

*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

02 September 2017

**Saturday**

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RA 9003

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**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**  
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

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**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | SEPTEMBER 2, 2017 | SATURDAY**

**SOUTHWEST MONSOON AFFECTING THE WESTERN SECTION OF NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON (As of 4:00 PM - September 1, 2017)**

**PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)**

<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
5:44 AM	6:07 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
3:08 PM	2:02 AM
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b> AUG 29 4:13 PM	<b>FULL MOON</b> SEP 01 4:03 PM
<b>LOW TIDE</b> 3:15 PM 0.16 Meter	<b>HIGH TIDE</b> MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 6:41 AM 1.05 Meter
Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thundersstorms	
Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thundersstorms	

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SEP 2		SEP 1		SEP 2		SEP 1		SEP 2		SEP 1				
<b>METRO MANILA</b>			25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>			22 - 29 °C	22 - 30 °C	<b>TACLOBAN</b>			25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>			25 - 35 °C	25 - 35 °C	<b>LEGAZPI</b>			26 - 31 °C	26 - 32 °C	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>			24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>			25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>			25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>			25 - 33 °C	25 - 34 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>			16 - 22 °C	16 - 23 °C	<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>			26 - 31 °C	26 - 32 °C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>			25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>			24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	<b>METRO CEBU</b>			26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	 SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!				

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

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

September 2017

The Manila Times

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# 4 dead in Army, NPA Vizcaya clash

BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO

**B**AMBANG, Nueva Vizcaya: At least four Philippine Army soldiers were confirmed dead in an encounter between government troops and the communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Kasibu town on Friday.

Kasibu town police identified the fatalities as Staff Sergeant Dexter John Tagacay of Tumauni, Isabela; Corporal

Jayson Sabado of Lupao, Nueva Ecija; Corporal Rusty Galan and Private First Class Abraham Lindo, all of the Philippine

Army's 84th Infantry Battalion based in Dupax del Norte town.

A belated report said that a certain Corporal Jerby Soriano was wounded and another whose identify could not be confirmed as of Saturday was brought to a nearby hospital in Kasibu.

Police said the firefight happened in the remote Sitio (sub-village) of Bilongay in Barangay Paquet, near the boundary of

Sitio Maglan in Barangay Dine. It lasted from morning until noon of Friday.

It was not reported if there were casualties among the communist rebels.

Residents in the villages of Paquet and Dine were known as anti-mining advocates who managed a few years ago to stop exploration by an Australian mining firm Royalco.

There were reports of massive

protests and acts of sabotage in the area against Royalco by the residents who collaborated with some members of the Bugkalot tribe and the Igorot.

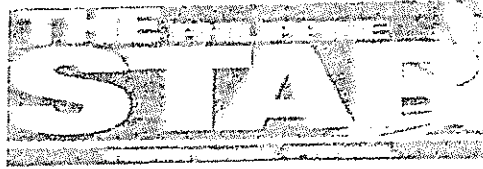
An Army intelligence officer said the encounter confirms reports that the communist rebels are rebuilding their mass base in Kasibu.

Kasibu, an upland town in southern Nueva Vizcaya is a mountain area rich in copper

and gold deposits. It is host to Melbourne-based mining company OceanaGold. Local small-scale miners are also active in the town particularly in Sitio Ambedbed in Barangay Paquet.

It was towards the end of the 1990s when the last report of military and communist rebels encounter took place in the area that resulted in the death of the NPA commander known as Ka Boyet.

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# 4 soldiers die in clash with NPA rebels

By VICTOR MARTIN

**BAYOMBONG** - Four soldiers were killed while another was wounded in an encounter with suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Kasibu, Nueva Ecija yesterday morning.

Initial reports identified the casualties as S/Sgt. Dexter John Magacay, Cpl. Jayson Sabado, Cpl. Rusty Galan and Pfc. Braham Lindo of the Army's 7th Infantry Battalion.

Cpl. Gerby Soriano was wounded.

Chief Inspector Norly Ga-

mal, Kasibu police chief, said the encounter occurred in Sitio Maglan, Barangay Dine.

Gamal said soldiers from the Army's Alpha Company were conducting security patrol when the rebels fired at them.

