

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

10 October 2017

Tuesday

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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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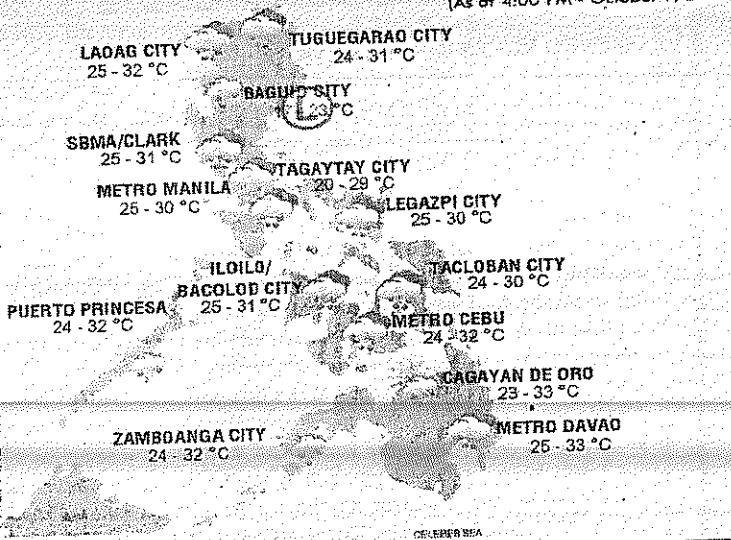
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 10, 2017 | TUESDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)



SUNRISE 5:47 AM	SUNSET 5:39 PM
MOONRISE 9:44 PM	MOONSET 9:55 AM
FULL MOON OCT 6 2:40 AM	LAST QUARTER OCT 12 8:25 PM
LOW TIDE 7:52 AM 0.04 Meter	HIGH TIDE 12:06 AM 1.09 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	OCT 10	OCT 11	OCT 12	OCT 11	OCT 12
METRO MANILA	25 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	19 - 28 °C	20 - 29 °C	24 - 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 31 °C	24 - 30 °C	25 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C
LAOAG	25 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	17 - 23 °C	16 - 21 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
TAGAYTAY	19 - 28 °C	20 - 29 °C	25 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C
LEGAZPI	25 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 33 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 33 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD	25 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
METRO CEBU	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
TACLOBAN	24 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	23 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
METRO DAVAO	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
ZAMBOANGA	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C

DZRHNEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

PILIPINAS HD

AIR 21
SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!
WEEKDAYS
6AM, 6:30 PM & 9PM
WEEKENDS
6AM

10 October 17



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Int'l groups press probe of drug kills

FROM A1

By Jhoanna Ballaran,
Jocelyn R. Uy
and Philip C. Tubeza
@Team_Inquirer

An international human rights group and a mission of international parliamentarians and civil society leaders have warned that the Philippines faces sanctions from the United Nations and European Union (EU) if the government fails to stop the killing of suspects and allow an independent investigation of President Duterte's fierce war on drugs.

If the Duterte administration continues to refuse to allow an independent investigation, the Philippines could lose its membership in the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and jeopardize its relations with the council's members, according to Human Rights Watch (HRW).

"Many of those states have bilateral relations with the Philippines and the government is jeopardizing its good relations with governments around the world," Joseph Fisher, Geneva director of HRW, said in an

exclusive interview with Inquirer.net on Friday.

"It's jeopardizing its bilateral relations. It's jeopardizing its continued membership in the UN Human Rights Council if it fails to heed those calls and to [attend to] the warning signals," Fisher said.

No risks seen

Malacañang, however, sees no risks to the Philippines' position in the UNHRC or its relations with other countries.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said on Monday that other nations continued to support the Philippine government's efforts in "dealing with domestic challenges" without interfering in the country's international affairs.

"These countries continue to treat us with mutual respect and [they're] cognizant of our sovereignty," Abella told reporters.

"They continue to have relationships with us and we're on solid ground, solid economic ground. There's no need to fear about any changes in relationships," he said.

But parliamentarians belonging to the Progressive Al-

liance and the Party of European Socialists warned on Monday that the Philippines risked losing a preferential trade deal that allows 6,200 of its products to enter the European Union duty-free if it failed to immediately stop the killings and political persecution of critics.

The General System of Preference (GSP+) deal is under review and an EU report is expected in January.

Consequences

"If the human rights standards are not upheld, then there may be consequences in the Philippines' inclusion in the special trading instrument of the EU," said German parliamentarian Arne Lietz.

Lietz called for an immediate stop to the killings, the release of detained government critics—a reference to Sen. Leila de Lima—and an independent investigation into the thousands of police killings in the crackdown on illegal drugs.

The seven-member EU mission visited depressed communities in Metropolitan Manila most affected by the killings and met with lawmakers and human rights advocates during

a two-day visit that began on Sunday.

"The killings of persons accused, without evidence or trial, of involvement in the drug trade continue unabated even in recent days," said a statement issued by the mission members from Europe, the United States and Australia.

Equal alarm

In a press briefing at the Senate on Monday, the mission expressed equal alarm at the Duterte administration's alleged aggressive efforts to silence dissent, deploring "trumped-up charges" against De Lima and threats against Sen. Risa Hontiveros, Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales and the Catholic Church.

"It's oppression of the opposition, especially the female ones," said Swedish parliamentarian Emilia Töyrä.

Töyrä said the gross human rights violations appeared to be encouraged by Mr. Duterte himself in his public speeches.

Malacañang had no immediate comment on the EU mission's statements. —WITH A REPORT FROM AP INQ

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October 2017

The Manila Times

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How the Maute brothers embraced radicalism

BY BERNADETTE TAMAYO

Second part of the Maute brothers to recruit members because of the high incidence of poverty. SEN. Juan Miguel Zubiri, who hails from Bukidnon in Maguindanao, said it was easy for

erty incidence in the country. Close to 70 percent of its population live below the poverty line. Marami pong 'no read no write' dun. Maraming illiterate sa probinsya na ito (There are

SPECIAL REPORT

many 'no read no write' there. There are many illiterate people in this province),” Zubiri said.

Poverty led to the rise of the Maute extremist movement in

► **Embraced A8**

How the Maute brothers

Lanao del Sur, he said. “Dahil s'yempre kung gutom ka medyo hindi mo nararamdaman ang tulong ng gobyerno napakadali sumama sa isang grupo na nangangako sa iyo na pag sumama ka you will be in paradise. Makakatulong sila sa inyo (Of course, if you're hungry and you do not feel the help of the government it is easy to join this group which can promise you paradise. They promised help).”

The senator noted that the Maute group had been involved in terrorist activities, such as extortion, drug trafficking and kidnapping for ransom.

“May pera sila. So, binibigyan nila ng allowance itong mga tao na wala pong natatanggap o nararamdaman galing sa national government. So, yan po sa tingin ko ang No.1 reason na maraming gustong sumama sa kanila (They have money. They give monetary allowance to these people who receive nothing from the national government. That, I believe is the No. 1 reason why there are a lot of people who want to join them),” he said.

“And maybe the second reason is because ISIS now is being romanticized all over the world. If you watch television, you will see that they are called ISIS freedom fighters in Syria, in Iraq fighting infidels, so to speak, or their religious enemy,” Zubiri said, referring to the Islamic State.

