Center in Iligan City yesterday. Flores sustained a bullet wound in his leg amid the ongoing military operations to flush out members of Maute group in Marawi City. (Photo by OVP)

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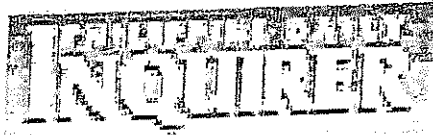
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MILITARY TRAINING – Special Civilian Armed Auxiliary (SCAA) trainees of Task Force Davao hone their marksmanship skills as part of their basic military training at an Army camp in Malagos District, Davao City. (Keith Bacongco)

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AFP says it's close to retaking Marawi

By **Christine O. Avendaño**
@10avendanoINQ

The military on Monday said it was close to retaking Marawi City from the Maute group, as helicopters unleashed more rockets on positions held by the terrorists who had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) jihadi group in Iraq and Syria.

The conclusion of the military operation included a search for Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, who remained in Marawi, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, told reporters in Malacñang on the seventh day of the crisis.

Padilla said the military was committed to ending the operation as quickly as possible. "If we could finish this in one month, then ... we end martial law right there and then," he said.

President Duterte declared martial law in all of Mindanao following the attack on Marawi by the Maute group on Tuesday. The declaration is for 60 days unless revoked or extended by Congress.

Finished in 60 days

Padilla said the military hoped to finish the operation within 60 days.

Ground commanders have given assurance "that the end is near," he said.

About 100 people have died in the violence, including 61 terrorists and 19 civilians, although authorities are still trying to assess the scope of the bloodshed.

The military was in "full control" of Marawi and Padilla said that meant troops controlled "who comes in and who comes out, who moves around and who doesn't."

There are "pockets of resistance" but troops have isolated these, Padilla said.

As of Monday, he said, 40 to 50 Maute terrorists remained in the city, possibly aided by some of the 100 prisoners who escaped from the city jail that they torched on Tuesday.

But the exact strength of the



Residents and commuters queue up at a police checkpoint at the entrance to Iligan City. —AFP

terrorists is unknown, as some "sympathetic elements" may have joined them, Padilla said.

He confirmed that the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) had been providing support to the Maute group and had "tried to cause diversionary action" in the areas where the terrorists were holed up.

No foreign funding

Padilla said there was no clear evidence that the Maute group had foreign funding, although there had been findings that money had been transferred to the group.

He said the military was investigating possible foreign patrons of the group following the arrest in the country of Kuwait and Syrian nationals who were said to have links with IS.

The violence started on Tuesday when the terrorists ambushed government troops who were moving in to raid the hideout of Hapilon in the city.

Asked about the whereabouts of Hapilon, Padilla said the military had information that the Abu Sayyaf leader was still in Marawi.

"And this could be the reason why the group is intensely fighting in some areas," Padilla said.

"It's in the interest of the country and that of the people of Marawi that we get him," he added.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said the objectives of the military operation were to clear Marawi of terrorists, rescue trapped residents and recover casualties.

He said law and order must be restored in Marawi and "remnants of resistance" overcome for martial law to be lifted in Mindanao.

"In the absence of any more resistance, there is no reason to have our presence there but just to keep the security and we will transfer the control of the city to our civil authorities," Padilla said.

In recent days, the terrorists have managed to fend off attack helicopters, armored vehicles and scores of soldiers.

The Maute group's ability to fight off the military for so long will add to fears that IS's radical ideology is spreading in the southern Philippines, which could become a haven for militants from Indonesia, Malaysia and beyond.

Attracting IS attention

The government believes the Maute group carried out the assault on Marawi before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan to capture the attention of IS and earn recognition as the Mideastern terror network's Southeast Asian affiliate.

Padilla said the military had rescued 390 residents, who were being subjected to "some

examination of sorts to ensure they are not part of the group that has been waging war here and creating trouble."

Thousands of residents have fled Marawi City, pouring into Iligan City, 38 kilometers away, where the authorities have tightened security over fears that terrorists have sneaked out of Marawi by blending in with civilians.

"We don't want what's happening in Marawi to spill over in Iligan," said Col. Alex Aduca, chief of the Army's 4th Mechanized Infantry Battalion.

No lockdown

Police denied reports that Iligan had been put on lockdown, saying in a Facebook post that only containment action was being implemented through checkpoints.

Some troops tried to eliminate Maute snipers on Monday as others guarded deserted streets, taken back block by block.

Helicopters circled the lake-side city and smoke poured out of some buildings. Artillery explosions echoed.

Though most people have left, thousands are stranded, worried they could be intercepted by militants at checkpoints on routes out of the city.

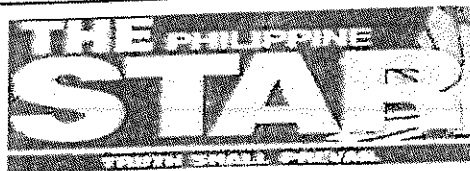
There were still bodies of civilians in Marawi and residents urged the military to halt airstrikes, said Zia Alonto Adiong, a politician involved in evacuation efforts.

"The anticipation of death is worse than death itself," Adiong said in a television interview. "We appeal to our military forces to do a different approach."

The military said airstrikes were taken on "known and verified enemy positions."

"We are using precision ammunition in our surgical airstrikes," said another Army spokesperson, Col. Edgard Arevalo. "We have highly skilled and trained pilots delivering the payload." —WITH REPORTS FROM JEFFREY MAITEM, RYAN D. ROSAURO, JIGGER J. JERUSALEM, AP AND REUTERS INQ

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AFP on ending Maute threat: Almost there

In its mission of neutralizing the Maute threat in Marawi City, the military says it is "almost there."

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said efforts to rid Marawi of the terrorist group are being fast-tracked, including the clearing of occupied areas.

Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. of the Western Mindanao Command said the government is in control of Barangays Matampay, Basak Malulut, Barrio Green, Bangon and Saduc as well as the periphery of the Mindanao State University and the Matampay area.

He confirmed that "certain

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AFP From Page 1

areas of the city" in Marawi remain under the group's control.

"Although we do not have a timeline, we're seeking to end this as soon as possible. Our ground commanders have assured that the end is almost there," Padilla said in a press conference in Ma-

lacañang.

"What we are trying to do right now is to expedite what needs to be done in order to restore law and order and normalcy in the whole of Mindanao, particularly Marawi," he added.

The Maute group, which claims ties to the terrorist organization Islamic State (IS), raided Marawi City last Tuesday, burning several

buildings including a cathedral and holding several civilians hostage.

Clashes ensued after security forces raided a house believed to be the hiding place of Isnilon Hapilon, an Abu Sayyaf leader and alleged head of IS in the Philippines.

The violent incidents prompted

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AFP From Page 6

President Duterte to place the entire island of Mindanao under martial law and to cut short his four-day official visit to Russia. He has vowed to be harsh in dealing with the Maute terrorists, whom he claimed tried to take over Mindanao to set up a caliphate.

Colonel Edgard Arevalo, AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief, bared that as of yesterday, the Maute-IS group has suffered 61 dead and an undetermined number of wounded members.

Official data also showed 15 soldiers and three policemen were killed in the clashes. The killing of at least 19 civilians, including several women and a child, was also attributed to the Maute terrorists.

"The AFP pays tribute to the 15 soldiers killed-in-action and 61 wounded-in-action in its campaign to clear Marawi of terrorists, rescue trapped non-combatants, recover civilian casualties, and restore law and order in the city," Arevalo said.

Padilla claimed that government forces have full control

of Marawi "except for certain areas of the city."

"It is not true that half of the city is controlled by the rebels," he added, pointing out that the government "controls who comes in and who comes out, who moves around and who doesn't."

But while the National Ulama Conference of the Philippines, a group of Muslim clerics, has asked Duterte to immediately stop the airstrikes in Marawi City and resort to land attack instead, Padilla insisted that clearing operations necessarily require the conduct of air raids.

"There was a need to do surgical airstrikes because of strategically in-place enemy presence. If we do not employ combat power as we needed it and saw fit, we would prolong the clearing process and endanger more lives both civilian and military," Padilla said.

He could not say how many terrorists are still in the city, noting that the situation in the area is very fluid.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), while condemn-

ing the violence created by the terrorist Maute group, also cautioned the government against the airstrikes, which could destroy government structures and civilian properties.

It urged the government to seek a peaceful resolution following the mechanisms set by the agreements on the Bangsamoro people.

Earlier, Orlando Cardinal Quevedo, Roman Catholic archbishop of Cotabato, issued a statement condemning the "terroristic acts that have caused the loss of many innocent lives. It is an ideology that is totally against the tenets of any religion of peace."

"Terrorism distorts and falsifies the true meaning of any religion. It destroys harmonious relationships among peoples of different faiths. It creates a world of suspicion and prejudice, of hatred and hostility," Quevedo also said – Alexis Romero, Michael Punongbayan, Evelyn Macairan, Mayen Jaymalin, Gerry Lee Gorit, Ric Sapnu, John Felix Unson

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Gov't forces in complete control of Marawi City, says military

By Ted Tuvera,
Mario J. Mallari
and Anthony Ching

The crisis in Marawi City would soon come to an end as the military had regained complete control of the conflict-stricken area and had been able to minimize zones occupied by the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Maute group, an official of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday said.

"We have complete control of the city, contrary to what is coming out in social media and other information,

perhaps some fake news," AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla told a press briefing in Malacañang.

"It is not true that half of the city is controlled by the rebels. Totally untrue. The Armed Forces and the police are in complete control of the city except for certain areas of the city where they continue to hold. These are the subject of clearing operations that are continuously being conducted," he said.

The military official, however, admitted that they do not have the

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Gov't forces in complete control of Marawi City, says military

From page 1

exact number of militants still remaining in the area due to a "very fluid situation."

Padilla said initial information showed the presence of around 40 to 50 armed elements but the activities of the militants on the ground, which included the freeing of over 100 prisoners in a jail which they consequently burned, could raise the number of terrorists in the area.

"Quite a number of those prisoners may have joined ranks with them because some of them were imprisoned for joining the group. We are also aware that there are sympathetic elements that may have been helping and may have also joined their ranks," he noted.

In the meantime, the AFP assured that government security forces are doing everything to end the Marawi City situation at the soonest possible time.

"Although we do not have a timeline, we're seeking to end this as soon as possible. Our ground commanders have assured that the end is almost there" Padilla said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, for his part, said he expects clearing operations in Marawi City to be completed by June 1.

He added the timetable started last May 25.

Lorenzana said the operations to clear Marawi City of terrorists is on track and that he regularly gets updates from the AFP.

Fresh forces

All members of Philippine National Police (PNP) public safety forces nationwide, meanwhile, were alerted as possible augmentation to government troops now operating against IS-inspired

terrorists who laid siege in Marawi City since last week.

PNP Director General Ronald de la Rosa said while there are "sizeable" troops now tracking down Isnilon Hapilon and his followers from the Abu Sayyaf and Maute groups, he alerted all PNP public safety forces to ensure readiness, just in case there is necessity for fresh forces.

"I just advised all the regions in the whole of the Philippines to prepare their public safety forces to reinforce Marawi when needed. So right now, they are preparing, waiting for my instructions to reinforce Marawi," said de la Rosa.

"We have sizable force there right now but just in case there is a need, we have to pull out from other regions," he added.

The chief PNP said currently public safety forces from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Police Regional Office-10 and PRO-12 and most Special Action Force (SAF) battalions are operating in Marawi City side by side with the AFP.

De la Rosa expressed his full support to all PNP personnel now battling Hapilon and his followers right in the heart of Marawi City - risking their lives for the sake of peace.

He said these sacrifices of policemen increase his frustrations on police scalawags who do nothing for the service and country and only after money.