Government security forces

set up checkpoints as personnel of the Army's 7th Infantry Division conducted pursuit operations for the rebels.

In Kidapawan City, two NPA rebels were arrested after they were caught burying a cache of firearms in Barangay Katipunan yesterday.

Wowia Boton and George Cuyo were with a group of rebels who tried to hide 20 M16 rifles.

Superintendent Romeo Galgo Jr., Soccsksargen po-

lice chief, said the rebels face charges for illegal possession of firearms.

Galgo said investigators are trying to determine if the rebels were involved in the kidnapping of Police Officer 1 Bristol Catalan in the barangay last month.

Catalan was driving his motorcycle on his way to Makilala town when suspected rebels asked him to pull over and took him at gunpoint.

- With John Unson

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**Murder rap filed vs cops in soldier's slay**

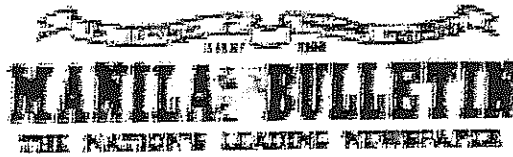
ZAMBOANGA CITY—The police have filed a murder complaint against two policemen who shot and killed a soldier in Aurora town in Zamboanga del Sur province. Senior Supt. Anthony Aberin, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Western Mindanao region, said the complaint was filed in the Zamboanga del Sur provincial prosecutor's office in Pagadian City against PO1 Michael Bullanday and PO2 Ronald Zeros for killing Pfc. Rodilo Bartolome on Aug 23, while the soldier was waiting for a ride home to Midsalip town. Bartolome, reports said, was on a break from the fighting in Marawi City and was scheduled to visit his family when he was attacked by the policemen, who mistook him for a terror suspect. Aberin said Bullanday and Zeros had been disarmed and placed under restricted custody at the Zamboanga del Sur police headquarters. —JULIE ALIPALA

**18 guns seized from suspected rebels in Kidapawan**

KIDAPAWAN CITY—The military arrested two suspected communist rebels who were seen burying firearms in Barangay Katipunan here on Friday morning. Seized from suspects Wowie Boton, 19, and George Cuyo, 20, were 18 M-16 Armalite rifles in two drums and two hand grenades, said Col. Harold Argamosa, commander of the Philippine Army's 39th Infantry Battalion. Argamosa said the two men introduced themselves as farmers but soldiers suspected that they were members of the New People's Army (NPA). According to Argamosa, Katipunan is included on the list of military "hot spots" due to the presence of rebels belonging to the NPA's Guerrilla Front 53. —EDWIN FERNANDEZ AND KARLOS MANLUPIG



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## Soldier killed in Agusan encounter with NPA

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**  
and **MALU CADELINA MANAR**

**BUTUAN CITY** — An Army soldier was killed while a trooper was wounded in a firefight with New People's Army (NPA) guerillas Thursday in far-flung Natividad area, Barangay San Isidro, Loreto, Agusan del Sur, a sketchy report reaching this city on Saturday said.

A flash report received here said a section of the Light Reaction Force (LRF) of the Army's 26th Infantry Battalion (26th IB), led by Second Lt. Romel N. Arnado, was conducting focus military operations (FMO) when it encountered more than 20 heavily armed Communist insurgents at 7.30 a.m.

The report said the LRF engaged the rebels, who were believed to be from the guerilla-Front Committee 34 of the CPP-NPA North-Central Mindanao Regional Committee (NCMRC) under a certain "Commander

Makatindog."

Sgt. Jonathan J. Ondog was killed in action, while PFC. Raul A. Ilajas was wounded.

Meanwhile, the hideout of an NPA group, that was believed to have ambushed a convoy of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) last July, was raided Friday by troops belonging to the 39th Infantry Division under Lt. Col. Harold Argamosa.

The soldiers seized 20 assault rifles and different ammunition from the residence of Wowie Tagapia Boton, 19, and George Cuyo, 20, in Purok 3, Barangay Katipunan, Kidaparan City, at around 12:30 a.m.