“And it's fueling the fire all over the world na parang 'Uy, ipaglaban natin ang kanilang mga adhikain at 'adbokasiya' (like, 'Hey, let's fight for their goal and advocacy) which is religious extremism,” he said.

Injustice

Habib Macaayong, president of the Mindanao State University, believes that the primary reason for the rise of extremism in Mindanao is injustice.

“The Muslims have been clamoring for fair policies from the government. But they observed that there have been no fair policies in the government. It was very difficult for the Muslims to apply for a job, to participate in programs,” he said.

“They have difficulty in owning

the land. Up to now many landowners in Marawi City have no land titles. So they want justice and the government failed to give them justice. So some of these people went abroad and they happened to be associated with these terrorists,” he said.

“Number 2 is poverty. The founders of Maute, we heard, they are motivating the youth, to join them because they will be given salary. Maybe they joined [the group] to do terrorism but only to receive money,” he said.

When asked how much salary was offered to recruits, Macaayong said, “According to them P36,000 per month. [That's] big.”

The Maute reportedly was able to convince their members that they will get regular salaries. “We heard [the money will come] from abroad. But we don't know what country [was] offering the money to them.”

Military spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said: “We have to understand the origins of Maute. The Maute group was first influenced by the JI (Jemaah Islamiyah). They joined the JI in 2012 because of a religious leader by the name of Sanjusi. But this Sanjusi, an Indonesian cleric, had already been neutralized.”

"Si Sanjusi ang siyang nagtanim ng hindi magagandang idea sa utak ng mga Maute. By and large 'yung Ji tame na tame pa 'yan compared to Daesh (Sanjusi was the one who implanted bad ideas in the minds of the Maute brothers. The Ji is tamer compared with the Daesh)," Padilla said.

"Daesh" is an acronym for the Arabic phrase al-Dawla al-Islamiya al-Iraq al-Sham (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) and is another name for ISIS. But ISIS militants do not want to use Daesh as their identity as it has a pejorative meaning.

He said the Maute brothers come from a wealthy family. "*Mayayaman ito e. Nagsimula sila sa pagiging bandido. Nangingikil, nanggugulo, naging aktibo sa mga banditry activities. Tapos, napasukan nga nitong si Sanjusi. Naimpluwensihan sila (They are rich. They started as a bandit group. They extort, harass, became active in banditry. Then, Sanjusi infiltrated their group. They were influenced).*"

Padilla was referring to Ustadz Sanusi who reportedly became a mentor to the Maute brothers, but was killed in a police operation in 2012. Omarkhayam and Abdullah studied in Egypt and Jordan respectively.

"*Tapos, ipinadala sa Middle East 'yung dalawa para mag-aral bilang Islamic scholars. Iyung isa (Omarkhayam) napunta sa Egypt. Nadikit siya ngayon du'n sa mga extremists at violent minds na nandu'n nu'ng (lumaganap ang) Arab Spring (Then two of them were sent to the Middle East to study and become Islamic scholars. One of them went to Egypt. He was able to mingle with extremists and violent minds when Arab Spring spread),*" he said.

The "Arab Spring" refers to the revolutionary wave of violent and non-violent demonstrations in North Africa and the Middle East that began in December 2010 in Tunisia. The effect of the Tunisian Revolt spread to five other countries: Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Syria, and Bahrain which led to either change of regime or major uprisings.

"*Iyung isa (Abdullah) nag-aral sa Jordan. Ganu'n din siguro 'yung mga naging barkada niya. Du'n siya pumasok sa linkages ng mga radical extremists (The other one studied in Jordan. He must have gained the same kind of buddies. He became linked to radical extremists),*" Padilla said.

He said the emergence of "Arab Spring" in the Middle East somehow influenced the Maute brothers

to embrace radicalism. "That's the beginning."

"*So meron na silang mga idea tungkol sa Ji dahil nga dito kay alias Sanusi. Tapos nu'ng napunta pa sila ng Middle East lalo pang na fuel itong na mga ganong mga klaseng kaisipan. Lalo silang naging suicidal. Nakikita nila doon 'yung mga extremists, radicals (So, they were able to get some ideas about Ji because of Sanusi. Their travel to the Middle East further fueled this kind of thinking. They became more suicidal. They saw extremists, radicals there),*" he said.

"Actually, they started out with petty crimes until Sanusi's death. Iyung Ji naluma na. So, sino bang pinakasikat noon after ng Ji? Sino bang lumabas na tanyag na teroristang grupo? (Ji lost its popularity. Who became popular after Ji? Who came out to be the famous terrorist group)?" Padilla asked.

"Daesh and ISIS. *Kaya du'n sila sumasama dahil 'yu'n ang silkat e. Tapos nabalitaan na maraming resources. Siguro, iniisip nila baka matulungan din sila (They joined it because it was popular that time. Then they learned that it had many resources. They probably thought it would be able to help them financially),*" he said.

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Santos is new 7th ID chief

BY VICTOR REYES

MAJ. Gen. Filemon Santos, AFP deputy chief of staff for intelligence, has been designated by President Duterte as the new commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division based in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

Santos assumed his new post last Saturday. He replaced Maj. Gen. Angelito de Leon who has reached the mandatory retirement age of 56.

Santos, a member of the PMA class of 1986, assumed his post as AFP deputy chief of staff

for intelligence in November last year. Before that, he was the deputy commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao.

A Scout Ranger, a field artillery officer and an intelligence officer, Santos has a master's degree in management.

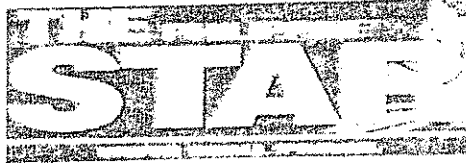
AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said the successor of Santos as AFP deputy chief of staff for intelligence will be Brig. Gen. Fernando Trinidad (of PMA class 1987), the outgoing assistant AFP deputy chief of staff for civil military operations.

Arevalo (of PMA class 1990) said he will succeed Trinidad as the assistant AFP deputy chief of staff for civil military operations.

Arevalo's full-time position is deputy commander of the AFP Civil Relations Service and acting as the military's public affairs chief in concurrent capacity. His replacement at the CRS has yet to be announced.

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Sayyaf leader slain in Tawi-Tawi

ZAMBOANGA CITY

- A sub-leader of the Abu Sayyaf was killed in Tawi-Tawi on Sunday.

Guro Idzri, alias Idris, shot it out with police operatives and Marines serving a warrant of arrest at his hideout in Sitio Suwang Kagang, Barangay Pasiagan, Bongao town, Brig. Gen. Custodio Parcon Jr., Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi commander, said.

Idzri was pronounced dead on arrival at the Datu Halun Sakilan Memorial Hospital.

Parcon said Idzri was formerly with the group of Muamar Askali, alias Abu Rami, who was involved in the kidnapping and beheading of Jurgen Kantner, a German, last February.

Askali was killed in a military operation in Bohol in April after his group attempted to plan kidnappings in the area.

Meanwhile, government troops clashed with Abu Sayyaf bandits under Radullan Sahiron and Almuder Yadah in Patikul, Sulu also on Sunday, leaving an undetermined number of casualties from the militant group.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Joint Task Force Sulu commander, said personnel of the 501st Brigade clashed with the bandits in Sitio Kanbadai, Barangay Pula Pansul before 8 a.m.