Only last week, several members of the Malabon City Police Station-Drug Enforcement Unit were charged with kidnapping and extortion by a female complainant.

"I compare their (police scalawags) lives, they think nothing but money and criminal activities

whereas our troops in Marawi are in the middle of gun battle, they think of survival. There is really a big difference," said de la Rosa.

So far, reports said the PNP suffered at least two fatalities in Marawi City since last Tuesday when the atrocities by Hapilon's group started.

De la Rosa confirmed the PNP has killed in action but refused the circumstances how they were killed and their identities.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Immigration has placed all international airports and seaports nationwide on heightened alert as fighting between militants linked to the IS and AFP in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, in Mindanao, continues.

"The BI is on heightened alert," lawyer Antonette Mangrobang said, adding BI personnel assigned in all international airports in the country were advised to be vigilant and aware of possible entry of foreign terrorists who would take advantage of the situation in Mindanao province.

BI-Port Operations Division (POD) acting chief Marc Red Mariñas has issued an urgent security advisory to all immigration inspectors and intelligence operatives in the country's ports to be vigilant in screening arriving passengers.

All passengers with doubtful purpose of travel shall be referred for secondary inspection, especially those with questionable travel documents.

Mariñas also instructed the POD's intelligence operatives to coordinate with intelligence agencies in getting a list of personalities and organizations who might undertake terror activities in the country. **PNA**

30 May 2017

Malaya
The Nation's Newspaper

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Marawi conflict nearing end, military says

**BY VICTOR REYES
AND JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR**

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana yesterday said government forces are aiming to clear Marawi City of Maute Group members by June 1.

In a text message on Day 7 of the armed conflict, Lorenzana said he is getting updates on the progress of clearing operations in the city.

"I am updated regularly. (The) timetable is one week from May 25," said Lorenzana when asked if they have set a timeline for clearing the city of Maute men.

It was on May 25 when President Duterte convened a Cabinet meeting in Davao City to discuss the armed conflict that forced him to declare martial law in the entire Mindanao two days earlier.

AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said the military is hoping to completely clear Marawi

of Maute men "in matter of days."

"However, this is dependent on the situation on the ground. As days go by, there are intervening factors that we may not factor in so it's really hard to give the assurance on how many days this will this last," said Arevalo.

Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said government now has "complete control" of Marawi City and foresees that "the end is almost there."

"We do not have a timeline, but we're seeking to end this as soon as possible. Our ground commanders have assured that the end is almost there. So we hope to get clear results. We have complete control of the city... The Armed Forces and the Police and all armed, our forces are in complete control of the city, except for certain areas of the city where they continue to hold. These are the subject of clearing operations that are continuously being conducted," he also said.

He belied reports the Maute is in control of about half of the city, branding it as "fake news." He also said there is no spillover of the conflict to other parts of the country like Metro Manila.

The conflict that started on Tuesday last week has so far left 61 Maute members dead although only 42 bodies have been retrieved. Eighteen soldiers and policemen have also died in the conflict and 64 others were wounded.

Authorities said 19 civilians were slain by the Maute and 390 others were rescued or provided safe passage by government troops. There are reports that more civilians remain trapped in conflict areas.

Arevalo said security is still tight in Marawi City as soldiers continue to flush out remnants of the group that are still occupying some areas in the city.

Arevalo said preventing enemy reinforcement is a "challenge" for the Armed Forces. Initial reports

said there were about 100 Maute Group members who went to Marawi City last Tuesday.

He said the Maute men reinforcing those in Marawi may enter the city disguised as civilians while those escaping may blend in with evacuees.

Padilla said it is also difficult to say exactly how many Maute men remain in Marawi. He said initial information indicated 40 to 50 armed men, but some of the more than 100 prisoners the Maute freed from detention have joined the Maute. He said some members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters have also provided some support to Maute through some diversionary activities in Marawi.

AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año said the "Maute-ISIS Group" planned to burn the entire city during the period of Ramadan, the Muslim's holy month that

See MARAWI ► Page B6

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MARAWI

began last Saturday, but the terrorists were “surprised by raiding security forces in that safe house in Barangay Basak Malulut, Marawi occupied by Isnilon Hapilon – the taunted ‘Amit’ of ISIS in the Philippines.”

Officials earlier said troops were sent to the safe house on Tuesday last week to serve an arrest warrant to Hapilon, an Abu Sayyaf leader who was in the company of Maute members. The group fought it out with government forces, leading to the continuing conflict.

Arevalo said the “grand plan” to burn down the entire city was aborted by the raid.

“Hence, what others termed to be a ‘botched raid’ turned out to be an ‘abortive raid’ that prevented what could have been carnage of an Islamic City in two weeks yet,” he said.

“And this explains why at the time of the raid, the terrorist group was able to pull out, almost instantaneously and simultaneously, counter actions in various locations in the city to distract the focus of the raid,” said Arevalo.

The government believes the Maute carried out their assault before Ramadan to capture the attention of Islamic State and earn recognition as a Southeast Asian affiliate.

The military’s estimates of the size of the rebel force and the extent of its occupation have fluctuated each day. It has maintained throughout that it is in full control of the situation and says supporters of the Maute were making exaggerated claims on social media.

According to witnesses, men with black headbands typical of

Islamic State were seen on city streets in recent days. A photograph taken by a resident shows 10 men carrying assault rifles and dressed entirely in black.

A Reuters photographer saw an Islamic State flag in an oil drum in an abandoned street on Monday, where chickens roamed in front of damaged shops and homes.

Padilla, at the launch of the “Mindanao Hour” briefing in Malacñang, said there are indications Hapilon is still in Marawi, based on the concentration of suspected Maute fighters and their sympathizers in some areas of the city.

He denied reports of a lockdown in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur. He said security forces are merely ensuring that only law-abiding citizens, especially those on official business, are able to enter or leave the province.

DISPLACED RESIDENTS

Myrna Jo Henry, information officer at the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao government’s Humanitarian Emergency Action and Response Team, said the armed conflict has displaced 17,007 families or some 84,450 city residents.

The number represents nearly a half of the 201,785 total population of the city. Henry could not immediately say the barangays where the evacuees came from.

Henry said the evacuees are housed in 19 centers, one at the Mindanao State University and another at the provincial capitol. The 17 other evacuation centers are in Iligan City and in towns in Lanao del Sur.

Henry said they are still determining how many barangays

are still affected by the continuing skirmishes. The city has 96 barangays.

“As of this morning, we’re still hearing gunshots, bombardment so we still don’t know,” said Henry.

Henry also reported that 1,483 civilians have been rescued by authorities. These civilians have requested to be rescued or evacuated and were not necessarily held hostage by the Maute, she said.

The Catholic Church’s Caritas Philippines appealed to all archbishops and bishops to have their respective archdioceses and dioceses send financial aid for affected Marawi residents.

Caritas has sent P300,000 in support of relief efforts of the Iligan Social Action Center.

MAUTE AND NARCO-POLITICS

The Maute Group has been enjoying the support of narco-politicians for their logistical needs, while the narco-politicians get their much-needed protection from the terrorist group, PNP chief Ronald dela Rosa said.

He said reports reaching him before July last year showed narco-politicians from Metro Manila, Luzon and the Visayas held a “secret” meeting with members of the Maute in Marawi City weeks before he assumed as PNP chief on July 1 last year.

“The feeling is mutual between the two of them. They protect each other and they support each other,” he said.

Dela Rosa said they are also verifying information that the Maute Group was angered after its alleged drug laboratory was raided

by authorities in Marawi City.

He also clarified that the Maute brothers were not former policemen as what President Duterte said in his speech in Iligan City last Friday. Duterte has said brothers Abdullah and Omar Maute, who were former police officers involved in illegal drugs, founded the Maute Group.

Dela Rosa said the Maute brothers were not policemen. He said the brothers pretended to be policemen and protected drug lords.

“Kaya nasabi ni Presidente yun kasi nagpulis-pulisan, nag-protokta ng mga drug lord. Kasi kapag protector, ang nasa isip lagi ni Presidente mga pulis (The President said the Maute brothers were policemen because the brothers played policemen to protect drug lords. The President always thinks that, when policemen were the only ones who give protection to drug lords),” he said.

ROGUE COPS VS MAUTE

Dela Rosa said he is considering sending rogue policemen to Marawi so they would think about the plight of colleagues who have been assigned in Mindanao for years.

He said erring policemen have nothing in mind except to make money through illegal means, while their counterparts in Marawi City are thinking of how to survive the fighting.

He said he wants to fight “side by side” with the policemen in Marawi but it would only divert the attention of ground troops who would have to protect him as he is as the PNP chief and a four-star police general. — *With Raymond Africa, Gerard Naval and Reuters*

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

30 May 2017



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ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSA ₱8.00

Maute utas lahat sa Huwebes—DND chief

Nina FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD at ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

Umaasa ang Department of National Defense (DND) at ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na manu-neutralize na nilang lahat ang miyembro ng Maute Group sa Marawi City hanggang sa Huwebes—Hunyo 1, 2017.

Sa text message sa mga mamamahayag, sinabi ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana na target ng militar na lipulin ang lahat ng terorista sa Marawi sa Huwebes.

"Yes, I am updated regularly. The timetable is one week from May 25 to June 1," sabi ni Lorenzana. "Yes, we are on track."

Ito rin ang inaasam ni AFP Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año, sinabing nais nilang matapos na kaagad ang krisis sa Marawi City upang maibalik na sa kaayusan ang pamumuhay sa siyudad.

"And our soldiers are focused and working hard to ensure that Maute Group, and those in supporting this terror organization, are neutralized," sabi ni Año.

"For now, I would like to extend my sincerest condolences to the families of our soldiers and policemen who have made the ultimate sacrifice in our efforts to clear Marawi. Rest assured that their sacrifices will not be in vain as we move forward in our operations," dagdag ni Año.

Sinegundahan naman ni AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Edgard Arevalo ang pahayag nina Lorenzana at Año

"We are hoping in a matter of days we can resolve this. However, that will depend in the situation on the ground. As days go by there are intervening factors that come in which we cannot factor. That's why it's hard to give any

assurance on how many days it will be," sabi ni Arevalo.

AIR STRIKES IDINEPENSA

Kasabay nito, umapela si AFP Spokesperson BGen. Restituto Padilla sa publiko na pagtawalaan ang militar matapos idepensa ang isinasagawang air strikes sa Marawi.

"Yes, we do have the expertise, we do have the people, and we have the equipment to do surgical airstrikes. Please do not underestimate your soldiers," sinabi ni Padilla sa kauna-unahang "Mindanao Hour" sa Malacañang kahapon ng umaga.

"We have been into this fight longer than any country in this part of the world and anywhere else. We have proven ourselves many times," dagdag pa ni Padilla.

Sinabi naman ni Arevalo na nasa 61 terorista na ang napapatay sa pinagsanib na operasyon ng militar at pulisya, may 15 pulis at sundalo na rin ang nasawi, habang 19 naman ang namatay na

sibilyan

Nasa 14 na bangkay—isang babae at lalaki, tatlong bata, walong lalaking teenager at isang hinihinalang miyembro ng Maute—ang nailabas ng ARMM-HEART sa lungsod kahapon, para dalhin sa isang punerarya sa Iligan.

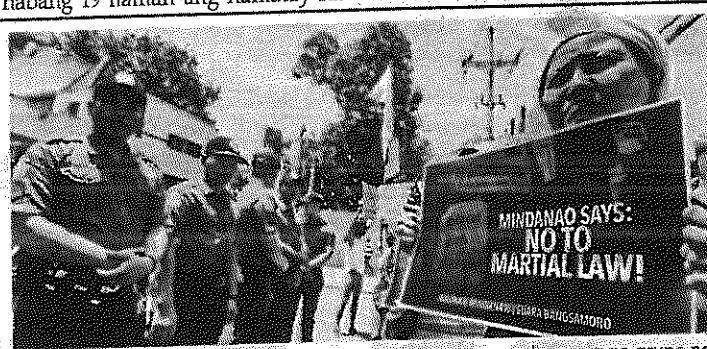
Umaabot naman sa 61 sundalo at pulis ang nasugaan sa labanan

84,450 APEKTADO

Samantala, inihayag din kahapon ng Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao-Humanitarian Emergency Action and Response Team (ARMM-HEART) na nasa 17,007 pamilya o 84,450 indibiduwal ang lumikas sa kaguluhan.

