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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

22 November 2017

Wednesday

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

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INQUIRER

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | NOVEMBER 22, 2017 | WEDNESDAY



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)



TAIL-END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON
NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING EXTREME NORTHERN LUZON
INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING SOUTHERN MINDANAO
(As of 4:00 PM - November 21, 2017)


LADAG CITY 25 - 32 °C	TUGUEGARAO CITY 25 - 32 °C
BAGUIO CITY 16 - 24 °C	TAGAYTAY CITY 25 - 28 °C
SBMA/CLARK 25 - 32 °C	LEGAZPI CITY 25 - 32 °C
METRO MANILA 25 - 32 °C	TACLOBAN CITY 24 - 32 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY 25 - 32 °C	METRO CEBU 25 - 32 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 24 - 31 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO 23 - 32 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 24 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO 25 - 32 °C

SUNRISE 6:00 AM	SUNSET 5:24 PM
MOONRISE 8:50 AM	MOONSET 8:29 PM
NEW MOON NOV 18 7:42 PM	FIRST QUARTER NOV 27 1:03 AM
LOW TIDE 7:31 AM -0.05 Meter	HIGH TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 11:42 PM 1.07 Meter


- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshower
- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshower and/or thunderstorm
- Cloudy skies with rainshower and/or thunderstorm
- Light rain

	NOV 21	NOV 22	NOV 23	NOV 24
METRO MANILA	25 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	20 - 27 °C	19 - 27 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 31 °C	25 - 30 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 30 °C
LADAG	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C
BAGUIO	16 - 24 °C	16 - 23 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
TAGAYTAY				
LEGAZPI				
PUERTO PRINCESA				
ILOILO/BACOLOD				
METRO CEBU				
TACLOBAN				
CAGAYAN DE ORO				
METRO DAVAO				
ZAMBOANGA				



MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM



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

29 November 2017



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DRUG RAIDS ILLEGAL, SAY 2 SC JUSTICES

At the opening of oral arguments in two challenges to President Duterte's war on drugs, two high court magistrates say PNP raids on suspects' houses without court orders are unconstitutional.

By Marlon Ramos
@MRamosINQ

Police raids on houses of drug suspects without judicial warrants violated the antitorture law and other individual rights enshrined in the 1987 Constitu-

tion, two Supreme Court justices said on Tuesday.

At the opening of oral arguments in two petitions challenging President Duterte's brutal war on drugs, Associate Justice Marvic Leonen asked human rights lawyer Jose

Manuel Diokno, who represented some of the petitioners, about incidents of policemen barging into the houses of drug suspects without court orders.

Diokno, of the Free Legal Assistance Group, brought the petition to stop the police raids on

behalf of a survivor and two other people whose relatives were slain by police in the war on drugs.

Another group of petitioners, represented by Joel Butuyan of the Center for International Law, brought a class suit

against the Philippine National Police seeking Supreme Court intervention to keep their neighborhood in San Andres Bukid, Manila, safe from policemen who have allegedly killed 35 residents of the impoverished community since the war

on drugs began last year.

Answering Leonen's questions, Diokno said policemen who conducted warrantless house searches violated the right of citizens to be presumed innocent and the right against unreasonable search and

AB

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seizure as defined under Article III of the 1987 Constitution.

Dissecting the police operational procedures, Leonen questioned Diokno on how the PNP implemented "Oplan Tokhang"—the main vehicle of Mr. Duterte's crackdown on illegal drugs—based on the experiences of Diokno's clients.

"If a suspect does not open the door, what happens to the suspect? If you do not open the door, something will happen to you, is it not correct? So therefore, there is a threat?" Leonen asked Diokno.

Leonen pointed out that police entry into the houses of drug suspects effectively placed them under custodial investigation without the assistance of a lawyer in violation of the law.

"When somebody is under a coercive process to make that person actually do something, as in this case open the door to the police, let them in, make them do whatever, then therefore under pain of coercion then that in fact is torture according to the law," he said.

Orders unconstitutional

"Is it possible that there is a violation of the Constitution immediately because of how Oplan Tokhang is imagined in the [PNP] circular? And that is a violation of the right against self-incrimination and right to custodial interrogation," he said.

Diokno answered in the affirmative and claimed that the supposed unlawful acts of police officers were allowed by the issuance of PNP Command Memorandum Circular No. 16-2016 and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Memorandum Cir-

cular No. 2017-112.

He argued that the DILG and PNP orders should be declared unconstitutional for using the words "neutralize" and "negation," whose vague definitions only encouraged policemen to kill drug suspects and resort to "shortcuts" in dealing with the

drug menace.

"It expressly authorized the police to kill [drug suspects] in the guise of neutralizing or negating them without the benefit of trial and due process of law in violation of the Bill of Rights," Diokno said.

"The only true and lasting

solution to rampant crimes is to strengthen the justice system, not to supplant it with justice that emanates from the barrels of guns," he added.

Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio said policemen who conducted a case buildup against drug suspects who re-

fused them entry could be held liable for violating the suspects' right to privacy.

"A citizen has the right to refuse entry [to the police] if there is no search warrant," Diokno insisted.

14,000 drug killings

Butuyan, the lawyer for the petitioners from San Andres Bukid, said the unabated drug killings in the country, which rights groups say now number about 14,000, started right after Mr. Duterte won the presidency and following the issuance of the DILG and PNP circulars.

"Never in our history as a people has it happened that state agents, our police, admitted to being responsible for thousands of civilian killings and never in our history as a country has thousands of killings been justified on the basis of a government circular," Butuyan said.

The high tribunal summoned PNP chief Ronald dela Rosa, Interior Undersecretary Catalino Cuy, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Director General Aaron Aquino and Dangerous Drugs Board official Marlowe Pedregosa to show up at the continuation of the oral arguments on Nov. 28.

Also directed to attend the next hearing were National Police Commission Vice Chair and Executive Officer Rogelio Casurao and PNP Internal Affairs Service chief Alfegar Triambulo. INQ

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Noy Cabinet men sued for plunder over MRT

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

Former interior secretary Manuel Roxas II, eight other Cabinet secretaries of the Aquino administration and 21 officers and private individuals were charged yesterday with plunder and graft for their alleged roles in anomalous transactions relating to the maintenance service contracts of the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3) system.

All 30 respondents, according to the Department of Transportation (DOTr), from 2012 to 2017 entered into several contracts that led to the plunder of national government coffers and allowed some to enrich themselves.

The DOTr also claimed that these acts are to blame for the problems being encountered by the train system, including accidents, technical glitches and railway issues, among others.

