



# TEAM **ARMY**

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

14 October 2017

**Saturday**

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# INQUIRER


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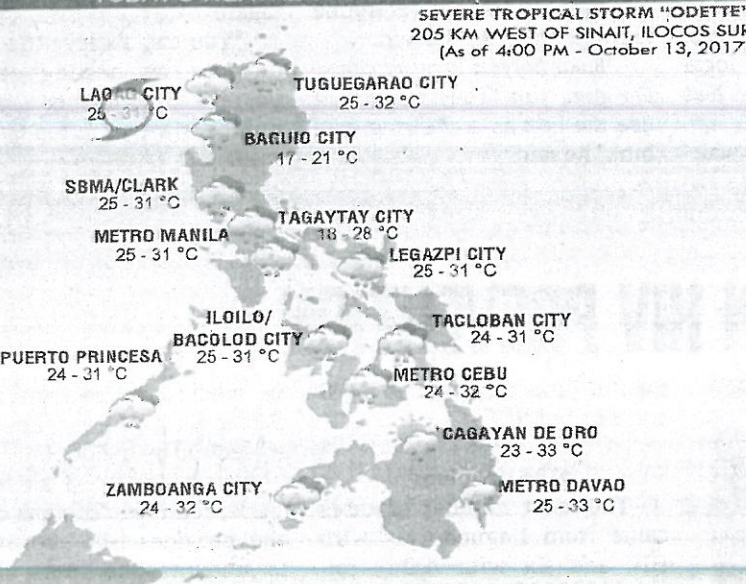












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**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 14, 2017 | SATURDAY**































**SEVERE TROPICAL STORM "ODETTE"**  
205 KM WEST OF SINAIT, ILOCOS SUR  
(As of 4:00 PM - October 13, 2017)




PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)


<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
 5:47 AM	 5:37 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
 12:39 AM	 1:43 PM
<b>LAST QUARTER</b>	<b>NEW MOON</b>
 OCT 12 8:25 AM	 OCT 20 1:30 PM
<b>LOW TIDE</b>	<b>HIGH TIDE</b>
 12:57 AM 0.02 Meter	 3:37 AM 1.11 Meter

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

	OCT 15	OCT 16	OCT 15	OCT 16	OCT 15	OCT 16		
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	 25 - 31 °C	 25 - 32 °C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	 18 - 29 °C	 17 - 29 °C	<b>TACLOBAN</b>	 24 - 32 °C	 25 - 33 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	 25 - 33 °C	 25 - 33 °C	<b>LEGAZPI</b>	 25 - 31 °C	 25 - 32 °C	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>	 23 - 33 °C	 23 - 32 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	 26 - 32 °C	 25 - 33 °C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	 25 - 30 °C	 25 - 31 °C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	 25 - 33 °C	 25 - 32 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	 17 - 22 °C	 17 - 23 °C	<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>	 25 - 32 °C	 26 - 32 °C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	 24 - 33 °C	 24 - 33 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	 25 - 32 °C	 25 - 33 °C	<b>METRO CEBU</b>	 25 - 33 °C	 25 - 33 °C	 		



**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
**11AM & 5PM**



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

14 October

INQUIRER

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# Palace: No expulsion of EU envoys

FROM A1

by Leila B. Salaverria  
and Marlon Ramos  
Team Inquirer

There are no plans to expel ambassadors from European Union (EU) members, according to presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella, clarifying that President Duterte's tirades against the European Union this week were meant for a foreign delegation that included several European parliamentarians who had expressed concerns about human rights violations in the Philippines' war on drugs.

"There is no directive to do that," Abella told reporters on Friday, adding that Mr. Duterte's statements were "being clarified directly to persons concerned."

The President on Thursday blasted the European Union for supposedly calling for the Philippines' ouster from the United Nations and told it not to interfere in the country's domestic affairs.

The President also said he would cut diplomatic ties with EU members and their ambassadors would have to leave the country in 24 hours.

"You think we are a bunch of morons here? You are the one. Now the ambassadors of those countries listening now, tell me, because we can have the diplo-

matic channel cut tomorrow. You leave my country in 24 hours, all, all of you," Duterte said in his speech at the relaunching of the Malacañang press briefing room.

An international human rights group and a mission of international parliamentarians and civil society leaders on Monday warned that the Philippines faced UN and EU sanctions if the government failed to stop the killing of drug suspects and allow an independent investigation of the war on drugs.

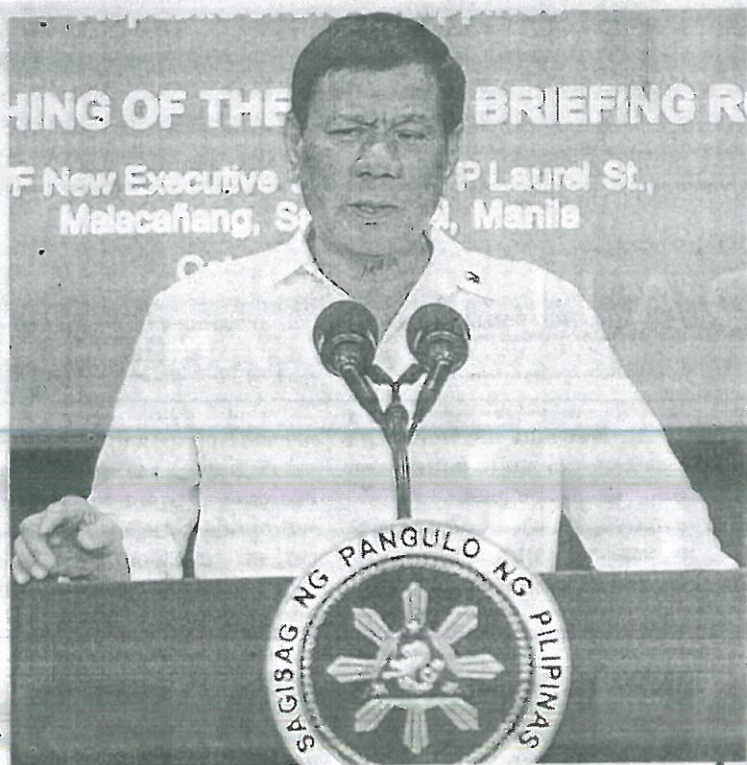
The delegation included seven members of the Progressive Alliance and the Party of European Socialists.

## 'Gross misrepresentation'

On Wednesday, the Inquirer published a statement by former Senate President Edgardo Angara, the President's special envoy to the European Union, disputing the statement of the delegation as a "gross misrepresentation," adding they do not represent the governing majority in the EU Parliament.