Ayon kay Myrna Jo Henry, information officer ng ARMM HEART, kasalukuyang nakatulo ang mga lumikas sa 17 munisipalidad sa Lanao del Sur, at sa walong evacuation center sa Iligan City.

May ulat ni Camcer Ordoñez Imam



AYAW NAMIN SA MARTIAL LAW! Hinarangan ng mga pulis ang mga grupo ng aktibista at katutubo na nagsagawa ng kilos-protesta sa harap ng gate ng Camp Aguinaldo sa Quezon City kahapon bilang pagtutol sa ipinairal na batas militar sa Mindanao, kasunod ng isang linggo nang labanan ng puwersa ng gobyerno at ng Maute Group sa Marawi City.

FEDERICO CRUZ

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AFP sources: Maute group members high on drugs

My sources in the military say members of the Maute group are probably high on "shabu" (methamphetamine hydrochloride), that's why they're fighting fiercely to defend their positions in Marawi City.

Maranaws—Moros of Lanao—are not known for being fierce warriors unlike the Tausugs of Sulu and Tawi-Tawi because they are mostly merchants.

Persons high on shabu become demented which is why the Maute group battling government soldiers in Marawi fear nothing.

Marawi, the seat of Islam in the country, has become notorious for drug abuse among its youth.

This despite the fact that Islam forbids alcohol and drugs.

Most members of the Abu Sayyaf of Sulu, who are fundamental Islamists like the Maute group, fight government troops to the death; they are also known users of shabu.

Many civilians, including eight laborers whose bodies were found in a shallow ravine by soldiers, were killed by the Maute group out of spite: They were Christians.

The Maute group, led by brothers Omar and Abdullah Maute, preaches hatred for people of other faiths.

The Mautes are followers of ISIS or the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, which proposes to establish a caliphate in the whole world.

Candaba swamp in Candaba, Pampanga province, is home to many bird species which attract bird watchers from all over the world.

A nature lover, I've seen those birds practically blot out the sky as they take flight; it's a sight to behold what with the natural beauty of the swamp.

I urge my sister, Tourism Secretary Wanda T. Teo, to make Candaba swamp a tourist destination.

Its pristine beauty prompted former Mayor Jerry Pelayo to hold the "Ibon-Ebon" (bird and egg) Festival every year.

Why are private security guards at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminals 2 and 3 so inefficient?

Because they are sometimes forced to go on duty for 24 hours by their security agency, Advance Forces.

That is no exaggeration as one of the guards of Advance Forces, Edwin Zerrudo, has ended up in the hospital for anemia due to lack of sleep.

Worse, Zerrudo said Advance Forces Security Agency was not shouldering his hospital bills and medicines even if P700 is deducted from his monthly paycheck for his medical needs.



ON TARGET
RAMON TULFO

The company that deducts the monthly contributions is called Medocare (sounds like mediocre-RT) which is owned by Esteban Uy, also the owner of Advance Forces Security Agency.

My public service program, Isumbong mo kay Tulfo, tried to reach Uy, who is supposedly a colonel, but his secretary said we should talk to his lawyers instead.

The Supervisory Office for Security and Investigation Agencies and the Insurance Commission should investigate Advance and Medocare and if warranted, cancel their licenses to operate. INQ

30 May 2017

The Manila Times

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Wounded Maute men seek treatment in Sarangani

BY JERRY N. ADLAW

FULLY armed men, suspected to be members of the retreating Maute group, barged into a government hospital in Glan, Sarangani province demanding treatment for their seriously wounded comrades and threatened doctors and employees not to report their presence to the authorities or they will be mercilessly killed, a medical staffer said.

A hospital attendant named Auring told *The Manila Times* they were advised by the management to be careful about reporting the presence of the wounded men as they might be killed or held hostage by the retreating armed group.

The source said they treated about 10 wounded men. Four of them were taken by the armed men after treated of minor wounds while six others remained in the hospital heavily guarded by their companions.

Glan is a coastal municipality often used as an escape route

because of its strategic location. It connects to the northeast and traveling by pumpboat from Marawi City, it is the fastest way for retreating men to reach Zamboanga and the Sulu sea.

Ustadz Pendie Colano, chairman of the Selatan Kutawato State Revolutionary Committee (SKSRC), the armed wing of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) confirmed reports about the presence of the Maute group in Sarangani province as the military deployed troops in Glan and asked for his help in

monitoring the situation.

However, Colano was unaware of the report about the armed men being treated at the government hospital in Glan, adding they did not discount the possibility because the town is strategic for the withdrawing Maute group.

People in the coastal towns of Maitum, Kiamba and Maasim have also been alarmed by the presence of heavily armed men, as government troopers were deployed in these areas considered as possible refuge of the bandits after the Marawi encounter.

The 1002nd Brigade Command headquarters under Army Col. Tyne Bañas had received reports about the Maute group presence in Sarangani and are now validating the information. Remnants of the men of fallen Mohammad Jaafar Maguid, alias Tokboy, of the Ansar Khalifa Philippines (AKP), are in constant communication with the Maute terror cell group. Tokboy's men are among those responsible for terrorist attacks in southern Mindanao.

Reports from an AFP intelligence source revealed that Islamic State (IS) recruits were mostly student from various college and institutions in the cities of Marawi and Cotabato and their mentors are full-blooded fundamentalist Islamic priests or Imams who emphasize jihad or holy war.

Meanwhile, Joint Task Force Gensan headed by Army Col. Adonis Bajao said they do not discount the possibilities of spillover of the war between government troops and the extremists. But, even in a worse case scenario, they said they are ready to protect civilians.

Similarly, General Santos City Mayor Ronnel Rivera urged the civilians to cooperate with the police and military authorities for their own safety and security and avoid engaging in nocturnal activities.

The entire Region 12 has been placed under heightened alert status with checkpoints established in strategic entry and exit areas manned by joint police and military forces.

30 May 2017



Pahina. 2

Maute Group: Armed network ng mga angkan sa Lanao

VERA Files Report

Bago ang Mayo 23, 2017, ang grupo ng mga bandido na nag-o-operate sa Lanao area na tinaguriang Maute Group ay isa lamang armed network ng mga angkan na may mga kaanak sa Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). Pero, isa na ngayong international terrorist organization ang Maute Group, dahil sa dineklarang Martial Law sa Mindanao ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Ang dating tinatawag na local group sa mga military at police reports ay pinangalanan na ngayon bilang Maute ISIS. Inihayag noong Biyernes ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Eduardo Año na ikinukunsidera na ng AFP na iklasipika ang grupo bilang isang international terrorist organization.

Sa ngayon, ang Abu Sayyaf at New People's Army (NPA) pa lamang ang mga grupo sa Pilipinas na nasa listahan ng US Department of State na kabilang sa Foreign Terrorist Organizations.

Sa pagsasaliksik ng VERA Files, lumilitaw na bago isinailalim sa Martial Law ang Mindanao, ay mayroon nang police at military intelligence reports na nagsasabing mahina na ang puwersa ng Maute Group gayundin ang adhikain nitong makapagtatag ng Islamic State wilayah o province sa Mindanao.

Parehong sinabi ng AFP at Philippine National Police (PNP) na ang grupo ay isang network ng mga armadong angkan na naka-base sa Lanao del Sur. May mga kamag-anak sila sa MILF at mga koneksyon sa local politicians, at mayroong training and financial relations sa Southeast Asian terror network Jemaah Islamiya.

Pero, walang istabilisadong direct ties ang Maute sa Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Noong nagdeklara lamang si Pangulong Duterte ng Martial Law sa Mindanao saka tinawag ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana ang grupo bilang Maute ISIS.

"It is actually Maute ISIS because they are the same," ayon kay Lorenzana sa isang press conference sa Moscow matapos magdeklara si Duterte ng Martial Law sa Mindanao.

May dahilan, anya, upang maniwala siya rito batay sa mga ulat na kanyang natanggap mula sa Baghdad, kung saan ang mga larawan ng mga nagaganap na sagupaan sa Marawi City ay sabay na lumalabas sa ISIS website sa Middle East. Para kay Lorenzana, patunay ito na may international backing mula sa ISIS.

Sa pagtataya ng PNP ay nasa 267 ang bilang ng Maute Group na karamihan ay magkakamag-anak at mayroong 117 na iba't ibang klase ng high-powered firearms. Mula sa nasabing bilang, miulat ng militar na 85 Maute Group-linked personalities ang napatay sa serye ng mga operasyon na isinagawa noong Pebrero 2016, at 37 iba pa ang nasawi sa mga opensiba ng militar noong Abril 22 hanggang 24 ngayong taon.

"Originally the Maute is composed of close relatives but due to their depleted number of members, they are accepting outside of their clan. Thus, penetrating them is possible," ayon sa PNP intelligence brief na napasakamay ng VERA Files.

Tinukoy sa nasabing ulat ang mga kilalang angkan sa Lanao del Sur na bumubuo sa grupo. Maute, Romato, Mimbantas and Macadatu.

"Currently, the Maute Group has gathered a force not only from the above mentioned clans but from other groups in Central Mindanao such as MILF/Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Force (MILF/BIAF), Moro National Liberation Front/Bangsamoro Armed Forces (MNLF/BAF), Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement/Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFM/BIFF), Abu Sayyaf Group/Al Harakatul Al-Islamiya (ASG/AHAI), Ansar al-Khalifa Philippines (AKP) and individuals who want to experience (Hijra) fighting in the name of religion," ayon pa sa police intelligence brief. (Sundan bukas)

8b May 2017



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COMMON ENEMY

DUTERTE TO NPA, MILF, MNLF: HELP FIGHT TERRORISTS

President Duterte has appealed to Moro separatists and communist rebels to join the government's fight against terrorists linked to the Islamic State (IS) group.

With fears growing that IS is seeking a presence in the country, Mr. Duterte offered to pay and even house fighters from groups that have long opposed the government if they would work to defeat a common enemy, the Maute group.

The President said the idea of militias and soldiers fighting together had come from the leader of one of the Moro separatist groups.

Maute terrorists have pledged allegiance to IS and have been battling government troops since laying siege to Marawi City on May 23.

During a visit on Saturday to an Army base on Jolo island, where government forces are fighting another Islamist group, the Abu Sayyaf, Mr. Duterte said he would treat communist and separatist guerrillas the same as government troops if they joined his fight against terrorists.

"I will hire you as soldiers—same pay, same privileges and I will build houses for you in some areas," the President said.

President taunts NPA

He made the offer to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

He also asked the communist New People's Army (NPA) to abandon its protracted guerrilla war and work with the government.

"To all the NPA rebels listening abandon the cause you've been waging for years. It didn't do anything good except bring suffering to our people. They have never succeeded in occupying a single barangay here," he told soldiers at Camp Teodulfo Bautista in Jolo, Sulu.

"Maute is better; they're able to hold [an area] for days. You NPA rebels, you did nothing. Don't be fooled by them. They're getting a lot from taxation," he added.

"You keep on extorting. I am going to create a new division for you. No qualifications required since you know how to fire guns," he continued.

The military seemed not to mind teaming up with known enemies of the government to take down the Maute group.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said the President had early on made such a call and now he was "just encouraging our brothers on the other side who we are in talks with to join forces with the government and align with the people."

