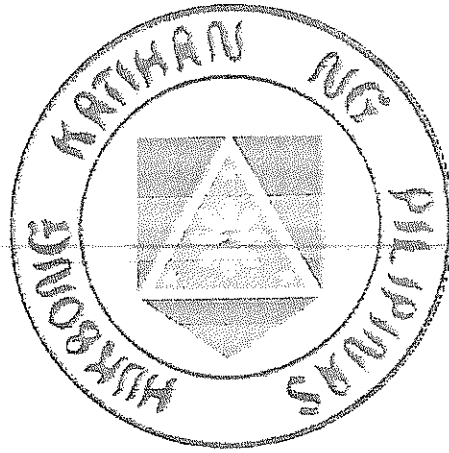


Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



TEAM ARMY
Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

13 October 2017

Friday

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

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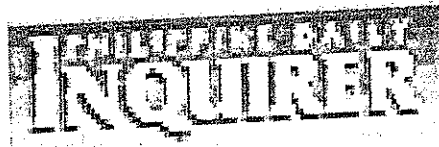
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PANAHON TV
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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FAITHFUL VIEW

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 13, 2017 | FRIDAY

TROPICAL DEPRESSION "ODETTE"
285 KM EAST OF APARRI, CAGAYAN
(As of 4:00 PM - October 12, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:47 AM	5:37 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
11:41 PM	12:50 PM
LAST QUARTER	NEW MOON
OCT-12 8:25 AM	OCT-20 1:30 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
11:47 AM 0.01 Meter	2:26 AM 1.16 Meter

Partly cloudy with times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
Rains with gusty winds

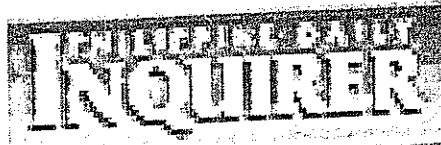
	OCT 14	OCT 15	OCT 14	OCT 15	OCT 14	OCT 15		
METRO MANILA	25-31°C	25-31°C	TAGAYTAY	18-27°C	17-28°C	TACLOBAN	24-31°C	25-32°C
TUGUEGARAO	25-31°C	24-32°C	LEGAZPI	25-30°C	25-32°C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	23-32°C	23-32°C
LADAG	24-31°C	25-31°C	PUERTO PRINCESA	24-31°C	25-30°C	METRO DAVAO	25-34°C	25-33°C
BAGUIO	16-22°C	17-23°C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25-32°C	26-32°C	ZAMBOANGA	24-32°C	24-33°C
SBMA/CLARK	24-30°C	25-32°C	METRO CEBU	25-32°C	25-32°C	<p style="font-size: x-small;">WEEKDAYS 6AM, 6:30 PM & 9PM WEEKENDS: 6AM</p>		

DZRHNEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

PILIPINAS HD

13 October



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Gov't fatalities in Marawi rise to 160

By Richel Umel
and Jeffrey Maitem
@inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—The number of government troops killed in the war here has risen to 160, as state security forces make a hard push against remaining Islamic State-inspired terrorists holed up in a small pocket of the city to end the conflict by Oct. 15.

Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of Joint Task Force Lanao, did not specify the circumstances surrounding the latest military losses but said the number of slain terrorists had also risen—to 811 from 774 on Monday.

Brawner said soldiers cleared more recaptured areas in the main battle zone, the size of which was now just three or four hectares.

Deadline

On Wednesday, troops recovered the bodies of 27 terrorists killed in the fighting and in airstrikes on the positions of the remaining gunmen in the city center.

"The military remains confi-

dent to end the Marawi crisis by Oct. 15, which will be followed by a second clearing operation before the rehabilitation starts," Brawner said.

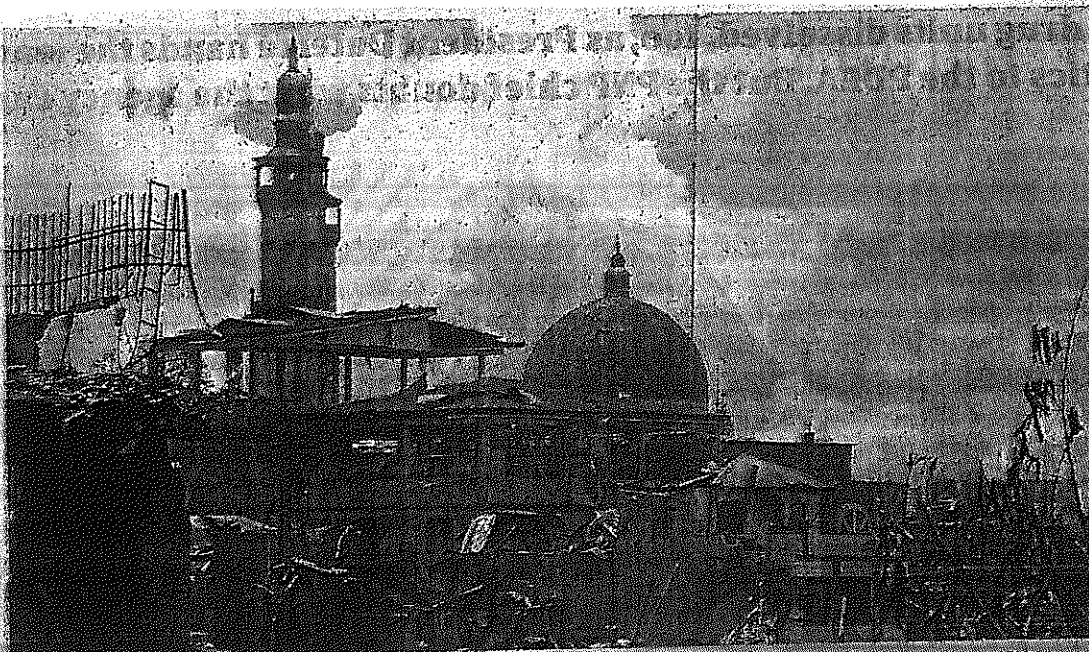
Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, chief of the military's Western Mindanao Command, said the number of terrorists who continued to put up resistance could still be 100, more than double the initial military estimate of 38 to 48 gunmen.

Galvez said that among those still fighting alongside Omar Maute of the Maute terror group and Isnilon Hapilon of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group in the main battle zone were nine foreigners. He did not specify their nationalities.

At the start of the war here, Galvez said there were about 50 foreign terrorists who fought alongside the Maute and Abu Sayyaf gunmen.

Some were from Middle Eastern countries and the majority were from Malaysia and Indonesia.

