

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

03 October 2017

Tuesday

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

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PANAHON TV
www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

BALANCED NEWS - FEARLESS VIEWS

UPDATE: WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 3, 2017 | TUESDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
AFFECTING SOUTHERN LUZON AND VISAYAS
(As of 4:00 PM - October 2, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:46 AM	5:44 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
4:04 PM	3:16 AM
FIRST QUARTER	FULL MOON
SEP 28 10:54 AM	OCT 8 2:41 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
3:32 PM 0.17 Meter	7:58 AM 0.38 Meter

Partly cloudy to if foggy initially, with rain showers and/or thunderstorms.
Cloudy skies with rain showers and/or thunderstorms.

METRO MANILA	TAGAYTAY	TACLOBAN
25-32°C	25-32°C	24-32°C
TUGUEGARAO	LEGAZPI	CAGAYAN DE ORO
24-31°C	25-33°C	24-32°C
LAOAG	PUERTO PRINCESA	METRO DAVAO
24-31°C	25-31°C	24-32°C
BAGUIO	ILOILO/BACOLOD	ZAMBOANGA
15-24°C	25-33°C	24-31°C
SBMA/CLARK	METRO CEBU	
25-32°C	25-31°C	

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

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

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Carnage in Las Vegas

Over 50 dead, 400 wounded in concert shooting

LAS VEGAS - A gunman killed at least 50 people and wounded more than 400 when he opened fire on a country music concert in Las Vegas Sunday in the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history.

Police initially said the gunman, a 64-year-old Nevada resident identified as Stephen Paddock, had been killed after a SWAT team responded to reports of multiple gunfire from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay, a hotel-casino next to the concert venue.

Reports later yesterday, however, said Paddock, who was found with 10 guns in the hotel room, had killed himself.

Concert-goers screamed and fled in panic as a steady stream of automatic gunfire rang out at the venue shortly after 10 p.m. local time, foot-

age captured on smart phones showed.

"We are looking at in excess of 50 individuals dead and of 200 individuals injured at this point," Las Vegas Metro Police Sheriff Joseph Lombardo told a pre-dawn press conference yesterday in the Nevada gambling hub. The number of wounded later rose to 400.

Lombardo said that police and FBI were still looking into Paddock's background.

Police said Paddock, who lived in a town around 130 kilometers northeast of Las

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Carnage From Page 1

Vegas, had opened fire on the crowds below from the upper reaches of the giant hotel located on the famous Las Vegas Strip.

Paddock's female companion, Marilou Danley, person of interest by police, was located and cleared of involvement, Lombardo added.

Thousands of fans were attending the concert next to the Mandalay Bay as part of a three-day country music festival known as Route 91.

Donald Trump was briefed on the "horrific tragedy," the White House said, and the US president took to Twitter to offer his "warmest condolences and sympathies" to victims and families.

'Like firecrackers'

Witnesses told how Paddock opened fire with an initial long burst, and then appeared to reload as he continued his spree.

"We heard (what) sounded like a glass breaking, so you looked around to see what's going on and then heard a pop, pop, pop," Monique Dekerf told CNN.

"You'd think for a moment OK we're fine, there's no more gunfire, then it starts again."

Her sister Rachel said it sound-

ed like "the shots were coming from the right side ... it sounded like they were right beside us too ... it was right there."

Best-selling country singer Jason Aldean was on stage and near the end of his concert when the shooting began.

Aldean initially carried on playing when the first crackle of gunfire could be heard but then hurried off the stage once he realized that it was a shooting.

Robert Hayes, a firefighter from Los Angeles who was watching the concert near the front of the stage, said he first thought the gunfire was some kind of equipment malfunction.

Once he realized what was going on, he joined the first responders, donning one of their vests.

"Honestly I probably pronounced 15-20 people" dead, he told *Fox News*. "It was pretty much like a war scene inside."

The emergency crews used anything at hand as makeshift stretchers, including tables and metal railings normally used to control the crowds, Hayes said.

Asked if he thought it was an inexperienced gunman, he responded: "With 30,000 people in the arena area, it was kind of like

shooting goldfish ... He didn't have to be good."

'Beyond horrific'

Although the final toll has yet to be confirmed, it is already the deadliest shooting in the United States.

The previous deadliest shooting came in June 2016 when 49 people were killed at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida.

It was also the latest in a series of recent deadly attacks at concert venues.

Twenty-two people were killed while leaving an Ariana Grande concert in the northern English city of Manchester in May when a suicide bomber detonated a nail bomb in the foyer.

Ninety people were killed in November 2015 at the Bataclan venue in Paris during a concert by the US band the Eagles of Death Metal.

A shocked Aldean told his fans via Instagram that he and his band was safe.

"Tonight has been beyond horrific," the singer wrote. "I still don't know what to say ... My thoughts and prayers go out to everyone involved tonight."

"It hurts my heart that this would happen to anyone who was just coming out to enjoy what should have been a fun night."
- AFP

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1983
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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NPA rebel slain in Agusan encounter with military

BY NIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City – A New People's Army (NPA) rebel was killed, while an undetermined number of other insurgents were believed wounded in a gun battle between government and Communist forces in Mabuhay area, Prosperidad town, Agusan del Sur, a military report on Monday said.

The military report also said troops from the Third Special Forces Battalion (3rd SFB), led by Lt. Col. Rhoderick Parallag, seized from the still unidentified NPA fatality an AK-47 rifle and several rounds of live ammunition.

Operating elements of the 3rd SFB also recovered improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and three backpacks, military report said.

The encounter took place when the 3rd SFB security forces conducting chanced upon the NPAs in Mabuhay area on Friday during a regular patrol.

While composite elements of Special Forces Team C31, 3rd SFB were approaching the reported enemy location, the lead element confirmed the presence of armed NPAs and a firefight ensued, military report said.

After a 30-minute gunfight, the NPA group withdrew to different directions carrying undetermined number of (NPA) wounded comrades, Parallag said.

He said the encountered NPA group were members of guerilla-Front Committee 19-A of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee operating in Prosperidad town and parts of Lianga, Surigao del Sur.

No one was hurt among the government forces.

Meanwhile, Col. Andres Centino, commanding officer of the Army's 401st Infantry (Unity) Brigade, lauded the troops involved in the successful security operation against the NPAs in Mabuhay area.

"It is our mandate to protect the community and people and we will continue to go after these NPA terrorists who continue to extort and sow fear among the civilians," the 401st Brigade commander said as he also urged the remaining active NPAs to lay down their arms and return to the folds of the law then avail the government's peace and development programs.