The military was using attack helicopters, artillery and ground troops on Sunday to try to take back Marawi, where Maute terrorists are putting up heavy resistance.

The MILF and MNLF have waged a separatist rebellion since the late 1960s and have signed separate peace deals with the government, but those agreements have yet to be fully implemented.

Peace talks

Mr. Duterte's offer to the communist rebels comes after his government canceled the latest round of peace talks with the NPA's political arm, accusing the rebels of planning more attacks.

"If this drags on, and you want to join, take your chance with the Republic," he said.

There were no immediate reaction from leaders of the groups to the President's offer.

Mr. Duterte said the founder of the MNLF, Nur Misuari, had sent him a letter volunteering his men to join the battle in Marawi and other parts of Lanao del Sur province.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella told reporters that Mr. Duterte's call came after he accepted Misuari's offer.

—REPORTS FROM REUTERS AND CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO INQ

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5,000 MNLF fighters to help AFP

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY - President Duterte has accepted the offer of Moro National Liberation Front chief Nur Misuari to deploy MNLF fighters in Marawi City and help the military defeat the Maute terror group.

During a visit to wounded soldiers in Jolo on Saturday, Duterte urged the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)

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5,000 From Page 1

and the New People's Army (NPA) to do the same.

Duterte cited a letter that Misuari sent him, offering 5,000 MNLF fighters in the fight against the terrorists.

In the letter, Misuari said the Marawi incident is an opportunity for them to show their mettle in helping the President and the people restore peace in Mindanao, particularly in Marawi.

The President was considering a suggestion to enlist the MILF and MNLF fighters as well as the NPA in the fight against the Maute.

In return, the government will give the secessionist fighters and guerrillas pay and privileges similar to what the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) receive.

"I am announcing to all forces of the MI, MN, if this conflict will take long and if you want to join, cast your lot with the Republic. I will take you in as soldiers, same privileges, and I will build houses for you in some areas," Duterte said.

He called on the NPA rebels to leave their leaders who are waging conflict at the expense of civilians, to leave the ranks and join forces with the military in fighting the Islamic State terrorists.

Duterte said the NPA rebels are being fooled by their leaders, whom he said are the ones benefiting from the revolutionary taxes that the guerrillas collect or extort from the people.

"I am going to create a new division for you. *Wala ng qualification, tutal marunong naman kayo mag-baril* (no more qualifications, anyway you know how to shoot).

Practice *na lang kayo ng kalabit*. I am willing to take you in as soldiers of the Republic," Duterte said.

AFP spokesman Restituto Padilla, however, said the recruitment of rebels into the military has to undergo some processes.

He said Duterte made the statement to stress the need to unite against a common threat, citing former rebels from the MNLF and the Cordillera People's Liberation Army who had successfully integrated into the armed forces.

Drug lords

The President said the Marawi siege is financed by drug lords, who hide under the cover of the IS-influenced Maute group.

Duterte said drug lords support the operations of the terrorists, including arms supply.

He said the government has been overtaken by the scourge of the illegal drug trade in Marawi, and that the attack is not purely fueled by the IS.

He said the illegal drug trade is the root of the conflict, noting Marawi is a hotbed of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu and other illegal drugs in Mindanao.

He said the Maute brothers put up their own shabu laboratory in Marawi after learning that business for the so-called poor man's cocaine is brisk in Metro Manila.

He said a raid conducted in the backyard of the house of the Mautes' father was not reported in the media.

Duterte said Maute followers, who worked for some politicians, were lured by money and firearms.

The young Abu Sayyaf bandits, he said, were brainwashed by the so-called Islamic scholars

and found their way to the IS and Maute group.

Duterte said he used to frequent Marawi and Iligan in his younger years. He said the problem of extremism at first was due to the growing sense of nationalism among Filipinos following the invasion of Spain in 1521.

The President said Christians and Muslims, who joined the illegal drug operations in the area, were pressured by the government's anti-drug war. He said in a bid to get protection, these young men joined the Maute to pretend to fight for Islam.

"That's what happened to the Visayans who got involved in the shabu operations. After they were pressured by the government anti-drug war, they proclaimed themselves jihadists in order to be protected by the group," Duterte said.

He said it was one of the reasons there are a number of the so-called Islam converts or *balik-Islam*.

Duterte said criminal gangsters in Buldon town also joined the Maute group for protection.

He said the Maute brothers are into drug operations and pretending to be allied with the Islamic State because of the presence of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, who was anointed by IS as its leader in the Philippines.

"*Iyan ang giyera ngayon. Actually, it started with drugs. And they were producing drugs halfway, not really to *negosyo* but to fund the terrorism *kaya maraming armas* (that's why they are well armed)," Duterte said, noting that was the war now, drugs to buy arms to further terrorism. – With Perseus Echeminada, Alexis Romero*

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Military willing to work with rebels to fight terrorists in Mindanao

By ANTONIO L. COLINA IV

DAVAO CITY — The Eastern Mindanao Command (EMC) is willing to accept support from the Moro rebels and even the New People's Army (NPA) should they need reinforcement to combat terrorism in Mindanao.

Lt. General Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) disclosed this following President Duterte's pronouncement that he was willing to recruit rebels to fight the terrorists alongside government forces.

"We really welcome any form of support or assistance that could be provided to the Armed Forces of the Philippines to quell terrorism and rebellion that are taking place in Marawi City. As to how these forces – MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) – will become operational, it is up to the commander in the area," he said.

During his visit to Sulu on Saturday, the President even offered the rebels the same privileges as the government soldiers if they decide to accept his invitation.

Guerrero said they have already

requested for additional battalions from the AFP to secure Davao City, hometown of the President, but added it may take some time depending on the development in Western Mindanao where government forces are still combating the Maute Group that attacked Marawi City on May

The 16th Infantry Battalion arrived in the city on second week of May, or days before Mindanao was placed under martial law supposedly to join the counterinsurgency operations of the military in the outskirts of the city.

"In the meantime, we are making do with the available units that we have here. And in fact, we are just trying to realign our forces here to adequately cover the security requirements of the city," he said.

He said they would also bank on the support of the people in monitoring and reporting "suspicious development taking place in the peripheral barangays most especially coastal barangays."

"Very porous ang borders natin. What is more important is for us to be mindful of the fact that we need to work together to make sure that Davao City remains safe and secure," he said.

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Duterte urges MILF, MNLF, NPA to help fight extremists in Marawi

ZAMBOANGA CITY (PNA) – President Duterte has called on members of the two Moro fronts and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) to help the government fight the extremist groups amid the ongoing gun battle in Marawi City.

In what is seen as an unprecedented move, Duterte made the appeal to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), and the CPP's New People's Army (NPA) to join the government to fight the common enemy during his visit to the troops in Jolo, Sulu, over the weekend.

"I am willing to take you as soldiers of the republic, lahat - MI, MN, pati NPA," Duterte said.

The President made the statement following a letter from Nur Misuari, the founding chairman of the MNLF, of his offer to help

end the crisis in Marawi City. ►8

Duterte urges MILF...

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"Alam mo, I am announcing to all na lahat ng sundalo ng MI, MN, kung matagal pa ito at gusto ninyong sumali, makipagsapalaran sa Republika. I am offering them, kumain ko kayong sundalo, same pay, same privileges, and I will build houses for you in some areas," he said.

The government and the two Moro fronts are in the process of peace negotiations while the talks with the communist group has been suspended.

Brig. Gen Regino Padilla, spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), on Monday said in a televised press conference that they welcome the call of the President for the rebel groups to join the government in its fight against terrorists.

Padilla cited the success of the integration program for former combatants of the MNLF into the AFP, adding there have been many stories about the heroism of the "MNLF int-grees" in the effort to free their areas of terror groups.

'Scalawag' cops to Marawi

Meanwhile, erring policemen who are caught, especially by the anti-scalawag unit of the Philippine National Police (PNP), may be sent to Marawi City to help in the ongoing fight against the Maute Group, PNP chief

Director General Ronald dela Rosa said yesterday.

"I have been comparing the situation of our forces there and that of these scalawag policemen," he said. "While they (scalawag cops) are enjoying their air conditioned rooms, enjoying the fruits of their criminal labor, and contemplating on how they would earn money, our forces there are fighting for their survival," he said.

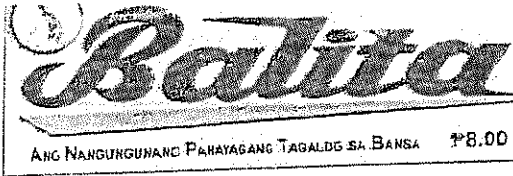
Eleven policemen, mostly from Malabon, were recently caught by the Counter-Intelligence Task Force (CITF) for allegedly abducting a woman and demanding ₱1 million and a kilo of shabu as ransom. "I am really frustrated at these scalawag policemen who continue to tarnish the image of the PNP," he said.

Last year, more than a hundred policemen from Metro Manila and Central Luzon were sent to Moro rebel and communist rebel-infested areas after they were implicated in the illegal drugs trade.

Dela Rosa, however, said that he could not send those who are already facing administrative and criminal charges, including the Malabon cops.

He said the start of Marawi deployment could be with those who would be arrested starting today. (With a report from Aaron B. Recuenco)

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Dagdag-pwersa mula sa MILF, NPA, aprub sa militar

DAVAO CITY - Handa ang Eastern Mindanao Command (EastMinCom) na tumanggap ng suporta mula sa sandatahan ng mga rebeldeng Moro at maging mula sa New People's Army (NPA) para tiyakín ang sapat na reinforcement laban sa terorismo sa Mindanao.

Sa isang press conference kahapon, sinabi ni Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, commander ng EastMinCom, na handa siyang mag-recruit ng mga nabanggit na rebelde upang

makipaglaban sa Maute Group at Abu Sayyaf, gaya ng panawagan nitong Sabado ni Pangulong Duterte sa nabanggit na mga grupo.

"We really welcome any form of support or assistance that could be provided to the Armed Forces of the Philippines to quell terrorism and rebellion that's taking place in Marawi City. As to how these forces – MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) – will be operationalized, it is

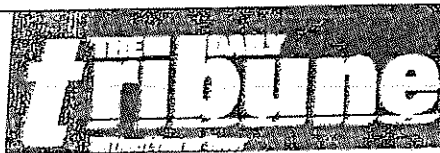
up to the operational commander in the area," ani Guerrero.

Sa kanyang pagbisita sa Sulu nitong Sabado, inalok ni Duterte ng kaparehong mga pribilehiyo ng mga sundalo ang mga armadong pwersa ng MILF, MNLF at NPA sakaling tanggapin ng mga ito ang alok.

Ang Marawi City ay saklaw ng Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), sa ilalim ni Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez.

Antonio L. Colina IV

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NPA to intensify attacks vs gov't forces – Sison

By Ted Tuvera

Local communist forces have defied its movement's founder, Holland-based exile Jose Maria Sison's recommendation for the New People's Army (NPA) to reconsider intensifying attacks against government forces in martial law-governed Mindanao.

In a statement, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) said that they find Sison and other top rebel front leaders' order as "futile" since the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) are on the move to launch offensives against the NPAs.



The breakdown of the peace negotiations between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the CPP-NPA's political wing, the National Democratic Front (NDF), was also noted as reason to continue boosting its assaults against government forces.

"The Party received the recommendation of the NDF Panel and Chief Political Consultant Jose Ma. Sison for the Party to reconsider its earlier declaration to the NPA... Heightened AFP offensives under martial law all over Mindanao, however, do not encourage such a reconsideration at this time," the CPP said.

"The cancellation of the fifth round of NDF-GRP formal talks was brought about by the GRP's all-out war, martial law and its demand for the NPA to silence its guns

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while the din of the AFP's cannons, bombs and heavy gunfire thunder against the people," it added.