Among those confirmed killed was Malaysian Muhammad Joraimie Awang Raimee, Galvez said.



HEAVY DAMAGE Fighting between government forces and Islamic State-inspired terrorists has brought heavy damage to buildings in Marawi City. —JEFFREY MAITEM

Joramee, also known as Abu Nur and the right-hand man of university-professor-turned-militant Mahmud Ahmad, was slain in fighting on Sept. 28.

Omar Maute still alive
“We still have some information that Omar, Dr. Mahmud,

Amin Baku and six to nine foreign terrorists are still alive. They are considered very dangerous because they are aggressive and very desperate,” Galvez added.

Mahmud and Joramee were among the alleged key planners of the May 23 Marawi siege, along with Hapilon and Maute

siblings Abdullah, Omar and Madie.

Galvez said the part of the city that remained to be cleared, which included Barangay Dansalan, was assigned to Task Force Musang.

“One sector remaining to be cleared and we are confident to

clear it not later than Oct. 15, which is our deadline,” he added.

Galvez said troops were inching forward cautiously because of the presence of the hostages, including 12 children and three women.

Escaped hostages

Three hostages managed to escape from the main battle area earlier this week.

Galvez said the escaped hostages, who were later rescued, had told authorities that the other women and children inside the main battle area were family members of the Maute gunmen and their allies.

Brawner earlier said the military had expected the fight to become more difficult as the terrorists were being pushed into smaller areas.

“It’s difficult in the sense that the structures there were closely built. Also, there are a lot of small houses, structures that they can easily hide in,” he said.

Galvez said the military was determined to finish the job before its self-imposed deadline.

—WITH A REPORT FROM AP INQ

3 October



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PNP kills 'Tokhang'

**By Maricar Cinco,
Nikko Dizon
and Leila B. Salaverria
@Team Inquirer**

MANILA CITY—With the Philippine National Police demoted from the lead role in President Duterte's war on drugs, PNP Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, folded "Oplan Tokhang" and "Project Double Barrel" on Thursday.

Oplan Tokhang is the police door-to-door campaign to convince drug users to surrender for rehabilitation.

Project Double Barrel is the intensified campaign against the narcotics trade, characterized by police sweeps of the slums in which the PNP say officers have killed more than 3,800 suspects who resisted arrest since Mr. Duterte launched the campaign after taking office in June last year.

More than 2,000 others have been killed by unknown assailants, who human rights groups believe are hited guns working for the police or are policemen themselves working for rewards promised by their superiors.

Public anger over the killings, especially of minors, pulled down Mr. Duterte's approval and trust ratings in opinion polls, forcing him to demote the PNP from the lead in his antinarcotics program.

Fewer deaths

Speaking to reporters in Malacañang on Thursday, Mr. Duterte said he decided to make the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) the lead agency in the fight against illegal drugs because few had been killed in its operations.

"This is better or betterer, do you say," Mr. Duterte said. "There were no deaths, so there would be no encounter. So better for you bleeding hearts and the media. I hope I will satisfy you."

But Dela Rosa, who unabashedly cried in the Senate over criticism of the brutality

of the campaign, said on Thursday that he was "sad" about Mr. Duterte's decision to take away the lead role in the war on drugs from the PNP and give it to the PDEA.

"We poured all our energy into this campaign but it did not totally succeed," the PNP chief told reporters in Binan City, where he attended the launching of a rehabilitation program for drug users.

Dela Rosa said he doubted the PDEA's capability to carry out the war on drugs with its 1,700 agents compared with the PNP force of more than 185,000. "I don't know their tack on the (drug) problem," he said.

Drug units dissolved

He said the only ones happy about the President's decision were the drug lords and drug pushers, who were probably saying "back to business, back to business."

"Now that we are pulling back, I don't know if the crime rates would rise again," he added.

Besides Oplan Tokhang and Project Double Barrel, the PNP also dissolved its drug enforce-

ment units, from regional offices down to police stations throughout the country.

Director Camilo Cascolan, head of the PNP Directorate for Operations, said the force would now focus on reducing street crimes.

Among the street crimes to be tackled by the PNP are killings by motorcycle-riding gunmen, which Cascolan described as the crime "now destroying the reputation and credibility of the PNP."

Human rights campaigners say the drive-by shootings are the work of hired guns working for the PNP in the war on drugs or are policemen themselves out to collect rewards that come with the campaign.

The PNP denies having a hand in those mostly nighttime attacks, saying they are carried out by drug gangs fighting over turf.

Chief Supt. Dionardo Carlos, spokesperson for the PNP, told a news conference on Thursday that the police campaign that lasted more than a year would bear out the PNP.

He said the PNP carried out 80,000 operations against ille-

gal drugs throughout the country in running the campaign.

The campaign, he said, "reached out to the lives of those affected by the drug menace—1.3 million" people.

He said the PNP assessment was that the police campaign was 95 percent "to provide [an] opportunity [for rehabilitation] for the people who are affected by drugs."

The other 5 percent, or 109,000 drug offenders, were arrested alive, he said.

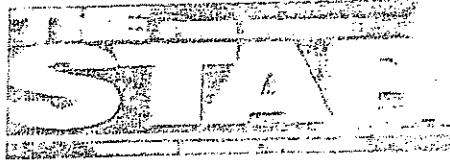
Carlos said all this was "almost 99.9908 percent of the campaign."

Malacanang said that by designating the PDEA as lead agency in the war on drugs, the government was just shifting the focus of the campaign against narcotics.

"What happened was the street distribution networks of the drug lords have been degraded," presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said, referring to the police campaign.

"So we now target higher echelons of the syndicates as well as their protectors in the government," he said. INQ

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New Army vice commander, chief of staff assume post

The Philippine Army has a new vice commander and chief of staff.

Maj. Gen. Robert Arevalo was named vice commander while Brig. Gen. Gilbert Gapay replaced Arevalo as chief of staff.

Arevalo replaced Maj. Gen. Harold Cabrereros who retired on Oct. 7.

The change of command ceremony was held last week.

The Army said Arevalo, an expert in logistics, is a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1985.

Prior to his stint in the Army, Arevalo was commander of the headquarters

and headquarters support group from 2013 to 2016, assistant chief of staff for logistics from 2010 to 2013 and assistant chief of staff for comptrollership training and doctrine command from 1999 to 2001.

Gapay is the topnotcher of the PMA Class of 1986 and has a master's degree in management.

He was the deputy commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command. He was also the head of the Joint Task Force Haribon as well as the spokesman for the implementation of martial law in Mindanao.