The next day the Inquirer also quoted the European Union saying the delegation's statements "were made solely on behalf of the Progressive Alliance and do not reflect the position of the European Union."

The EU statement further said: "The European Union had no involvement whatsoever in



An angry President Duterte lashes out at the European Union in Thursday's speech in Malacañang. —JOAN BONDOC

the visit of the seven-member delegation of the International Delegates of the Progressive Alliance which took place on Oct. 8 to 9 in Manila."

In explaining the President's statements, Abella said Mr. Duterte just reacted to what he had read.

"So, the President reacted as any leader would when national sovereignty is violated. So, we call upon also for the media to

heed his request, too, for correct reportage," he said.

The seven-member mission, however, did not call for the expulsion of the Philippines from the United Nations. What the delegation members said was the Philippines could lose a trade deal that allowed its products duty-free access to the European Union if it failed to stop the killings and the "political persecution" of the President's critics.

It was the New York-based Human Rights Watch that had warned of the Philippines' possible loss of membership, not in the United Nations but in its rights body, if the government continued to refuse to allow an independent investigation of killings in the country.

Senate President Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III said Mr. Duterte's rant was just "an outburst" that should be taken "in context."

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) kept mum on a possible diplomatic flap with the European Union and its member-states as a result of the President's outburst.

#### **Refer to Abella's statements**

"Kindly refer to Abella's statements on the issue," DFA spokesperson Robespierre Bolivar said in a brief reply to an Inquirer query on the matter.

Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon Lopez said the European Union actually wanted to help the Philippines fight drugs and was collaborative instead of critical toward the country.

"They were not the lecturing type," Lopez told reporters. "Their approach is, 'How can we help?' not, 'Why are you doing this?'"

"They were actually saying, 'Tell us how we can help.' That was what they were saying as we were describing the anti-illegal

drug campaign, for example, and all these issues," he said. "After we've explained, given them the correct set of numbers, they're telling us, 'How can we help?'"

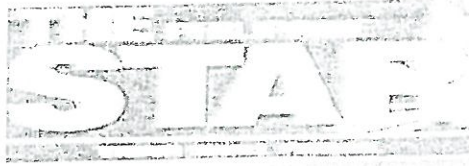
He said he and Angara had told the EU officials that they appreciated the offer.

The Progressive Alliance that sent a delegation to Manila early this week is an international network of about 130 social democratic and socialist parties and groups, including trade unions and youth organizations, that promote justice, freedom and solidarity around the world.

According to its website, the Party of European Socialists includes socialist, social democratic, labor and democratic parties from the European Union and Norway that fight for a "better and more progressive Europe." It has 33 full members, 13 associate and 12 observer parties.

The delegation that visited Manila included Konstantin Woinoff (coordinator, Progressive Alliance), Giacomo Filibeck (deputy secretary general, Party of European Socialists), Emilia Töyrä (member of parliament, Sweden), Thomas O. Melia (deputy assistant secretary of state for democracy and human rights in the Barack Obama administration), Arne Lietz (member of European Parliament, S&D Group), Conny Reuter (secretary general, Solidar) and Ben Maxfield (Australian Labor Party). INQ

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Page: 1

# 80% approval for Rody

## Pulse: Still 'big majority' ratings despite slight dip

By HELEN FLORES

Despite the controversies hounding his administration, particularly on his brutal war on drugs, President Duterte enjoys the trust and approval of eight out of 10 Filipinos, according to the latest Pulse Asia survey.

Eighty percent of Filipinos expressed approval and trust in Duterte based on the Pulse Asia September 2017 Ulat ng Bayan national survey, fielded from Sept. 24 to 30.

Only seven percent of 1,200 adult respondents expressed disapproval with the President, while six percent said they have "small or no trust" in him.

Compared to his ratings in June, Duterte's approval and trust ratings fell only by two points and one point, respectively.

In the Pulse Asia survey, Duterte obtained majority approval ratings across geographic areas and socio-economic classes (72 percent to

92 percent and 75 percent to 86 percent respectively) and trust (72 percent to 93 percent and 74 percent to 85 percent, respectively).

But his scores in the new Pulse Asia poll contrasted with that of Social Weather Stations released last Oct. 8, where the President suffered 18-point and 15-point drops in his satisfaction and trust ratings, respectively.

Pulse Asia president Ronald Holmes said differences of results among survey outfits were not uncommon.

"We have seen difference in survey results among survey organizations before. There are various possible reasons, from differences in questions, sampling method, period when survey was conducted, etc.," Holmes told The STAR.

### **Palace welcomes results**

Malacañang welcomed the results of the latest Pulse Asia

survey.

"Despite the multifaceted political noise, President Duterte is still the most approved and most trusted government official in the Philippines today with an 80 percent approval rating and 80 percent trust rating. Take note," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said.

"We hope these survey results inspire us in the government that despite the odds and challenges, we continue to provide a comfortable life for all Filipinos in an environment free from illegal drugs and criminality.

"This is the way we return the overwhelming confidence and trust bestowed by our people on the President," he added.

### **Duterte must not be overconfident**

Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito said Duterte's favorable ratings should stave off desta-

alization attempts, but these should not make him complacent or ignore criticisms.

“The President has to listen is well. He should also consider the slight dip (in his ratings) as a wake-up call to expedite major programs, specially infrastructure that would spur economic growth. He should not be overconfident,” he added.

Ejercito also suggested that he President focus on equally important matters other than just the war against drugs.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he was still trying to figure out how a difference of one to three days in the survey period could drastically change the trust and approval perception of people by 15 to 20 points “of an already confusing brand of leadership and governance style of (Duterte).”

“Why? I can only venture a calculated guess anchored on my long years in government service not to mention my own dealings with people from all walks of life. Here it is: Dr. Juan dela Cruz has gotten tired of the more-of-the-same type of leaders as far back as

he has already suffered and he is now experiencing a different type in Rodrigo Roa Duterte,” Lacson said.

For Sen. Sonny Angara, the result of a survey is a “snapshot of public sentiment at a given time that really changes from time to time, just like those of the previous presidents.”

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian said Filipinos obviously continue to trust the President and they approve of his work and his advocacies.

“However, all studies should be analyzed carefully. It should be used to attune the policies and programs to the needs of our people. The basic problems such as poverty and inequality still persist in our society,” he said.

Duterte’s allies, on the other hand, welcomed the survey result.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said he was not surprised by the results of the poll.