Also charged before the Office of the Ombudsman were former secretaries Joseph Emilio Abaya (transportation), Florencio Abad (budget), Cesar Purisima (finance), Jericho Petilla (energy), Mario Montejo (science), Voltaire Gazmin (defense), Rogelio Singson (public works) and Arsenio Balisacan (economic development). All the secretaries were named in the complaint for being members of the Government Procurement Policy Board.

Noy From Page 1

The DOTr also implicated former Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) undersecretaries Edwin Lopez, Rene Limcaoco and Catherine Jennifer Gonzales; former MRT-3 general manager Roman Buenafe; former assistant secretary and bids and awards committee chair Camille Alcaraz; and former BAC members Ofelia Astrera, Charissa Eloisa Julia Oplencia, Oscar Bongon, Jose Rodante Sabayle and Maria Cecilia Natividad.

It also charged private individuals Eldonn Ferdinand Uy, Elizabeth Velasco, Belinda Ong Tan, Brian Velasco, Chae-Gue Shim, Antonio Borromeo, Jun Ho Hwang, Elpidio Silverstre Uy, William dela Cruz and Eugene Rapanut of Busan Universal Rail Inc. (BURI) and Marlo dela Cruz of the joint venture PH Trams-CB&T.

“Using the MRT-3 project as a fundraiser, respondent Roxas and Abaya set into motion a grand scheme of turning the DOTC as a bottomless cash cow (by) entering into one anomalous procurement project after the other in order to amass, accumulate and acquire ill-gotten wealth by taking advantage of their official position, authority and influence to unjustly enrich themselves at the expense and to the damage and prejudice of the Filipino people,” the charge sheet read.

DOTr undersecretary for legal af-

fairs and procurement Reinir Paul Yebra, legal services director Giovanni Lopez and lawyer Mark Steven Pastor lodged the complaint for plunder, graft and procurement law violations.

Stressing that the plunder law “penalizes the most consummate larceny and economic treachery perpetrated by repositories of public trust,” they pointed out that everything started when the service maintenance being provided by Japanese firm Sumitomo Corp., which was doing well from 1997 to 2012, was replaced.

Roxas, who was DOTC secretary from 2011 to 2012, “with the intention of easing out Sumitomo and replacing it with their own dummy corporations run by well-known Liberal Party (LP) stalwarts,” sat and did not act upon the requests of Sumitomo to conduct a bidding for a long-term contract.

When Abaya stepped in, the complainants said, he signed the short-term maintenance contract of MRT-3 with PH Trams-CB&T Joint Venture just a day after he replaced Roxas on Oct. 19, 2012 and extended the contract twice for a total of four months to August 2013 with an estimated cost of \$2.3 million or P1.2 billion.

The DOTr claimed that this was the period when the “rapid deterioration of MRT-3 trains, tracks, signaling, power supply and stations” started. It noted that PH Trams-CB&T does

not even appear to be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

It added that the firm was “merely a dummy entity for the respondents belonging to the Liberal Party (LP)” as evidenced by its incorporators, including Wilson Rivera who was accused of trying to extort \$30 million from Czech train maker Inekon in July 2012 and candidate for mayor in Calasiao, Pangasinan under the LP in 2013.

The family of incorporator Marlo dela Cruz is also reportedly active in politics under the LP in Manaog town, while incorporator Federico Remo served as executive vice president of Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency under the Department of Finance.

Arturo Soriano, also an incorporator, was allegedly a provincial capitol official of Calasiao, Pangasinan and a nephew-in-law of former MRT-3 general manager Al Vitangcol III, LP fundraiser.

“It is evident that each of the respondents, by their individual acts, agreed to participate, directly or indirectly, in the amassing, accumulation and acquisition of ill-gotten wealth for respondents Roxas and Abaya and other respondents,” the complaint read.

The complainants continued that after the PH Trams-CB&T deal, the next service maintenance contract – worth P685 million – was awarded to the joint venture of Global-Autre Porte Technique Global Inc. (Global-APT) from September 2013 to September 2014.

This was allegedly granted through closed-door negotiations instead of public bidding, which “reeks of anomaly and conspiracy” since Marlo dela Cruz was also the authorized representative of the firm.

The DOTr added that Global-APT did not buy spare parts for the MRT-3

but, instead, used railway tracks from LRT-2 – a violation that allegedly led to the derailing of an MRT-3 train at the Taft Avenue station on Aug. 13, 2014.

In February 2013, the DOTC announced the purchase of 48 train cars, with a budget of P3.769 billion, and awarded it to Dalian Locomotive & Rolling Stock Co.

However, all 48 cars remain unusable due to compatibility and weight issues – the cars were too heavy and no prototype was delivered and checked prior to delivery of all the cars to determine usability as required by the contract.

According to the DOTr, all the charges form part of the “methodical way by which the respondents manufactured the circumstances which allowed them to execute the P4.251-billion BURI contract” by negotiating procurement from March 2015 up to January 2017.

Also identified as anomalies were the total replacement of the signaling system project for the train system, which cost the government P888 million – money that was wasted after two different and completely incompatible signaling systems were bought.

Act fast

Sen. Grace Poe welcomed the complaints as she asked the Office of the Ombudsman to act expeditiously on the cases.

“As I have previously mentioned, we should let the ax fall where it should... We expect that the ombudsman will act expeditiously on the case, because every day of delay means distress and hardship for our riding public. We can only achieve justice for our people by making those responsible for their woes accountable,” Poe said in a statement.

Poe, who chairs the Senate committee on public services, added that the complaints affirmed what her panel found during its legislative investigation on the MRT-3 case.

“There were individuals who appeared to have favored an incompetent maintenance provider and in mismanaging the train system. They should see this as an opportunity for them to clear their names,” Poe said.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque gave assurance that those who caused suffering to MRT commuters “as a result of the failure to deliver on the responsibilities of public office” would be held accountable.

He added that it is the height of injustice for Filipino taxpayers to pay P54 million per month on top of the P1.8-billion fixed fee for other services “to an unworthy contractor that is incapable of delivering the reliable system.”

Roque added that Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade is taking “positive steps” to improve the MRT-3 by tapping a reliable maintenance contractor and building new rails.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon, an LP stalwart, urged the DOTr to stop blaming the previous administration for the MRT-3 problems and to focus instead on finding solutions for the sake of commuters.

He said he could not comprehend how the former officers could be charged with plunder as he maintained his “confidence in the integrity” of those accused.

“Just one basic issue, one of the elements of plunder is that you personally profited to the extent of P50 million. I don’t even think that there is an allegation that these respondents profited personally,” Drilon said.

PBA party-list Rep. Jericho Nograles claimed that an organized and regular bribery and commission system has been going on at the DOTr to keep a favored maintenance provider.