In Sulu, Abu Sayyaf member Jul Asbi Misuari, alias Imbuh, surrendered on Saturday night.

Misuari, a follower of slain leader Alhabsy Misaya, also turned over his machine gun.

At least 24 Abu Sayyaf bandits have surrendered in Sulu since January.

- Roel Pareño

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Court affirms corruption raps in AFP P5.1M procurement deal

THE Sandiganbayan has affirmed the validity of graft and falsification charges against former officers of the Philippine Army over irregularities in the procurement of P5.103 million worth of equipment and supplies in 2003.

In a 27-page resolution dated September 22, 2017 penned by Associate Justice Sarah Jane T. Fernandez, the Third Division denied for lack of merit the separate motions filed by Army Col. (discharged) Jessie Mario B. Dosado, Col. Barmel Zumel, Capt. George P. Cabreros, Col. Cesar G. Santos, and Accounting Unit head Editha B. Santos seeking dismissal of the cases for lack of probable cause and inordinate delay.

Presiding Justice Amparo M. Cabotaje-Tang and Associate Justice Bernelito R. Fernandez concurred.

The cases stemmed from audit findings that a purchase by the Philippine Army of combat clothing and individual equipment (CCIE) in 2003 amounting to P5,103,000 did not undergo the required public bidding.

Other defendants named were Lt. Gen. Gre-

gorio M. Camiling, Brig. Gen. Severino P. Estrella, Col. Cyrano A. Austria, and chief accountant Rolando F. Minel.

The anti-graft court said the full 13 years from the referral of the complaint on October 3, 2003 up to the filing of criminal charges before the Sandiganbayan on October 28, 2016 cannot be counted against the Office of the Ombudsman, contrary to the assertion of the defendants.

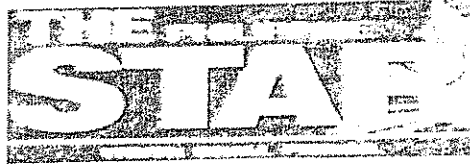
It said the prosecution adequately explained that the allegations of procurement anomalies had to be forwarded to the Commission of Audit for fraud audit investigation. The COA submitted its findings in September 2010.

Based on this, the Ombudsman-Military and Other Law Enforcement Offices (MOLEO) conducted a fact-finding investigation and endorsed the complaint for preliminary investigation on October 19, 2011.

The appeals were denied in a resolution issued August 15, 2016 and the cases were filed with the court two months later. — Peter J. G. Tabingo

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Bombs left by BIFF men seized

MAGUINDANAO - Soldiers recovered improvised devices (IEDs) left by fleeing members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in Datu Anggal town on Sunday.

Villagers alerted soldiers on the presence of the IEDs and a flag of the Islamic State at the border of Barangays Kuden and Brar, Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega of the 6th Infantry Division said yesterday.

Dela Vega said sachets of shabu and drug paraphernalia were also recovered at the scene.

Prior to the incident, BIFF gunmen clashed with soldiers in Guindulungan town. - **John Unson, Michael Punongbayan**



Soldiers remove improvised explosive devices left by BIFF gunmen in Datu Anggal, Maguindanao on Sunday in this photo provided by the Army.

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

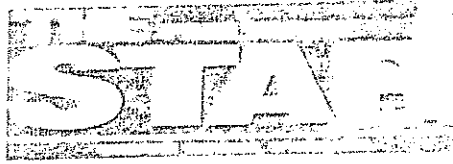
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**'NPAs 'silence'
farmer tagged
as 'intel agent'**

KIDAPAWAN CITY - Gunmen who identified themselves as members of the New People's Army (NPA) killed a farmer whom they tagged as an intelligence agent of the Philippine Army's 39th Infantry Battalion. Reports from Magpet PNP said that Bebs Nero Quino, 32, was inside a cockpit in Barangay Balite when three unidentified persons approached him brought him to an area just a few meters away from the cockpit. Minutes later, residents heard shots and saw the lifeless body of Quino covered with blood, reports added. A witness told police that after ensuring that their target was already dead, the NPA rebels took the victim's motorcycle and later brought it to his house at Barangay Kamada. The rebels, the witness added, told Quino's wife what they did to her husband. Last October 3, NPA rebels shot dead Kagawad Valeriano Birondo of Barangay Mahongkog, also in Magpet. Birondo was on his way to his farm when he was waylaid by believed to be NPA guerillas. He was shot twice on his head and chest. He died on the spot. (Malu Cadelina Manar)

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Ex-Army man, son held for drugs

Six drug suspects, including a former Army soldier and his son, were arrested in separate police operations in Quezon City over the weekend.

Retired Army sergeant Damaso Calayan, 57, and his son Julius, 33, were apprehended during a sting near their house along Road 1, JP

Rizal Extension in Barangay Bagong Silangan at around 5:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Members of the Batasan police allegedly managed to buy P500 worth of shabu from the Calayans.

The father and son allegedly yielded six sachets of shabu, a .38-caliber

revolver and ammunition.

Mary Jane Fernandez, 47, and Darwin Mesa were collared in another drug bust along Alley 29 in Barangay Escopa.

Police said they allegedly recovered five packs of shabu and P100 in marked money from the

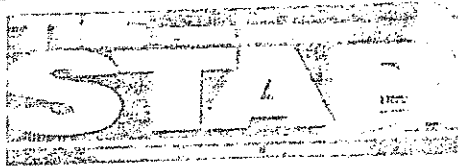
suspects.

In Barangay Tatalon, two more drug suspects, Rowena Dollente, 39, and Ronie Bactong, 43, were nabbed for alleged shabu possession.

The suspects are being held by police on drug charges.

- Romina Cabrera

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Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año, Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua attend the handover ceremony, Oct. 5. Xinhua/Rouelle Umali

16 October

INQUIRER

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SEARCH FOR MARAWI CIVILIANS

REQUESTS FOR DNA MATCH REVEAL 61 STILL MISSING

MARAWI CITY—Up to 61 persons were still missing here as government forces continued operations to rescue civilians still trapped in the fighting between soldiers and homegrown Islamic State (IS) followers trying to set up an IS province in this predominantly Muslim city.

Zia Alonto Adiong, spokesperson of the Lanao del Sur Crisis Management Committee (CMC), said authorities based their estimate on the number of missing persons on reports given by the police's Scene of the Crime Operation (Soco) personnel.

Adiong said residents searching for relatives had been going to the CMC and given DNA samples (hair, tissue, saliva, etc) hoping to locate their loved ones. These DNA samples were being matched with those of bodies recovered in the battle zone or rescued hostages.

Based on the number of requests for DNA matching, the number of still missing persons had reached 61, Adiong said.

Military estimate

The number matches the military's own estimate that between 40-60 hostages are still in the battle zone.

Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of the Joint Task Force Ranao, said the latest estimate on the number of hostages was drawn from information provided by those who had been rescued—including 17 hostages who managed to es-



The landscape of Marawi City had been drastically altered by the continuing war on terror which needed more soldiers (top photo) than had been earlier projected. —JEFFREY MAITEM

cape and were intercepted by soldiers on Wednesday last week.

He said since the fighting had started, the total number of rescued civilians had already reached 1,750.

Fatima Lumabao, an evacuee, said she was hoping that her four missing children—Norhuda, 21; Rasida, 20; Parhana, 12 and Mohammad, 10—were among the civilians still being held captive by the terrorists.