“I can also feel the support for the President spontaneously from the people I meet,” Pimentel said.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said the results of the poll were the “same feedback I’m getting on the ground – that eight out of 10 Filipinos approve of him and trust him.”

For Davao City Rep. Karlo Nograles, the survey is proof that Filipinos “love” the President.

He added that such ratings “will keep the political stability that we enjoy and lead us to greater heights as a nation.”

Nograles expressed hope that the survey results “will discourage destabilizers from pursuing attempts to discredit the administration.”

But the opposition said that it is Duterte who is destabilizing himself.

### Gov’t officials’ ratings moved

Meanwhile, other top national government officials experienced marked movements in their own ratings, both at the national level and across geographic areas and socio-economic classes.

Senate President Pimentel

experienced a seven-percentage point decline in his approval score and a six-point drop in his trust rating in the third quarter.

Pimentel obtained an approval rating of 55 percent, while his trust rating was at 52 percent in September.

Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez and Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno also suffered two-digit drops in their approval and trust ratings.

Alvarez’s approval and trust ratings both fell by 10 points to 53 percent and 31 percent, respectively.

Satisfaction with the work of the Chief Justice fell by 15 points to 35 percent, while trust in her dropped 12 points to 31 percent.

Approval for the work done by Sereno plunged in the rest of Luzon (-16 points) and in Mindanao (-18 points) and among Class D (-14 points).

The survey has sampling error margin of plus or minus three percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

– With Christina Mendez, Jess Diaz, Paolo Romero

14 October 2017

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 16

# Lumads welcome to join AFP

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

**C**AMP BANCASI, Butuan City - Indigenous peoples (IPs) from the different tribes in north-eastern and northern Mindanao are welcome to join the ranks of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the military's top official in the region said Friday.

"Having them join the Armed Forces is also giving them chance to serve their people, their fellow lumads while helping their community protect their ancestral domain, instead of being exploited by the New People's Army (NPA), armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)," said Northeastern and Northern Mindanao Fourth Infantry (Di-

amond) Division (4th ID) Commander Maj. Gen. Ronald C. Villanueva the 4th ID chief said.

Villanueva issued the invitation as 15 IPs, or lumads, from different tribal communities in Caragao and northern Mindanao were welcomed to the fold of the military Wednesday afternoon as among the 115 Army candidates who will undergo six months military training at the 4th ID Training School in Malaybalay, Bukidnon and the Sixth Infantry Division (6th ID) Training School in Carmen, North Cotabato.

The six-month training will teach the candidate soldiers combat fighting, life-saving imperatives, disaster response operation, peacekeeping initiatives, hu-

man rights, rule of law and rules of engagement.

According to Villanueva, the new breed of so-called peace advocates will fill up the needed number of personnel due to attrition such as optional and compulsory retirement, among others.

During the oath taking ceremony on Wednesday afternoon, the 4th ID chief advised the future Army soldiers to always follow commands and be "perfect."

There are currently some lumads in the ranks of the 4th ID who are already assisting highland communities in Caraga region, it was learned.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Higaonon, Manobo and Mamanwa tribes and officials of the Indigenous People's Mandatory Representative (IPMR) in Caraga

region unanimously expressed gratitude for the concern of the AFP in securing their respective highland communities from lawless elements by enlisting some of their qualified tribal members into the armed forces.

In a press forum at the sideline of the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) law at one of the city's hotel and convention center here on Thursday, the tribal leaders acknowledged the concern of the AFP for the security of their respective highland communities while also expressed gratitude to the office of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) for continuously recognizing the concern of the lumads, especially the rights of indigenous cultural communities.



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## Army, nanawagan sa laban vs NPA

KIDAPAWAN CITY – Nanawagan ang pamunuan ng 39th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army sa mga residente ng Magpet, Arakan, Antipas, at President Roxas sa North Cotabato na suportahan ang kanilang laban kontra New Peoples' Army (NPA).

Ayon kay Lieutenant Silver Belvis, spokesperson ng 39th IB, tinututukan nila ngayon ang pagsawata sa bagong kampanya ng mga rebelde na kanilang tinatawag na "Linis Base" kung saan ilang mga pagpatay na umano ang isinigawa ng mga NPA.

"Under Linis Base, the rebels liquidate those who do not support their activities and moves. They also kill those whom they suspect of working with the military," ani Belvis.

Isa sa mga tinukoy ni Belvis ang pagpatay sa 27-anyos na ambulant vendor na si Mark Cervania na unang tinangay ng mga rebelde noong Oct. 11 dahil umano sa pagiging informant nito ng Army.

Natagpuan ang duguang bangkay ni Cervania sa kahabaan ng Barangay Paco sa Kidapawan City.

"Kapos tayo kasi walang kooperasyon ng nasa barangay. Kahit alam nila na ginagawa ng NPA ay extra-judicial killing, yet, tahimik pa rin sila. Takot," ani Belvis. (Malu Cadelina Manar)

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**MARILIA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## NPA owns up to banana firm attack

By **JOSEPH JUBELAG**

T'BOLI, South Cotabato – The New People's Army (NPA) has taken responsibility for a recent attack on a banana export firm here, saying that it was a punitive action for the company's unjust labor practices, and land grabbing activities and environmental destruction in the area.

In a statement to the media, Ka Dencio Madrigal, spokesperson of the NPA-Far South Mindanao Region, accused the Japanese-owned Sumifru Phils. Corp. of giving low compensation to banana plantation workers and non-payment of rental to landowners who leased out their lands for the firm's banana plantation.

Some 30 heavily-armed NPA guerillas swooped down on the company's packing plant in Barangay Laconon last October 2, and burned down its building and two water tankers.

The NPA rebels also disarmed the company's security guards of their firearms, including two .9mm pistols, and 12 gauge shotguns, and two handheld radio.

"The NPA-FSMR took a punitive action against the multinational agri-corporation for its persistent land grabbing activities, environmental destructions and unjust labor policies," Madrigal said.

Authorities placed the damage at ₱6 million.

The company's employees labor union confirmed the firm's alleged unfair labor practices, such as underpayment of salaries, unjust salary deductions and union busting.

Dodong Flores, Vice-President of the Sumifru Phils. Inc. Employees Union alleged that company officials connived with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) for suspending the conduct of a certification election for employees union after a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between the incumbent ALU-TUCP employees union and Sumifru management terminated last June.