He urged BURI to return all that it has collected from the government, arguing that the Commission on Audit has declared the P3.8-billion maintenance contract invalid. – With Paolo Romero, Marvin Sy, Delon Porcalla, Jess Diaz, Alexis Romero

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The Manila Times

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Military steps up ops against NPA rebels

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Government forces have stepped up its operations against the communist rebel group New People's Army (NPA) in Zamboanga Peninsula with the capture of two of its senior leaders in Pagadian City while about one hundred families fled their homes following sighting of armed men along the Iligan-Bukidnon area.

Officials said troops and policemen tightened security in the region and put up additional checkpoints to preempt any rebel attacks.

The Philippine National Police, backed by Army soldiers captured Leonardo Jacotin and Rosario Tabanao in their hideout in Barangay Balangasan over the weekend. Troops also recovered a fragmentation grenade, a caliber .45 pistol with magazine loaded with bullets, 50 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 10 assorted identification cards and 17 cell phones.

Brigadier General Jacinto Bareng, commander of the 102nd Infantry Brigade, said the two communist leaders have standing warrants of arrest for multiple criminal charges, including murder.

He said Jacotin is the NPA's logistics officer for western Mindanao and Tabanao is the finance officer.

"The NPA top leaders are responsible for robbery, large-scale extortion activities, proliferation of illegal firearms and explosives, and murder cases in the area," he said.

Spotted

Also on Sunday, about a hundred families in Sitio Libandayan, Malagsum along the Iligan-Bukidnon Road evacuated to Poblacion Rogongon after a number of unidentified armed men believed to be NPAs were spotted in the vicinity.

Barangay chairman Rady Pugoy said people became afraid after learning about what happened to the team leader of a Philippine Army patrol, Sgt. Edgar Andal, who was killed in an NPA ambush last week.

"Because of fear the residents left their homes without bringing anything," said Datu Lanelio Sangcopan, a local Higaonon leader. "We ask the city government to send a larger security force to Rogongon to repulse unwanted armed elements that threaten the peace and security in our area," he added.

Senior Supt. Leony Roy Ga, Iligan City Police Office director, said the presence of

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NPAs in Rogongon still poses as threat to the residents. He added that Mayor Celso Regencia has taken steps to enhance the security in the area so that residents can immediately return to their homes.

The city government and non-governmental organizations distributed food and water to the families at the evacuation center.

Rogongon, with 35,555 hectares of forest and farming lands, is one of the largest barangays in Iligan City. It has an estimated population of 5,198 composed mostly of Higaonon indigenous people

Arrested

Meanwhile, police intercepted a group of suspected NPA rebels at a checkpoint in Nasugbu, Batangas following an encounter with the Philippine Air Force's 730th Combat Group at about 8:18 a.m. on Monday.

Capt. Melchor Durante, spokesman for the Philippine Army's 2nd Infantry Division, said policemen in Nasugbu flagged down a jeepney carrying 12 individuals, however, three of them escaped leaving only nine were under the custody of the police.

The Provincial Police Office in Batangas identified the arrested as Jocelyn Cabadin, Jenelyn Bayani, Leonardo de los Reyes Jr., Carlos Sanosa, Orlan Cabadin, Josefino Castellano, Pheping Sacdalan, Roberto Hernandez and Mark Anthony Banaga.

Durante said the three rebels who managed to escape are being pursued.

He added that civilians in the area reported that NPA members were hiding at the time within the encounter site at Barangay Utod in Nasugbu near the checkpoint which is about three kilometers away.

Brig. Gen. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos Jr., commander of the Philippine Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade, reported that the Air Force's combat group discovered an NPA encampment on Sunday.

He said the NPA camp is under Kumander Honda who is behind the encounter in Batangas City last September.

The arrests and the encounter came days after President Rodrigo Duterte announced that he would issue a proclamation categorizing the NPA as a terrorist group.

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22 November 2017



Pahina. 7

12 NPA rebs/sympathizers, sakote

Umaabot sa 12 miyembro at sympathizers ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) ang nasakote ng militar sa itinayong checkpoint sa Barangay Utod, bayan ng Nasugbu, Batangas noong Lunes ng umaga.

Ayon kay Captain Melchor Durante, spokesman ng Army's 2nd Infantry Division, ang 12 rebelde ay nasakote dakong alas-10 ng umaga sa di-kalayuan sa encounter site ng militar at ng komunistang grupo.

Base sa pahayag ng ilang residente sa nasabing lugar, ang 12 rebelde ay namataang humahangos ng takbo pasakay sa pampasaherong jeepney matapos naman ang engkuwentro sa pagitan ng mga sundalo at NPA rebels sa nasabing barangay.

"The said checkpoint was set-up in order to prevent the armed terrorists from fleeing from the encounter site," ayon kay Brig. Gen. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos Jr., commander ng Army's

202nd Infantry Brigade.

Nabatid na ang grupo ng mga rebelde na nakasagupa ng militar ay nagtangkang manabotahe sa katatapos na ASEAN Summit sa Philippine International Convention Center sa Manila at ilan pang kaugnay na pagpupulong sa Southern Luzon.

Nakatakda namang sampahan ng kasong kriminal ang 12 rebelde na itinumover na ng militar sa kustodiya ng Nasugbu Police Station. **Joy Cantos**

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Pahina. 14

3 kampo ng BIFF nakubkob ng militar

Umiskor ang tropa ng militar matapos na makubkob ang tatlo sa mga kuta ng target na Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) sa patuloy na opensiba sa kagubatan ng Carmen sa Cotabato kamakalawa.

Ayon kay Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokesman ng Army's 6th Infantry Division (ID), ang naturang

mga kampo ng BIFF ay magkakasunod na nakubkob ng tropang gobyerno.

Bandang alas-9:15 naman ng umaga nang magkakasunod na makubkob ng mga sundalo ang dalawang kuta ng BIFF na may 12 kubo na maaaring pagkasyahan ng 100 katao na may ilang metro lamang ang distansya

sa Brgy. Tonganon, Carmen.

Nakumpiska sa lugar ang mga gamit sa battery, mga gamot, mga damit, cellphone at iba pa.

Sumunod namang natisod ng tropang gobyerno ang isa pang BIFF camp bandang alas-2 ng hapon sa Brgy. Tonganon, Carmen ng

lalawigang ito.

Ang operasyon, ayon kay Encinas ay bahagi ng opensibang iniutos ni AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero upang lipulin ang nalalabi pang BIFF sa Central Mindanao dahil sa serye ng paghahasik ng mga ito ng terorismo. Gayunman, bago pa man makalapit ang tropang gobyerno ay mabi-

lis nang nagpulasan ang mga rebeldeng BIFF bitbit ang mga nalagas at sugatan nilang kasamahan.