While martial law is only enforced in Mindanao, the CPP decried the way the military has heightened its presence and visibility in various parts of the country saying that it appears to be applied nationwide.

"The Party joins the people in

denouncing the creeping nationwide martial rule. Even as the martial law declaration covers only Mindanao, all military units and police forces have gone on red or full alert in North Luzon, Central Luzon, the National Capital Region, Bicol Region, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Negros and Panay," the CPP said.

"They have imposed their threatening armed presence in public

places, parked tanks in government offices and roadsides. Checkpoints have been set up as well in Tacloban City on the utterly ridiculous reason of 'solidarity with martial law in Mindanao,'" it added.

The communists also assailed the Duterte government for spreading discrimination against the Muslims. "The Duterte government and its military and security officials are fanning the flames of Islamophobia

by raising the bogey of 'Islamic radicalism' imposing martial law restrictions against Moro communities and subjecting the people to 'profiling,'" it said.

Meanwhile, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza yesterday morning said that they have no more reason to proceed with the peace talks with the NDF.

"There are no compelling reasons for us to change the decision that

had been arrived at, and which we announced [on Saturday]," Dureza said.

Dureza pointed out that the NDF is not giving an "enabling environment conducive to peace negotiations".

"There are two key reasons why the GRP did not want to proceed with the fifth round of negotiations. Firstly, it stubbornly insists on its demand for the NDF to sign a bilateral ceasefire agreement prior

to negotiations on any other substantive agreement. Such a demand has become increasingly counterproductive," the Communist Party said.

"Secondly, the GRP wants the Party leadership to recall its declaration to the NPA to carry out more and more tactical offensives in the face of the GRP's all-out war and imposition of martial law in Mindanao."

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Airstrikes in targeted areas continue

By **NOMOY E. LACSON**
and **JOSEPH JURELAG**

KORONADAL CITY, South Cotabato — The Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) said that as fighting continues in Marawi City, the air assets of the AFP are constrained to launch airstrikes only on identified specific targets occupied by the Maute terrorist group.

AFP-WestMinCom Commander Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Jr., said there is a need to deliberately employ forces and air assets to target with precision the selected, identified, and already isolated terrorist locations in Marawi City.

"These terrorists continue to sow terror and confusion even to non-combatant Muslims and Christians in Marawi City," Galvez said.

"Ganun pa man, nais naming humingi ng paumanhin sa lahat ng mamayang appektado, sa mga kapatid naming Muslim lalong lalo na sa mga miyembro ng MILF at MNLF, humihingi kami ng pang-unawa sa pangyayari ngayon," he said.

"Dapat magtulungan tayo sa mga panahong ito, at ating paigtingin ang samahang nabuo sa mga nakaraang mga pagsubok na ating nalampasan," he added.

"Naniniwala akong matatapos ito sa tulong ng inyong suporta, pang-unawa at mga panalangin," the WestMinCom chief stressed.

He admitted that with the declaration of martial law, soldiers are tasked to address the havoc created by the Maute

Group in Marawi

"Our 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," Galvez said.

No curfew

South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes has opted not to impose curfew on the recommendation of police and military officials as the entire Mindanao remains under martial law by virtue of Proclamation No. 216.

In a meeting with top local police and military officials and town mayors to discuss the implementation of martial law in the province, Fuentes urged government troops to observe the rule of law during the implementation of martial law.

"Business as usual for the entire province which is generally peaceful amid the implementation of martial law," Fuentes, who has declared her support for martial law, said.

"If the military and police will recommend the imposition of curfew hour and effect the warrantless arrest on suspected terrorists in the area, then the local officials will abide by it," Fuentes said.

Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio said that there have been large events in the city that have been cancelled because of concerns for the safety of the thousands of participants that would make their way here. However, Carpio said that the local government is hopeful that this will only be temporary. (With reports from Malu Cadelina Manar and Yas D. Ocampo)

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Ulamas appeal to Duterte: Stop airstrikes

By **GAMCER ORDONEZ IMAM**
and **NONOY E. LACSON**

ILIGAN CITY — The National Ulama Conference of the Philippines has appealed to President Duterte to immediately stop the airstrikes in Marawi City and to go on with the land attacks instead.

Various groups have condemned the attack by the Maute group on Marawi City, including the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) which called on its forces to extend all necessary assistance to the people of Marawi to ensure their safety and frustrate the aim of any group or groups to sow division in the communities.

The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) Central Committee accused the Maute Group and the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) of violating the "teachings of Islam" after it attacked Marawi City, since May 23, and occupied the city, disregarding the lives and properties of the innocent civilians, dignity and their honor.

MNLF Central Committee Chair Yusop Jikiri said "what has happened to Marawi City and still happening up to this time is indeed deplorable."

The MNLF central committee believes that the Marawi City attack was perpetrated by the Maute Group and some Abu Sayyaf Group members.

There is a rising tide of criminality and lawlessness that could no longer be addressed by normal law enforcement, the continuing threat by the ASG and

the ISIS-inspired militant groups that pay no respect to human decency and the rule of law, hence a rule like martial law must be observed in areas of concern, Jikiri noted.

Ulamas

"We, from the National Ulama Conference of the Philippines (NUCP), implore President Duterte to cease immediately the airstrikes but to employ land attack with the help of local military and police so that innocent civilians will be protected and escorted to evacuation centers."

The NUCP also appealed to President Duterte to order line agencies, like the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Health (DOH) to respond to the humanitarian needs of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) or locally called "bakwit".

"This is the time, Mr. President, to show us what you've been saying that you have a Maranao blood, and that you are sincere to correct the historical injustices committed against the Moros.

MILF

The MILF, for its part, appealed to the government to ensure that ceasefire mechanisms continue to work on the ground and that the military operations against the Maute group do not spark more fighting in other areas.

"Such proclamation, presumably made within the legal processes of the Government of the Philippines,

is apparently designed to contain the Marawi incident and to prevent it from spreading to other parts of Mindanao. The Moro Islamic Liberation Front, while not in a position to question the factual basis for the proclamation or the decision to make it, appeals to the Philippine Government to ensure that the ceasefire mechanisms continue to work on the ground, and that any military operation against the Group that perpetrated the violence in Marawi does not spark more fighting in other areas," the MILF said.

"The Moro Islamic Liberation Front stands in solidarity with the people of Marawi and Lanao del Sur during this tragic day. We call on our forces to extend all necessary assistance to the people of Marawi to ensure their safety and frustrate the aim of any group or groups to sow (division) in our communities. Let us all stand united to win peace for our people," the MILF statement said.

MNLF

Jikiri said national discipline must be established and martial law is the right measure to accomplish it.

The MNLF is confident that martial law will help push things into their proper places. But most importantly martial law is needed to effectively address the national security threat at a time when the law and all it stands for is abused by all those taking the law into their own hands.

The Marawi Crisis Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy also strongly condemned the violent attacks perpetrated by lawless elements in the Islamic city of Marawi and Lanao del Sur.

The Regional Darul Ifta of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the most authoritative religious group in the region, also condemned the violent attack against the Islamic city of Marawi and its peace loving people.

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US advises citizens of Metro checkpoints

The United States has warned its citizens currently in the Philippines about the increased security measures being carried out in Metro Manila in light of the declaration of Martial Law in Mindanao and not related to any specified terror threat information directed towards the country's capital.

In a security message, the US Embassy in Manila said it has received information that the Philippine government has placed the Philippine National Police on full alert throughout Metro Manila.

In addition, the embassy said a unit of the Armed Forces of the Philippines has been deployed to Quezon City to assist the PNP with security operations.

It further pointed out that the AFP will assist in implementing random checkpoints, security patrols, and police visibility operations.

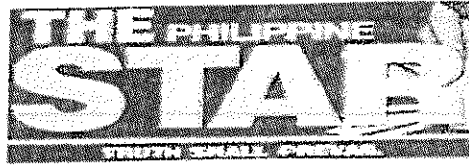
In the security message, the embassy reminded US citizens of the most recent worldwide caution, dated March 6, which indicates there is an ongoing threat of terrorist actions and violence against US citizens

and interests abroad, including the Philippines.

It said extremists have targeted sporting events, theaters, markets, mass transportation systems – including airlines – and other public venues where large crowds gather such as crowded nightclubs, shopping malls, buses, and popular restaurants.

"US citizens should be mindful of the importance of taking preventive measures to ensure their safety and security while traveling and residing in the Philippines," the US Embassy stressed. **(Roy C. Mabasa)**

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US embassy notifies citizens of stricter security measures

The US embassy in Manila has informed American citizens of increased security measures in Metro Manila, including possible checkpoints, following attacks by the Maute group in Marawi City.

In a message to its citizens, the embassy said it received information that the Philippine government had placed the Philippine National Police (PNP) on full alert throughout the metropolis.

It stated that a unit of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has been deployed to Quezon City to assist the PNP with security operations

such as random checkpoints, security patrols and police visibility operations.

"The PNP advises that this is a precautionary measure in light of the declaration of martial law in Mindanao and not related to any specified terror threat information directed toward Metro Manila," the embassy said.

The embassy reminded American nationals of the most recent Worldwide Caution, dated March 6, 2017, which indicates there is an ongoing threat of terrorist actions and violence against US citizens and interests abroad, including

the Philippines.

Extremists have targeted sporting events, theaters, markets, mass transportation systems like airlines and other public venues where large crowds gather.

Crowded nightclubs, shopping malls, buses and popular restaurants have also been targets.

US citizens are advised to be mindful of the importance of taking measures to ensure their safety and security while traveling and residing in the Philippines, said the embassy.

– Pia Lee-Brago

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No Maute in MM but troops on heightened alert – AFP

By GENALYN D. KABILING

There is no reported presence of the Maute terror group in Metro Manila but security forces have remained on heightened alert to ensure public safety, authorities said on Monday.

"Even before this emergency occurred, the airports, our seaports have been under strict security and we have just kept that. It's the same security posture," Brig. Gen. Resituto Padilla, spokesman of the Armed Forces ▶ 8

No Maute in MM...

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of the Philippines (AFP), said in a Palace press conference.

Padilla said additional uniformed personnel have been deployed to secure the airports and other transport hubs.

"We may just have added a few warm bodies to ensure that we are able to cover all aspects of security in the ports, airports, and seaports included but there has been no drastic change to that," he said.

"Heightened alert lang," he added in an apparent attempt to prevent any spillover of the Maute terror attack in Marawi City.

So far, the military has not monitored any movement of terror suspects from Marawi City to Metro Manila.

"There has been no concrete information that there are," Padilla said, when asked about the possible presence of the terror group in the capital.

He also dispelled reports that an improvised explosive device was found inside a shopping mall in Metro Manila.

"We have not received any information of that sort and from the reports that we gathered last night, there was nothing that mentioned anything about it so it must have been fake," he said.

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Military judge to monitor abuses

DAVAO CITY—The Military Judge Advocate of the Eastern Mindanao Command will monitor the implementation of martial law in Mindanao to ensure that the Armed Forces will obey the laws and respect human rights, an official said Monday.

Captain Melanie Domino, Acting Staff Judge Advocate of the Eastmincom, said they were ready to receive complaints on the abuses and violation of human rights by members of the military under the area of responsibility of the Eastmincom, which covers Davao and Caraga and portions of Regions 10 and 12.

She said they could investigate the administrative culpability of the AFP members for abuses.

Eastmincom has been assuring the people that they will follow the rule of law in the implementation of martial law.

It said it is also taking measures so that no martial law abuses will be committed by either the members of the military or the police.

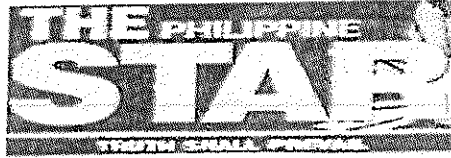
The Judge Advocate is now advising the operating commanders of the military and educating the troops about martial law and the rules of engagement.