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4 NPA rebels surrender in Palawan

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, Palawan (PNA) — Fraught with continuing focus and civil military operations in the hinterlands of southern Palawan, four active members of the New People's Army (NPA) surrendered and turned over their firearms to government forces from the Armed Forces of the Philippines - Western Command (AFP-WESCOM).

Captain Cherryl Tindog, WESCOM spokesperson, on Sunday said two male and two female NPA rebels, three of them still in their teens, surrendered to the military.

She identified the male rebels who

surrendered last September 28 as Jeffrey Orit Sampaca, alias Ka Ruben and Ka Dante, 25; and Henry Poyang Minduk, alias Ka Daniel, 18, both residents of Sitio Tabud, Barangay Saraza, Brooke's Point.

The two females who surrendered were Germalyn Batuan Pitogo, alias Gengen, 16, and Analyn Pitogo Ambuan, alias Ansa, 19, both residents of Sitio Macagua, Barangay Amas, Brooke's Point, who surrendered on September 29.

Tindog said Sampaca and Minduk turned over their firearms – an M16 Bushmaster with one short magazine,

and an M1 garand with five clips and 40 rounds ammunition, two IEDs, and one rocket parachute flare – to troops belonging to the Marine Battalion Landing Team-4 (MBLT-4).

Pitogo and Ambuan, on the other hand, surrendered through the intervention of Pala tribal leader Cunanam Pitogo.

The tribal leader is the father of Germalyn and the uncle of Analyn.

The WESCOM condemns the use of child soldiers of the communist-terrorists in Palawan in their ranks and operations, she said as she noted that "child soldier-

ing is a clear violation of human rights and the International Humanitarian Law."

Tindog said the four rebels are now under the custody of the military for validation and documentation, facilitation of their application for the Local Social Integration Program (LSIP) of the provincial government, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government's (DILG) Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP).

"We are glad that these four communist-terrorists have decided to surrender and return to the fold of the law. Their surrender, together with their firearms, IEDs and other war materials is a serious blow to communism-terrorism in the province," said WESCOM commander Major

General Galileo Gerard Kintanar Jr.

Kintanar added the WESCOM continues to urge other members of the NPA to put their arms down and surrender.

"The LSIP and the CLIP are waiting for them to start their lives anew," the WESCOM commander said.

Meantime, three soldiers from the Marine Battalion Landing Team-12 (MBLT-12) suffered minor injuries in a Saturday morning ambush that was apparently perpetrated by the NPA in Sitio Italpak, Barangay Dumarao, Roxas.

The three wounded Marines were part of a convoy returning to the MBLT-12's headquarters in Roxas following a logistics run from Taytay town in northern Palawan.

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NPA attacks raise doubts on peace talks

The recent attacks by New People's Army (NPA) rebels fuel public doubts on the resumption of peace talks with the communists, Malacañang said yesterday.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella cited the disarming of officials involved in counterinsurgency efforts in Sarangani and South Cotabato, kidnapping of a tribal leader and a militiaman in Surigao del Sur as well as the killing

of a policeman and attack on a military convoy in Masbate last week.

"The government will undertake appropriate steps to deal decisively with these forces that seem to have lost their sense of nation-building," Abella said.

Last month, President Duterte said he was open to resuming talks with the communists after the rebels released a policeman they kidnapped in

Davao Oriental last June.

"If you want to resume the talks, I am not averse to the idea. But let me sort out first the other branches of government," the President had said.

As this developed, Alex Gawilan, alias Banate, the head of the Sentro De Gravidad group of the NPA's Guerrilla Front 53 in North Cotabato, surrendered in Arakan town on Sunday.

Gawilan also turned over

his M16 rifle to the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion.

"The NPA says it is fighting for human rights but uses outlawed armaments against unarmed targets," Gawilan told reporters when asked why he decided to surrender.

Police said Gawilan's group was behind recent attacks in Arakan, President Roxas and Magpet towns.

– Alexis Romero, John Unson

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The Manila Times

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NPA attacks fuel doubts on peace talks – Palace

THE series of attacks by alleged members of the New People's Army (NPA) has "fueled the public's doubt" on the sincerity of the Communist Party of the Philippines in the peace process, Malacañang said on Monday.

The NPA, the communist party's armed wing, was tagged in at least five attacks in various provinces last month.

"The New People's Army attacks in Sarangani, South Cotabato, Surigao del Sur, Palawan and Masbate fueled the public's doubt about the talks with the group," Palace spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a news conference.

Abella said the NPA rebels disarmed village officials and members of the civilian volunteers organization in Sarangani and South Cotabato who were active in the government's counter-insurgency

campaign.

"They abducted a tribe leader and a CAFGU (Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit) member in Surigao del Sur and ambushed a military convoy in Palawan and also killed a policeman in Masbate," he said. "The government will undertake appropriate steps to deal decisively with these forces that seemed to have lost their sense of nation-building."

Last week, President Rodrigo Duterte said he is not keen on resuming talks with the communists, saying it would just be a waste of money.

Duterte scrapped the peace talks in July after the communist leadership ordered leftist fighters to launch offensives against government troops to protest the imposition of martial law in Mindanao.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE

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Rody visits Marawi for 6th time

By ALEXIS ROMERO

President Duterte yesterday visited Marawi City for the sixth time to witness the unveiling of shelters for the residents displaced by the clashes between government forces and terrorists.

The construction of shelters was part of the “Bahay Pag-asa” project initiated by the Tarlac Heritage Foundation, one of the private groups helping the government rebuild the battle-ravaged city.

Recipients of the shelter would be part of a “green community,” which has solar panels to enable occupants to use appliances and equipment like electric fans, radios and mobile phones.

The community also has a big garden with organic vegetables and medicinal plants and a multi-purpose hall.

The temporary shelters were made of bamboo and benefitted 50 families in Barangay Bito Buadi Itowa.

During the event Duterte assured the beneficiaries of the shelters that the government is pushing for federalism to address the conflict in Mindanao. He also vowed to address the threat posed by communist rebels once the Marawi crisis is over.

“We have to finish it otherwise the next generation would inherit this (problem),” Duterte said.

After the event, Duterte visited the troops fighting the Maute terrorists and distributed goods like sunglasses and watches.

More than 900 people have died since the Marawi siege started when the Maute group attacked the city last May 23.

Malacañang also welcomed the holding of a mass at Saint Mary’s Cathedral last Sunday, the first since the crisis erupted.

The cathedral is one of the areas occupied by the Maute terrorists.

“Saint Mary’s Cathedral had been damaged during the siege of the city; and the terrorist group posted propaganda video of their desecration of the cathedral’s religious images,” presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said.