- Michael Punongbayan

3 October

INQUIRER

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SCOUT RANGER VILLE

DUTERTE FULFILLS PROMISE OF NEW HOUSES FOR TROOPS

SAN MIGUEL, BULACAN— President Duterte on Wednesday led the groundbreaking ceremony for a military housing project here, saying the new houses would replace the 6,000 low-cost units that were forcibly occupied by members of the urban poor group Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay) in March.

"This is the result of that sad event (takeover). I asked you to give up the houses for Kadamay families because they are also Filipinos. This is what you get in return. These houses are far bigger than what Kadamay members have taken," he said.

Kadamay families occupied five government housing sites mostly in Pandi town after they said their applications for affordable housing had been ne-



President Duterte leads the groundbreaking rites for a housing project for soldiers in Bulacan province. —JOAN BONDOC

glected by the government.

The 1,000 houses to be built on a 50-hectare land in Barangay Tartaro here are intended for members of the elite First Scout Ranger Regiment based in

Camp Tecson.

The project, called Scout Ranger Ville, will be financed with a P200-million allocation from the Department of Budget and Management. The houses will have a

floor size of 62 meters each.

"Why did I prioritize the soldiers? The soldiers and the policemen on the average ... face dangerous situations every day and the law of averages suggests you will pass on ahead of us," Mr. Duterte said. "So I have this [affordable housing for the uniformed services] in mind."

The houses are expected to be completed by December 2018, Mr. Duterte said, adding that each beneficiary will also receive P70,000 as assistance.

Gloria Arellano, Kadamay chair, assured there won't be any more takeover from its members.

"That's theirs (housing project for soldiers)," Arellano said in a text message. "But the government should still focus on developing housing for the poor."

—CARMELA REYES-ESTROPE INQ

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Duterte pushes army housing in Bulacan

BY ERNESTO R. RABILING
AND GEDDIE C. VESES

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—The government is aiming to complete a new housing project for soldiers in Bulacan province by December 2018.

President Duterte made the promise to the government troops after leading the ground-breaking rites of the Scout Ranger Ville located in a 50-hectare property in San Miguel, Bulacan.

"We must complete this within at least one year. So by December hopefully, by the grace of God, we will have your units ready," the President said in his speech.

"General Ed Del Rosario, sabi naman ni Housing, he will deliver the houses to you December 2018. So, 2018 tapos na 'yung mga bahay," he said, referring to Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chief Eduardo del Rosario.

Classified under the Armed Forces of the Philippine-Philippine National Police (AFP-PNP) housing program, the project materialized following an agreement entered into by the Manila Banking Corporation, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the National Housing Authority (NHA), the PagIBIG Fund, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council,

and the Scout Ranger Multipurpose Cooperative for the 50-hectare portion of Manilabank property into a housing site for the scout rangers.

The housing project, funded by a P200-million subsidy from the DBM, involves construction of 1,000 housing units in a huge lot located in Barangay Calumpang/Tartaro, San Miguel, Bulacan.

Members of the 1st Scout Ranger Regiment will be the beneficiaries of the

120-square meter house and lot.

"Now we have delivered what we promised for our soldiers and policemen. I am also here to pay homage to the heroism of our scout rangers who fought gallantly in Marawi," the President said.

For his part Bulacan Governor Wilhelmino M. Sy-Alvarado said that it is with pride and honor that the "Scout Rangers Ville" is home of the elite scout rangers will be constructed in this town,

where one of the three Republics – the Republic of Biak-na-Bato – was born during the twilight years of the Philippine revolution against Spanish colonial rule.

As a house-warming gift, the President also promised to give P70,000 to every soldier who will occupy the new homes next year.

"Aside from the unit that you will get kung makumpleto na, you will receive from me P70,000," he said.

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B October

INQUIRER

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Court acquits Army major in Burgos abduction case

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

Ten years after the disappearance of activist Jonas Burgos, the Army soldier who stood trial on arbitrary detention charges was acquitted on Thursday by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court (RTC).

In a decision read in the presence of Burgos' mother and siblings at the Quezon City RTC Branch 216, Judge Alfonso Ruiz II said that the prosecution had failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt the guilt of Maj. Harry Baliaga Jr.

The court said the prosecution had failed in its duty to prove Baliaga's identity as "the person who abducted and arbitrarily detained" the then 37-year-old activist.

None of the eyewitnesses were able to identify the soldier in court during the four-year trial.

"Hearsay"

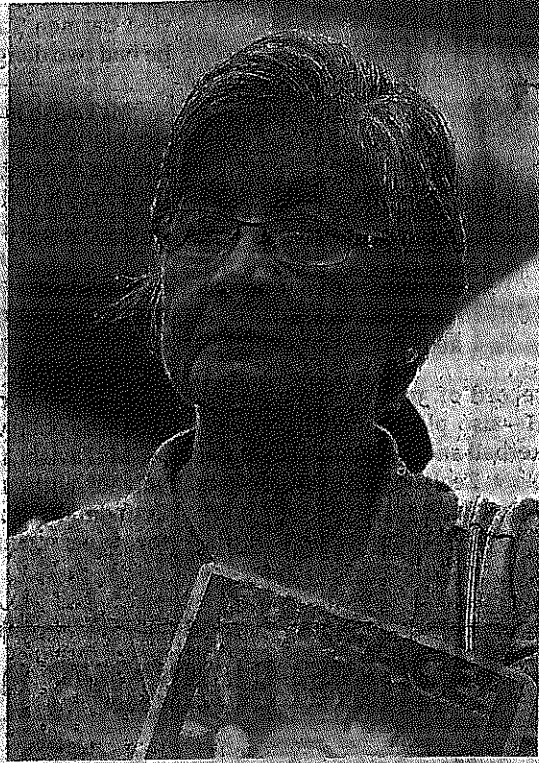
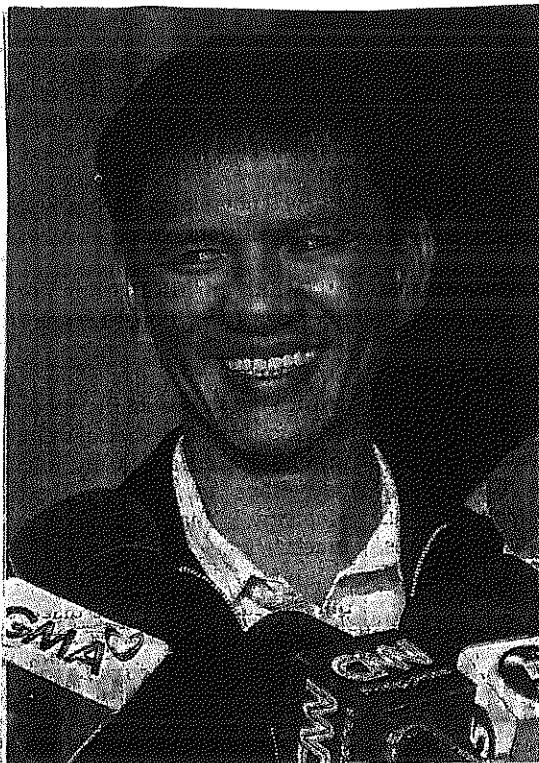
The ruling noted that testimonies of the witnesses were "hearsay" as these were based on statements by other people who claimed to have witnessed the abduction.