Lumabao's four children disappeared amid the chaos that followed the rampage in Marawi City by Maute and Abu

Sayyaf terrorists on May 23. Her search continued to be unfruitful for nearly five months now.

"I have asked everyone. I have inquired from the military each time news of hostages escaping reached me, but no positive development," she told the Inquirer.

Decent burial

But she admitted that sometimes she could not avoid thinking her children had been killed in the fighting.

"Even if the thought is depressing, I have to accept it. If they had died, I want their bodies found so I can give them a

decent burial," Lumabao added.

Most of the recovered remains—including those that have been buried at the Maqbarah cemetery here—had not been identified but authorities believed they belonged to slain terrorists.

Since the start of the fighting, 117 remains had already been recovered and DNA samples had been collected from them before they were buried.

Lumabao's DNA samples did not match any of those from recovered bodies which gives her hope. "But where are my children?" she said. —ALLAN NAWAL INQ

10 October 2017

INQUIRER

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Doc treated IS fighters – Army

A Filipino doctor wanted for a foiled jihadi plot targeting New York's subway and Times Square previously treated Islamic State (IS) followers in the mountains in Mindanao, the military said on Monday.

Russell Salic, 37, has links with the Maute group, which since May had been occupying parts of the predominantly Muslim city of Marawi in a bid to establish an IS province in Southeast Asia, authorities said.

"He was among those who were treating wounded members of the Maute group," military spokesman Col. Edgardo Arevalo told agency France-Press (AFP).

Another military spokesperson, Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla, told reporters Salic had performed these tasks in visits to Maute training camps before the Marawi attack.

"That's why his nom de guerre or nickname, based on our information, was 'Doc' or 'Doctor,'" Padilla added.

Ramadan plot

Salic, who has been in government custody since April, is wanted by US prosecutors after he and two others were indicted over a plan to conduct bombings and shootings in Times Square, New York's subway system and concert venues in the name of IS.

The attacks were planned for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in 2016, US prosecutors said when they announced the charges on Friday.

The alleged plotters is already in US custody while the second is in Pakistani custody.



Russell Salic in a photo taken in August after a hearing at the Department of Justice in Manila for kidnapping and murder. —AFP

Salic was accused of wiring \$423 to the United States to help fund the plot, the American justice department said.

He and the suspect in Pakistan now face legal proceedings seeking their extradition to the United States.

The restive Mindanao is home to a decades-old Muslim separatist insurgency and to extremist gangs that have declared allegiance to IS.

Beheadings

Among them was the Maute group, which had withstood a US-backed military campaign in Marawi including artillery and daily airstrikes in fighting that had left 97% people dead and thousands displaced.

Salic was under investigation in Manila over his alleged

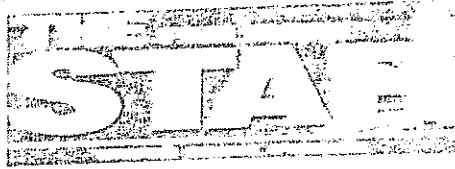
involvement in the kidnapping and beheading of two sawmill workers in April 2016 in the town of Butig, Lanao del Sur province, which the military blamed on the Maute group.

Four other sawmill workers were set free and told authorities they saw Salic in the Maute camp where they were detained, senior assistant state prosecutor Peter Ong told AFP.

"The complainants said they saw him in an adjacent room full of guns. He was cleaning guns," said Ong, quoting from the workers' depositions.

Salic had denied the allegation and said he was in another province then, according to Ong, who was handling the investigation and had yet to decide whether to charge Salic in court. —AFP

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Pinoy in NY terror plot served as Maute doctor

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

Rusell Langi Salic, the Filipino doctor allegedly involved in plotting terror attacks in the United States, had allegedly provided funds to the Maute group and treated wounded militants in Butig, Lanao del Norte in 2016, the military disclosed yesterday.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the 37-year-old physician, accused of sending money to help fund planned attacks in the US, also helped fund terrorist activities in Lanao del Norte.

"We have learned that he had connections with the Maute group when we had clashes in Butig," Padilla told radio station dzMM yesterday.

the charges on Friday.

One alleged plotter is already in US custody while the second is in Pakistani custody.

Salic is accused of wiring \$423 to the US to help fund the plot, the American justice department said.

He and the suspect in Pakistan now face legal proceedings seeking their extradition to the United States.

Padilla said that prior to the release of US intelligence information on Salic's involvement in terrorist activities, the AFP already had initial information on the matter because the military has been working with allied intelligence agencies.

Authorities earlier confirmed that Salic was arrested last April in the Philippines for his alleged involvement in

He said Salic supposedly provided funds and material support for the group before the terrorists eventually started the Marawi siege last May 23.

"He also treats members of the Maute who get wounded. His nickname in the other group was *Doktor*," Padilla revealed.

"Yes, he was a doctor. He is a doctor. He actually turned himself in. He surrendered to the counterterrorism division of the Bureau of Immigration last April 7 when he learned then that he was the subject of a warrant of arrest issued by a Manila court which was based on an Interpol notice regarding his involvement with ISIS," he said yesterday, using another acronym for Islamic State (IS).

kidnappings and beheading perpetrated by IS-inspired groups.

Last week, US authorities said they disrupted a plot by the Filipino doctor and two other IS sympathizers to carry out terrorist attacks in New York City in the summer of 2016.

Chief State Counsel Ricardo Paras was quoted as saying that a Manila court has yet to rule on a US government request that Salic be extradited to face terrorism financing complaints.

Members of the Lanao del Sur provincial peace and order council said yesterday they do not know Salic.

"Honestly, we don't know any Doctor Salic here in Marawi and Lanao del Sur. We just heard of his name from

Padilla said Salic surrendered to clear his name of the allegations.

He said there was information that Salic frequented the Butig mountains and allegedly had contact with and provided assistance to the Maute group.

However, Salic denied the allegations and claimed that he has never been to Butig and does not know anyone from the Maute.

Salic is wanted by US prosecutors after he and two others were indicted over a plan to conduct bombings and shootings in Times Square, New York's subway system and concert venues in the name of IS.

The attacks were planned for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in 2016, US prosecutors said when they announced

news reports permeating in Metro Manila, linking him to the siege in Marawi City, connecting him to the Maute group," said Assemblyman Zia Alonto Adiong of the regional assembly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

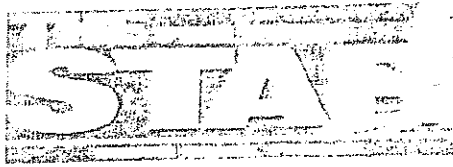
Adiong, spokesman for the Lanao del Sur provincial crisis management committee helping authorities restore normalcy in Marawi City, said none of his closest friends in the Maranao political community know Salic either.

Sources from Marawi City said Salic is not a doctor but a high school teacher in the city.

"We don't believe he has links to the Maute terror group," said a source.

- With John Unson, AFP

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'No deadline to end AFP operations in Marawi'

By ALEXIS ROMERO

No deadline had been set to end the military operations in Marawi, an official clarified yesterday.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said there was no categorical statement from ground troops that the crisis in Marawi will be over in one week.

"I asked our troops...regarding the deadline. I was informed there was none," Padilla told a press briefing at Malacañang.