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Malaya

The National Newspaper

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Military: 1-2 weeks more to end Marawi conflict

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Armed Forces yesterday said government forces would need one to two weeks more to rid Marawi City of Maute Group terrorists.

AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said the new timetable, set by AFP Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, took into account the operational tempo on the ground.

"We just need a few more days... He (Galvez) said a few more days may span a week or two... As much as possible, we don't want to set a deadline," Arevalo told a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo.

On September 19, President Duterte said the fighting in Marawi City may be over within that month. Last week, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the conflict may end last Sunday, citing assessments by military ground commanders.

The conflict started on May 23

See MILITARY > Page B6

MILITARY

and has so far killed 742 Maute members, 155 soldiers and policemen, and 47 civilians.

Arevalo said the military is "appealing to the public for more patience.

He said troops continue to face challenges in the efforts to rid the city of terrorists, like improvised bombs planted by the Maute and the presence of civilian hostages.

Arevalo said the size of the battle ground is now eight to nine hectares, down from 10 hectares as of two weeks ago. He said there are about 50 Maute members left with about 43 hostages.

"Your soldiers and policemen are conducting operations night and day, even on Saturdays and Sundays. We are just as eager as

you are, we are interested as you everyday to end this the soonest time possible and start the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi," he said.

OMAR MAUTE, HAPILON

Arevalo said Maute leader Omar Maute and senior Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon are still inside the main battle area, based on military reports.

AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año said a few weeks ago that the other Maute leader, Abdullah Maute, and two other brothers have been killed in the operations, based on various sources.

"We believe they don't want to be caught alive. But if we will be able to capture them alive, that will be good because that will give us

the opportunity to get information from them," said Arevalo.

Arevalo reiterated the military's appeal for the terrorist leaders and their members to surrender, noting they are at the "losing end."

SIXTH VISIT

President Duterte, on his sixth visit to the city during the conflict, inaugurated 50 temporary shelters that were distributed to some displaced families.

He was accompanied by Lorenzana, Special Assistant to the President Christopher "Bong" Go, and show business personality Robin Padilla.

The shelters called "Bahay Pag-Asa" are made of bamboo and constructed by the Tarlac Heritage Foundation in coordination government and the Chinese-Filipino

Business Club Inc.

The shelter area is located in a 1.2-hectare lot in Barangay Bityo Buadi Itowa. It has solar panels and a garden with organic vegetables and medicinal plants.

After the event, the President met with soldiers and distributed relief goods including watches and sunglasses.

Kristoffer James Purisima, assistant secretary of the Office of Civil Defense, said construction of sturdier transitional shelters made of cement started last September 8. Government hopes to distribute these before Christmas.

He said at least 1,500 transitional shelters are being built but about 2,000 displaced families had signified interest to avail themselves of the temporary houses. — *With Jocelyn Montemayor*

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

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EVEN IN PLAY, MARAWI KIDS REFUSE TO BECOME MAUTE MEMBERS

ILIGAN CITY—The war in Marawi City was far from being child's play but children in an evacuation center here acted it out in a bid by authorities to deal with their trauma.

But who would play the bad guys? "I'm so beautiful to be a Maute," said Shameera, 12, a child evacuee, who was asked to play the part of a member of the homegrown Islamic State (IS)-affiliated group.



Children of Marawi City walk back to their evacuation camp after participating in a play about the war that tore their communities apart. —RICHEL V. UMEL

Shameera's role was to wave a black IS flag as other children playing terrorists' roles were firing make-believe guns.

Shameera said the role she wanted to play was of a nurse treating wounded soldiers and civilians "but our director said I should be Maute."

She pointed to Leslie, 14, another child evacuee who directed the play.

Another child evacuee, Orak, said he insisted on playing the role of a hostage "because I hate the Maute" and could not bear playing terrorist.

Unwanted role

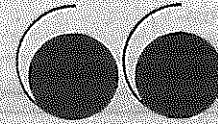
"Even if it's just a play, I did not want to become a Maute," said Orak, 11, whose father teaches Arabic in a madrasa in Marawi City.

Orak and another child evacuee, Masiki, 9, said they wanted to play the role of a soldier but had been persuaded, along with another child evacuee, Jomar, to play roles as Maute gunmen.

"I don't want to portray bad people," Masiki said.

The boys relented only when told that the play would end in the Maute's defeat.

The children asked to play roles as terrorists said they didn't have difficulty acting. "We just have to kill and destroy," said Jomar, giggling. "Besides we can rest early because



They portrayed the conflict naturally because of what happened to them and their families...

Angeline Carioso
Army corporal

we have to die in the play," he said, raising his gun, made from a banana trunk.

Other children got what they considered to be ideal roles as soldiers.

Langkong, 12, said being a soldier was exactly what he wanted to be when he grew up. "I'd like to fight bad people," said Langkong, son of a Maranao fisherman.

The boy said he wanted to defeat the Maute not only in a play. "I hate them. They destroyed our city," he said.

Happy ending

As the loudspeaker blurted "Awit sa Marawi" composed by Vehnee Saturno, the children acted in the play, which also depicted the sufferings of displaced

VP

WAR SHOCK THERAPY



Children evacuees from Marawi City pose for a picture after acting out roles as Maute members during a play designed as trauma therapy for children who were driven away from their homes by the war on terror. —RICHEL V. UMEL

residents in evacuation centers.

The play, which was part of the children's psychosocial activities, was performed at the Iligan School of Fisheries in Barangay Buru-un here on Saturday.

In the end, peace reigned.

Cpl. Angeline Carioso, of the Joint Task Force Tabang, said the play was among activities designed to help children evacuees cope with the trauma of war.

"They portrayed the conflict naturally because of what happened to them and their families," Carioso said.

Carioso said the play eventually ended with the bad guys reforming and joining efforts for peace.

"We wanted to impart to the children that, in spite of what happened, it is not good to exact revenge," she said.

The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) said the Marawi crisis threatened the development of at least 50,000 children and posed the risk of severe long term impact on children's mental health.

Lotta Sylwander, Unicef country representative, said providing the children with child-friendly space could counter the ill-effects of the crisis.

"This helps them regain a sense of normalcy in their lives," Jess Far, a Unicef child protection specialist, added. —JEFFREY MAITEM AND ALLAN NAWAL INQ

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The Manila Times

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'Hostages-turned-terrorists will be treated as Maute'

BY DEMPSEY REYES

HOSTAGES who have joined the Maute Group will be treated as terrorists like their adopted comrades, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) warned on Monday.

But AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said the military cannot identify with certainty who among the hostages in the siege of Marawi City have turned into gunmen of the Maute Group, which is affiliated with the Islamic State (IS).