The National Union of Peoples' Lawyers (NUPL), which served as private prosecutor, said it was not able to locate the three key witnesses who were earlier presented for the writ of amparo proceedings in the Court of Appeals (CA).

They were restaurant bus-boy Jeffrey Cabintoy, management trainee Elsa Agasang and security guard Larry Marquez.

There was also no sufficient circumstantial evidence to prove Baliaga's guilt, the court said. The only circumstantial evidence was the discovery of a vehicle—said to have been used

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Maj. Harry Baliaga Jr.: "Justice has been served [on my] part." —JAM STA. ROSA

Edita Burgos: "This is only a delay in our search for my son." —NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

to abduct Burgos—at the 5th Infantry Battalion Camp in Norzagaray, Bulacan province, where Baliaga was previously assigned.

On April 28, 2007, unidentified men dragged Burgos, who had worked with farmers, from a restaurant at Ever Gotesco Mall on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, and forced him into a vehicle, reportedly with the plate No. TAB 194.

Since then, the Burgos family, led by Edita, has engaged in tireless legal battles and grass-root campaigns to keep the search alive in hopes of having Jonas back.

Mixed emotions

Speaking to reporters after the promulgation, Baliaga said

he felt "mixed emotions," but added he was "very happy that justice has been served [on my] part."

He added: "I'm saddened also that Mrs. Burgos did not find justice."

After the decision was read, Baliaga, who is out on bail, shook hands with Burgos' 74-year-old mother.

'Help find my son'

Edita Burgos later confided to reporters that she had told the soldier: "Maybe now you can help me find him."

"If he's not guilty, then he should help find my son ... I'm sure he knows [where he is]," she said. "As a father, he should know how it feels to lose a son. I challenge him to tell us where

Jonas is.

A 2013 CA ruling held Baliaga responsible for the disappearance of the political activist and ordered the military to exert efforts to bring justice to the Burgos case.

"We do not agree [with the decision of the Regional Trial Court], but we respect it," she said.

"A mother cannot give up ... This is only a delay in our search for my son," she said. "Maybe this is God's will, but later on, we will find Jonas."

Freed from detention

The Armed Forces of the Philippines on Thursday said it respected the court's decision.

In a statement, the AFP public-affairs-chief, Col. Edgard

WHAT WENT BEFORE

Farmer-activist Jonas Burgos just finished an organic farming training for members of Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Bulacan, a chapter of the peasant organization Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, when he was abducted by military agents in a restaurant at Ever Gotesco Mall in Quezón City on April 28, 2007. He has not been seen since then.

Burgos was the son of the late veteran journalist and freedom fighter, Jose Burgos Jr., who published hard-hitting newspapers against then President Ferdinand Marcos. The elder Burgos was detained several times during the martial law regime in the 1970s and early 1980s.

A mall security guard said Burgos was taken away in a Toyota Revo with plate No. TAB 194.

The plate was traced by Burgos' mother, Edita Burgos, to a vehicle impounded at the headquarters of the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion (IB) in Norzagaray, Bulacan province. The vehicle, believed to have been used to haul illegally cut logs in Norzagaray and Angat towns, had been seized and parked at the military

camp since June 2006.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Gen. Eduardo Año then headed the Army's intelligence division when the alleged abduction took place, which had been linked to the disappearance of Burgos.

Burgos' mother filed an arbitrary detention case against Año, Col. Melquiades Feliciano and Maj. Harry Baliaga Jr.

In a decision issued on Sept. 3, 2013, the Department of Justice recommended that only Baliaga be indicted for arbitrary detention. Feliciano and Año were exonerated due to lack of probable cause.

No murder case was filed because the activist's body had yet to be found.

The Commission on Human Rights, which investigated Burgos' disappearance on a Supreme Court directive, had talked to witnesses who identified Baliaga, then a first lieutenant at the 56th IB, as the one who seized Burgos at the restaurant.

Baliaga was charged with arbitrary detention and had been out on bail since 2013. —INQUIRER RESEARCH

Source: Inquirer Archives

Arevalo, said Baliaga was freed from detention at the Headquarters Service Group of the Philippine Army soon after his acquittal.

Since the case cannot be revived due to the rule on double jeopardy, NUPL president Edre Olalia said his group would consider filing a different case for violations of the Anti-Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance Act.

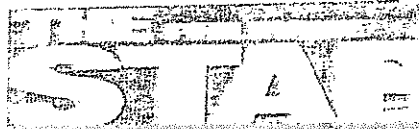
The NUPL also said it hoped the Department of Justice would act on its motion for reconsideration that sought to once again include certain mili-

tary officers in the charges.

They include Lt. Col. Melquiades Feliciano and Gen. Eduardo Año for arbitrary detention; and retired Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, retired Lieutenant General Romeo Tolentino and Alexander Yano, and retired Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon Jr. for obstruction of justice.

Both Año and Esperon now hold top posts in the Duterte administration, as AFP chief of staff and national security adviser, respectively. —WITH A REPORT FROM NIKKO DIZON INQ

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Army officer in Burgos disappearance acquitted

By ROMINA CABRERA

The lone military official charged in the enforced disappearance of Jonas Burgos in 2007 was acquitted of arbitrary detention charges yesterday by a Quezon City regional trial court (RTC).

QC-RTC Branch 216 Judge Alfonso Ruiz said that the prosecution failed to prove Army Maj. Harry Baliaga, Jr.'s guilt beyond reasonable doubt on the charges of violation of Article 124 (arbitrary detention) of the Revised Penal Code.

Baliaga expressed relief on his acquittal, saying that justice was finally served on his part four years after the case was formally filed before the court.