Sinabi ni Encinas na ang nakubkob na kampo ng BIFF ay may tatlong tents na may canopy at 10 pang karagdagang improvised tents na pinaniniwalaang maaaring pagkasyahan ng mahigit 30 katao. (Joy Santos)

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Pahina. 3

Armadong dayuhan kasama ng BIFF sa Cotabato

Ilang armadong lalaki na mukhang mga dayuhan ang tinutagis ngayon ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng militar at pulisya matapos mapag-alamang labas-pasok ang mga ito sa kuta ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) sa Cotabato at Maguindanao.

Ayon kay Joint Task Force Central spokesman at CMO Mindanao regiment commander Col Gerry Besana, nakatatanggap sila ng impormasyon mula sa mga sibilyan na

may namamataang presensya ng mga dayuhan sa mga liblib na lugar sa Maguindanao at North Cotabato na kasama ng mga armadong grupo.

Marami ang naniniwala na mga miyembro ito ng teroristang Jemaaah Islamiyah at Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) na

kaalyado ng BIFF, Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) at Maute terror group.

Bunsod nito, sinabi ni Besana na bagaman patuloy pa ang kundang pagkumpirma sa ulat tinodong nang hinigpitan ng mga awtoridad ang seguridad sa Central Mindanao. (Betchai Julian)

COTABATO

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POLICE FILES

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**DND sa CPP-NPA rebels:
Sumuko kung ayaw bansagang terorista**

Hinamon kahapon ng Department of National Defense ang mga rebeldeng New People's Army na sumuko kung ayaw nilang mabansagang mga terorista.

Ayon kay Defense Spokesman Arsenio Andolong, kung ayaw ng CPP-NPA rebels na malagyan ng "terror tag" ng administrasyon ay walang pinakamabuti kundi ang magsisuko ang mga ito sa batas.

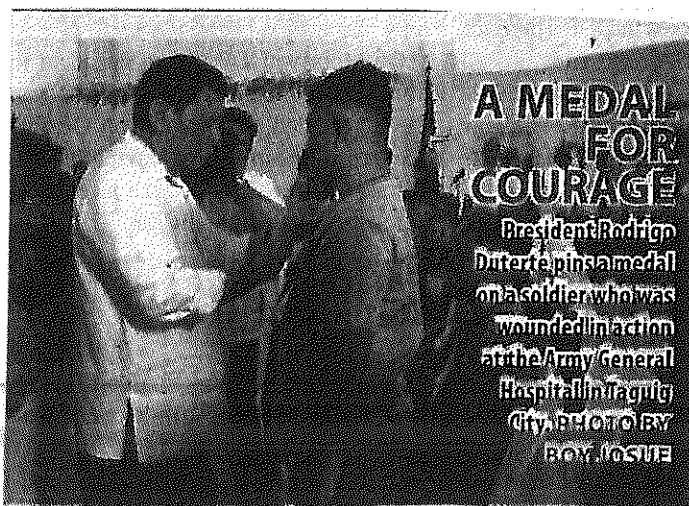
Una nang sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte na pinaplano na niyang lagyan ng 'terror tag' ang komunistang mga rebelde matapos ang serye ng pagkakasangkot ng mga rebelde sa paghahasik ng terorismo. Kabilang ang pananambang sa convoy ng mga pulis na ikinasawi ng isang parak at isang 4 buwang sanggol na babae sa Talakag, Bukidnon noong Nobyembre 9 ng taong ito at iba pang uri ng karahasan.

Idinagdag pa ni Andolong na hindi pa huli ang lahat para sumuko ang mga rebeldeng NPA, ang armed wing ng CPP-NDF dahil binibigyan pa ang mga ito ng pagkakataon ng pamahalaan na magbalikloob sa batas. *Joy Canlas*

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The Manila Times

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A MEDAL FOR COURAGE

President Rodrigo Duterte pins a medal on a soldier who was wounded in action at the Army General Hospital in Baguio City, PANGLOSS BY ROY VOSATE

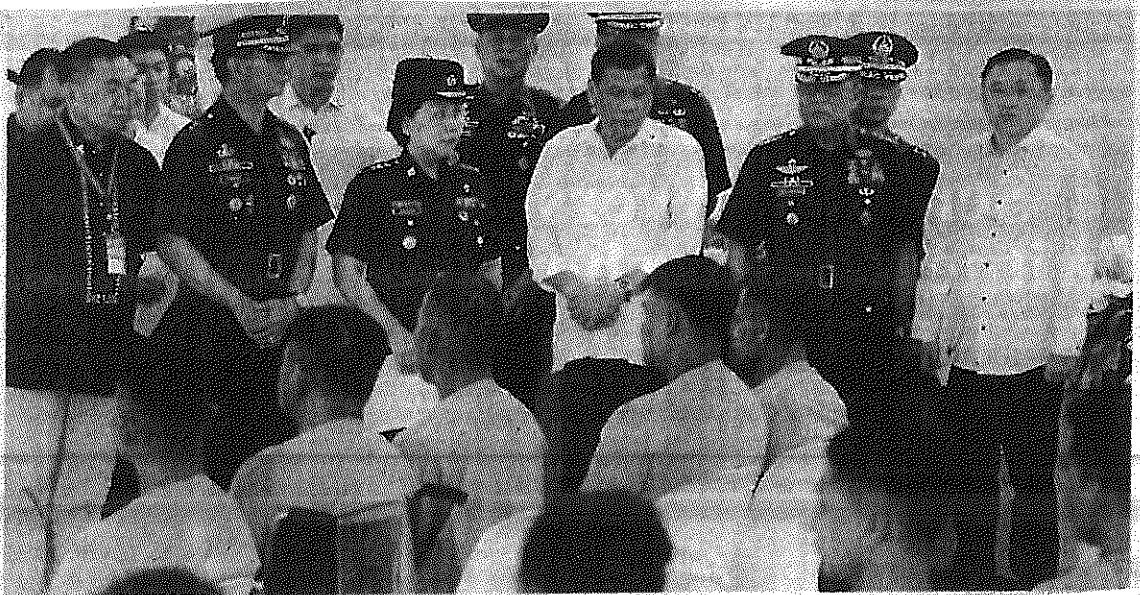
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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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HEART FOR SOLDIERS — President Duterte visits wounded soldiers at the Army General Hospital in Taguig City yesterday. His visit was marked by the awarding of the 'Order of Lapu-Lapu' (Kawagi Medal) to 26 soldiers wounded in action (WIA). The President also announced financial assistance, a mobile phone, and gun certificate to the WIAs from his office. (Camille Ante)