"If they will be the one shooting at us first, we have to continue our combat operations and then we have to also protect ourselves especially if we are the ones being shot at first [by the hostages forced to fight soldiers]," Arevalo told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo, the AFP's general headquarters in Quezon City.

"They will be treated as part of the local terrorist group especially if we do not have information if that person was an enemy or a real Maute-ISIS fighter or that person was forced to fight," he said, using another acronym for the IS—Islamic State in Syria and Iraq.

The latest tally from the military showed that 749 terrorists and

47 civilians had been killed in the four-month-old fighting in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur.

According to Arevalo, hostages forced to fight government troops and killed in combat would have to be counted as Maute casualties.

Government forces are communicating with the hostages inside the main battle zone in order to determine whether any hostage has turned into a terrorist.

Forty-three hostages remain inside the battle zone, according to Arevalo.

He called for more patience from the public as the fighting had entered the month of October, citing challenges being faced by

troops in the field.

Last week, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the fighting could be over as the month of October approached but that deadline was not met as clashes continued on Sunday, October 1.

Arevalo said the military would be needing "a few more days" to finish the war and in clearing strongholds of the Maute bandits.

"We saw that there was a great reduction of strength and capability from the Maute to withstand the onslaught of our personnel

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but we also cannot belittle [them]. What we are saying is that we have the upper hand, we gained the momentum, the operational tempo is with us," he added.

"We are just as eager as you are in finishing this war, we are just as interested as everyone else to ensure that we would be able to finish this and to get into full swing the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi," Arevalo said.

About eight to nine hectares of a highly-urbanized area with tall buildings remain as maneuvering ground of the Maute Group in Marawi, according to him.

Consequences

The AFP public affairs chief said the military is confident that Omarkhayam Maute and Southeast Asian "emir" of the IS group Isnilon Hapilon are still within the main battle area, citing reports.

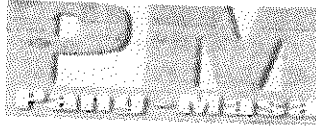
He called on the two top Maute leaders to surrender to authorities, assuring them that they will be treated "humanely."

Hapilon and Omarkhayam, however, would have to face consequences of their actions in aiming to establish an independent Islamic state in Marawi City, Arevalo said.

The military would also prefer to have Hapilon and Omarkhayam alive once they are found by the government within the area but Arevalo said the two terror leaders will not let themselves to be captured alive.

"But, if we will be able to capture them alive, that will be good so that we can have our chance to ask them about other information that would come straight from them, but if in any case, they already see that they are on the losing end, that they should surrender now," he added.

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Pahina. 2

AFP: Hapilon, Omar Maute hulihin nang buhay

Mas nais ng tropa ng militar na hulihin ng buhay ang dalawang nalalabing lider ng Maute-ISIS na sina Abu Sayyaf Commander Isnilo Hapilon at Omar Maute.

Ito ang inihayag kahapon ni AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Col. Edgardo Arevalo kaugnay ng patuloy na bakbakan sa Marawi City na ang krisis ay pumalo na sa ika-133 araw kahapon.

Si Hapilon, may \$5-M reward sa pamahalaan ng Estados Unidos at P10-M

sa Pilipinas ang itinalagang Emir ng ISIS sa Southeast Asia habang si Omar Maute, may P10-M patong sa ulo at nanatili pa ring namumuno sa tinatayang nasa 50 na lamang terorista sa battle zone sa lungsod.

“Sa tingin natin hindi sila magpapahuli ng buhay, but if we will be able to capture them alive that will be good sapagkat magkakaroon tayo ng pagkakataon upang matanong pa sila ng mga ibang mga impormasyon

na pwede nating malaman mula sa kanila,” pahayag ni Arevalo.

Magugunita na sa huling tating ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana ay sinabi nito na hanggang Oktubre 1 na lamang ang krisis pero nitong nakalipas na Sabado bago ang itinakdang deadline ay humirit pa si AFP Western Mindanao Command Chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. ng karagdagang pang 10-15 araw para tapusin ang krisis sa lungsod. *-Joy Carlos-*

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10 armed men held after trying to enter Camp Aguinaldo

By Mario J. Mallari

Ten armed men, claiming to be members of the so-called "Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty," were apprehended in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday after they were found to be carrying firearms while trying to enter the military general headquarters.

Nabbed were Daniel Pagalan, the supposed "Chief Intelligence Division" of the group; and members Alvin Shubahon; Rolando Mahusay alias Kumander Melody; Dioscoro Danis; James Iwayan; Butch Galimba; Rico Giducos; Ramil Peralta; Rundy Paderes; and Pascuala Dizon alias Kumander Haslim.

Seized from their possession were two homemade .45 caliber pistols, three 9mm, seven magazines for .45 and 9mm with live bullets and identification cards "of still unknown authority and source."

Col. Edgard Arevalo, public affairs chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), said that the incident happened at around 5:45 a.m. at Gate 1 of Camp Aguinaldo.

"They were held for questioning for bringing firearms with no appropriate documents. Neither were they holders of gun ban exception from the Comelec," said Arevalo.

The Comelec gun ban started October 1 in connection to the

barangay elections. Report said that the group came from Koronadal City and were not aware of the gun ban.

"They were identified based from identifications they presented bearing the heading Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty," Arevalo said.

Arevalo said the group arrived at the camp's gate on board a van, but they quickly drew the suspicions of soldiers manning the gate.

"The fact that they wore T-shirts of same color and design drew the suspicion of the guards on duty. When asked, the men admitted to have firearms in their possession," he said.

The members of the group reportedly told the military guards that they were on their way to present their letter requesting accreditation to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana through a staff.

But upon checking, it turned out that they have no prior appointment with the office that they intended to visit, prompting the base police to hold them.

The 10 were later turned over to Philippine National Police Station 8 in Quezon City.

"We commend the guards on duty under the leadership of Colonel John Dominic Pulido, the Camp Commander, for their vigilance and appropriate action taken as required under the circumstances," Arevalo said.

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Armed group barred from Camp Aguinaldo

Members of a group calling itself the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty were prevented from entering Camp Aguinaldo yesterday morning after they were found to be carrying guns.

Five handguns – two homemade .45 caliber pistols and three 9mm pistols – were seized from them along with seven magazines loaded with 47 9mm bullets and 26 .45 caliber

bullets, said Col. Edgard Arevalo, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief.

The group was led by Daniel Pagalan, their chief intelligence officer, with their members identified as Alvin Simbahon, Rolando Mahusay alias Kumander Melody, Dioscoro Danis, James Iwayan, Butch Galimba, Rico Gidacos, Ramil Peralta, Rundy Paderes and

Pascua Dizon, alias Kumander Haslim.