Domino said this was in partnership with other authorities especially on the conduct of searches, arrests and seizures.

She said they were waiting for the specific parameters of the martial law declaration by President Rodrigo Duterte that will be issued by the Defense department, which is tasked to work on the guidelines.

Meanwhile, Lt. General Rey Leonardo Guerrero, commander of the Eastmincom and the designated enforcer of martial law, urged the public to report violations of law and procedure committed by military and police personnel. **PNA**

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Award sought for cops, soldiers slain in siege

An administration lawmaker is proposing the conferment of the medal of valor on soldiers and policemen killed while defending Marawi City against the Islamic State-inspired Maute group.

Quezon City Rep. Winston Castelo yesterday filed a resolution calling for the conferment of the award.

"Death and heroism should forever stand as testament to the Filipino's patriotism and serve as the vanguard against those who seek to divide and destroy the nation," he said.

President Duterte placed the entire Mindanao under martial law as Marawi City went under siege by the Maute group. The fighting between the soldiers and the Maute resulted in power outages, damage to properties and displacement of thousands of residents.

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said additional forces from the PNP Special Action Force (SAF), Regional Public Safety Battalion of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Region 10 and Region 12 were deployed in Marawi

to regain full control of the city.

He also appealed to the public to pray for policemen and soldiers fighting the Maute group in Marawi.

"We know how hard it is to be in a war... Imagine that their sweat, mucus, tears and anything their bodies excrete get mixed up while engaging in battle... So we who are here and not involved in the war, let us pray for them to be always safe," an emotional Dela Rosa said during the flag-raising ceremony in Camp Crame yesterday.

Dela Rosa also admitted that if he could have his way, he would send scalawag policemen to Marawi City to fight the bandits and give cops in Mindanao a chance to enjoy the relaxed life in Metro Manila.

– **Delon Porcalla, Cecille Suerte Felipe**

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2 SoKor fighter jets arrive tomorrow

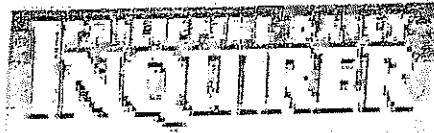
Two more fighter jets acquired by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) from South Korea will arrive at Clark Air Base in Pampanga tomorrow.

Maj. Gen. Arnold Mancita, Air Logistics Command chief, will lead officials and personnel of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) in receiving the FA-50 fighter jets.

The delivery completes the purchase of a dozen fighter jets that can be used in training and surface assaults. The first batch arrived in November.

The AFP spent P18.8 billion to boost the fighting and defense capabilities of the PAF. – **Michael Punongbayan**

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Martial law and historical injustice

COMMENTARY

JESSE ANGELO L. ALTEZ

General Santos City—President Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao in response to violence by armed groups in Marawi City opened another curious chapter in our political life as a nation. With the excesses of Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorial regime four decades ago, many have come to equate martial law with abuse of power and violation of human rights. It's no wonder that social media went into a frenzy after the President, hours after his declaration, warned on a Facebook Live video that he would be harsh: "Martial law is martial law... *Kayong mga kababayan ko, you have experienced martial law... It would not be any different from what President Marcos did*"

Supporters and critics have come out to defend or condemn Mr. Duterte's decision, with each side presenting its take on the matter. In fact he has threatened to declare martial law many times. And with the violence in Marawi, it now seems he had a valid reason to do so.

I don't intend to argue whether or not Mr. Duterte's decision was appropriate. I merely wish to air an appeal for sobriety on both sides.

It is during these crucial times that people must unite against a common enemy: terrorism. Questioning the legitimacy of the declaration of martial law in the entire Mindanao does not automatically make one a "dilawan," and neither does supporting the President on his decision make one a

"ka-DDS." Looking at martial law in terms of a careful assessment of what's happening on the ground will enable us to see that reality can never be reduced to binary opposites.

While there may be a need for the imposition of martial law to prevent the spillover of violence, the trauma that it reawakens among those who have experienced it is a legitimate cause of concern. In a report, the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission cited the strongman Marcos' martial rule as one of the most violent episodes in the history of Mindanao, with massive human rights violations committed.

There have been many times when the people of Mindanao lauded President Duterte for declaring in a speech that the historical injustices committed against them must be addressed. And it is important to remind him at this juncture that Marcos' martial rule is one of those wounds committed in the past that remains unhealed and needs closure.

The President must thus make sure that the security mechanisms enshrined in the 1987 Constitution would not be abused, like what happened during the Marcos dictatorship. To this end, a feedback mechanism in which civilians could report the

human rights violations that might be committed should be instituted. Likewise, empowering the Commission on Human Rights could be among the options that the President should consider.

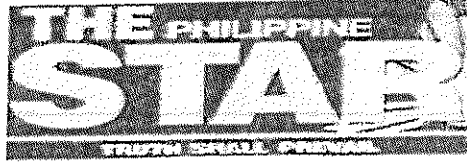
Martial law, more than being a strategic endgame, has become a multifaceted societal issue that needs to be carefully approached. The only way forward now is to heed the vital lessons from the violent history of martial law in Mindanao and prevent the repeat of the same to appease the people's doubts.

When the crisis erupted early last week, I was meeting with Moro friends from Marawi who happened to be in General Santos to participate in the National Young Leaders' Conference. It was distressing to see someone I know worry about the lives of their loved ones back home, knowing that vicious terrorists were running amuck in their city of 200,000, brandishing high-powered guns and presenting themselves as fighters of the Islamic State. My friends were quick to explain to me that terrorism knows no religion, and that these terrorists are a shame to Islam.

At this time, the best thing that we can do is to be vigilant and mobilize as much help as we can to help the people of Marawi City—the real victims of the senseless extremism in Mindanao.

Jesse Angelo L. Altez (jesseangelo.altez@msugensan.edu.ph) is an academic and development worker based in Mindanao.

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HOTSPOT MOCHA USON

Time for Martial Law in the Phl?

“Ayoko makipag-giyera (I do not want war) but do not force my hand into it.” – President Rodrigo Roa Duterte (*Manila Times*, December 1, 2016)



The President has repeatedly given warnings to terrorist groups not to force his hand into war and not to force his hand to declare martial law. However, after all the attacks supposedly orchestrated by the Maute group and Abu Sayyaf, the recent attack in Marawi could have been the last straw for the President. We all know that President Duterte always prioritizes the needs of the people, which is why it was not a surprise when he immediately decided to go back to the Philippines after getting news of what was happening in Marawi City.

Fortunately, his visit to Russia was not in vain because five hours before his flight back to the Philippines, he was able to meet with President Vladimir Putin who adjusted his schedule to meet our beloved President which shows how much they respect President Duterte. This incident has also shown how much the President, who is willing to endure another 10 hours of flight, truly cares for his people.

To deal with the terrorist problem and crisis in Marawi City, President Duterte has declared martial law in the entire Mindanao. Some are questioning why martial law covers the whole Mindanao instead of just Marawi? I believe it's not a secret to anyone that the main nesting area of terrorist groups is Mindanao. Therefore, we must put into consideration that once the military is able to push back the Maute group from Marawi, they could easily transfer their attack in the neighboring area or they could instigate another attack in other cities in Mindanao. Whatever the case, the point here is that there is some information only available to the President which makes him the best person to decide on what course of action to take. I think it's also understandable for the government to be ready for worst case scenarios and prepare for the possible tactics of the enemy in order to fully protect innocent civilians, which is the primary reason for declaring martial law.

Let us not let the past cloud our judgement in martial law. While it is a must that we should be vigilant for cases of abuse and to report it immediately, it should also be understood that the power of the President to declare martial law has not been removed for a reason, and that is to protect the safety of the Filipino people as stated in the 1987 Constitution Article VII, Section 18. This is the reason why, if you watch several interviews with some residents in Mindanao, they understand the need for martial law because it's their and their families' lives that are being threatened by the terrorist groups. In a video from PTV, one resident from Marawi said “Mas Mabuti pa na i-declare itong martial law, dahil alam natin na ang naghawak dito sa Mindanao, ang mga terorista. So dapat i-declare niya... para matulongan ang mga katulad naming mga sibilyan” (It's better to declare Martial law, because we know that Mindanao is a stronghold for terrorists. So he needs to declare [Martial law] to help civilians like us.)

Yes, it's understandable for some people to be afraid of martial law because of the past, but we must not let this blind us from what our brothers and sisters in Mindanao are experiencing. We should also consider the feelings and perspective of those living in Mindanao, especially in Marawi who currently fear for their lives. There's a difference between fear caused by history and fear because of what's happening at present, there are no cases right now that the Martial Law is being abused but the threat of terrorist groups is now evident in Marawi. Several lawmakers have also allayed fears of possible abuses citing safeguards provided in the Constitution. Nevertheless, this is not the time to cast distrust in our military or the Commander-in-Chief, this is the time where we must stand together and condemn the actions of the terrorist groups. This is the time to let them know that if they continue to harm innocent Filipinos and disrupt peace, we have a government that is not afraid to hunt them down to the last man.

We have a President who will do everything, in line with the constitution, to protect his people. When President Duterte declared Martial law, I believe it was not a hasty and easy decision as others would make you believe. The terrorists have neglected the repeated warnings of the President and they continue to harm innocent civilians, and as promised, President Duterte will now deal with them harshly. Let us believe in our

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1945 1988 2012

MANILA BULLETIN

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LANDSCAPE

Marawi, Marawi!



By GEMMA CRUZ ARANETA

WE cannot help being sentimental about Marawi, that once verdant city by placid Lake Lanao, the summer capital of Mindanao. How idyllic it was, the first time my husband and I went there, in 1967 thereabouts, upon the invitation of our dear friends, Sultan Al Rashid Lucman (may he rest in peace) and his wife Bai Tarhata Alonto Lucman. That was a half century ago! Those 50 years have flown so swiftly.

We were invited to the inauguration of the Aga Khan Museum of Islamic Art. Dr. Antonio Isidro, Mrs. Linang Mandangaan, and I were asked to cut the ribbon with a Maranaw kris. The picture of that momentous occasion is still there at the museum, I was informed.

Senator Mamintal Tamano (may he rest in peace) and his wife were among the guests and so were members of other prominent clans like the Alonto, Abas, Sinsuat, Dianalan, and Dimaporo. I wonder where they are now; these days the names that we read about and hear in the news – Ampatuan and Maute – were unheard of in those pre-Marcos martial law days. Neither did we hear about the MNLF, MILF, Abu Sayaf, Al Jarakatul, Jemaah Islamiya, etc. A certain discontent with the national government was perceptible, but no one dreamt of schemes like the BBL.

Last Sunday while I was at the Villa Escudero for the traditional Feast of the Ascencion, I received a PMS from my husband saying how sad it is to see Marawi City destroyed. "We had such good memories of it with Tarhata Alonto and Rashid Lucman, our hosts half a century ago..." Indeed, that visit was like a watershed for both of us. We realized how Eurocentric and Western-oriented we were out here in distant Luzon. The people we met there spoke about their travels to Saudi Arabia and other kingdoms of the Middle East, and to Malaysia and Pakistan.

There was a splendid Paganang

Maranaw in our honor and I was amazed that after dinner, guests would get up and sing Maranaw songs and perform their dances at the slightest provocation. I remember a distinguished gentleman chanting a song while holding a fan; a young Macapanton Abas performed an energetic war dance. One of the elders told me that they were happy that I wore the malong as Miss Philippines during the Miss International competition in Long Beach. He said the young ladies were beginning to discard the malong but started wearing it again. I was more than flattered by what he said.