Baliaga was acquitted of the crime after Ruiz ruled that the prosecution only presented circumstantial evidence with the discovery that the vehicle with license plate TAB-194 used in Burgos' disappearance was apprehended and impounded at the 5th Infantry Battalion Camp in San Mateo, Norzagaray, Bulacan where the official was formerly assigned.

Witnesses said Burgos was forcibly brought into that vehicle after he was taken from a restaurant at a mall in Quezon City in April 2007.

The RTC decision said Baliaga could not be found guilty beyond reasonable doubt as the person who abducted and arbitrarily detained Burgos, citing the lack of eyewitness

to testify in the case.

Ruiz explained that while the commission of the crime was established, there can be no conviction without proof of identity of the criminal beyond reasonable doubt.

Edre Olalia of the National Union of People's Lawyers said that while they were hoping for a favorable decision, they were not surprised with the outcome due to "legal limitations" that they faced.

The prosecution was unable to present the three witnesses in Burgos' abduction as they admitted that they could no longer be contacted probably due to personal reasons.

Despite the acquittal, Olalia said the fight for Burgos continues 10 years after his disappearance.

Olalia said they are looking at the possibility of filing charges based on the law on enforced or involuntary disappearances signed in 2009 by then president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Olalia also noted that they have a motion for reconsideration pending since 2013 before the Department of Justice on its resolution dismissing cases against ranking officials of the military in Burgos' disappearance.

The respondents in the pending motion include current National Security Adviser Hermodenes Esperon Jr., Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año and two others.

- With Michael Punongbayan

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MANILA BULLETIN
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Army major acquitted of Burgos abduction

BY CHINO A. CHAVEZ

A Quezon City court has acquitted a military officer who was supposedly involved in the disappearance of activist Jonas Burgos of arbitrary detention charges.

In a decision by Judge Alfonso Ruiz II of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 216, the court ruled that the prosecution failed to prove that accused Army Major Harry Baliaga Jr. was the one who abducted and detained Burgos.

The decision said that the testimony of an eyewitness identifying Baliaga was

deemed hearsay by the court since it was based merely on somebody else's information.

On Apr. 28, 2007, Burgos was seen being dragged out of the Ever Gotesco Mall in Quezon City mall restaurant and forced inside a vehicle.

The abductors forced Burgos into a vehicle with license plate TAB-194 which was traced later in the custody of the 56th Infantry Battalion.

Baliaga who is the only suspect arrested for Burgos' disappearance did not spend a single minute in jail after posting a P40,000 bail for his temporary freedom.

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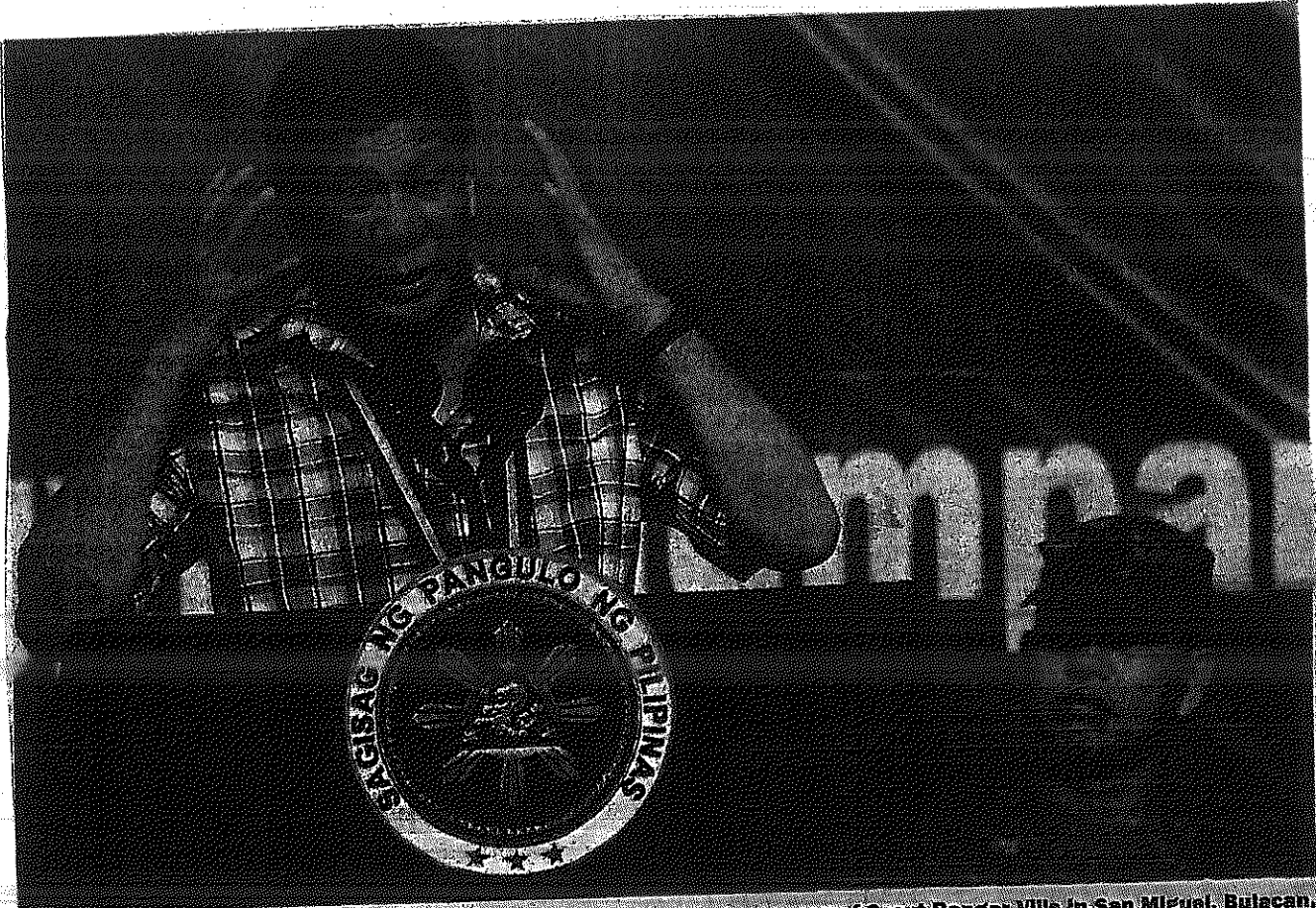
SCOUT RAJ
- President
leads Wedn
capsule layn
ground-break
of the National
Authority (NHA)
Ranger Viljo Proj
San Miguel, Bulac
He is joined by (fro
left) NHA General
Manager Marcolino
Escalada Jr., Housing
and Urban Developmen
Coordinating Council
Chairman Eduardo
del Rosario, Defense
Secretary Delfin
Lorenzana, AFP Chief
of Staff Eduardo Ano,
Major General Rolando
Bautista, and Bulacan
Gov. Wilhelmino M.
Sy-Alvarado. (Freddie G.
Valez)

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING METROPOLIS

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NO TO 'INDOLENT' BUREAUCRATS - Speaking at the ground-breaking ceremony of Scout Ranger Villo in San Miguel, Bulacan, Wednesday, the President says he prefers to appoint ex-military officers to government positions because unlike 'indolent' bureaucrats, they are organized and hardworking. (Richard Vinas)

B October 2017

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Here's why PRRD prefers military men over civilians in gov't posts

In every sensitive post in government today is a retired military official. Which makes one wonder why President Duterte is fond of appointing military men to key positions in government most of whom have either been assigned in Davao or worked closely with the then Davao mayor.