Arevalo said they presented identification cards bearing the group's name.

The men were intercepted as they tried to enter Camp Aguinaldo in a van at around 5:30 a.m., claiming they were on their way to present a letter requesting accreditation to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

They were held for ques-

tioning when it turned out they had no prior appointment and they did not have gun ban exemptions from the Commission on Elections.

The AFP has turned the group over to the Quezon City Police District Station 8.

Arevalo commended the guards on duty at the time for their "vigilance and appropriate action taken."

– Michael Punongbayan

03 October 2017



Pahina. 6

NPA commander sumuko

Umani ng tagumpay ang counter-insurgency campaign ng pamahalaan matapos na sumuko sa tropa ng militar ang isang kumander ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) sa Arakan, North Cotabato kamakalawa.

Kinilala ang sumukong high ranking leader ng NPA na si Alex Gawelan, alias Ka Banate, commander ng Guerilla Front (GF) 53 ng NPA Southern Mindanao Regional Committee.

Ayon kay Capt. Mc Gary Dida, Civil Military Operations (CMO) Officers ng 1002nd Infantry Brigade (IB) ng Philippine Army (PA) si Ka Banate ay sumurender sa tropa ng 39th Infantry Battalion (IB) na nakabase sa Brgy. Ganatan, Arakan ng lalawigan ng ito kamakalawa ng hapon.

Isinurender din ng nasabing rebelde ang kanyang M-16 rifle kung saan tinulungan siya ng isang lider ng tribo sa pagbabalik-loob sa gobyerno.

Inamin ni Ka Banate na nagdesisyon siyang sumuko sa pamahalaan dahil sa sawa na siya sa mga kasinungalingang pangako ng mga rebelde. Aniya, hindi niya nakayanan na inaabandona na lamang ng kanilang mga kasamahan ang mga sugatang rebelde at ang mga sundalo pa ang gumagamot sa kanila.

"The cooperation of the tribal leaders and the IP communities plays a significant role in reaching out the NPA's in the hinterlands of Arakan" pahayag naman ni Col. Roberto Ancan, commander ng 1002nd IB. **Joy Cantos**

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DU30: Gov't to deal with NPA in due time

By Ted Tuvera

After hinting that he is willing to resume the stalled peace talks with the communist movement, President Duterte yesterday said that he will still proceed with the war against them.

In his sixth visit in war-hit Marawi City, the Commander in Chief reiterated that the military will soon redirect its efforts against the New People's Army (NPA).

The NPA has intensified operations against state security forces in Sarangani, South Cotabato, Surigao del Sur, Palawan, Masbate, Bicol and Batangas last week.

"As we speak here in Marawi where war is happening, the countryside in other parts of the country is becoming a battlefield because of the NPA," Duterte said.

"This NPA, we will have to deal with them in due time," he added.

The President also lambasted anew Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chairman Jose Maria Sison who is currently in self-exile for 30 years in The Netherlands.

"Sison is already old but (his group) keeps on going with its extortion activities," he said.

Over the weekend, some academics and artists floated the idea of campaigning to recognize Sison as a National Artist for Literature.

The prestigious state award is being decided upon by the President.

President Duterte was once a student of Sison during his college days at the Lyceum of the Philippines University.

Meanwhile, Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said the recent attacks launched by the NPA raises the public's doubt if they remain to be sincere in engaging the government to negotiate for peace.

"NPA attacks in Sarangani, South Cotabato, Surigao del Sur, Palawan and Masbate fuels the public's doubt about the talks with the group," Abella said.

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Palace hits NPA attacks, doubts leaders' sincerity

By Philip C. Tubeza
@pctubezaINQ

Malacañang on Monday condemned the recent spate of attacks launched by communist rebels in the Visayas and Mindanao, saying these raised doubts about their leaders' sincerity in pursuing peace talks with the government.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said the attacks by fighters of the New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), only raised "doubts" among the people about the resumption of peace negotiations.

Counterinsurgency

"The NPA attacks in Sarangani, South Cotabato, Surigao del Sur, Palawan and Masbate fuel the public's doubt about the talks with the group," Abella said in a statement.

the government and the CPP were supposed to resume last month, but President Duterte got angry after the NPA ambushed a convoy of the Presidential Security Group in Arakan, North Cotabato in July.

Ceasefire first

Mr. Duterte insisted that there should be a ceasefire first before peace talks could proceed.

On May 27, the government peace panel withdrew from the



Members of the underground movement troop to Mendiola during the 44th anniversary of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

He said the communist rebels recently disarmed officials involved in the counterinsurgency program in Sarangani and South Cotabato.

They then abducted a tribe leader and a Cagfu (Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit) member in Surigao del Sur and ambushed a military convoy in Palawan, Abella said.

"[They] ... also killed a policeman in Masbate," he said.

Appropriate steps

"The government will undertake appropriate steps to deal decisively with these forces that seem to have lost their sense of nation-building," he added.

Formal peace talks between

fifth round of peace talks with the rebels in the city of Noordwijk, the Netherlands, after the CPP ordered the NPA to step up attacks against security forces.

The CPP issued the order after the President declared martial law in Mindanao following the attack on Marawi City by fighters of the Islamic State-inspired Maute group, the Abu Sayyaf faction of Isnilon Hapilon and their allies.
INQ

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Maranaos to sue Phl gov't for Marawi destruction

A Maranao group is poised to file charges against the Philippine Army and the Philippine government for the destruction of Marawi City due to bombings in the implementation of martial law in Mindanao.

The decision was reached during the recent two-day Bangsa Mranaw Congress held in Iligan City.

Lawyer Firdausi Abbas, chairman of Bangsa Mranaw Congress, said that when the battle in Marawi stops, his group will file cases at the International Court of Justice. They will seek a P120-billion payment in damages from the Philippine government for the destruction of Marawi City and abuses of the military.

Abbas also said his group will ask for the creation of a congressional task force to attend to the needs of the 400,000 displaced Maranaos.

The military said it needs "a few more days" to end the Marawi crisis and completely defeat the Maute group so that rebuilding and rehabilitation can finally go into full swing.

Government troops believe that the fighting will soon end but refused to set a definite deadline as to when the war-torn locality will finally be freed of terrorists.

AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said Western Mindanao Command commander Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. is asking for a few more days to finish the task. It could mean a week or two.

The fighting has remained intense since Saturday after government troops attempted to finish the operation.

Galvez said that while the operations showed good result, they recommended extension to ensure safety of at least 46 civilian hostages and to clear the remaining buildings in the operation area.