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# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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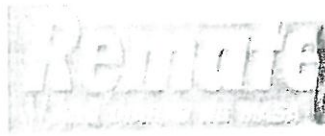
## • NPA medic captured

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City - Forces of the Army and Philippine National Police (PNP) captured an alleged medical officer of the New People's Army (NPA) in northern Mindanao, a regional Army spokesman on Thursday said. But regional Army spokesperson Capt. Joe Patrick A. Martinez temporarily withheld the identity of the captured NPA medic as tactical investigation is still being jointly conducted by Bukidnon Police Provincial Office (PPO) and a field unit of the Army's 403rd Infantry Brigade. The regional spokesman of the Army's Northeastern and Northern Mindanao 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID) said the captured NPA medic is believed to be part of the rebels who attacked, last Sunday, the compound of Davao Ventures Corporation (DAVCO), a multinational company based in Barangay Merangeran, Quezon, Bukidnon province. (Mike U. Crismundo)

## • Patrol base attacked

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City - Soldiers of the 16th Special Force Battalion (16th SFB) foiled a New People's Army (NPA) attack before sundown Tuesday in Barangay Bitaugan, San Miguel, Surigao del Sur, a belated report reaching here on Thursday said. A field report said elements of 16th SFB were able to defend their Bitaugan Patrol Base for almost 10 minutes, until the undetermined number of armed NPAs retreated and fled to nearby forested area. The rebels were believed to be members of the guerilla-Front Committee 21-A of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee. No one was reported hurt in the 5 p.m. attack on Tuesday in Bitaugan area, it said. (Mike U. Crismundo)

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Pahina. 3

## Camp Aguinaldo kinalampag sa paglaya ni Maj. Baliaga

**NAGSAGAWA** ng kilos-protesta sa harap ng gate 2 ng Camp Aguinaldo ang mga militanteng grupo bilang pagkondena sa nangyaring pag-abswelto ng korte kay Major Harry Baliaga, ang pangunahing isinakdal sa pagdukot kay political activist Jonas Burgos.

Giit ng grupo, papanagutin dapat si Baliaga na natitirang akusado.

Paliwanag ni JL Burgos, nakababatang kapatid ni Jonas, hindi sila titigil hangga't hindi nakakamit ang hustisya sa pagkawala ng kanyang kuya.

Uubusin daw nila ang lahat ng legal remedies at iaapela nila ang desisyon ng Quezon City Regional Trial Court (RTC) branch 216.

Nagpasaklolo na rin daw sila sa Commission on Human Rights (CHR) hinggil dito.

Ayon sa grupong Karapatan at Desaparecidos, tila nagbubulag-bulagan ang korte dahil lahat ng 'Big fish' sa Burgos case ay abswelto na.

Partikular nilang inukoy ang pag-dismiss ng Depart-

ment of Justice (DOJ) noong September 2013 sa kasong murder, obstruction of justice at arbitrary detention laban sa matataas na opisyal ng Philippine Army, kabilang ang dating Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año.

Ang dating namumuno sa Philippine Army Intelligence Service, na si General Eduardo Año ay kasalukuyang chief of staff ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Habang si AFP Chief Hermogenes Esperon, na sinasabing sangkot din sa pagdukot kay Burgos ay siya namang National Security Adviser ngayon.

Kahapon, maiapos ang 10 taon ay dinesisyon na ng RTC branch 216 sa Quezon City ang kasong arbitrary detention kaugnay sa pagdukot sa agriculturist at aktibistang si Jonas Burgos.

Inabswelto si Baliaga dahil hindi naipakita ng prosekusyon na kasama ito sa mga umano'y dumukot kay Burgos sa isang mall sa Commonwealth Avenue noong April 28, 2007.

JEFF GALLOS

14 October 2017

MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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# Three Sayyaf fighters surrender

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The military announced the surrender of three Abu Sayyaf terrorists with high-powered firearms in Sulu on Friday.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, the commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Joint Task Force (JTF) Sulu, identified the ASG members who surrendered as Ajimad Musnali, Nanah Amdad Tunggal, and Hasiri Sabirin. They shall undergo custodial debriefing at Camp Kuta Heneral Teodoro Bautista Busbus, Jolo, Sulu.

Sobejana said the three surrendered to the JTF Sulu at vicinity of Barangay Bulibangao, Tongkil, Sulu, at 8:30 a.m. Friday

The ASG members also turned over to government high-powered firearms consisting of three Caliber.30 M1 Springfield rifles.

Sobejana said the surrender was facilitated by the combined elements of 545 Engineering Construction Battalion (ECB) and Philippine Coast Guard Western Mindanao District.

Sobejana, in his report, cited a number of reasons the three surrendered,

including among others, leadership vacuum (they are under ASG sub-leader Alhabsy Misaya who was killed in a shootout against the troopers of JTF Sulu in Parang, Sulu); lack of logistics/finances; tired and weary due

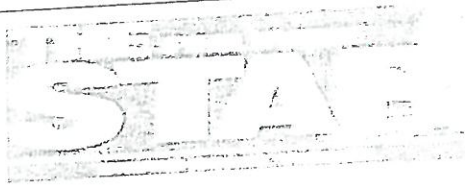
to sustained military operations; and disorganized.

Aside from these, they also cited lost of community support and that the beheading of their kidnap victims is un-Islamic.



**JONAS BURGOS** - Members of the militant group Karapatan were at the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City yesterday denouncing the acquittal of Army Major Harry Baliaga Jr. from arbitrary detention charges filed in June, 2011 by Editha Burgos. The charges were for allegedly abducting Editha's son, Jonas Burgos, a peasant organizer. Baliaga, the only suspect arrested for Burgos' disappearance on April 28, 2007, did not spend a minute in jail after he posted a P40,000 bail, reports said. The protesters asked the AFP to produce Burgos. (Mark Balmores)

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## 3 Sayyaf men surrender in Sulu

By ROEL PAREÑO

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** – Three Abu Sayyaf bandits surrendered in Sulu yesterday while another was arrested in this city on Thursday.

Ajimad Musnali, Nanah Amdad Tunggal and Hasiri Sabirin also turned over their rifles to the military in Barangay Bulibangao, Tongkil town.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Joint Task Force Sulu commander, said the surrender was facilitated by personnel of the 545th Engineer Construction Battalion and Philippine Coast Guard-Western Mindanao District.

Sobejana said the bandits were with the group of Jul Asbi Misuari, who surrendered on Oct. 7.

The surrenderees were brought to Camp Teodulfo

Bautista and underwent custodial debriefing.

At least 32 bandits have surrendered in Sulu, 65 in Basilan, 21 in Tawi-Tawi and two in Zamboanga City since January.