"God bless all of them." continued my husband's PMS. "May they rise again..." Apparently, the "surgical air strikes" had resumed that Sunday afternoon. Significantly, during the High Mass at Villa Escudero, the national anthem was played during the Consecration by a band positioned by the door of the church, a traditional offering of our country to God, explained Don Ado Escudero. That was timely, I thought.

According to the Armed Forces, surgical air strikes are aimed at buildings which the Maute group and their snipers have taken over to inflict damage on the civilian population. I fervently pray that the Mindanao State University and the Aga Khan Museum in its campus are spared.

Marawi, a city of 201,185 (2015 census) has lost 55,000 of its population; they have fled for their lives to Iligan and other safer places. From this distance, one is riveted with fear and desperation, what must we do to prevent the suffering of our fellow Filipinos, the destruction of Marawi, and the dismembering of this republic? Much as we abhor martial law and condemn rape jokes, we are constrained to close ranks to support a President who was elected by 16 million voters.

These are perilous times; the Republic of the Philippines faces both external and internal threats. Marawi may just be the beginning.

(ggc1898@gmail.com)

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Repercussions feared in peace efforts

THE peace talks with the National Democratic Front-Communist Party of the Philippines-New Peoples Army (NDF-CPP-NPA) have become the first casualty in the wake of the proclamation of martial law in Mindanao.

The NDF-CPP-NPA peace negotiators were supposed to meet with the Philippine panel for their fifth meeting this week, scheduled in Noordwijk, Ann-see, Netherlands, but when President Duterte proclaimed martial law last Tuesday, the CPP immediately reacted. It ordered the NPA to step up its offensives in the country.

In an equally decisive counter-response, the government, through Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza, announced the government would no longer join the fifth round of the negotiations. Dureza thanked the Royal Norwegian government, which had been the facilitator in the previous meetings. There will be no further talks until there is an "enabling environment," he said.

Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana had tried to save the situation by assuring the CPP that the Mindanao martial law would not target the NPA, as it was meant only to stop the Maute Group, which was linked to the Islamic State. "We will fully comply with the directives of the President that martial law was declared to address radical Islamic terrorists and narco-terrorism in Mindanao," he said. Evidently, the CPP thought otherwise and saw martial law as equally aimed at them.

There is another possible repercussion of martial law in the government, which has already been raised by some quarters. When President Duterte assumed office, he invited the NDF and

the CPP, through his old mentor at Lyceum, Prof. Jose Ma. Sison, to nominate some members of his cabinet. Three officials, said to be identified with certain activist organizations in the country, were subsequently named to the cabinet – Secretary Judy Taguiwalo of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Secretary Rafael Mariano of the Department of Agrarian Reform, and Liza Masa of the National Anti-Poverty Commission.

Taguiwalo and Mariano were among those bypassed by the Commission on Appointments when it recently adjourned with Congress, allegedly for lack of time to properly assess their qualifications. This was on the same day the commission approved the appointment of Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano in a matter of minutes.

The bypassed cabinet members have thus far done well, although they have their critics. Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV charged the other day that Mariano and Taguiwalo have been using their positions to further the cause of the CPP.

The Duterte administration has made great advances in restoring peace in troubled areas in the country. The Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front have been generally quiet in anticipation of the establishment of autonomous regions under a federal system of government. Peace with the CPP-NPA was seen on the horizon, with the initiatives taken by the new administration.

We continue to hope that the ongoing difficulties will eventually be overcome and the differences resolved, so that so much of the violence in the countryside, particularly the 47-year-old NPA rebellion, will finally come to an end.

30 May 2017



Pahina. 4



Mas mahirap ang laban

KONTROLADO na ng AFP ang Marawi City, pero hindi pa rin ito lubusang ligtas mula sa Maute group. Nagiging mas mahirap na ang laban para sa mga sundalo, dahil kailangang isa-isahin ang mga bahay sa siyudad, para siguraduhing walang teroristang nagtatago. Bagama't gumagamit na ang militar ng malalakas na sandata laban sa Maute tulad ng rockets at bomba, hindi rin pwedeng basta-basta lang gamitin para hindi rin mapahamak ang mga sibilyan, at madagdagan ang danyos sa siyudad. Ang nais din ng militar ay may mabalikang tahanan ang mga residente ng Marawi City. Ramadan pa naman, na mahalaga sa mga kapatid na Muslim.

Naglabas naman ng pahayag ang ISIS hinggil sa pag-atake ng Maute sa Marawi, sa kabila ng ilang pahayag na

hindi pa naman kinikilala ng ISIS ang Maute. Tila pinalalabas na suportado na nila ang Maute, o bahagi na ng ISIS ang teroristang grupo. Kalaban ng bansa ang Maute, kabilang man ng ISIS o hindi, na dapat durugin. Ayon kay AFP chief Gen. Año, aabutin ng isang linggo bago tuluyan nang maging malaya at ligtas mula sa Maute ang Marawi. Mas mahirap lang talaga ang labanan ngayon, lalo na't may snipers ang Maute. Ang nadiskubreng walong bangkay ng mga sibilyan ay patunay naman sa kasamaan ng Maute.

Hindi rin dapat tigilan ng AFP ang Maute, kung may mga makatakas man mula sa Marawi. Habulin sila at durugin na, para hindi mabigyan ng pagkakataong lumakas muli, lalo na kung may suporta sila ng ISIS. May mga ulat na may mga banyagang kasama anag Maute sa Marawi. Kung ganun, nakakapasok na nga ang ISIS sa bansa, bagay na dapat matukoy ng militar at pulis. Ang panawagan naman ng CPP sa NPA na paigtingin ang mga operasyon laban sa militar habang nagaganap pa ang krisis sa Marawi ay patunay na walang kuwentang kausap ang mga komunista. Pinatigil na nga ang usapang-kapayapaan sa pagitan ng gobyerno at NDF. Bakit nga naman, kung may ganyang utos ang CPP sa kanilang mga manlalaban?

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Medium Rare

Julie Y. Daza

Prop war

A PROPAGANDA war is what the terrorists are waging to attract the attention of ISIS and show the world, beginning with their own countrymen, that they are a force of terror and power to reckon with. On the other side, government is embroiled in a war for peace, to restore law and order and faith in the duly constituted authorities.

Terrorists observe no rules, "they are everywhere," they're no respecter of human rights nor do they obey the niceties of the laws of engagement, they are not concerned with protecting the innocent, only with the maximum damage that they are "licensed" to inflict. In addition, the urban-guerrilla tactics that they have been displaying with brutal energy in a city of 200,000 residents, whose houses are cheek-by-jowl and neighbors are within screaming distance of one another, makes it extremely difficult for soldiers in uniform to flush them out. On top of the obvious obstacles hamstringing a quick, clean, surgical finish, the Armed Forces have to contend with media's continuing battles (among themselves) for the scoop or

scoops of the day.

It was with dread and alarm that I saw on the evening-news a still shot of three Maute fighters standing gleefully on top of the carcass of an armored personnel carrier of the AFP. Dressed in black, waving a black flag, they had their arms raised while their grinning faces glowed with triumph. That picture was an "exclusive," and even if it was a mere "wipe" of no more than two seconds, it's an image that won't fade fast enough – principally because it was, surely and undoubtedly, authored by a Maute propagandist – aye, a direct hit, bull's-eye! In contrast, what p.r. material can our soldiers show, when they are busy avoiding snipers and trying not to incur collateral damage, hunting an enemy who looks just like the people they must save?

The generals have asked media to exercise a limited form of self-censorship, do not give aid and comfort to the enemy. In the age of instant communications, denying the enemy a platform for their propaganda should not be counted as a sacrifice but a duty.

30 May 2017



Pahina. 4

Tapusin muna ang giyera saka na ang imbestigasyon

NAGPAPATULOY ang operasyon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at Philippine National Police (PNP) sa Marawi City at karatig bayan kaugnay ng paglusob ng teroristang Maute

Mahigit 100 katao na ang patay sa pangunguna ng mga terorista, ilang sundalo at pulis gayundin ang sibilyan

Sa sitwasyong ito ay naunang idineklara ni Pres. Rodrigo Duterte ang martial law sa buong Mindanao na naglalayong mapabilis ang operasyon ng militar at agad na malutas ang nasabing problema.

Dahil dito, ilang mga mambabatas ang sumisilip sa intelligence funds ng AFP at PNP dahil sa hindi malamang dahilan ay nakapulisit ang Maute group sa Marawi City.

Itinuturing na failure of intelligence ang nangyari sa Marawi City dahil hindi natunugan ng mga otoridad na nakapasok ang Maute group na tinatayang 50 hanggang mahigit 100 armadong katao na kumubkob sa siyudad.

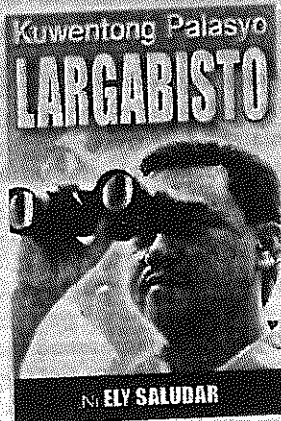
Maaring may batayan ang ilang mambabatas sa usaping ito pero hindi pa panahon upang imbestigahan

Totoong napakalaking pondo o intelligence funds sa AFP at PNP na inaprubahan ng Kongreso upang makatulong sa operasyon at pagmi-maintain sa kapayapaan at mabantayan ang anumang banta sa seguridad ng mga Pilipino.

Pero sa pagkakataong ito, patapusin muna ang pagtugis sa teroristang Maute bago magsagawa ng imbestigasyon.

Mahalaga ang imbestigasyong ito upang matuklasan kung saan nagkulang ang militar at pulisya samantalang may sapat na pondo sa intelligence.

Obligasyon at may kapangyarihan ang mga senador at kongresista na mag-imbestiga laio na kung may alegasyong hindi nagagamit ng tama ang pondo at makagawa ng batas upang hindi na ito maulit na mangyari.



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

ONLINE NEWS

(30 MAY 2017)

Half of Marawi controlled by rebels? Not true says AFP

From the Philippine Daily Inquirer (May 29): Half of Marawi controlled by rebels? Not true says AFP
The Armed Forces of the Philippines denied reports that half of Marawi City is still controlled by the Maute terrorist group.

"We have complete control of the city, contrary to what is coming out of social media," Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla told Palace reporters.

"It is not true that half of the city is controlled by the rebels. Totally untrue," he said.

"The Armed Forces and the police are in complete control of the city except for some areas of the city they (Maute group) continue to hold," he said. "These are the subject of clearing operations that are continually being conducted."

Padilla said they do not have a timeline for military operations in Marawi but that their **"ground commanders have assured them that the end is almost there."**

No exact number of terrorists

However, Padilla said they do not have a number of the remaining rebels in the area.

He described the situation as "very fluid." He said that while they have received reports that there are around 40 to 50 "armed elements," the number could go up because of the possibility that some escaped prisoners have joined the group.

"As to the exact number of terrorists remaining, exact figures are not available," Padilla said.

President Rodrigo Duterte last week declared martial law in Mindanao after the Maute group took over and burned down several establishments, including hospitals and schools. According to Duterte's report to Congress, the group attacked Marawi City Jail and facilitated the escape of at least 68 inmates.

During the first so-called "Mindanao Hour" briefing in Malacañang on Monday, Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella said 61 terrorists, 19 civilians and 18 government security forces have been killed in Marawi as of Sunday.

Factors in lifting martial law

Asked if the AFP will recommend an extension of martial law, Padilla said it has just started and they have yet to give an assessment on the matter.

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"What we are trying to do right now, expedite what needs to be done in order to restore law and order in the whole of Mindanao, particularly in Marawi," he said.

He said among the factors that they will consider in deciding whether to recommend the lifting of martial law is the restoration of law and order and the absence of "remnants of resistance within the city."

Padilla said the military will turn over control of the city to civil authorities once the military determines that there is no longer resistance from the terrorists within the city.