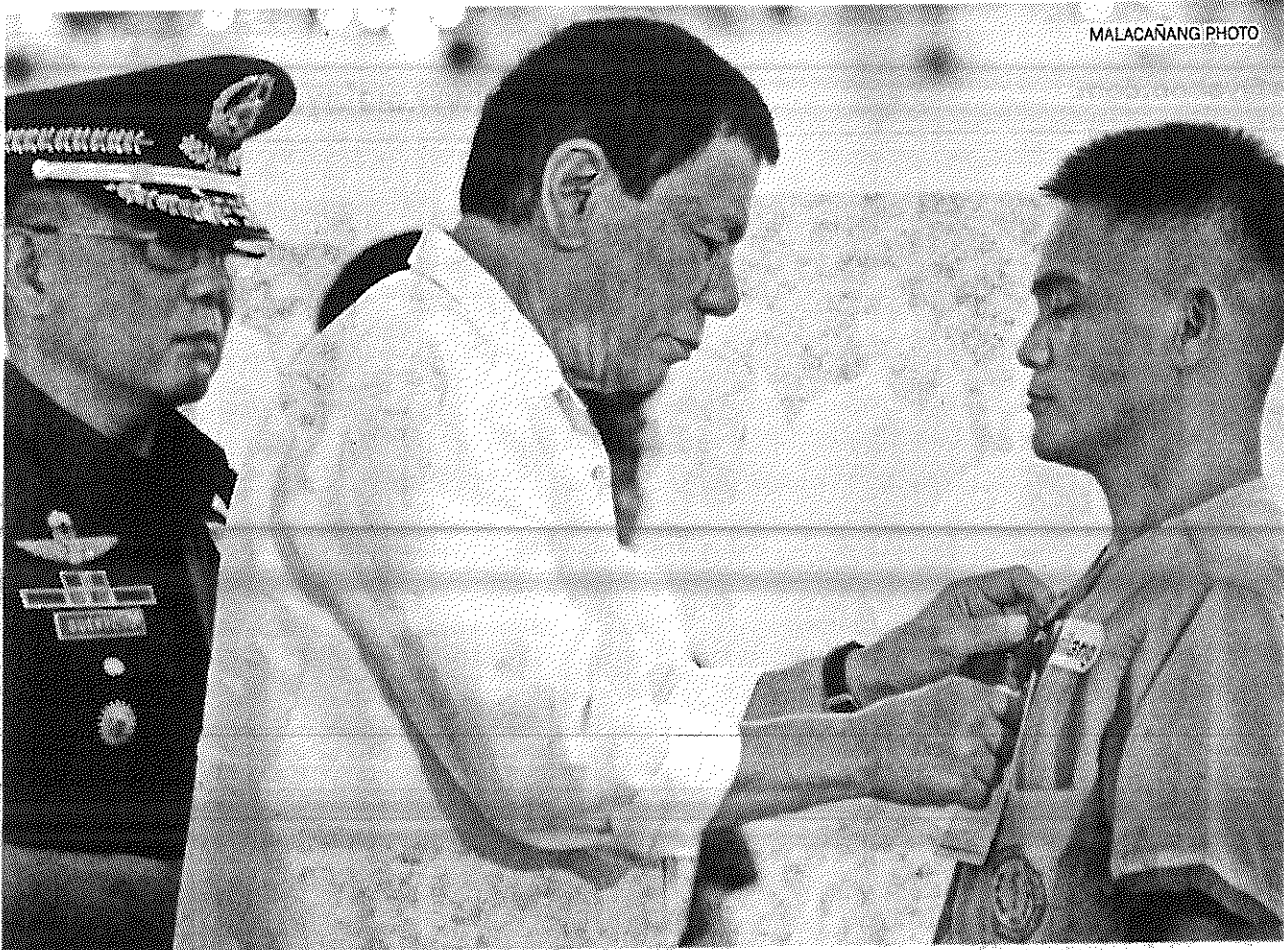


November 2017

Malaya

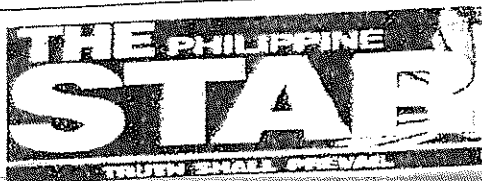
The Nation's Newspaper

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Honoring the soldier. President Duterte confers the Order of Lapu-Lapu Kampilan Medal on Sgt. Erwin Gassilang at the Army General Hospital in Fort Bonifacio. Gassilang was wounded in operations to liberate Marawi City from the Maute Group. With them is Armed Forces chief Gen. Rey Guerrero.

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Rody on NPA: No more talks, I'll give them war

By ALEXIS ROMERO

President Duterte is abandoning the peace talks with the communists and has threatened to shut down mining firms paying the so-called revolutionary tax to rebels.

"As of yesterday, I have decided to cut talks with the NPA (New People's Army)," Duterte said during a tribute to fallen soldiers in Taguig City yesterday.

Duterte said the communists have launched attacks that harmed innocent civilians and made demands that he could not give in to.

"I told (presidential peace ad-

viser Jesus) Dureza and (government chief negotiator Silvestre) Bello: 'You tell the guys there in Netherlands, I am no longer available for any official talk. *Giyera na lang tayo* (let us just wage war)," Duterte declared.

"So I have to build a strong army," he added.

Duterte also issued a stern warning against supporters of the communist rebels, including mining firms that provide them funding.

"All mining companies are paying taxes to the NPA. Without exceptions. Their mining won't thrive if they do not give money,"

Duterte said.

"We have to decide once and for all. If I go against the communists, then everybody has to reconfigure their relationship with the NPA. If you support them financially, I will close you down," he added.

Duterte said he is prepared to go to war with the communists, who have been waging an armed struggle against the government for 50 years.

"If they want war, I will give it to them. I cannot do anything because I tried to talk to them and asked them if we can reach a settlement," the President said.

"If you feel like the killing of

Filipinos should stop, then I would be happier. But they are asking me for things which I cannot give," he added.

Duterte called off peace negotiations with the rebels last July after the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) ordered the NPA to attack government troopers enforcing martial law in Mindanao.

The CPP, which is waging Asia's longest-running insurgency, called on its armed wing the NPA to launch offensives in response to Duterte's plan to put Mindanao under martial law until the end of the year.

OFF The President imposed martial law in Mindanao after jihadists laid siege to Marawi City last May 23. Marawi has been freed from terrorists last month but Mindanao remains under martial law because of the presence of extremists in other provinces.

Another contentious issue was the demand of the communists to free rebel leaders facing criminal charges. The government rejected this, saying it cannot be done until a bilateral cease-fire agreement is signed.

"When I was President, they are asking for something I cannot give because it is not mine to give and since they are very unreasonable, I said stand down but they do not follow," Duterte said.

Duterte slammed the NPA for the ambush in Bukidnon last Nov. 9 that left a four-month-old infant and a policeman dead.

"I will admit it, I am a fascist. I will categorize you already as terrorists," he said.