Meanwhile, Hussin Iril, alias Ibba Gani, an Abu Sayyaf bandit based in Basilan, was arrested in Paseo del Mar Park while a mass was being held for the Feast of Our Lady of the Pillar at around 4 p.m.

Chief Inspector Helen Galvez, Zamboanga peninsula police spokesperson, said Iril has a standing warrant of arrest for kidnapping and serious illegal detention issued by Basilan Judge Leo Jay Principe.

Iril was tagged in the kidnapping of Golden Harvest farmers in Lantawan on June 11, 2001.

– With Michael Punongbayan

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## Lorenzana: Mautes welcome to surrender

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana has brushed aside insinuations that Maute group members, who will surrender to the government, will still be killed by government forces.

Lorenzana issued the statement yesterday to counter the propaganda of the Maute group warning their remaining members fighting in Marawi City that they will be killed by the government once they surrender.

"No, if you will surrender, you will not be killed," Lorenzana assured, citing they will be

afforded fair trial and the opportunity to be rehabilitated back to the society.

So far, Lorenzana said that three members of the Islamic State for Iraq and Syria (ISIS)-inspired Maute group surrendered two weeks ago.

He said troops are moving around daily with public address system giving instructions on what to do by the Maute group members who wish to surrender.

He said it is useless for the remaining members of the Maute group to continue on fighting.

"If they keep on fighting, then

we will finish them," he emphasized.

He disclosed that the terrorist group leaders namely, Abdullah and Omar Maute, as well as Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) leader Isnilon Hapilon are still inside the main battle area of Marawi City.

But Lorenzana this time begged off to give specific date as to when would the fighting ends in the besieged city of Marawi.

"The crisis will end soon," Lorenzana assured.

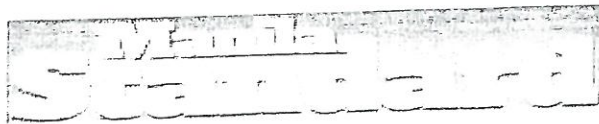
The defense chief arrived here yesterday for the opening of the two-day (not one-day as earlier

reported) Regional Ulama Solidarity Summit for Peace and Security.

The objectives of the solidarity summit are to bring together the *ulama* (religious professionals) in the Zamboanga-Basilan-Sulu and Tawi-Tawi (ZamBaSulTa) areas to mutually consult and discuss on the pressing issue of violent extremism and terrorism (VET); and, to reach consensus on how to protect the Muslim community in general and determine the *ulama* role in countering and preventing VET in the locality.

PNA

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## 'Talks with Reds still alive despite President's tirades'

By John Paolo Bencito

PEACE negotiations with the National Democratic Front still remain "alive" despite President Rodrigo Duterte's own pronouncements abandoning a possible revival of talks within his term, a senior Cabinet official said.

In a Palace news briefing, Labor Secretary Silvestre "Bebot" Bello III, who also sits as the chief government panel negotiator in the peace talks with the communist rebels, admitted they are not sending any formal notice to terminate the peace talks yet.

Bello stressed that Duterte will not "abandon" his pledge to the Filipino people to bring "lasting peace for our country" in coming up with a successful deal with the communists.

"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. So I don't think that the President has abandoned that legacy," the Labor chief added.

Despite Duterte's tirades virtually placing the final nail in the coffin for the possible resumption of the peace talks, Bello insisted these did not mean "that the talks were

anceled or terminated."

"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 stressed.

Duterte earlier said he no longer wanted to talk peace with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-NDFP group, saying their demands are "not really possible."

"We are fighting the NPA. At this stage, I am not ready to talk to them because it is not good for the country," Duterte said.

"*Eh kung para lang sa bayan, okay 'yan.* But the way that it is now, *ayaw ko* [If only it's for the good of the country, it's okay, but the way it is now, I don't want it.] And maybe it would take some time to... maybe another President to do it," he added.

The government was slated to resume the fifth round of talks with the communists last May, but suspended the negotiations following the "serious challenges" both parties were facing.

The round of talks slated last August was likewise cancelled, amid the "lack of enabling environment" to proceed with the talks, the government peace panel said.



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# Duterte threatens to jail Reds, other dissidents

By John Paolo Bencito and Macon Ramos-Araneta

**P**RESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Friday warned he would declare a revolutionary government and arrest all political dissidents, including the communists and opposition "yellow" forces should they continue with their efforts to destabilize his administration.

"If they try to destabilize and the situation becomes too violent, I will not hesitate to declare a revolutionary government until the end of my term. I will arrest all of you and we can go to a full-scale war against the Reds," Duterte told his critics

in a television interview aired over state-run PTV4.

"If I think you're about to take over the nation, and you have destabilized government like a new one would replace the current administration I am on guard," he added.

In a related development, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said he had instructed the Senate's IT Department to find out what security measures could be adopted to thwart a recurrence of the spread of fake e-mails sent from the hacked e-mail accounts of the Senate's minority staff.

He also ordered the department to determine if such hacking could be stopped.

"Although I also haven't seen any complaint from Senator Paolo Benigno Aquino about this, we already acted on it, having read it in the news," Pimentel said.

Aquino, in a press conference on

Thursday, revealed fake e-mails he said were attempting to connect the minority senators to destabilization plots.

"Fake news has escalated to fake e-mails and digitally planted evidence," Aquino said.

Duterte is confident the military will stick with him amid destabilization efforts by the Reds and the Yellows.

Duterte said the military was aware the Communist Party was active in the destabilization scheme, adding "Do you think the armed forces and police will sympathize with you after you've cheapened the lives of security forces with the [extrajudicial killings]?"

*Next page*

## Du30...

From A1

Duterte said his move to declare a revolutionary government was the same as what then President Corazon Aquino, whom he tagged as the "heroine of the yellows" did, soon after the Marcos regime.

Unlike Marcos, Duterte sees a revolutionary government as a more practical step since this eliminates the need for the President to report to Congress.

When then President Marcos declared martial law in 1972, he did by virtue of his powers as commander-in-chief of the armed forces vested in him by the 1935 Constitution, after he called on his troops to quell a rebellion and suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus -- all steps given the

incumbent chief of state by the Charter.

Marcos lifted the emergency in January 1981, three months before the presidential elections where he trounced former Defense Secretary Alejo Santos.

Aquino said the fake e-mails were found in the draft and spam folders of employees in an attempt by hackers to connect the opposition to the destabilization plots against the government.

"We decided to share this with the public because a lot of pro-administration personalities and online supporters alike are spreading fake news of a destabilization plot by the Liberal Party," Aquino said.