On Sunday morning, soldiers held mass at the recaptured St. Mary's Cathedral as heavy gunfire reverberated nearby where government forces attempted to finish off the Islamic State-inspired Maute group to end the battle in Marawi.

Maj. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, commander of Joint Task Force Marawi, said the mass was held to celebrate the feast of St. Therese, patron saint of the military. The mass was officiated by Capt. Alferdo Era Jr., assistant division chaplain of the Army's 1st Division, and was attended by 100 soldiers.

As the mass was going on, government forces assaulted the remaining fighters of the Maute group in the main battle area.

"The troops are on defensive positions as they continue to engage the terrorists in the main battle area," Bautista said.

Galvez gave assurance that the military has significant control of the operation area where the Maute group has been cornered in the remaining two mosques.

As of yesterday, 155 policemen and soldiers have been killed in battle, 47 civilians died at the hands of the Maute group and 742 Maute members were killed since the conflict started on May 23.

- Lino dela Cruz, Roel Pareño, Michael Punongbayan

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Rebuilding Marawi: Rody unveils 'green' shelters for evacuees

President Duterte and top Defense and military officials yesterday inaugurated what was described a "green community" for internally displaced people (IDPs) of Marawi City most of whom have been living in tents in different evacuation centers since May 2017 following the ISIS-Maute siege.

Dubbed Bahay Pag-asa, the project was initiated by the Tarlac Heritage Foundation (THF) which collaborated with government and private individuals following the President's call for help to rebuild and restore Marawi back to its former glory.

The President witnessed a competition among soldiers who showed their ingenuity

and bayanihan by building a unit of Bahay Kubo or nipa hut in less than 45 minutes.

The nipa huts, according to officials are more

liveable housing facility than the tents most of the evacuees are occupying now in different evacuation centers.

"Government and private individuals have come together in the spirit of 'bayanihan' to develop a local home grown alternative to a disaster relief tents. For the Filipino, the Bahay Kubo is home. Something we have fond memories of or have grown up with or one that has local color while being functional and easily adaptable," said Isa Cojuangco-Suntay, one of the THF's co-founders.

Following consultations with Architects Carlo Bustos, Nap Ibañez Jr. and engineer Ric de Leon of Pura, Tarlac, Suntay immediately collaborated with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana who approved the project and gave his inputs on the proposed immediate shelter and accommodation on July 14, 2017.

Top military officials led by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año, Philippine Army commander Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda; Maj. Gen. Edgar Gonzales, commander of the Mechanized Infantry Division; Maj. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry (Tabak) Division;

Brig. Gen. Arnold Fernandez, commander of the 54th Engineer Brigade, Lt. Col. Emmanuel R. Garcia of the 4th Civil Relations Group, Zamboanga and retired Lt. Gen. Anthony Alcantara gave their full support to the project during a meeting with THF officials led by Suntay and her mother, Isabel.

The following day, Lorenzana directed Bautista to work with the foundation and assist it in any possible way to develop the model which according to THF has withstood Typhoon Lando (international name: Koppu) which devastated Northern and Central Luzon in October 2015. The models have been used in Tarlac until today.

During a meeting, military officials and Suntay agreed to build a model unit similar to the ones built in Tarlac.

The shelters could be fabricated and sourced locally whenever a need for them arises and in this particular case in Mindanao.

Situated in Barangay Bito Buadi Itowa in Marawi, the 1.5-hectare green community also has solar panels installed to enable occupants to use electric fans during hot weather condition, run a radio and charge their cellphones to help keep

people connected.

Officials are working on a possibility of adding an inverter to enable television sets to work.

The community also has a 500-sq.m garden where soldiers - using seeds provided by Corvill Agricom Inc. and East West Seed Company - have already planted different organic vegetables and some medicinal plants. It also has a multi-purpose hall.

The community also has a long row of rest rooms and separate shower rooms for male and female. It also has "cubicle-type" cooking area where evacuees can cook at the same time.

"Everything is environment friendly," Suntay told officials and members of the Chinese-Filipino Business Club Inc. led by its president William Chua-Yap who visited and inspected Bahay Pag-asa.

The businessmen, she disclosed, are among the "generous donors" who worked with her and her mother "to help make this project a reality."

"They helped us without asking anything in return. They lent their helping hands when they heard the President's call for bayanihan to help rebuild Marawi," she explained.

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Pahina. 03

Pondo para sa Marawi rehab, doblehin

Isulong ni Senador Sherwin Gatchalian na madoble ang pondo para sa rehabilitasyon sa Marawi City na dinurog ng mga miyembrong Maute group.

Sinabi ni Gatchalian, batay sa kanyang obserbasyon sa lungsod, kukulangan ang P20 bilyon inisyal na inilaang pondo upang ibangong muli ang Marawi.

“We will need to spend at least P47 billion to make sure that facilities will be rebuilt and, more importantly, to bring the lives of the people back to normal,” saad ni Gatchalian.

Nangako ang senador na isisingit sa plenary

deliberations ng General Appropriations Bill na madoble ang pondo para sa Marawi.

“Marawi’s economy is at a standstill right now. What we have to do now is jumpstart it, and to do that we are looking at a figure of around P40 billion,” pahayag ng Chairman ng Senate Committee on Economic Affairs.

Binigyang-diin ng senador na miyembro rin ng Senate Special Committee on Marawi City Rehabilitation na ayun ng rehabilitasyon na mapaganda ang kalidad ng buhay sa lungsod matapos ang pananalakay ng mga terorista. (Dang Samson-Garcia)

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Du30 dares CJ, Morales: Open bank books

**By Jeffrey Maitem
and Allan Nawal**
[@inquirermindanao](#)

MARAWI CITY—President Duterte on Monday challenged Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno and Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales to go with him to Congress and open their bank books in front of lawmakers.

“Just give us a table,” the President said, adding that this would show the people who was really corrupt.

“I have told you that mine could not be more than P40 million. It is a lifetime savings. I’m 72 now. I started working when I was 27. I became prosecutor,” he said during his visit here.

Mr. Duterte said his assets included lands he inherited from his father, the late Davao Gov. Vicente Duterte.

“I said you can shoot me, you can overthrow me if you want if it’s more [than P40 million],” he said.

Never corrupt

He said that during his term as Davao City mayor, he had never been corrupt. Now that he was being accused of amassing more than a billion pesos in hidden wealth, he said he was challenging Morales and Sereno and other officials to open their bank accounts to the public.

“That’s my challenge to every government official and

those who are pretending to be clean. Let us open our bank books so the people will know who are thieves and who are not,” he said.