Boton and Cuyo, based on information the Police and the Army received from the villagers, are members of the New People's Army (NPA) under Guerilla Front 53 whose areas of operation include the provinces of North Cotabato and Bukidnon.

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## 2 NPA rebels captured in Kidapawan City

By Mario J. Mallari

Combined police and military forces yesterday captured two New People's Army (NPA) rebels and seized 20 high-powered firearms during an operation in Kidapawan City.

Capt. Rhyan Batchar, spokesman of the Army's 10th Infantry Division (ID), said that joint elements of the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion (IB), Kidapawan City Police Station and the Cotabato Provincial Public Safety Company were deployed to Barangay Katipunan to check on the reported presence of armed men in the area.

On the way to the barangay, Col. Roberto Ancan, commander of the Army's 1002nd Brigade, said that the troops chanced upon two persons carting away suspicious objects.

Upon checking, Ancan said that the troops discovered that the two were in possession of M16 rifles –

prompting the lawmen to arrest the suspects, identified as Wowia Boton and George Cuyo.

Boton and Cuyo are members of the NPA's Guerrilla Front 53, operating under a certain Ka Choi.

The two also led the government troops to 18 more M16 rifles cached in the area.

According to Ancan, the NPA's were out to conduct atrocities in Kidapawan City but were prevented following the arrest of Boton and Cuyo, who are now under the custody of the local police for filing of proper charges.

"With this information at hand, the military together with the police immediately planned an operation purposely to foil an impending threat," said Ancan.

Ancan said that police and military forces in the area have intensified security measures to ensure that the NPA's plot will be thwarted.

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The Manila Times

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## 3 soldiers dead, 52 wounded in Marawi

THREE soldiers were dead and 52 were wounded in a clash with Maute terrorists that saw the military retake the strategic Bangolo Bridge inside the besieged city of Marawi, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said on Friday.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokeswoman for the AFP's Western Mindanao Command, said most of the wounded suffered only slight injuries.

"The large number of wounded may be because of soldiers accidentally triggering other IEDs (improvised explosive devices) when instinctively trying to save fellow troops hit by previous explosions," Petinglay explained.

Petinglay also said five Maute men were killed, mostly by government snipers, after the Bangolo Bridge was retaken by security forces, along with nearby structures of the area previously held by the Maute.

Fighting between soldiers and terrorists spanned from Thursday

morning until midnight of Friday, Petinglay said.

The Bangolo Bridge is a "strategic" structure connecting the western part of Marawi to the main battle area in the east.

With this recent gain, military has compressed the Maute ter-

rorists to the eastern side of the battle zone.

The retaking of the bridge raised the death toll in the ongoing siege 136 government troops, 620 terrorists and 45 civilians.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., AFP spokesman, said the offensive

on the eve of the celebration of Eid'l Adha "has been among the toughest so far."

"We are working to clear the remaining areas where the enemy is holding out," Padilla said in a statement.

"[W]e lost three good men and incurred 52 wounded mostly from IEDs, although most were slightly injured, there were a few that were

seriously hurt," he added.

On Friday morning, military troops ceased operations and silenced their guns momentarily to pay respect for the observance of Eid'l Adha or the Feast of Sacrifice, said Padilla.

"The silence was observed for the entirety of the time for prayers," he said in a separate statement.

**DEMPSEY REYES**

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# Strategic Marawi bridge retaken

## Three soldiers slain, 52 others hurt by enemy IEDs during the operations

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

**B**angolo Bridge, the strategic structure that links western Marawi to the main battle area in the east, has been retaken by government forces conducting clearing operations in the besieged city.

Retaking the strategic bridge last Thursday did not come in easy - it cost

the lives of at least three soldiers and wounded 52 others.

AFP Joint Task Force Marawi and Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) spokesperson Captain Jo-Ann Petinglay said most of the casualties were victims of enemy IEDs (improvised explosive devices).

On Thursday, Petinglay said at least five Maute terrorists were also killed by government snipers. ▶4

She said clearing operations in Marawi continue Friday despite the Islamic holiday Eid'l Adha. But airstrikes were called off during prayer times.

Apart from retaking Bangolo Bridge, 16 more buildings were cleared by soldiers of IEDs and other explosive devices over the last two days.