According to the President, former military officers are organized and hardworking, unlike some "indolent" career officials in the bureaucracy.

"The predilection of presidents is leaned towards the military either it's Aquino or Arroyo or somebody," the President explained during ▶12

ground-breaking rites of a military housing project in Bulacan Wednesday.

"Ang kinukuha namin lahat mga military because the military kasi at least maski na retired, you've been trained to have an organized mind laps isang salita lang [We appoint military men because the military, even if retired, you've been trained to have an organized mind and have one word]," he said.

The President made the remarks while lauding Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) chair Eduardo del Rosario's swift efforts to build better houses for the military and policemen. Del Rosa-

rio, a retired Army general, previously served as defense undersecretary for veterans and retiree affairs and executive director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) under the previous administration.

Del Rosario took over from Vice President Leni Robredo.

Duterte, in his remarks, claimed that civil servants are usually industrious in their early years of service but some grow lazy over the years.

"This is not to berate my countrymen but yang nasa Civil Service, kung bago pa kayo [when you're starting], while you are building a career in the

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bureaucracy, ang tiyaga-tiyaga ninyo [you are very hardworking]. CESO (Career Executive Service Officer) and all of the examinations that would qualify you to the higher positions," he said.

"Kaya lang magdating na kayo sa itaas and over time malanda na rin kayo, medyo - some of them are or you have become indolent [But when you reach the top and over time, you become old and some of them are or you have become indolent]," he said.

He observed that some government officials even drag their feet when complying with orders issued by their superiors. He noted that, "Yung hindi mo masunod ang gusto mo, kung masunod man, it takes time [It takes time for them to comply with what

you want them to do. And if ever they comply, it takes time).

Among the ex-military officers in the Duterte administration are Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr., Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Customs chief Isidro Lapeña, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office general manager Alexander Balutan, National Irrigation Administration head Ricardo Visaya, National Food Authority head Jason Aquino, Metropolitan Manila

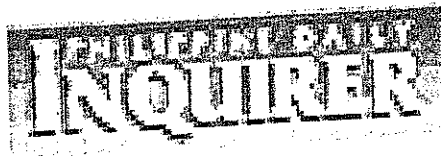
Development Authority chair Danilo Lim, and National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council executive director Ricardo Jalad.

Del Rosario served as commander of Task Force Davao and commander of the 73rd Infantry Brigade (IB) detailed in the Davao provinces.

And prior to his retirement, the President intends to appoint outgoing Armed Forces chief Eduardo Año as the next secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government. (Genalyn D. Kabiling)

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EVACUEES CAN'T GO HOME YET EVEN IF MARAWI CONFLICT ENDS

By Allan Nawal,
Jeffrey Maitem
and Divina Suson
@inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—Even if the war here ends in the next few days as the military had earlier projected, it would still take time for the more than 50,000 families displaced by the almost five-month fighting to even visit their villages, a military commander said.

Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of the Joint Task Group Lanao, said the end of the fighting would not automatically mean immediate homecoming for Marawi residents as the military still had to conduct clearing operations for unexploded ordnance or booby traps while other government agencies had to look for and retrieve bodies and skeletal remains in the city.

This developed as the Task Force Bangon Marawi, which is tasked to lead the city's rehabilitation, had considered at least three options to rebuild Marawi. Among these was building an entirely new city in another site, away from the district already devastated by war

that started on May 23 when Islamic State-inspired terrorists laid siege to the Lanao del Sur provincial capital.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, commander of the Western Mindanao Command, said other options were to rebuild houses, buildings and establishments, and to relocate residents whose properties were destroyed or damaged in the war.

Funds for rebuilding

President Duterte had pledged P20 billion for the rehabilitation of Marawi but Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, who recently visited the war-torn city, believed the government would need about P47 billion to rebuild the city.

Lanao del Sur Vice Gov. Mamintal Adiong said local officials had yet to decide on how to proceed with rebuilding.

Crucial to the recommendations that the provincial government will be drafting is the fact that about 6,000 hectares of the 8,755-ha city is part of a military reservation, according to Adiong.

"We want to know what specific areas are within the military reservation," he said.

He said those living inside the military reservation could either stay or be relocated, depending on the result of discussions between the military and the national government.

Adiong said they would also push for compensation of residents who lost their homes in the war, a move that Marawi City Mayor Majul Gandamra had earlier raised.

"One of our advocacies is the rehabilitation and rebuilding of not just public infrastructure but also private properties... Based on our talk with [members of] Task Force Bangon Marawi, they are open to the idea of compensating the victims," Gandamra told the Inquirer.

Safety, health concerns

Adiong said it would take time before residents could go back to their villages because they needed to ensure that the city had been cleared of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and due to health concerns. He said government teams would conduct sanitation procedures, especially in areas where bodies had been found.

Galvez said it might take them about a month to clear the

city of IEDs and other things that would pose harm to the safety of returning residents.

He said the military had planned to allow the temporary return of residents by clusters.

"We will make sure that all [members of] the Maute [group] and other threats are completely eliminated first," Galvez said.

Brawner said even areas that military had secured and taken control during the early days of the fighting turned out to be not safe when explosives were discovered during last week's cleanup drive.

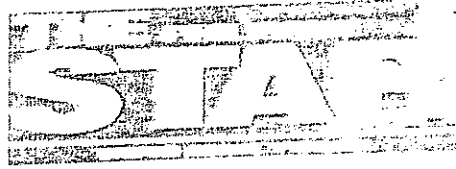
Relocation

The government, however, has been readying an in-ha relocation site in Barangay Sagonsongan here where temporary shelters are being built.