The Office of the Ombudsman is investigating allegations that Mr. Duterte amassed more than a billion pesos in unexplained wealth but he said he would not submit to the Ombudsman’s jurisdiction.

Morales, who inhibited herself from the case, has authorized Overall Deputy Ombudsman Arthur Carandang to investigate the bank transactions of the President and his family based on the complaint filed by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

The President’s son-in-law, Manases Carpio, the husband of Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio, is Morales’ nephew.

Another threat

Upping the ante, Mr. Duterte on Monday threatened to expose Sereno and Morales if they refused to heed his call for them to join him in stepping down.

“If these two resign, we will bow out at the same time, and I will resign as President of the Philippines. There’s no problem. Let the truth come out,” he said in a speech.

Over the weekend, he called on Morales and Sereno to resign with him and allow themselves to be investigated for corruption, and let the military and the

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295



MARAWI VISIT President Duterte meets with soldiers anew in Marawi City, where they are fighting Islamic State-inspired terrorists. It was his sixth visit to the city since it was occupied by the Abu Sayyaf and the Maute group more than four months ago. —JEFFREY MAITEM

police step in if they failed to reach an agreement.

In reiterating his demand that Morales step down, the President said that she was corrupt, which he said was the reason he was not submitting to the Ombudsman's probe.

Inspector Mendoza's case

Mr. Duterte also called Sereno, who is facing an impeachment complaint, "cor-

rupt" three days ago without providing evidence.

In accusing Morales of corruption, he narrated the story of former Insp. Rolando Mendoza, who hijacked a tourist bus and killed eight visitors from Hong Kong in 2010.

Mendoza, who was also later killed, the President said, had complained of being charged with misconduct because he could not produce the money

demand from him by someone from the Office of the Ombudsman. He was eventually dismissed from the service.

"That's how crooked the Ombudsman is," Mr. Duterte said.

He said he was just bringing out the truth and challenged the Ombudsman "to make public all cases you dismissed because of money."

He said he was willing to resign with Morales and Sereno so that "we will have a better country."

"Maybe for you to find a new leader," he added.

The President said the supposed report of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) on his bank transactions was illegally obtained and was falsified to show he had so much money.

He said the one responsible for illegally taking it out was the mistress of a colonel.

Plot to discredit President

Also on Monday, presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella accused Sereno and Morales of "allowing themselves to be used" by certain political forces to discredit Mr. Duterte to spark public outrage and oust him.

The Ombudsman's disclosure of Mr. Duterte's alleged bank accounts was a violation of the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, according to

chief presidential legal counsel Salvador Panelo.

In a statement, Panelo said the code's implementation rules prohibited the disclosure of "investigatory records" that would deprive a person "of a right to a fair trial."

Carandang said the Office of the Ombudsman had always "observed confidentiality" in its investigation into the complaint filed by Trillanes against Mr. Duterte when the President was still Davao City mayor.

In a statement, he said the details of the documents from Trillanes, which had been shown to him by two media outfits, were "more or less" the same as those from the bank transaction history records the Office of the Ombudsman received from the AMLC.

He said the records were used by the AMLC and the Ombudsman for intelligence sharing purposes.

Morales said on Friday that the President need not fear the Ombudsman probe if he had nothing to hide.

In Manila, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said Mr. Duterte was "theoretically correct" in refusing to submit himself to the investigation by the Office of the Ombudsman as no one had jurisdiction over him except Congress. —WITH REPORTS FROM PHILIP C. TUBEZA, JOCELYN R. UY AND NIKKO DIZON INQ

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Attacks vs Left: 49th victim dead under Du30

DAVAO CITY—A leftist labor and peasant organizer was shot dead in a town in Compostela Valley, becoming the 49th victim in southern Mindanao alone of suspected assassinations of leftist leaders linked to the counterinsurgency campaign under the administration of President Duterte.

Reneboy Magayano, 50, chair of Maragusan Workers' Association, was shot dead while buying fish at a market in the village of Poblacion, Maragusan town, according to Cristina Palabay, secretary general of the human rights group Karapatan.

Palabay, in a statement, said suspected military agents killed Magayano.

The military denied the allegation. Capt. Roberto Escano Jr., acting 10th Infantry Division public affairs officer, said the military pursues only "lawless elements that spoil peace and development in their communities."

'High regard for rights'

Escano said soldiers carry out counterinsurgency operations "with high regard and adherence to the respect of human rights."

"The military is not involved in such inhumane acts," Escano said. Human rights groups, he said, can file cases "with the assurance of our full cooperation."

Senior Supt. Marvin Pepino, Compostela Valley police chief, confirmed the killing, saying an investigation was now underway to identify and arrest Magayano's killers.

The victim was also a council member for the militant peasant group Hugpong sa mga Mag-uuma sa Walog Compostela (Union of Farmers in Compostela Valley) or Humawac, Palabay said.

On Tuesday, Toto Lompoadan, a member of Alyansa sa Mag-uuma sa Sidlakang Dabaw (Alliance of Farmers in Eastern Davao) or Almasid, was gunned down while claiming his benefits under the 4Ps (Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program) cash assistance program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Cateel town, Davao Oriental.

Suspect

The suspect in Lompoadan's killing had been identified as Dexter Sallian, who was said to be connected with the Army's 67th Infantry Battalion,

Peasant leaders, like this unidentified man at a rally in April near the agriculture department in Quezon City, are constant targets of harassment and assassinations. —EARVIN PERIAS

ion, according to Palabay.

She could not, however, say if Sallian was a soldier or civilian asset of the military.

The military has repeatedly denied any involvement in the killings.



Palabay said the latest killings and the government's refusal to accept recommendations made by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) "believe the good grades attained by the Philippines" in the UNHRC's universal periodic review of human rights situations in member countries.

Duterte record

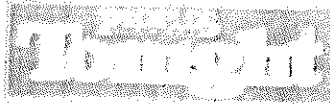
In July, leftist human rights groups called on Mr. Duterte to also address human rights abuses related to the counterinsurgency campaign of the government.

In a statement released then, the group Hustisya (Justice) said while Mr. Duterte "commiserated with families of soldiers and militiamen, where are his tears for indigenous peoples, farmers and urban poor who were killed and violated by his troops?"

From July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, the human rights group Karapatan had already documented 67 victims of political killings.