Duterte also claimed some militant groups are legal fronts that are "in conspiracy" with the NPA.

Last week, Duterte said he would issue a proclamation classifying the NPA as a terrorist group and threatened to launch a crackdown against leftist organizations.

"I'll be issuing a proclamation. I will remove them from the category of (a legal) entity or at least a semi-movement which would merit our attention – placing them, just like America – terrorists," Duterte said.

Duterte warned he would exert all efforts to file a slew of criminal charges against the communists.

"So beginning from now, there will be no more rebellion because rebellion is just a light offense. It can be bailable except for the leader. We will file (terrorism), murder, everything. Arson with murder. Everything. Because I would consider them criminals already," he said.

The communist insurgency that began in 1968 and which the military said is now mostly waged in Mindanao has claimed an estimated 30,000 lives.

The rebels have been in off-and-on peace talks with the government since Duterte was elected last year.

Both sides declared unilateral cease-fires, but these did not last.

Duterte suspended formal peace talks in May after both sides failed to resolve a dispute over the CPP order for the NPA to step up attacks.

Nothing new

The human rights group Karapatan said there was nothing new in Duterte's threat to send all leftists to jail.

"His threat to crack down on Bayan and other progressive groups, with the twisted logic that they are anathema to development and are conspiring with the Communist Party of the Philippines, is a tired and unoriginal repetition of the same plot weaved by known fascists like Marcos," said Cristina Palabay, secretary-general of Karapatan.

The crackdown threat is not at all surprising, especially after US President Donald Trump's visit.

"Duterte is now shamelessly parroting US declarations and even planning to list the New People's Army as a terrorist group," Palabay said.

Palabay defended Bayan and other militant groups, saying they "have long fought for the basic political and economic rights of the people."

She added that protests and dissent by these groups are helpful in pushing for reforms and changes in Philippine society.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) condemned Duterte for his crackdown on militant groups.

"As if the daily political killings of activists and leaders of progressive organizations are not enough, Duterte now wants a crackdown of all his critics whom he tagged as subversives," said Danilo Ramos, chairman of KMP.

"This is an open red-tagging not only against Bayan but against all critics of the Duterte administration. Duterte is obviously laying the ground for an open fascist rule and a possible nationwide martial law declaration. This is yet another proof of his very fragile leadership and very volatile political situation. Duterte is desperate to hold control of his presidency," Ramos said.

– With Artemio Dumlao, Ding Cervantes, Ben Serrano

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Pahina. 3

AFP, pabor na ituring na terorista ang NPA

KUNG tutuusin, ilang dekada na rin ang alitan ng gobyerno at ng NPA. Tipong nasanay na yata ang ilan sa banggaan ng mga ito.

At nagkaroon man ng peace talks; ang NPA hindi naman nagpaawat sa pag-atake kaya ang gobyerno, napikon na at ipinatigil na ang peace talks.

Kung tutuusin, para saan pa ang pag-uusap para sa kapayapaan kung tuloy din naman ang pag-atake nila, hindi ba?

At ngayon nga ang pinaka-latest, ang Malacañang balak na raw ideklarang teroristang grupo ang New Peoples' Army at ang hakbang na ito suportado naman ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Dahil kung susumahin, malinaw naman daw na terror attack ang ginagawa ng mga NPA member na paninira ng mga ari-arian at pangngikil sa mga sibilyan sa mga lalawigan.

Sa totoo lang, pangit naman talaga na tayu-tayo pang mga Pilipino ang siyang nag-aaway at hindi nagkakasundo pero kung ang effort sa pakikipag-ayos ay sa pamahalaan lang at hindi naman nakikinig o maipilit lang ang gusto ng kabilang panig at hindi rin sila tumitigil sa pag-atake, mukhang wala ngang kapupuntahan at pagsasayang lang ng pera at oras ang mga peace talks.

Baka nga sa pagkakataong ito ay ang pagturing na sa kanila bilang terorista ang solusyon upang mapatigil na sila sa kanilang mga pag-atake!

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Evacuees trickle back to Marawi

By Divina M. Suson
@inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—A section of this city, rendered a virtual ghost town at the height of the five-month fighting between government troops and terrorists, perked up with life on Monday as more than 1,000 families arrived after almost six months at an evacuation site in Iligan City.

More than 7,000 people (1,167 families) finally returned to their homes in the villages of Bacolod Chico, Toros, Lumbac A Toros and Tuca after fleeing the fighting between government troops and Islamic State (IS)-inspired terrorists who laid siege to the city on May 23.

Located along the coastline of Lake Lanao, the four villages, known among residents as Polo, are where armed men, believed to be from Butig town in Lanao del Sur province, arrived on-board motorboats two weeks before the war broke out.

Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of the military's Task Group Ranao, said

residents were supposed to return on Saturday, but some "sightings" in the area prompted the military to reschedule their homecoming.

"There were certain reasons, security reasons, that we cannot say in public. That's why we recommended to the Task Force Bangon Marawi to delay their return," Brawner said.

The war started when the military raided a house where Isnilon Hapilon, an Abu Sayyaf leader and the so-called IS "emir" in Asia, was staying. Hapilon's group fought back, triggering the fighting that dragged on for almost five months and displaced thousands of families from the capital Marawi and surrounding towns of Lanao del Sur.

Johaila Ismael, chair of Barangay Bacolod Chico, said 100 percent of her constituents had returned home.

The houses of at least two families, however, had been razed during the war. They are now living with relatives, but the city government is helping them in their needs, local officials said.

would be safe, considering that policemen had been sent to their community to secure them.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) will give returning families a sack of rice, food packs and P5,000 each, as promised by President Duterte. Some received P1,000 when they were in the evacuation centers. The remaining P4,000 will be released upon their return to their homes, DSWD officials said.

Sainollah Baute, a public schoolteacher, said while he was happy that his family was able to return to Baranay Tuca, he was devastated to see all their things in complete mess, their important belongings gone.

But Baute said they were much better off than those whose houses in the main battle area were destroyed.

"We can't do anything about it: We have to move on," he said. "It will take long before things normalize, but what is important is that we are now in our own house." —WITH A REPORT

FROM RICHEL V. UMEL INQ

The International Committee of the Red Cross has put up a facility to provide potable water for returning residents as the local water district has yet to restore supply in many parts of the city.

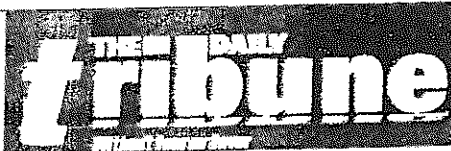
Ismael said personnel of the Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative (Lasureco) were speeding up work to restore power connections for free.

"But our problem is that

there's no free electric meters," she said. "Where will residents get the money to pay for the meters?"