"We have no destabiliza-

tion plot. Those behind the hacking and fake e-mails are the true destabilizers. They want chaos in the Philippines."

Aquino said the accounts of some staff members had been used to send dubious e-mails containing controversial subject lines like "Leaked Media Plan to Destroy PRRD" and "The Investigation on DDS," together with an attached file.

"It is also possible that these files, which prompt an error when opened, are being used to gain control of the device or fish for information," Aquino said.

The minority senators have reported the issue to the National Bureau of Investigation, Department of Information and Communi-

cations Technology and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to determine the people behind the hacking and the spread of destabilization rumors.

A total of five e-mail accounts have been hacked: two from the office of Aquino and three from the office of Senator Francis Pangilinan.

"We should know who are behind this and hold them liable. These people should go to jail because what they did was a crime," Pangilinan said.

The Liberal Party senators have criticized the administration for continually insisting that the party had a plan to destabilize the government.

Liberal Party president

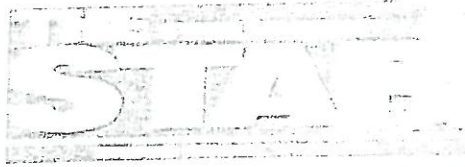
Pangilinan stressed that airing criticisms and their sentiments were the foundations of democracy and should not be considered destabilization against the government.

Aquino said top government officials should stop floating news about destabilization as the Armed Force of the Philippines had declared it had monitored no moves to oust Duterte.

Senator Franklin Drilon said the administration should be open to criticisms and use these to improve governance and not consider them as destabilization moves.

"The administration needs to learn to take criticisms as these can also help improve ways of running the country," Drilon said.

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# Rody threatens to declare revolutionary gov't if...

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

If the government will be in peril due to the efforts of the Left and his critics, President Duterte would not hesitate to declare a revolutionary government to quell destabilization moves against his administration.

He added that he would use the revolutionary powers to

avert the country from falling into chaos as he accused the Communist Party of the Philippines of playing a key role in the destabilization efforts.

"*Pag ang* (if the) destabilization *ninyo patagilid na at medyo magulo na* (would be shaky and more trouble), I will not hesitate to declare a revolutionary government until the end of my term," he said yes-

terday over state-run *People's Television Network*.

He will do this only when the destabilizers are on the brink of taking over government.

Once the military government is restored, Duterte said he would order the security forces to arrest all destabilizers and go on a full-scale war against the communist rebels.

"I will arrest all of you and

we can go to a full-scale war against the Reds," Duterte said.

A lawyer, Duterte noted that his hands would not be tied in case he declares a revolutionary government - unlike when he imposes martial law, which mandates the reporting to Congress within 60 days upon declaration.

With the military and the police on his side, he doubted

whether any effort to take over the government would be successful.

"Do you think the Armed Forces of the Philippines and (Philippine National) Police would sympathize with you after you have cheapened the lives of those who were killed in EJKs?" the Chief Executive said.

At the same time, Duterte also accused certain media

outlets critical of his administration as having received funds from abroad to destroy his administration.

"They are there to destroy me," he said, agreeing with the opinion of columnist Rigoberto Tiglao, who warned that certain media critics are receiving funding from a firm backed by the US Central Intelligence Agency.

October

INQUIRER

Page: AB

# Left warns of Du30 crackdown

By Vince F. Nonato  
@VinceNonatoINQ

Members of the left-wing Makabayan party-list bloc have warned of a looming crackdown on dissenters following the Duterte administration's creation of an Interagency Committee on Legal Action (Iacla).

The congressmen found the Iacla, created in an Oct. 9 resolution by Philippine National Police Director General Ronald dela Rosa and Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Eduardo Año, to be a revival of the Arroyo administration's Interagency Legal Action Group (Ialag).

Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate said "there was a spike in trumped up charges

against the opposition" during the heyday of former President and now Pampanga 2nd Dist. Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Ialag.

Anakpawis Rep. Ariel Casilao noted the experience of the Makabayan bloc's precursor, the "Batasan Six," who were detained on rebellion charges when Arroyo placed the country under a state of national emergency in 2006.

### Trumped up charges

He also cited the cases of activists, dubbed the "Southern Tagalog 72" and the "Tagaytay 5," as well as more political leaders in Cebu and Davao.

"If Iacla pushes through, the possibility of us in the Makabayan bloc being accused of trumped up charges will not be

remote, as it has precedent, hence, it is just to call for the immediate abolition of this authoritarian measure," Casilao said.

"It is a shame that even this antihuman rights body under former President Macapagal-Arroyo was plagiarized by President Duterte, this was a major player in abuses against the people, particularly activists demanding then her resignation," he added.

### Muzzle dissent

Gabriela Rep. Emmi de Jesus said the Duterte regime had set into motion the government's legal mill to target critics with fabricated charges, intensified vilification and extrajudicial killings of activists.

"In the face of mounting

criticisms and declining ratings, Duterte is resorting to the revival of Ialag in a desperate attempt to muzzle dissent, in line with the counterinsurgency plan 'Oplan Kapayapaan' and the US counterinsurgency manual. A desperate regime clings to heightened oppression," De Jesus said.

### Tool of repression

Meanwhile, the National Union of People's Lawyers (NUPL) echoed the sentiment and said the Iacla would "institutionalize cover-up, mechanically pass off blame and brazenly harass or intimidate so-called 'enemies of the State' by enemies of the people."

"It was a legal tool of repression and a legal mantle of impunity then, it will be an illegal

tool of repression and an illegal mantle of impunity now. Enough already of these silly dangerous gimmicks," NUPL said in a statement.

### Stronger coordination

PNP said in a statement on Tuesday that the Iacla was meant to "strengthen the intelligence gathering and cooperation, investigation, prosecution and monitoring of cases against threat groups ... by establishing stronger coordination of ongoing and future efforts of the government in addressing these cases."

Año reportedly said on Monday that the country has "so much democratic space that is being exploited by terror groups and also criminal groups." INQ



October



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**SULU SEA**

**MALAYSIA,  
INDONESIA, PH  
TO CONDUCT  
AIR PATROLS**

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines will begin coordinated air patrols off the strife-torn southern Philippines next month to combat the growing threat posed by Islamist militants, an official said on Friday.

The neighbors already launched joint sea patrols four months ago in the same area, the Sulu Sea.

Fears have been growing that the Islamic State (IS) group is trying to establish a Southeast Asian outpost in Mindanao after gunmen waving the jihadists' black flag occupied the Muslim city of Marawi in May.