"Even the AFP chief does not want to put pressure on

the troops because we know that any kind of pressure...may lead to more casualties on our part," Padilla said.

Col. Romeo Brawner, Task Group Ranao deputy commander, was quoted as saying that the military would complete its mission on Oct. 15.

AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año also expressed optimism that security forces would defeat Maute militants in Marawi this month.

Padilla said they want to pull out the troops at the soonest possible time, but admitted that the presence of civilian hostages remains a challenge. Over 20 civilian hostages have yet to be rescued.

"We're just being careful about this. We really want to end this conflict as soon as possible...No definite timeline yet, except that we're really aiming to do it hopefully this month," he said.

A total of 774 militants, 158 soldiers and policemen as well as 47 civilians have been killed since the crisis started on May 23.

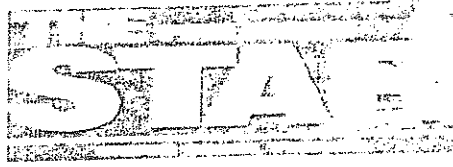
Around 60 terrorists remain holed up in Marawi, military officials said.

Amid reports that the crisis will soon be over, Edu Gariguez of the National Secretariat for Social Action of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines called on the faithful to help in the repair of churches damaged in the fighting.

"It is important that we restore the churches. I hope we will continue to extend assistance to those affected by the war and help them regain their normal lives," Gariguez said. -- With Evelyn Macairan

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China donates second batch of military equipment to Philippines to fight terrorists

MANILA (Xinhua) — The Philippine Department of National Defense received on Oct. 5 the second batch of military equipment that China donated to help the Philippines fight terrorism.

Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua handed over the equipment to Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año during a ceremony at the AFP headquarters in Metro Manila.

Zhao told reporters that the delivery of the weapons and ammunition is China's commitment to building "a friendly and cooperative relationship" with the Philippines.

"We're now fighting terrorism together, we need to work together to enhance trust so that we can build good cooperation between our militaries. That will contribute to peace and stability in this region," Zhao said.

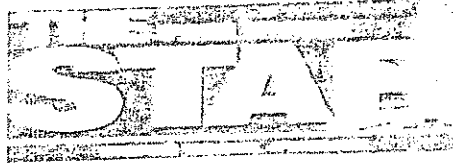
The donation, which includes rifles, ammunition and sniper scopes, is the second batch of armaments that China handed over to the Philippine government this year.

In accepting China's arms donation, Philippine defense and military authorities lauded China's contribution to maintaining peace and fighting terrorist groups in the Philippines.

"The continued support of China to the Philippines signifies a new era in our countries' goodwill relations. This paves the path for a broader and stronger Sino-Philippine security cooperation in the future," Lorenzana said.

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Phl apologizes to China for Taiwan logo gaffe

The Philippines apologized to China yesterday, days after embarrassingly using the logo of rival Taiwan at an official defense ministry ceremony to accept a Chinese donation of rifles and ammunition.

A banner with the logos of the Philippine and

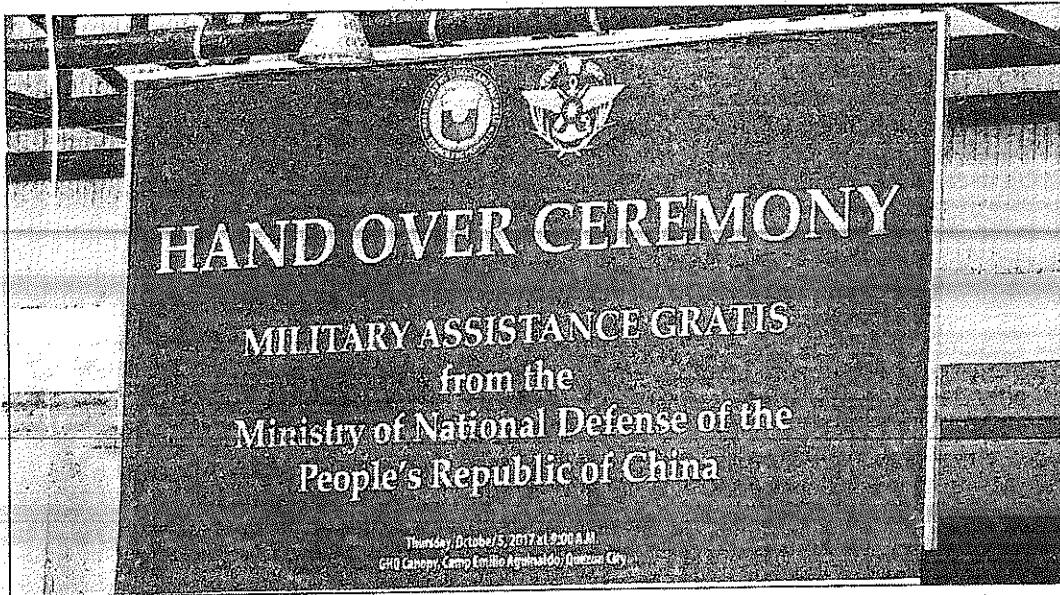
not attracting attention at the time.

"The Department of National Defense committed a grievous but purely unintentional mistake of using a different logo on a banner to represent the Ministry of Defense of the People's Republic of China," said a Philippine defense min-

The Chinese embassy could not be reached for comment.

The Philippines, a military ally of the United States for decades, is trying under President Duterte to build warmer relations with China.

The weapons from China were the second batch to be delivered to the Philippines this



A tarpaulin bearing the logos of the Department of National Defense and Taiwan's Ministry of Defense (top right) hangs from the canopy of the AFP headquarters during the turnover of assault rifles donated by China at Camp Aguinaldo on Oct. 5. AP

Taiwanese defense ministries hung above the stage Thursday as Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Chinese ambassador Zhao Jianhua sat together to witness the weapons turnover.

"Military assistance gratis from the Ministry of National Defense of the People's Republic of China," read the banner, with the wrong logo apparently

istry statement.

"We have issued an official apology to the government and the people of the People's Republic of China," it said, adding that Philippine defense authorities and the military "strictly adhere" to Manila's "One China Policy."

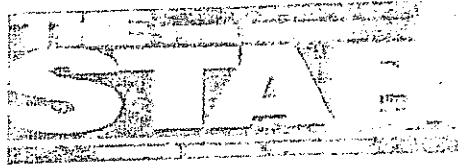
The Philippines has no diplomatic ties with self-ruling Taiwan, which Beijing considers a breakaway province.

year to help Duterte fight Islamist militants who have been occupying parts of the southern city of Marawi since May.

The two neighbors had long been at loggerheads over disputed islands and waters in the South China Sea, though Duterte has sought to play down the issue as he seeks more trade and investment from Beijing.

- Jaime Laude, AFP

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'Counterterror measures facing uphill battle'

By **CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE**

Counterterror measures such as the national ID system and registration of phone SIM cards are still facing an uphill battle, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said yesterday.

Dela Rosa was reacting to a statement by surgeon Russel Salic of Cagayan de Oro City, who has been charged by the US government for allegedly financing a plot of the Islamic State to bomb New York City's Times Square and subway system.

"You are asking about a comparison between our country and other countries. The terrorists choose to operate here because they know they can move easily around here. For one, the national ID system, which is deemed to be an important anti-terrorism measure, can hardly pass through legislation.

We have been clamoring for that, but it's a very uphill battle," Dela Rosa said.