Ismael said she was confident that the returning residents

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Palace to probe Maute terrorists' human rights abuses

By Ted Tuvera

Since the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) rejects investigating the abuses committed by terrorists and enemies of the state, Malacañang yesterday said it will begin probing the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Maute Group terrorists' human rights violations in Marawi City.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque, an experienced human rights lawyer, yesterday said that the executive will do what the CHR allegedly does not care to do – investigate.

Roque assailed the CHR of zeroing in on

state security forces' supposed rights violations instead of minding the bandits' atrocities.

"We are going to conduct our first press briefing in Marawi. And one of our tasks is to gather as many pieces of information on the cases that we can file against members of the Maute terrorist group for violations of the international humanitarian law which is the domestic law implementing the second additional protocol to the Geneva Conventions, otherwise known as punishing war crimes committed in non-international armed conflicts," Roque told a Palace briefing. *Turn to page 3*

From page 1

"It is always atrocities allegedly committed by state agents. And their position has been consistent, the role is to document abuses of human rights committed by state agents which is wrong, because international humanitarian law punishes everyone, even non-state actors," he added.

The Palace official said the CHR, instead of tracking down Maute's rights violations, is out to push its own agenda.

"We will do this knowing that the CHR will not be of any help in according victims of the Maute terrorist groups justice," Roque said.

"We're not waiting for the CHR's initiative because clearly they have other priorities," he added.

"Someone has to take up the cudgels for the victims of war crimes in domestic armed conflicts."

Roque, moreover, said the Palace trusts the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to police its ranks if ever they committed human rights violations during the five-month bloody siege in Marawi.

"As far as the Armed Forces are concerned, the Armed Forces have said they will investigate complaints filed against their soldiers," Roque said.

"It is always a treaty obligation under the Geneva Convention that the state must ensure its troops are in full compliance with the law and that there is a duty to investigate, punish and prosecute. So I leave that to the Armed Forces," the presidential spokesman added.

Roque also took offense at statements made by CHR Commissioner Roberto Cadiz for accusing a human rights lawyer of mocking the law and human rights.

While Cadiz did not name Roque, the Presidential spokesman

challenged him to name the Human Rights lawyer he is referring to and not give mere euphemistic attributions.

"I'd like to challenge Commissioner Cadiz, name names. Who is the lawyer whom he alleges to be making a mockery out of the rule of law and human rights? And who are the lawyers assisting this main lawyer whom he says is mocking human rights and the rule of law?" Roque said.

"That is why I take offense with that statement that some lawyers, according to the CHR, are – to quote again, he said, 'mocking the law and human rights.' I take it Commissioner Cadiz has claimed the monopoly for upholding the rule of law and human rights," he added.

Asked if feels alluded to by Cadiz's statement, Roque replied: "Let him specify who he is referring to."

Meanwhile, Philippine security forces cannot afford to let their guard down despite the defeat of ISIS-inspired Maute Group and their allies in Marawi City.

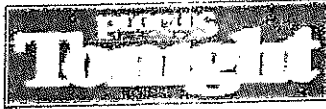
This was emphasized by Department of National Defense (DND) public affairs office chief Arsenio Andolong when sought for a comment regarding plans to extend martial law in Mindanao.

"It is the AFP who can best determine whether existing conditions in the areas covered by martial law warrant its extension," he added.

"Having said that, however, we must keep in mind that there are still remnants of the violent extremists and their supporters who desecrated Marawi City that are still at large.

"Their networks are still active and we cannot afford to let our guard down. Our pursuit of them must continue," Andolong stressed.

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DU30: Soldiers are not looters

"Di ako naniwala ang sundalo ko magnanakaw."

President Rodrigo Duterte said as he brushed aside allegations that some soldiers who fought Islamic State-inspired terrorists in Marawi City looted homes amid the conflict.

In a speech yesterday at the Army General Hospital in Taguig City, Duterte tagged the allegations against the soldiers as mere "in-trigues."

"Iyung mga imbestigasyon na nagnakaw daw sa Marawi, di ako naniwala d'yan. Nandun ako. 'di ako naniniwala ang sundalo ko magnanakaw," Duterte said.

"Saan mo ilagay yan? Pag-awi nyo para kayo nakasakay sa trak."

The President added it would be normal for soldiers to use some items in abandoned homes to improve their situation while fighting extremists.

The military earlier said six soldiers are under investigation for reportedly looting in Marawi City.

Col Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of Joint Task Group Bangko, said in October that one official and 5 personnel of the Philippine Army were being investigated for looting in the war-torn city, where residents had to flee their homes during the five-month conflict.

Brawner said the looting allegedly happened during the first few weeks of the siege.

Brawner said that the commanding officer of the soldiers involved immediately ordered his men to return the allegedly stolen items.

Duterte visited the Army General Hospital to confer on 26 soldiers the Order of Lapu-Lapu.

Twenty of the soldiers were wounded during the Marawi siege while the rest were wounded in clashes with rebel fighters from the New People's Army and Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters.

Established by Duterte in April, the Order of Lapu-Lapu is an award given to officials and personnel of government as well as private individuals in recognition of their invaluable or extraordinary service in relation to a campaign or advocacy of the President.

Efren Montano



22 November 2017

Roque takes CHR to task, probes Maute atrocities

By Efren Montano

MALACANANG lashed out yesterday at Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Commissioner Roberto Cadiz for saying that human rights and the rule of law are being mocked by a lawyer who is "aided and abetted by other lawyers."

Cadiz, in a speech in Pasig City on Monday, did not specify who these lawyers are but went on to cite killings under President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs and the Chief Executive's statements that seem to "advocate extrajudicial killings."

"I'd like to challenge Commissioner Cadiz, name names. Who is the lawyer who he alleges to be making a mockery out of the rule of law and human rights? And who are the lawyers assisting this main lawyer whom he says is mocking human rights and the rule of law?" Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said.

"ItakeitCommissioner Cadiz has claimed the monopoly for upholding the rule of law and human rights," he added.

Roque is set to fly to Marawi City today on a fact-finding mission to prepare cases against Maute Group members for human rights violations.

"Tomorrow, we are going to conduct our first press briefing in Marawi. And one of our tasks is to gather as many information on the cases that we can file against members of the Maute terrorist group for violations of international humanitarian law," Roque told Palace reporters in his regular briefing yesterday.

Roque said he has taken it upon himself to file the case since he does not expect the Commission on Human Rights to look into war-time atrocities by the Muslim extremists.

"I've not heard any investigation conducted by the CHR on the atrocities committed by the

Mautes. It is always atrocities allegedly committed by state agents," said the spokesman.

A lawyer and advocate of human rights and once taught international law, Roque said the CHR is also duty-bound to investigate human rights violations by non-state agents like the terrorists who took over Marawi.