According to Mohammad Mustafa, the city's chief building permit officer, the earliest time some displaced residents can move to Sagonsongan will be in January next year.

The Chinese Filipino Business Club recently donated modular houses, which soldiers helped put up, for some families at the evacuation center in Bito Buadi Itowa. INQ

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AFP probes Salic's link to Maute militants

By JAIME LAUDE

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is looking into the possible links of a Filipino doctor facing charges for a bombing plot in New York to Maute militants.

Maranao doctor Russel Langi Salic, who is under the custody of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), is the subject an extradition request by the US government. He has been charged

for his alleged involvement in the plan to stage the attacks in the name of the Islamic State group during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in 2016. He denied the allegations.

"We are monitoring and conducting our own inquiry on certain matters," AFP spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said when asked on the probable link of Salic to the Maute group and if the military is conducting a parallel probe.

Padilla declined to give details, citing security concerns, adding that the NBI remains the main investigation arm.

"Every information we have concerning this individual is with the NBI and I'll leave it at that," he said.

"In certain terror threats... there are certain information that cannot be revealed until after the investigation has been completed in order not to compromise the probe that may lead to connections of

individuals or other groups," Padilla said.

A month before the Maute group stormed Marawi, there were intelligence reports that Salic helped treat the wounded militants.

"Salic surrendered in April 2017. We have shared our information based on or coming from allied intelligence...working with us on the potential connection of certain individuals in Lanao and Marawi," Padilla said.

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Peace talks with Reds remain 'alive' – Bello

By Ted Tuvera

Amid President Duterte's statement that he is not open to negotiating with the communist rebels, the government's lead mediator to the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front (CPP-NDF) yesterday gave hopes on the possibility of resuming the peace talks with them.

Government of the Republic of the Philippines' (GRP) chief negotiator to the NDF Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, at a Palace briefing, described that the peace talks to be still "alive."

Bello stressed that Duterte is still bent on winning peace in ending the nearly 50-year-old Maoist-inspired insurgency in the country.

"The talks are alive and we are just waiting for the President to give us the instruction to go back to the peace table," Bello told reporters.

"If you recall, when the President came in as our president, he made a very clear statement that his legacy to our country and our countrymen is a lasting peace for our country," he added.



CAPTION

President Duterte, in a recent speech, said that he is not yet ready to give the green light to continue talking with Reds and even pointed out that it might take another president for the negotiations to proceed.

In order for the peace talks to be officially terminated, the Philippine government must give a formal notice to the third party negotiator, the Royal Norwegian Government (RNG).

The Chief Executive last August made apparent bluffs that he will officially do so but, to date, he has

not yet given it.

"We have been consistently saying that in order to terminate the talks, either of the parties have to serve the party with a written notice of termination," Bello explained.

"The termination takes effect 30 days after receipt of that notice of termination," he said.

Bello did not elaborate further as to why the President is not yet formally terminating the talks except that the "cancellation" of both the formal and informal talks were done with "good reasons."

Meanwhile, the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) inked a memorandum on October 9 for the creation of an Inter-agency Committee on Legal Action meant to prepare charges against the CPP-NDF's armed wing, the New People's Army, and other armed groups.

Above-ground activists led by Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) compared the agency to the Nazi's Gestapo formation, pointing out that it might be a body meant to harass critics of the

Duterte administration

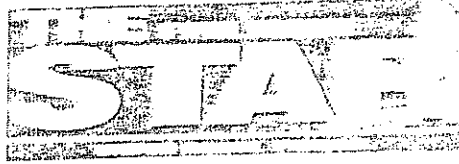
"Given the utterly dismal human rights situation under the Duterte regime will be used to clamp down on dissent from Duterte critics through the filing of trumped-up charges and other forms of harassment," Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes said.

The NDF, in a statement last September, said that Duterte should not need to be advised to him by his top defense and security officials – AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon.

"If Duterte is really serious in talking peace with the NDF, he must listen to the wise counsel of his peace negotiating panel head Secretary Bello who is knowledgeable about the history of the peace negotiations and the stand of the NDF on many questions," the NDF said in a statement.

The communists described Año, Lorenzana and Esperon as "militarists who know nothing but wage war against the revolutionary movement and the people."

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NPA rebels burn construction equipment

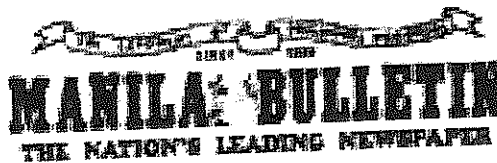
DIADI, Nueva Vizcaya – Suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels burned three heavy equipment in this town on Tuesday night.

Senior Inspector Jefferson Mukay, Diadi police chief, said the rebels stormed Delta Earthmoving Construction Co. owned by a certain Mr. Omegan of Tabuk, Kalinga and set on fire a dump truck, a water truck and a backhoe.

Workers and officials of the company refused to comment on the incident.

In Abra, Lowel Carmelo Maglia, 22, of the Kilusang Larangang Gerilya in Abra surrendered to Sallapadan Mayor Nenita Cardenas in Sitio Sadag, Barangay

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Time to finish fighting in Marawi – AFP

WE are in the closing days of the fighting in Marawi City, with Gen. Eduardo Año, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, hoping it will be over before he retires from the military service on October 26.

The latest instruction to the military commanders, he said, is to finish the Marawi crisis within this month. “We will finish it because that is the time to finish it,” he said. “And that is calculated based on projection of being able to rescue the remaining hostages, neutralizing the last terrorist, and minimizing the casualties of troops and civilians.”

He said there are about 40 rebels still fighting the encircling government troops. Eight or nine are foreigners – these are the Islamic State combatants from the Middle East who thought they could set up an IS regional center in Mindanao. “These are the ones who are suicidal,” General Año said. They are the ones who are commanding the local terrorists.”

In the last few days, the AFP suffered three

more soldiers killed in the fighting, bringing the total loss on the government side to 158, against 774 rebels.

The desire to keep these battlefield statistics down has held back the government from going all-out against the rebels who are believed to have 33 family members with them, along with 28 hostages. The rebels are fighting a guerrilla war from buildings they have booby-trapped with improvised explosive devices.

Last Monday, the AFP sent a helicopter to drop surrender feelers to the Maute holdouts, along with instructions to civilian family members and hostages who may be allowed to leave the battle area. This may be the final peace gesture of the AFP before its final drive.

The fighting in Marawi has now been going on for 143 days since it began on May 23. It will be 161 days, over five months, at the end of October, the date General Año instructed the field commanders to finish the job. The AFP is confident – and the nation shares its confidence – it will meet this deadline it has set for itself.