He said the second possible measure to curb terrorism is the registration of prepaid SIM cards.

"Other countries do not have a prepaid system. They're all postpaid that's why all cellphone owners are identified. I don't know if we are the ones regulating the telcos or it's the other way around," Dela Rosa said.

The US justice department said Salic had told those involved in the foiled bomb plot that terror laws in the Philippines are "not strict" compared to Australia and the United

Kingdom.

Dela Rosa and Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Gen. Eduardo Año yesterday signed the 2017 AFP-PNP Joint Peace Security Coordination Council agreement, aimed to strengthen their coordination in addressing terrorism and other crimes.

"It is true because you know the country enjoys so much democratic space that is being exploited by terror and also criminal groups. Unlike in other countries like Singapore, the US, Malaysia and Australia, they have a very strict internal security act," Dela Rosa said, referring to the lax terrorism law in the Philippines.

Año said the inter-agency committee on legal offensive showed the country has a lot of threat groups starting with the Abu Sayyaf, Maute group, Ansar al Khalifa, Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and the New People's Army.

"The link of these groups to international terrorists organizations is a serious threat to our national security. This inter-agency committee on legal offensive will be in charge of intelligence gathering and cooperation, investigation, prosecution and monitoring cases against leaders of these groups," Año said.

The AFP said other countries allow authorities to detain an individual on mere suspicion of being involved in terrorism.

There is also a special court that hears the case and charges do not have to be filed immediately.

"Up to three years, they can detain an individual until they are able to determine that the person is really part of a terror group. Here, we have the human security act, but we want to have it amended and the provisions expanded because we believe it's not enough to address the threats brought by terrorism," Año said.

Countries like the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia with Muslim populations use linkages and blood relations to have easy access and support apparatus.

Año said Salic is part of a logistics support network of international terrorist groups. "Salic sends money to suspected terrorists in the Middle East, Malaysia and the US, and he has been under the radar since 2014.

With the help of other foreign intelligence agencies and the Interpol, there have been information-sharing that led to the neutralization.

Salic actually surrendered to the National Bureau of Investigation in April after learning that a warrant has been issued for his arrest," he said.

In China, Dela Rosa said terrorists could not find a way to attack, noting the Chinese people have no access to popular social media like Facebook.

"Cyberspace is regulated by the Chinese government, making it hard for the terrorists to operate. We've been asked to make recommendations and these have been hanging for a long time," Dela Rosa said.

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NPA's attack plantation in Bukidnon

By ZEA C. CAPISTRANO

DAVAO CITY – New People's Army (NPA) rebels raided on Sunday a warehouse of a plantation company in Quezon town in Bukidnon province and carted away with high-powered firearms being used by the company's security force.

NPA North Central Mindanao Command spokesperson Ka Malem Mabini said they "seized not less than 15 high-powered firearms" during their raid at a "security agency assigned to Del Monte Philippines" at 4:30 p.m. Sunday in Barangay Mer-

angeran. He said the raid was carried out by their forces from the South Central Bukidnon Sub-regional Command.

Police Senior Investigator Jessel Longakit, spokesperson of the PNP Provincial Command yesterday confirmed that "a 10-wheeler truck loaded with armed men" burned the Davao Agri-venture Corporation's "warehouse and agro-industrial farm equipment and machinery."

She said the suspects disarmed the guards before burning the warehouse and equipment at around 4:30 p.m.

Reds hit military training of Lumads

By YAS D. OCAMPO

DAVAO CITY – The New People's Army (NPA) decried the action of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)'s 10th Infantry Division to bring in Lumad fighters after the army announced earlier this month it would be training indigenous peoples into its army.

In a statement, Rigoberto Sanchez, NPA spokesperson for the regional operations command of the Southern Mindanao Region, called the move "highly despicable" and demanded that the military back off from recruiting the Lumads.

Sanchez said that recruiting Lumads into counter-insurgency

will exploit the Lumad youth.

The AFP had announced it would be arming and training 300 Lumad youths from Davao, Cotabato, and Socskargen regions.

"The move is a desperate attempt of the AFP to score military points in the battlefield where its troops are required to have mastery of terrain, high tolerance for sacrifice and to exhibit innate courage – attributes that they sorely lack and want to exploit from the Lumad youth," Sanchez said.

The rebel group said it was tasteless of the national government to recruit members of indigenous groups who were allegedly abused by the military.

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Marawi siege death toll nears 1,000 as clearing ops continue

By ELIJAH FELICE E. ROSALES

✉ @alyasjah

AS the government remains unsure when the conflict in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, will end, the death toll in ground zero continues to rise and is nearing 1,000, according to the military.

In a news briefing on Monday, Armed Forces Spokesman Restituto F. Padilla Jr. said the number of lives lost in Marawi City is a fingertip close to 1,000 after more than four months of fighting. According to the military's recent count, the conflict has claimed a total of 982 lives—777 were terrorists, 158 were government troops, and 47 were civilians.

Padilla said government troops were able to clear 69 buildings over the weekend. However, he added there are still 200 buildings in about 5 to 7 hectares that are up for clearing by the military.

"Our troops are concentrating in this area and where those more or less 200 facilities remain, which includes one

mosque, which we believe is likewise being used as a safe haven and as a storage area for arms, food and whatever cache they have," he said.

As the death toll continues to rise, the military remains unsure when the conflict will end and has opted not to set a deadline, following numerous failures to meet previous target dates.

"I was just asking our troops on the ground if any categorical statement was made regarding the deadline, [and] I was informed there was none. We're really aiming to have this concluded at the soonest possible time," Padilla said.

"So as the case is, even the chief of staff does not want to put pressure on the troops because we know that any kind of pressure might lead to action that may lead to more casualties on our part. So we're just being very careful about this," the military's spokesman added.

Aside from clearing buildings, Padilla said government troops are taking extra caution in conducting offensives against the Islamist extremists, in light of reports that there remains about 40 hostages held by the enemy.

AFP and PNP strengthen ties in face of threat groups

BY RENE ACOSTA

@reneacostaBM

THE police and the military agreed on Monday to further strengthen their collaborative efforts in the investigation and prosecution of leaders of threat groups, as the country grapples with the problem of terrorism.

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald M. dela Rosa and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo M. Año signed the resolution creating the Inter-Agency Committee on Legal Action (Iacla) during the 20th Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)-PNP National Joint Peace and Security Council (JPSC) Meeting at Camp Crame.

The Iacla adds up to the number of agreements on coordination and collaboration between the police and military in the areas of peace and security, including the JPSCC.

"As shown, the country is beset with a lot of threat groups, starting with the Abu Sayyaf Group, Maute Group, Ansar al Khalifa Philippines, BIFF [Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters], including the (NPA [New Peoples' Army]), and now the establishment of a [base] in the Philippines and the linkages of these groups to international terrorists. So this poses seriously to national security," Año said during a news briefing.

"That's why this interagency committee on legal offensive will be in charge in intelligence gathering and cooperation, investigation, prosecution and monitoring cases against leaders against personalities of these terrorist groups," he added.

Año cited the case of Dr. Russel Salic, the alleged doctor of the Maute

Group and who allegedly helped financed a thwarted plan by the Islamic State to bomb selected targets in the United States, taking advantage of lax Philippine laws.