"Someone has to take up the cudgels for the victims of war crimes in domestic armed conflicts," said Roque.

He also took exception to a remark by CHR Commissioner Roberto Cadiz that "a lawyer aided and abetted by other lawyers" are mocking "justice, human rights, and the rule of law."

Roque challenged Cadiz to name the lawyers he was referring to.

"I'd like to challenge Commissioner Cadiz, name names. Who is the lawyer who he alleges to be making a mockery out of the rule of law and human rights?" said Roque.

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ONLINE NEWS

22 NOVEMBER 2017

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NEW FRONT | AFP ready to engage in Cyberwarfare

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#)

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is ready to face the threat of a new battle ...CYBER-TERRORISM.



This was the assurance given by AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Marine Col Edgard Arevalo, during the holding of a Cyber Security Summit at the General Headquarters, Camp Gen Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

This is already the second time the AFP is holding this kind of summit after holding the first cyber security summit last June.

The summit is an educational and international forum that focuses on cyber-laws, all possible threats, and the use of modern technology against cyberterrorism.

Participants to the forum are information and communications technology experts of the AFP, Department of National Defense, Philippine National Police and various government security agencies together with private industry experts.

Col Arevalo added that AFP Chief of Staff Gen Rey Leonardo Guerrero would like to make sure that the AFP can adapt to the ever changing face of warfare and how it should properly react to attacks in cyberspace. **AES/ALS**

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NPAs DWINDLING | 2 Rebels voluntarily surrenders to 86IB

Arjo Santiago

ECHAGUE, Isabela (DWDD) – Troops from the 86th Infantry Battalion led by 2LT Reymar Inotao continues to pursue 30 members of the terror group New People's Army (NPA) who are responsible with the ambushade, landmine attacks, extortion, arson on various government and private projects in the region and even the recent encounter last November 12 that resulted on the death of Cpl Denver Banban.



Due to that encounter, troops from 86IB, conducted pursuit operations to tract down the fleeing NPA members from the encounter site. The next day, while conducting pursuit opns, two (2) NPA members approached the troops without firearms, and eventually have an intention to surrender themselves.

According to 502nd Infantry Brigade Commander BGen Bartolome Vincente Bacarro, the surrenderees were identified as Roberto C Dalupang Jr, 17-years old, a farmer from Purok 2, Simanu Norte, San Pablo, Isabela but currently residing at Purok 3, Barangay Diasan, Jones, Isabela and Oliver D Molina, 26-years old, married, from Purok 7, Barangay Pag-Asa, Echague, Isabela and currently residing at Purok 3, Barangay Diasan, Jones, Isabela.

The surrenderees, who are cousin's, executed sworn statements in front of Barangay Chairman Jose T Bautista and other barangay kagawad of Barangay Pag-Asa, Echague, Isabela I. They stated that they are active members of the NPA under a certain Kumander Jushua and were part of some ambushades that targeted soldiers. They also stated that they were treated humanely while in the custody.



The two decided to voluntarily surrender after witnessing the evil, lies and hardship experienced by the locals from the hands of the NPAs, which is totally the opposite of the image they are trying to project as "protectors of the poor."

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They also witnessed the brutal slaying of one of their wounded comrades from the hands of Kumander Jushua who deemed the victim as hampering their escape when he got shot after their encounter in Sitio. Minanga, Barangay. San Carlos, Echague, Isabela.

Robert and Oliver also revealed that the NPAs were not also able to fulfill their promise to them that they will receive monthly stipend if ever they would join the underground movement.

But what drew the last straw for their surrender was the intense military operations launched by government forces. They were forced to continuously move from one place to another just to evade arrest.

On November 17, three members of the NPA front Karapatan- Cagayan Valley went to the Headquarters of 86IB, looking for the 2 NPA members who surrendered, but the surrenderee refused to be interviewed and to be seen by the group of Karapatan.

Included also in their sworn affidavit, that they categorically denied the allegations made by NPA fronts KARAPATAN and DAGAMI that they were allegedly coerced to surrendered. They also added that they decided to surrender to government troops for fear of reprisal from their comrades.

On Nov 18, the two NPA surrenderee were released, and were warmly received by their brgy. officials. Prior to the release, they underwent medical certification that they were not been tortured and are in good health condition prior to the release.

They also revealed that the NPA does not enjoy anymore the support of the local populace. What the residents want is for the NPAs to leave their community for fear of being caught in the fighting. Residents are now defiant and cannot be easily swayed or threatened by the terrorist.

Robert and Oliver are now reaching out to their former comrades, that are still in hiding and are allowing themselves to be used by the NPA, to also voluntarily surrender in order to experience a more peaceful, safe, and progressive life with their family ad loveones, especially this coming Christmas. **AES/ALS**

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AFP holds 2nd Cyber Security Summit

By Priam Nepomuceno

MANILA -- The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) conducted Monday its second Cyber Security Summit to educate its personnel on persisting and emerging threats in the country's cyber frontier.

"This undertaking is an educational and informational forum that will focus on cyber laws, threats, and application of technologies against advanced cyber security challenges," AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said in a statement.

Subject matter experts from Microsoft, 8Layer Technologies, and FireEye Solutions discussed awareness, strategies, trends, and threats, with some 100 participants from the AFP General Headquarters, Major Services, and Unified Commands.

Participants from the Department of National Defense, Department of Information and Communications Technology, Philippine National Police, and Philippine Coast Guard, were also present.

"Securing our IT infrastructure, through informed and trained personnel, will have a profound effect on the way we conduct our operations on the ground," AFP Chief-of-Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero said.

"Just as the threats around us are evolving, we too, in the security sector, must adapt and advance our strategies and capabilities to effectively respond to threats in the cyber security frontier," he added.

The first Cyber Security Summit was held at the AFP Commissioned Officers Club in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City last June. *(PNA)*

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Gov't to welcome NPA surrenderers: DND

By Priam Nepomuceno

MANILA – Rebels of the New People's Army (NPA) who are tired of the incessant fighting and who wish to live in peace with their loved ones are very welcome to surrender and join society again, a defense official said.

"The SND (Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana) has time and again called on the NPA to stop all their illegal activities, return to the fold of the law, and be part of the real change that the President (Rodrigo Duterte) has spearheaded for the betterment of our country and the lives of our people," Department of National Defense (DND) public affairs office chief Arsenio Andolong said Sunday when asked to comment on Duterte's plan to declare the NPA a terrorist organization.

The Chief Executive made the statement following the rebel group's series of atrocities in Mindanao, including an ambush that killed a four-month-old baby girl and a police officer.

Andolong said it is not too late for NPA members who want to surrender.

"If they are really sincere in pursuing what is good for the Filipino nation, they should lay down their arms and turn their backs on banditry and violence now," he said. *(PNA)*

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