He explained that the military currently has full control of the city, which means they have "control (of) who comes in and who comes out, who moves around and who doesn't."

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/900532/half-of-marawi-controlled-by-rebels-not-true-says-afp>

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

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

Explainer: how and why Islamic State took over part of a Philippine city

From The Guardian (May 29): **Explainer: how and why Islamic State took over part of a Philippine city**

Rebels linked to the jihadist have hunkered down in Marawi, with close to 100 dead following six days of clashes

Troops aboard a vehicle as more soldiers reinforce to fight the Maute group in Marawi in southern Philippines. Photograph: Erik de Castro/Reuters

What is happening?

Rebels linked to Islamic State have taken control of several neighbourhoods in the southern Philippine city of Marawi, with army artillery and aerial attacks unable to completely dislodge them after six days.

At least 61 militants and 17 security forces have been killed, according to the armed forces. Nineteen civilians have died.

Tens of thousands of people have fled the city of 200,000.

How did the fighting start?

Acting on intelligence, security forces tried to capture Isnilon Hapilon, an Islamist leader endorsed by Islamic State as their point-man for south-east Asia, where jihadists have attempted to establish a presence outside the Middle East.

Hapilon is on the FBI's most wanted list, with a \$5m reward.

Following the botched raid on Tuesday, militants protecting Hapilon went on a rampage, seizing a hospital, school and cathedral. They overran a jail and released scores of inmates.

President Rodrigo Duterte has declared martial law across Mindanao, a poverty-stricken province of 22 million that has a deep history of armed insurrection.

'They kill defenceless people': thousands flee Philippine city of Marawi

Three-day battle between army and Isis-linked Maute insurgents for city on island of Mindanao has left at least 46 dead

Who are the gunmen?

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The militants are from a little-known group called the Maute, named after two brothers, Omar and Abdullah Maute.

Hapilon previously led another radical faction, the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf, known for bombings and beheadings of hostages as well as links to the group that carried out the 2002 Bali bombings in Indonesia.

The Philippines military says Hapilon has now joined the Maute, which previously ran as a criminal organisation but has grown increasingly ideological in its objectives, according to analysts.

The Maute was blamed for last year's bombing in the president's home city, Davao, which killed 14 people. And Islamic State's Amaq news agency last week claimed responsibility for the Marawi assault.

Analysis Isis-backed militants struggle for control in the southern Philippines

The death toll in Marawi city, where martial law has been imposed, stands at 85, with Islamic State claiming responsibility

Why now?

Sidney Jones, the Jakarta-based director of the Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict, says the fighting represents a coalition of various radical Islamist factions in Mindanao that have a history of armed violence over land, resources and control.

Now, she says, they have formed a coalition against a common enemy.

"Duterte and his government have failed to appreciate that a major change has taken place in Mindanao, and these men aren't motivated just by clan politics or money. The leaders may have been 'bandits' in the past, but now, they're ideologues," she said.

"They have been convinced by Isis that the answer to Mindanao's problems is Islamic law," she added.

In an October report, Jones predicted the current tumult. Facing losses in Syria and Iraq, Isis have increasingly looked to the Philippines to establish a province or "wilayat" in the region, the report said.

Support for Isis in Mindanao "has facilitated cooperation across clan and ethnic lines, widened the extremist recruitment pool to include computer-savvy university students and opened new international communication and possibly funding channels," it said.

Many Muslims in the Philippines live in Mindanao, a semi-autonomous province, and Marawi is the most populated city in the self-governing region.

What is the government's plan?

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

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Duterte cut short a visit to Russia when the clashes erupted and has backed a strong military response. "If there's an open defiance, you will die," he said on Wednesday. "And if it means many people dying, so be it."

Duterte, the former mayor from Davao, another city in Mindanao, has seen his year-long presidency characterised by bloodshed, with a "war on drugs" that has left thousands of alleged drug addicts and suspected dealers dead. He has been condemned internationally for supporting vigilantism.

The president has publicly encouraged civilians to kill addicts and said he will not prosecute police for extrajudicial executions.

He has been equally outspoken during the Marawi clashes, reassuring soldiers that he will protect them if they commit abuses during the conflict, including rape.

"If you go down, I go down. But for this martial law and the consequences of martial law and the ramifications of martial law, I and I alone would be responsible, just do your job I will take care of the rest," Duterte said on Friday, according to a president's office transcript.

"I'll imprison you myself," he said, referring to any soldiers who commit violations, then he joked: "If you had raped three, I will admit it, that's on me."

On Sunday, Duterte appealed to other rebel groups in Mindanao, including two Muslim separatist factions and Maoist-led rebels, to join the fight against the Maute, promising them pay and perks, including housing.

There was no immediate reaction from the three groups.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/may/29/explainer-how-and-why-islamic-state-took-over-part-of-a-philippine-city>

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DND chief expects clearing ops in Marawi City to be completed by June 1

May 29, 2017

MANILA, May 29 — Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Monday said he expects clearing operations in Marawi City to be completed by June 1.

He added that the timetable started last May 25.

Lorenzana said the operations to clear Marawi City of terrorists is on track and that he regularly gets updates from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Fighting in Marawi City started May 23 when military units conducted an operation after receiving reports that Abu Sayyaf leader Isnihan Hapilon, the group's ally and ISIS head in the Philippines, was hiding in the locality.

As this develops, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said that military forces have full control of Marawi City.

"We are in full control, meaning to say we can control who comes in and who comes out, who moves around and who doesn't. And we're trying to isolate all these pockets of resistance that have remained," he added.

As of this posting, Maute Group members killed in the ongoing operation are placed at 61 with 42 being confirmed through body count and another 19 by eye witness reports.

Government losses as of Sunday night are placed at 15 troopers killed along with three Philippine National Police (PNP) operatives.

Reported wounded as of this posting are 61 soldiers along with three policemen.

Number of civilians executed by the Maute Group are placed at 19, while those rescued are placed at 390, said Padilla.

Captured firearms are placed at 41 with 37 being high-powered ones and four low-powered.

"Clearing of Marawi City of militants and rescue of trapped civilians and recovery of civilian casualties and victims are the current focus of the ongoing operations," he added. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)#DEFENDREPUBLIC

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

Navy deploys BRP Tarlac to transport supplies in Marawi City

May 29, 2017

MANILA, May 29 — Full speed ahead.

This was the apparent message of the Philippine Navy (PN) as it dispatched Monday the BRP Tarlac (LD-601), its first strategic sealift vessel, to transport military vehicles and other supplies which is essential to dislodging the Maute Group terrorists in Marawi City, Lanao Del Sur.

PN spokesperson Capt. Lued Lincuna said the ship sailed from Subic Bay, Zambales carrying 30 military vehicles and 253 tons of essential supplies.

These cargos will be distributed to the different AFP units in Mindanao to cater to the transport and logistical requirements of the ongoing military operations against terrorists.

The ship, with its capability to accommodate more than 4,000 tons of cargo and 500 personnel onboard, is utilized not only to support military operations, but also for mass evacuation and even international humanitarian assistance during disasters and crisis.

Another strategic sealift vessel, the BRP Davao Del Sur (LD-602), is expected to be commissioned on May 31, the Navy's 119th founding anniversary which will be held at Sasa Wharf, Davao City.
(PFN/PNA)#DEFENDREPUBLIC

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

Full cooperation of public needed to expedite lifting of martial law — AFP

May 29, 2017

MANILA, May 29 — The Armed Forces of the Philippines on Monday said the full cooperation of the public will play a big part in determining at what time martial law could be lifted in Mindanao.

This was stressed by AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla during the Mindanao Hour press briefing in Malacañang.

Mindanao Hour, launched Monday, is a daily authoritative update on what is happening on the ground in Marawi City and relevant regions in Mindanao that aims to provide the public with carefully vetted news from authoritative sources.

Padilla said the secret to expediting the lifting of martial law is the full cooperation of the public.

"That is why we keep on calling for public cooperation because, you know, the secret to all this is to have the cooperation of the public. If the full cooperation of our citizens in the whole of Mindanao is obtained, then we can expedite the process of securing Mindanao on a daily basis," he said.

However, he stressed that "cooperation should be 100 percent," and that government "cannot have a few still errantly doing their ways."

"So kung lahat tayo nagtutulungan, lahat tayo nagkakaisa dito, mas napapabilis po 'yung proseso na ibalik sa normal ang buong ka-Mindanaoan," Padilla said.

In the meantime, he assured that the AFP, like President Rodrigo Duterte, remains committed to restoring law and order in Mindanao the soonest time possible.

Padilla said the restoration of law and order is one of the most important consideration, along with any remnants of resistance within Marawi City.

"In the absence of any more resistance, there is no reason to have our presence there but just to keep the security and we will transfer the control of the city to our civil authorities. But we will work closely with them to ensure that the security of the city is not compromised. So those are the two most important elements that we see as non-contestable and non-negotiable," he said.

"But be that as it may, the commitment remains that we do this as quick as possible, just like what the President said. And if we can finish this in one month, then so be it. We end martial law right there and then," Padilla said.

The conflict in Marawi erupted on May 23 following violent clashes between government forces and members of the Maute terrorist group.

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

The ISIS-inspired terror group took over a hospital in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, established several checkpoints within the city, burned down certain government and private facilities and inflicted casualties on the part of government forces.

Its members were even shown flying the flag of the Islamist State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in several areas of the city.

This prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to place Mindanao under martial law for a period of 60 days on the grounds of invasion and rebellion.

The declaration of martial law was done through Proclamation No. 216, which Duterte signed on May 23 while he was still in Russia.

According to official figures released by Malacañang, fighting in Marawi City have led to the killing of 61 Maute terrorists.

Meanwhile, the government have lost 18 of its forces — 15 military and 3 police personnel.

The number of civilians killed in the conflict was pegged at 19, all in the hands of the terrorists. (Cielito M. Reganit/PNA)#DefendRepublic

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Military appeals to refrain from posting unverified info that could worsen Marawi City incident

May 29, 2017



MANILA, May 29 — The adage "loose lips, sink ships" is still true even in this time of the Internet.

This was stressed by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo as he appealed to the public not to post sensitive and unverified information that might imperil military units currently engaged in clearing operations against Maute Group members in Marawi City, Lanao Del Sur as this could imperil the lives of these brave men.

In the same vein, the military official also urged the public to refrain from posting in the social media suspicious information or possible terrorist propaganda as this could help spread disinformation in the ongoing government campaign against the lawless group.

"We fervently urge our people to refrain from posting in social media information that would tend to exacerbate the situation. Especially photos and videos on the movement of our troops and on terrorists propaganda circulating through social media," Arevalo stressed.

He also assured the public that the government remains atop and in control of the situation.

"We will continue to provide updates as often as possible with due regard to the security of our operating forces and the conduct of the operations itself," he added.

As this develops, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla on Monday said that military forces have full control of Marawi City.

"We are in full control, meaning to say we can control who comes in and who comes out, who moves around and who doesn't. And we're trying to isolate all these pockets of resistance that have remained," he said.

As of this posting, Maute Group members killed in the ongoing operation are placed at 61 with 42 being confirmed through body count and another 19 by eye witness reports.

Government losses as of Sunday night are placed at 15 troopers killed along with three Philippine National Police (PNP) operatives.

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

Reported wounded as of this posting are 61 soldiers along with three policemen.

Fighting started when government security forces tried to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, a known ally of the group and ISIS leader, last May 23.

Number of civilians executed by the Maute Group are placed at 19, while those rescued are placed at 390, said Padilla.

Captured firearms are placed at 41 with 37 being high-powered ones and four low-powered.

"Clearing of Marawi City of militants and rescue of trapped civilians and recovery of civilian casualties and victims are the current focus of the ongoing operations," he added. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)#DEFENDREPUBLIC

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