They have fought off a US-backed military assault for almost five months and the conflict has left hundreds dead.

There has also been a spate of kidnappings in the Sulu Sea by the bandit group Abu Sayyaf.

A ceremony to announce the patrols was held on Thursday at Subang air force base outside Kuala Lumpur and was attended by defense ministers from the three countries.

**Piracy**

A Malaysian defense ministry spokesperson said the patrols were aimed at combating the threat from "Daesh (IS), piracy and sea robberies."

The three countries will take turns to lead the patrols, with Malaysia starting in November, followed by the Philippines in December and Indonesia in January.

In a speech at the ceremony, Malaysian Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said that some \$40 billion in trade passed through the Sulu Sea every year and no single country could police the waters alone. —AFP

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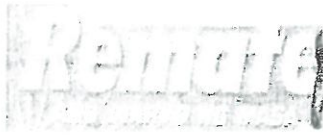


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**SPECIAL Forces demonstrate skills during a drill in combating terrorism from a helicopter after the launching of a joint patrol between Malaysia, Indonesia, and Philippines at the Subang military airbase in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. The trilateral air patrol seeks to improve safety and security and fight piracy and terrorism in the Sulu Sea. (AP)**

4 October 2017



Pahina. 3

## **Anak ng MNLF kumander nilikida**

**PATAY** ang anak ng isang pinuno ng Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) matapos pagbabarilin ng hindi nakilalang riding-in-tandem suspek, kahapon ng umaga sa Cotabato City.

Dead-on-the-spot ang biktima si Butigen Bryan Jack, 29-anyos, anak ng isang Commander Jack ng MNLF na residente ng Bulao 1, Poblacion Mother, Cotabato City.

Sa inisyal na pagsisiyasat ng pulisya, sakay ang biktima ng kanyang pampasaherong motorsiklo at sandaling humin-

to sa gasolinahan sa bahagi ng Almonte St., Cotabato City para magpa-gas.

Bigla na lamang siyang nilapitan ng mga suspek na sakay rin ng motorsiklo at pinagbabaril.

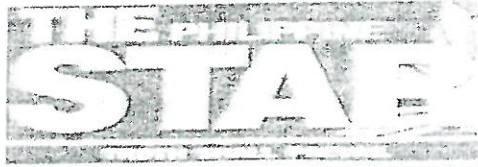
Tinamaan sa ulo at iba't ibang bahagi ng katawan ang biktima na naging dahilan ng kanyang agarang kamatayan.

Patuloy naman ang imbestigasyon ng mga awtoridad para sa pagkakakilanlan ng mga salarin at inaalam na rin ang motibo sa insidente.

**MARY ANNE SAPICO**



4 October 2017

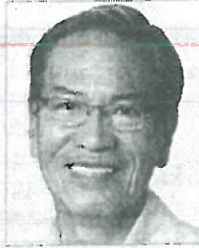


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## AT GROUND LEVEL

SATUR C. OCAMPO

# Astute one step back on anti-drug campaign



Apparently stung by the steep drops in his satisfaction and trust ratings, as shown by the latest Social Weather Stations survey, President Duterte has taken a one-step backward in his widely criticized and condemned bloody anti-illegal drug campaign, led by the Philippine National Police. He had earlier expressed his concern about preserving his credibility to enable him to continue leading the nation.

In an October 10 memorandum, he has designated the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) as “sole agency” to conduct all campaigns and operations against all those involved in illegal drugs. The move, the memo says, is aimed at bringing “order to the operation/campaign against illegal drugs, thus pinpointing precise accountability.”

“All information/data received by the NBI, PNP, AFP, Bureau of Customs, Philippine Postal Office and all other agencies or any and all ad hoc anti-drug task forces shall forthwith be relayed, delivered or brought to the attention of the PDEA for appropriate action,” the memo states.

Cryptically, however, Duterte said: “The PNP shall, at all times, maintain police visibility, as a deterrent to illegal drug activities... Strict compliance is hereby enjoined.”

Moreover, questions may be raised as to whether the PDEA – with only 1,038 agents in its roster (as compared with the PNP’s 175,000 manpower complement) – can more responsibly and more effectively undertake the task: Duterte himself has acknowledged that the drug problem may remain for the rest of his term.

What the move shows is Duterte’s political astuteness beneath his often disconcerting volatility and rashness in speaking and acting on key aspects of his administration’s governance and policies. These include, for instance, the peace negotiations with the Left revolutionary forces and his avowed “independent foreign policy.”

Having said that, one may as well watch for the President’s next move vis-à-vis the GRP-NDFP peace talks, which he

has “cancelled” since his second state-of-the-nation address last July.

Think about this: Although he has kept on saying he no longer wanted to talk peace with the Left, he has refrained from sending a formal notice to the NDFP leadership terminating the talks. In fact, he has allowed – or directed – his chief peace negotiator, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, to say at a recent Malacanang briefing that the peace talks can still continue, since Duterte has only cancelled but not abandoned the negotiations.

Back to the drug issue – over which Duterte is most touchy, bilious and truculent, as his recent tirades and cursing at the European Union has proven – what does the removal of the PNP from its lead role in the campaign aim to achieve?

The instant effect of Duterte’s memo is that the PNP has stopped the implementation of its two principal anti-drug campaigns: “Oplan Tokhang” and “Project Double Barrel.” Oplan Tokhang entailed a police door-to-door campaign ostensi-

bly to convince drug users to surrender for rehabilitation. Under Project Double Barrel, the police conducted sweeping drives in slum areas where they admitted killing more than 3,800 suspected drug pushers/users, who allegedly resisted arrest and fought back. Thousands of other killings have been attributed to so-called vigilantes.

By ceasing the two police campaigns, Duterte may have taken the wind out of two “stop-the-killings” initiatives.

One was the filing last Wednesday before the Supreme Court, by the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), of a petition asking the tribunal to stop the implementation of Oplan Double Barrel. The petition says the Oplan “violates the right to life, to due process of law, to be presumed innocent and to a fair trial by expressly authorizing the summary killing of suspected drug offenders in the guise of ‘neutralizing’ or ‘negating’ them.”

It also claims Oplan Tokhang is unconsti-

tutional because the house visits “are not limited to drug suspects and based on furtive fingers of unknown informants.”

However, the SC can still entertain the petition with regard to its plea for the issuance of a writ of amparo and temporary protection order prohibiting the police from getting near the residences or work places of the petitioners: the families of two victims of extrajudicial killings (Ryan Dave Almora and Rex Aparri) and a survivor (Jefferson Soriano) in a police anti-narcotics operation. Also, the petition asks for an impartial investigation of the two incidents, and for the court to set oral arguments on the cases.