Karapatan and other human rights groups said under the Duterte administration, "the culture of impunity has worsened" not only because of the war on drugs but also because of the counterinsurgency operations. —FRINSTON LIM WITH A REPORT FROM JAYMEET GAMIL INQ

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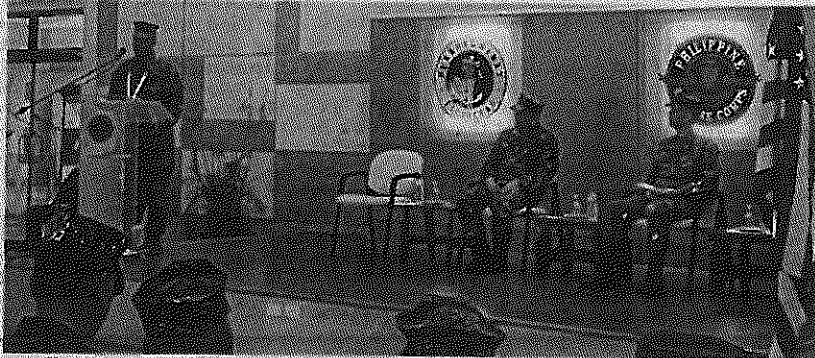
TONIGHT

NEWS

U.S. Marines, AFP launch inaugural KAMANDAG

UNITED States Marines and sailors with the 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade, together with their Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) counterparts, launched the inaugural exercise KAMANDAG yesterday at multiple locations on the island of Luzon, Philippines.

KAMANDAG, which will run until October 11, is an acronym for the Filipino phrase "Kaagapay Ng Mga Mandirigma Ng Dagat," or "Cooperation of Warriors of the Sea," emphasizing the close partnership between the Philippine and United States militaries. KAMANDAG will increase overall U.S. and Philippine readiness, improve bilateral responsiveness to crises in the region, and further reinforce



our illustrious decades-long alliance.

Leading up to the commencement of KAMANDAG, AFP and U.S. forces completed bilateral humanitarian and civic assistance projects at schools earlier this month in Casiguran, Aurora.

The goal of KAMANDAG

is to increase counterterrorism capabilities through bilateral military exchanges between the AFP and U.S. forces focused on enhancing counterterrorism capabilities, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief capabilities, and performing humanitarian and civic assistance

projects.

Some of the activities that service members will be able to practice together include combat lifesaving, shipboard mass casualty response, live fire training, urban operations, movement ashore, and humanitarian assistance and disaster response.

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ONLINE NEWS

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VISIT | AFP Officers Underscores Strong Philippine-German Relations

Ambassador Thomeczek (center, in black) and other Embassy officers welcome CGSC62, headed by M/Gen. Aquino (to the right of the Ambassador) in front of the Embassy building.



BERLIN, Germany (DWDD) – The Philippine Embassy in Berlin welcomed the 23-member Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Command and General Staff College Class 62 (CGSC62) led by Major General Herminigildo Francisco Aquino, PA, Commander of the newly-established AFP Education, Training and Doctrine Command on September 25.

The class composed of middle-ranking officers of the AFP's three major service commands, the Army, Air Force and Navy, were briefed on the Embassy's functions and Philippine-German relations, focusing on the two countries' defense-related engagements and potential areas of cooperation.

In her welcome remarks, Philippine Ambassador to Berlin Melita Sta. Maria-Thomeczek said that the Embassy continues to support existing bilateral defense cooperation, while at the same time exploring untapped opportunities.

Twenty-nine AFP officers have completed staff courses at the German Armed Forces Command and Staff College (*Führungsakademie der Bundeswehr*) in Hamburg since the two countries signed an administrative agreement in 1974. Two other officers have recently started their courses, and the Philippine Department of National Defense expressed its intention to avail of two slots in 2019.

The Command and General Staff Course prepares AFP officers for higher responsibilities and its completion is a requirement for promotion to the rank of colonel (equivalent to captain in the Navy).

www.pna.gov.ph

10 armed men held for trying to enter Camp Aguinaldo

By Priam Nepomuceno October 2, 2017, 6:02 pm

MANILA -- Military police arrested 10 members of the purported "Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty" while attempting to enter the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City Monday.

The incident took place 5:45 a.m., AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said in press briefing.

"At around 5:45 a.m. of 2 October 2017, 10 members of a certain 'Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty' on board a van were held at Gate 6 of Camp Aguinaldo," he added.

Arevalo said the group was held for questioning for carrying firearms with no appropriate documents, including exemptions from the election gun ban.

The group's leader was a certain Daniel Pagalan, allegedly the group's 'Chief Intelligence' while his companions were identified as Alvin Simbahon, Rolando Mahusay alias "Kumander Melody", Dioscoro Danis, James Iwayan, Butch B. Galimba, Rico Giducos, Ramil B. Peralta, Rundy Paderes and Pascuala Dizon alias "Kumander Haslim".

All of them are reportedly residents of Koronadal City, South Cotabato.

"They were identified based on identifications they presented bearing the letterhead 'Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty'. The fact that they wore (the same) black T-shirts and design drew the suspicion of the guards on duty. When asked, the men admitted to have firearms in their possession," the AFP official added.

When questioned further, the group claimed that they were on their way to present their letter request for accreditation to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana through a staff.

"But upon checking, it turned out that they have no prior appointment with the office that they intended to visit. Hence, the persons were held for questioning," Arevalo added.

Seized from the group's possession were two homemade .45 caliber pistols and three 9mm handguns, three magazines with 47 rounds of 9mm bullets and 26 .45 caliber live ammunition and identification cards of still unknown authority and source.

Arevalo said the suspects were immediately turned over to the nearby Station 8 of the Quezon City Police for investigation.

"We commend the guards on duty under the leadership of Col. John Dominic Pulido, the Camp Commander, for their vigilance and appropriate action taken as required under the circumstances. These sentinels will be cited for the faithful performance of their duty and in manifesting a high degree of alertness and level of camp security," he added. *(with Paolo Cruz-OJT/PNA)*

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AFP chief to military info officers: Always tell the truth

By Priam Nepomuceno October 2, 2017, 12:55 pm

MANILA -- Do not engage in misinformation and always tell the truth to the public.

This was the marching orders of AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año to all military information officers during the recently concluded 6th Public Affairs Office (PAO) Summit.

"I strongly urge our public affairs practitioners to continue to tell the truth. Refuse to be dragged into the trend of disinformation and deliberate sowing of confusion," he added in a statement Sunday.

Año also urged all military information officers from the Army, Navy and Air Force not to feed the hatred, and instead "exhaust efforts to present facts, value respect, and appreciate criticisms in the AFP's quest for an informed public and an elevated discourse."

The PAO Summit is an annual gathering of AFP spokespersons and public affairs officers assigned to different military units, including the Philippine Army, Philippine Air Force, Philippine Navy, and the AFP Area Commands.

It featured subject-matter experts on social media, cybersecurity, military-media dynamics, and crisis communication. *(PNA)*