At least 300 buildings have yet to be cleared, the military said.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, said the offensive on the eve of Eid'l Adha has been among the toughest so far that government troops have encountered.

"We are working to clear the remaining areas where the enemy is holding out. In yesterday's (Thursday's) operations, we lost three good

men and incurred 52 wounded, mostly from IEDs, although most were slightly injured, there were a few that were seriously hurt," Padilla said.

"Following a short pause early today (during the Friday morning prayers) to give due respect to the solemnity and significance of this day, the operations continued without any let up," he added.

According to the latest report from the WestMinCom, a total of 620 Maute terrorists have so far been killed as of 7 p.m. Thursday the 102nd day of the Marawi siege.

The number of firearms seized (both high and low powered), meanwhile, has already reached 672.

The number of soldiers and policemen killed in the Marawi conflict is currently pegged at 136.

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# Battle of Marawi: 3 dead, 52 hurt

## Home-made bombs set back final push

by Francisco Tuyay

**T**HREE more government troops were killed and 52 others injured in the battle between soldiers and remnants of the Islamic State-inspired terrorists while retaking a strategic bridge in the Marawi City conflict zone Thursday, eve of the feast of Eid'l Adha.

Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, spokesperson of Joint Task Force Marawi, said most of the casualties were inflicted by explosions of improvised explosive devices used by the terrorists as security forces pushes hard to the last bastion of the militants currently met by the series of ground and air attacks.

"The large number of wounded may have been caused by soldiers accidentally triggering other IEDs [improvised explosive device not used by those in the military] when instinctively trying to save fellow troops previously hit by explosions," Petinglay said.

The intense fighting at Bangolo Bridge lasted for about 12 hours that brought the total deaths to more than 800 to include civilian fatalities in 102 days of the Marawi siege.

In related developments:

• The Department of Justice has

dismissed the rebellion charges against the 59 suspected recruits reportedly as reinforcement of the Maute terrorist group in Marawi City and were arrested in Zamboanga City last July.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said Friday the prosecutors headed by Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Peter Ong, with prosecutors Sonny Ocampo and Aris Reyes as members, issued a resolution dropping the charges filed by the military against the 59 respondents for lack of probable cause.

"The DOJ will not be a part of any injustice. If in the assessment of our Panel of Prosecutors there is no basis to charge a person in court, such a finding should be respected," Aguirre said, in a statement.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla also issued a statement, saying "We fully respect the decision and will abide by it.

Next page

"It also shows the military is fully compliant with the provisions set forth in our Constitution regarding martial law and the continued jurisdiction of our civil courts on cases we file. We are a professional organization committed to the rule of law."

• The militant Bangon Alyansang Makabayan itself said there had been a growing clamor within the Australian government to expand Canberra's military intervention in the Philippines, adding "Against these establishment calls for increased intervention, BAYAN stands with Australian activists calling for the ceasing of military aid to the Duterte administration."

• President Rodrigo Duterte on Friday dared his "yellow" critics to give him a better way of dealing with the ongoing siege in Marawi, amid their supposed criticisms on the government's response in ending the already hundred-day crisis there.

"These bleeding hearts, many of them act as if they knew it all. They think they can—these are the people who can never be elected [They're] unelectable because nobody knew if they can lead," the President told soldiers.

Duterte claimed that female members of the opposition Liberal Party had earlier asked him if there was a "better way of fighting the Islamic State, let alone the Maute."

He asked: "There's another way of ending ISIS? How? Tell me. How do you deal with the ISIS?"

Petinglay described that the injured soldiers were in "green status," or slightly injured, by shrapnel from the IEDs.

On the other hand, military snipers were reported to have pinned down five militants to death in frontal fighting at the Bangolo Bridge, a major road

network connecting Western Marawi to the main battle area in the east, forcing the terrorists to retreat, leading to the recapturing of the bridge and nearby structures. Petinglay added.

Airstrikes were halted during the prayer times in observance of Eid'l Adha while clearing operations continued Friday.

"We are working to clear the remaining areas where the enemy is holding out," AFP spokesman Padilla said.