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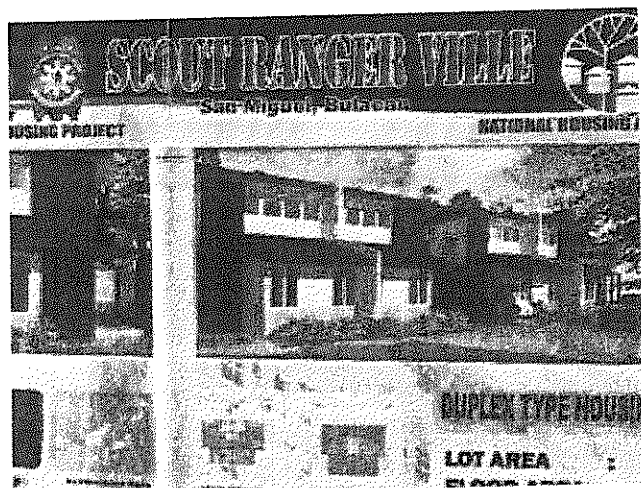
ONLINE NEWS

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Duterte leads groundbreaking of 1000 housing units for AFP, PNP

From Update Philippines (Oct 11): Duterte leads groundbreaking of 1000 housing units for AFP, PNP



President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday, October 11 led the groundbreaking ceremony of the Scout Ranger Ville situated at the border of Barangay Calumpang and Tartaro-Sibul in San Miguel, Bulacan.

Scout Ranger Ville is a project of the National Housing Authority (NHA) under the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) Housing Program.

The project will provide 1000 duplex-type housing units for AFP and PNP personnel.

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Russia giving PH military 5000 AK rifles, 20 trucks this month

From Update Philippines (Oct 11): Russia giving PH military 5000 AK rifles, 20 trucks this month



The Russian government will be donating 5000 units of Kalashnikov rifles to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Turn over will be on October 25.

This was first revealed by President Rodrigo Duterte during today's groundbreaking ceremony of the Scout Ranger Ville situated at the border of Barangay Calumpang and Tartaro-Sibul in San Miguel, Bulacan.

"As part of the, dala ko galing Russia, pumunta kami almost just below 24 hours – we will have the Kalashnikov [rifle]." he said.

The President did not mention what exact model of Kalashnikov rifle, also known as Avtomat (Automatic) Kalashnikova or AK, will be provided. However, it has variants using 5.56×45 mm NATO.

After the event, National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said a Russian vessel will arrive October 22 carrying the 5000 rifles and 20 military trucks.

"Ito yung donation ng Russia sa ating fight against terrorism. Darating yung barko nila dito sa 22 October, which is about two weeks from now tapos yung turnover ng mga equipment, mga baril sa 25 sa Manila." Secretary Lorenzana said.

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Bodies of slain Maute leaders likely found – AFP

From Update Philippines (Oct 12): **Bodies of slain Maute leaders likely found – AFP**



The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said it is possible that some of the ranking leaders and commanders of the Maute Group and their terrorist allies are among the 22 cadavers recovered in the main battle area in Marawi City last Tuesday.

This is possible as the bodies were recovered in two buildings where military units have encountered tough resistance in the past few weeks. AFP spokesperson, Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said late Wednesday.

“Interesado rin kaming malaman kung may malaking tao dito sa mga namatay na ito kaya’t nakiusap tayo sa PNP na madaliin ang pag-identify sa mga namatay na ito dahil maaaring may isa o dalawa dyan sa mga kinikilala nating naging lider ng grupong ito na bahagi ng cadavers.” he added.

Also recovered near the bodies were eight high-powered firearms — two rocket-propelled grenade launchers, four M-16 automatic rifles, an M-4 assault rifle, an M-14 automatic rifles — and dozens of improvised explosive devices.

Padilla added that the forensic examinations to be conducted by the police will determine whether foreigners are among the cadavers recently recovered.

As of this posting, the remaining Maute Group terrorists are estimated at 38 to 40, and those killed at 802.

Fighting in Marawi City erupted following an attempt to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and his cohorts last May 23.

Military and police personnel killed in the ongoing campaign are now placed at 160, and rescued hostages at 1,750, while another 42 are held captive by the group.

www.dwdd.com.ph

CLEARING OPERATIONS | Marawi Death Toll reaches 1,000

By [Alviri Santiago](#) | [View Comments](#) | [Share](#)



CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The death toll of the Marawi siege has reached the one thousand mark after 142 days of fighting.

According to Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson MGen Restituto Padilla, the Daesh-inspired Maute Terror group has incurred 802 casualties, 160 government forces gave the ultimate sacrifice, while 47 civilians were killed.

Gen Padilla added that there is an estimated 40 terrorist left in the main battle area, located in a hectare area, while 42 civilians are still being held hostages.

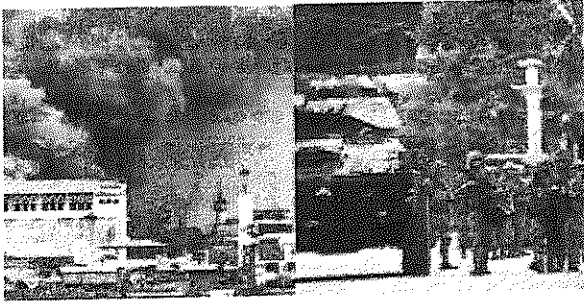
Latest report from the ground indicates that the military still has 150 buildings / infrastructure to clear of terrorist and improvised explosive devices before the end of the week before fully declaring the city as liberated. **AES/ALS**

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

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SAFETY OF HOSTAGES | AFP, No deadline set for end of Maraw siege

Alvin Santiago



MANILA (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is not keen on giving any deadline on when the Marawi crisis will end.

This is in consideration for the safety of the remaining hostages still at the hands of the Daesh-inspired Maute terror group.

According to AFP Chief of Staff Gen Eduardo Año, they are taking the campaign slowly but surely for fear that the Maute group might turn their ire on the remaining hostages if they would intensify their campaign just to accomplish a deadline.

This, despite a previous announcement that the clearing operations by the AFP on the whole city might be over by October 15.

Gen Año added that they don't want to give the Maute group any telegraphic message pertaining to the end of the siege, because this might be used by the terror group to their advantage. Any announcement of a deadline might trigger the terrorist to harm the remaining 38 hostages, mostly women and children. There have also been reports that some of the male hostages have either converted or were forced to serve as fighters by the Maute group. **AES/ALS**