The other initiative which may be adversely affected by Duterte’s memo is the open invitation by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) to the general public to join an activity at the People Power Monument on EDSA on Nov. 5, a Sunday. Its aim: to start a 33-day “healing period” after the Catholic Church’s 40-day “Stop the Killings” campaign that began on Sept. 23 with the ringing of church bells, praying of the rosary, and candle lighting at all churches nationwide.

The activity starts with a mass at the EDSA Shrine, followed by a candlelight procession to and massing-up around the monument. The image of Our Lady of Fatima, revered by Catholics (and which, during the peaceful popular uprising in 1986, was brought by devotees to EDSA in an effort to quell troops loyal to Marcos), will be carried during the candlelight procession, according to Archbishop Socrates Villegas, CBCP president.

Will the drug-related killings be reduced consequent to the scrapping of the Oplans and the lead role of the PNP? Perhaps, yes. But even if that happens, the publicly demanded impartial investigation of the previous killings, which largely victimized the poor, must be unrelentingly pursued and completed by prosecuting and penalizing those who are accountable.

Retributive justice is what the victims of the killings, their families, and the whole nations seek and deserve.

Email: satur.ocampo@gmail.com



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## FROM A DISTANCE

CARMEN N. PEDROSA

### The choice is for or against our country

I first learned about the danger of narcopolitics in a conversation with Retired Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, former chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) some years ago. He was then already warning all and sundry that its dangers were growing rapidly unless it was tackled seriously using the powers of the state.



Corpus knows what he speaks of because he used to be on top of the drugs issue as chief of the ISAFP. At the time when I met him, the war on drugs was not a central issue in our politics. We knew it in bits and pieces and there was no leader who would drag it out in the open as a platform of government. He watched how it grew and should now feel vindicated for his warnings.

He has recently come forward to say that he fully supports President Rodrigo Duterte's campaign against illegal drugs.

*"Nung nasa ISAFP ako, inimpisahan namin yung war on drugs. We campaigned against narco-politics,"* Corpus told reporters in a weekly Kapihan.

He said "We were not able to do what the Duterte administration has accomplished so far in its campaign."

*"Hindi namin nagawa yung ginagawa ngayon ng presidente. Look what happened, lalong lumaganap ang problema,"* Corpus said.

He said he supports the government's anti-illegal drugs campaign "100 percent."

*"Kung hindi natin gagawin ito, we will end up worse than Colombia,"* he added.

Corpus used the illegal drug trade in Colombia which reached its peak between 1993 and 1999 when it was the world's largest producer of cocaine and one of the major exporters of heroin at that time.

To date, it has been a fight for numbers. Depending on their position on the war on drugs they choose whatever numbers suit their position, more extrajudicial killings if you were against Duterte and his war on drugs. This position comes from local opposition the Liberals who want to return to power even if they did not do anything about it. It grew and grew especially in the last administration without our even noticing it.

There were politicians who were even in cahoots with drug lords for their campaign funds.

(02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

Those who wish Duterte to succeed like Corpus et al use figures of what this government has done. It is succeeding because it has dragged the problem to the center of Duterte's government agenda. More and more Filipinos have become aware of the drug problem. The figures from this side are 1,377 drug suspects and 22,503 arrested in 23,549 police operations. The figures come from the Philippine National Police (PNP).

There is another side to Duterte's war on drugs and that is how it is being used to put down his government by the discredited Liberal Party who did nothing about the problem and yet now wants to return to power.

They are aided by international groups mostly from the US and other Western countries who are against Duterte for a different reason. They don't like his separation from the US and the West. He said it bluntly without any pretension for niceties. I saw and heard him say it in China when he declared Philippines' separation from US domination. He was wildly applauded by both Filipinos and non-Filipinos. But to soften the blow, he added that what he meant was to declare Philippine independence and that his government would now deal with other countries whenever it was in our interest.

I am committed to the success of this government. And so an overwhelming number of Filipinos.

If it is a question of taking sides between the universal language on human rights from former colonialists and the success of Duterte's government in his war on drugs, I am on the side of what is good for our country. The two are not irreconcilable. Accusations of extra judicial killings must have a specificity. Each case must be taken on its own and put under the microscopic rules of law and evidence. Figures coming from this side come in unbelievable thousands but does not specify how and what the figures represent.

Their figures have lately ranged from to 12,000 and 14,000 that are then repeated and passed on by sections of international media without any details of how each case happened. Instead they use one or two cases and then use these as the basis of their huge figures as if these were one and the same.

That is using "language as a source of power, and perhaps especially so within the sphere of politics." The team up of international NGOs and Liberals who want to return to power can be a formidable opponent. It has an infrastructure and money to use against Duterte's government. As already written about by other opinion makers it has become a political tool. Aquino and Drilon may have support from international NGOs but Duterte and his government has an unbeatable advantage despite what SWS survey says - he has the support of the Filipino people.

Human rights has become important but it needs to be clarified as a discipline for international politics. But it can also backfire on those who use it for political ends. It especially true of the Philippines as a former colony of the United States.

Despite the human rights tradition having originated in the West and based on Western values, it should not be translated into a universal standard.

It has become a commonplace strategy to appeal to human rights in order to make a case for political change. This strategy is also what is behind powerful countries interference in the domestic affairs of other countries.

Filipinos must choose whether to be on the side of their government or foreign interference.

Human rights have been politicized and are being used to advance power. What is presented in defense of universal human rights is in fact done for selfish reasons.

This is why I address the issue as a choice between being for or against our own country.

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### BASKETBALL/UNTV CUP

## AFP, Senate eye 3-way tie for leadership

Two-time champion Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Senate try to forge a three-way tie for Group A lead when they battle separate rivals tomorrow in the 6th UNTV Cup at the Pasig City Sports Center.

The AFP Cavaliers collide with the Commission on Audit (COA) Enablers at 2 p.m. with the former out to follow

up their 103-95 win over the GSIS Furies last month.

The Senate Defenders are likewise going for a back-to-back when they collide with the Furies at 5:30 p.m.

Led by former PBA players Gilbert Malabanan and Rob Wainwright, the Senate Defenders outlasted the Bureau of Fire Protection Firefight-

ers, 88-81, in the tournament offering P4 million to the chosen charity of the champion team.

Wins by AFP and Senate would tie them with defending champion Philippine National Police in the annual tournament organized by UNTV president and CEO Daniel Razon for the country's public servants.