"You know, the country enjoys so much democratic space that is being exploited by terror groups and also criminal groups. Unlike in other countries like Singapore, US, Malaysia, Australia, they have a very strict internal security act," Año said.

He added these countries have special provisions wherein they could arrest and detain a person up to three years "by mere suspicion based on information" until it is determined that the person is a member or part of a terrorist group.

Año said while the country has the Human Security Act, they have been asking that it be amended because they believed that "it's not enough to address the threats against terrorism".

According to the chief of staff, Salic, who is under the custody of the National Bureau of Investigation where he surrendered, is a part of the logistics-support network of the international terrorist group.

Salic's debriefing and investigation is continuing, although Año said he had disclosed information, it would be premature to disclose any details yet to the public.

On the other hand, dela Rosa said terrorist groups have chosen to operate in the country because of its "more relaxed laws", noting that even the "mere national ID system" is having a hard time getting the nod of legislators.

"We have been clamoring for that, but it's a very uphill battle," he added.

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MILF delisted from UN list as using, recruiting children

THE removal of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) from a UN list of armed groups recruiting and using children marks a stride and a victory toward realizing children's rights in the Philippines.

The UN Secretary-General's report on children and armed conflict is presented annually to the UN Security Council and contains information on the six grave violations against children and on the situation of children affected by armed conflict during the previous year. The report highlights trends and patterns of grave violations, progress made to protect children and further recommendations. The recently released 2016 report revealed that UN engagement has led to the delisting of two parties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the Philippines.

UN children's agency UNICEF, which facilitated the work with the UN-MILF Action Plan to end recruitment and use of children, congratulates the MILF and highlights the work that still needs to be done to ensure that children affected by armed conflict enjoy their full rights.

The UN-MILF Action Plan was completed at the beginning of 2017 upon the fulfilment of a six point roadmap, resulting in the disengagement 1,869 children from the ranks of the MILF. The disengagement of children will facilitate their access to appropriate support and services from government and development partners to enjoy all their rights to health, education and protection.

"The MILF's commitment to protect and promote the rights of children in their communities continues today, even as they are delisted from the UN report. Fostering lasting peace for children involves continued vigilance by all concerned, including the government, civil society, elders, parents and children themselves to ensure they are not involved in or used in armed conflict," UNICEF Philippines Representative Lotta Sylwander says.

The programme of support to disengaged/at-risk children and their families through UNICEF is being supported by the governments of Japan and Canada, among others. The MILF instituted safeguards through its command structure to regularly monitor and screen troops to prevent children from associating or re-associating. The United Nations will continue the monitoring of grave violations against children committed by all parties to conflict.

In the Philippines, children continue to be direct victims of grave violations in the context of the armed conflict, affecting their rights to life, survival, development, protection and education, among others.

Most common grave violations are recruitment and use of children, occupation of and attacks on schools, killing and maiming and detention for alleged association with armed groups. Thousands of children and families have been displaced in recent years by armed conflict, mainly in Mindanao. In 2017, the Marawi crisis displaced approximately 359,000 individuals, 205,000 of them being children.

UNICEF engages with government and parties to conflicts to prevent grave violations and guarantee adequate response to victims. UNICEF works with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, a key partner in peacebuilding. The implementation of the Action Plan aims to contribute towards the normalization track of the peace process between the government and the MILF.

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Military chief wants stricter anti-terror law

BY RAYMOND AFRICA

ARMED Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año yesterday said the military is pushing for amendments to the Human Security Act to give it more teeth in the fight against terrorism.

He made the statement after Russel Salic, a Filipino the US wants extradited, was reported as saying the Philippines is a “breeding ground for terrorists.”

Salic has been under the custody of the NBI since April when he surrendered. Last Friday in New York, US prosecutors said Salic and two others have been arrested since May last year on charges of plotting attacks in the city for the Islamic State.

Año said he wants an internal security act that is patterned after those of Singapore, the United States, Malaysia, and Australia, where authorities can arrest a person on mere suspicion he is a terrorist, based on available intelligence information.

“Here we have the Human Security Act but we are requesting our lawmakers to make amends or add some provisions because we believe it’s not enough to address the threats against terrorism,” Año said.

“The country enjoys so much democratic space that is being exploited by terror groups and also criminal groups unlike in other countries,” he also said in a press conference in

Camp Crame in Quezon City.

Año was in the PNP’s headquarters for the signing of a joint resolution of the Armed Forces and the PNP creating an “inter-agency committee on legal action” which he said will be in charge in intelligence gathering and cooperation, investigation, prosecution, and monitoring of cases against leaders or members of terrorist groups.

He said under the internal security act of other countries, there are “special provisions” that allow the arrest of person “on mere suspicion based on information and there is a special court that will hear the case.”

“And they do not even have to file charges immediately. Up to three years, they can actually detain a person until they determine that that person is really part of a terror group,” he added.

PNP chief Ronald dela Rosa said stricter laws against terrorism may not be passed because Filipinos are known to shoot down proposals which may not work in their favor.

Dela Rosa cited the proposed national ID system which he said “is a very crucial mission to address terrorism,” and a proposal to do away with prepaid SIM cards and use of postpaid lines to identify all cellphone owners.

The House last month approved on final reading a bill seeking to install a national ID system.

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Military says Marawi conflict to end by Sunday

BY VICTOR REYES

THE head of the Western Mindanao Command yesterday said the Armed Forces is targeting to rid Marawi City of Maute terrorists not later than this Sunday, noting the conflict area has been further reduced to about four to five hectares from around 10 hectares some three weeks ago.

In a press briefing in Marawi City, Wesmincom chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez said two of three sectors of the conflict area were cleared yesterday morning.

“We have the remaining sector of TG (Task Group) Musang. It will be cleared not later than (October) 15 which is our deadline. But we are confident we will be able to clear the remaining area in the next few days,” he said.

Galvez said the Wesmincom has informed AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año of the October 15 target. Año is due to reach the mandatory retirement age of 56 on October 26, and he has said the conflict that started on May 23, when the Maute Group attacked the city, would be over before he bows out of service.

“Two of the three sectors have been already cleared. We are clearing just one... The timeline that we gave to the chief of staff is October 15 but I believe we can

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achieve that not later than October 15,” Galvez said.

The two sectors were cleared by the Task Group Vector and the Task Group Tiger. Clearing operations at the third sector are being done by the Task Group Musang under First Scout Ranger Regiment commander Brig. Gen. Rene Glen Paje.

“We have spread our forces very well. We are very confident that we can accomplish this. A ground commander reported to me that there is a positive development ongoing right now,” said Galvez.

Asked to elaborate on the positive development, Galvez said: “I cannot reveal the development but it will hasten the clearing.”

Galvez also said the enemy’s last defense is being led by Maute leader Omar Maute and senior Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon.

“We believe they have no way of escaping,” said Galvez of the remaining terrorists who number about 40 to 50.

Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of the Joint Task Force Ranao, said the conflict area has been equally divided among the three task groups.

Brawner could not immediately say the size of conflict area although officials earlier said part of around 10 to 12 barangays of Marawi have been affected by the conflict.

ANOTHER MOSQUE RECOVERED

Galvez also reported that troops on Sunday recovered another mosque from the Maute, bringing to only one the number of mosques under Maute control.

“However, in the course of the effort, three soldiers died, bringing

to 158 the total of soldiers and policemen killed in action (since May 23),” said Galvez.

The conflict has also resulted in the death of 774 Maute men and 47 civilians.

Galvez said the fighting in Marawi remained intense yesterday. He said he received information that some soldiers were wounded in yesterday’s fighting but did not give figures.

Galvez said the military received information that Omar Maute was wounded during the assault of the Bato Mosque which was recovered from Maute control in the latter part of September.

Galvez said 12 children and 16 women are still being held by the Maute Group inside the main battle area.

Galvez said the number is on top of around 31 to 33 dependents of Maute and Abu Sayyaf members who were brought inside the battle

area. He said military is treating the dependents as “non-combatants.”

“For as long as they do not get firearms, we will treat them as non-military objectives. As much as possible, we want to isolate them so they won’t be collaterals. That’s part of our rules of engagement,” he said.

FOREIGN TERRORISTS DEAD

Galvez also reported that three foreign terrorists died in recent air strikes, bringing the number of foreign fighters in the area down to six to nine.

“There were initially 12 (foreign terrorists) we monitored and we reduced it to nine. But there were three foreign terrorists who were hit in our air strikes. We’re looking at the possibility that they’re down to six to nine,” said Galvez. – *With Jocelyn Montemayor*

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Sorry for wrong logo, Lorenzana tells China

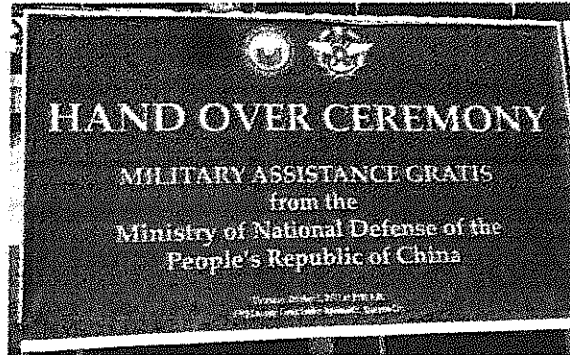
BY VICTOR REYES

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana yesterday apologized to China for his department's "grievous but purely unintentional" error in putting the logo of the Taiwanese defense ministry in the banner displayed during the turnover of weapons donated by the Chinese government on Thursday last week.

DND public affairs chief Arsenio Andolong said Lorenzana sent the signed letter of apology yesterday to the Chinese government, through Chinese ambassador Zhao Jinhua.

"It (letter) was between the SND (Secretary of

.....
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Oops. A tarpaulin showing the logo of the Department of National Defense (left) and Taiwan's Ministry of Defense hung from the canopy of the AFP General Headquarters. PHOTO BY VICTOR REYES

SORRY

National Defense) and the ambassador, apologizing for the error. We acknowledge it (error) but it was purely unintentional," Andolong said in a phone interview.

"He (Lorenzana) personally wrote the letter," added Andolong.

He said the department is not releasing a copy of the letter to the public because it was a "personal communication" between Lorenzana and Zhao.

Andolong said the Chinese embassy "politely" called the attention

of the DND about the error last Saturday, or two days after the turnover of the weapons, when they noticed the logo from pictures.

The banner showed the logo of the DND and that of the Taiwanese defense ministry, instead of the Chinese defense ministry. The banner had the markings: "Handover Ceremony, Military Assistance Gratis from the Ministry of National Defense of the People's Republic of China."

The banner was displayed at the AFP canopy in Camp Aguinaldo where Zhao turned over to

Lorenzana and AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año 3,000 M4 rifles, three million ammunition and 90 scopes for sniper rifles.

The Chinese government turned over the same number and type of firearms and six million ammunition to the DND and AFP last June. A third batch of Chinese weapons is due to be transferred to the Philippines early next year.

"(T)he Department of National Defense committed a grievous but purely unintentional mistake of using a different logo on a banner to represent the Ministry of

Defense of the People's Republic of China," said Andolong.

Andolong said the department is "fully cognizant and grateful" of the assistance of China even as he assured that the DND and the AFP are strictly adhering to the "One China Policy" of the Philippine government.

"It is our sincere hope that this very unfortunate incident will not affect the cooperative and friendly relations between our two countries which has grown warmer over the past year," said Andolong.

— *With Reuters*

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VALIANT WARRIORS | Wescom and Navforwest Commanders Visit Wounded Troops

Photo by [Alvin Santiago](#) | [View Article](#) | [Print Article](#)



CAMP GEN ARTEMIO RICARTE STATION HOSPITAL, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan (DWDD) – Maj. Gen. Galileo Gerard R Kintanar Jr., the Commander, Western Command (CWC) together with Commo. Rommel Jason L Galang, the Commander, Naval Forces West (CNFW), visited the valiant Marines from Marine Battalion Landing Team (MBLT)-12 who were wounded in action (WIA) at Camp General Artemio Ricarte Station Hospital, Bgy. San Miguel, Puerto Princesa City on Oct. 2.

TSgt. Restituto H Silverio, Cpl. Melvin P Villa and Cpl. Chistian D Rentillo who suffered minor wounds as members of the troops who extricated from the kill zone during an ambush attack from lawless elements on Oct. 30., was seen in good condition and in high sense of morale as they felt the utmost support from the Western Command and Naval Forces West highlighted more during the said visit.

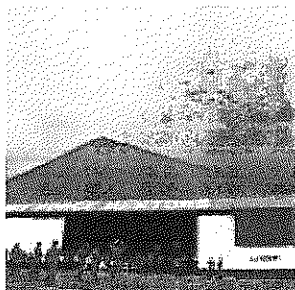
As a background, a convoy consisting of an M35 truck and an elf truck with more or less 30 personnel from MBLT-12 was ambushed by unidentified number of CPP-NPA-NDF at vicinity Sitio Itabiak, Brgy. New Agutaya, San Vicente, Palawan while proceeding to Headquarters MBLT-12 to attend marine Ethos Advocacy Seminar. Firefight lasted for about 20 minutes. The three WIA were immediately brought to Roxas Medicare Hospital for initial medical treatment before transported to CGARSH for further medical attention.

In spite of this instance, the Western Command continues to urge the other communist terrorists to put their arms down and surrender. The Local Social Integration Program (LSIP) of the Provincial Government of Palawan and the Comprehensive Local Social Integration Program (CLIP) of the Department of Interior and Local Government are waiting for them to start their lives anew. **WESCOM/MCAG 26**

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CHAMPAGNE FLIGHT | CG PAF's Farewell Visit to AETDC

Reported by **Alvin Santiago** CG Commander, AETDC



SAN FERNANDO AIRBASE, Lipa City, Batangas (DWDD) – Already set to retire in October 2017, the Philippine Air Force's 34th Commanding General, Lieutenant General Edgar R Fallorina AFP, carried out his "Champagne Flight" on October 6, 2017 at the Air Education Training and Doctrine Command, Fernando Air Base in Lipa City, Batangas where he utilized the SF-260 Marchetti aircraft.

Once a military pilot decides to retire from the service, the traditional Champagne Flight serves as his/her last flight. Moreover, during the said activity, the SF-260 is being used to remind every pilot that he/she started out his/her career flying the trainer aircraft.

Meanwhile, the CG, PAF also had the opportunity to talk to the men and women of FAB as part of his farewell visit. During his talk, he expressed his gratitude to the personnel for the unwavering support they have extended to him. **PIO PAF /**