Currently, the military are still clearing 300 structures where militants remain holed out covering the 500 square meters, the remaining battle site.

With the Bangolo Bridge retaken, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana projected the looming end of the Marawi City siege.

"Yes, I'm happy to announce the end of the fighting is near," Lorenzana said.

Aguirre stressed the 59 suspects had been ordered released by the investigating prosecutors following the dismissal of the charges.

"They did not find the military witness as credible," Aguirre said.

Of the 59 respondents, 32 men were arrested at a checkpoint in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay while the remaining 27, of which four were minors, were arrested along Daisy Road in Guiwan, Zamboanga City. They were all arrested last July 25.

Authorities seized from the suspects military uniforms, boots and Moro National Liberation Front identification cards.

Last Aug. 14, the respondents submitted their counter-affidavit, claiming they were recruited to join the MNLF and promised a P30,000 monthly salary and would each become eventually a military integree.

They accused MNLF member Nur Supian as their recruiter. With Rey Requeje, Bill Casas, and John Paolo Bencito



**UNFIRE AT BANGGOLO.** Marines headed by Brig. Gen. Aguiñadez Ordiales and his men patrol the Mapandi perimeter (above), days ahead of a firefight at Banggolo Bridge in Marawi City (right below) where three soldiers were killed and 52 others wounded during a clash with the Maute group on the eve of Eid'1 Adha in Marawi, authorities said Friday. Five Maute fighters were also killed for the battle of the Banggolo bridge (formerly called Bayabao bridge). **Mark Navales**



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# 3 soldiers killed in latest Marawi battle

MARAWI CITY—Three more soldiers died while 52 others were wounded when government security forces battled Maute gunmen and their allies over the control of another bridge inside the main battle area here on Thursday, the military said on Friday.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, the Western Mindanao Command chief, said Thursday's battle led to the takeover by the military of the Bayabao Bridge in Barangay Banggolo after an intense daylong fighting that also saw the Maute group's massive use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) against advancing troops.

named after the Four Principalities of Lanao (Pat a Pangampong sa Lanao)," Adiong said.

Joint Task Force Marawi spokesperson, Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, told the Inquirer the fighting on Thursday was also intense and that it did not only happen at the Bayabao Bridge.

"It happened in separate locations inside the main battle area," Petinglay said.

In a statement, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, the Armed Forces spokesperson, said the fighting on the eve of Eid al-Adha—the Day of Sacrifice for Muslims—was among the toughest so far.

Galvez said most of the injuries incurred by the military were from exploding IEDs.

He said the taking of the Bayabao Bridge also spelled another strategic win for the government after months of battling extremists here.

"The same with Mapandi Bridge, Banggolo is the gateway to the heart of the city. It's also their supply route that's why we needed to get it, too," Galvez said.

The Mapandi Bridge that Galvez referred to was officially known as the Baloi Bridge and was also taken over by the military this month as soldiers con-

"In yesterday's operations, we lost three good men and incurred 52 wounded—mostly from IEDs. Although most were slightly injured, there were a few that were seriously hurt," Padilla said.

He said the operations continued after a short pause on Friday.

#### Fierce resistance

"Following a short pause to give due respect to the solemnity and significance of this day, the operations will continue without any let up," he added.

The fighting here had

continued their push into the heart of the city, where Maute gunmen and their allies continued to stand their ground.

Zia Adiong, spokesperson of the Lanao del Sur crisis management committee, said they wanted that the official names of the two bridges be used in news reporting.

#### Four bridges

He said the two other bridges in the city—Raya Madaya is officially known as the Masiu Bridge, while the bridge at the Pumping Area is known as Unayan Bridge.

"These four bridges are

dragged into the fourth month already with still no end in sight.

Although the gunmen had been confined to a few hundred square meters of area only, as the military has been claiming, they continue to put up fierce resistance.

The presence of hostages had also slowed down the government advance into enemy positions.

The exact number of remaining Maute gunmen here was not known but the military said it had estimated that there were no more than 70 extremist fighters left.—JEFFREY MAITEM INQ

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# AFP retakes bridge, but loses 3 soldiers

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Friday disclosed a major victory in its quest to retake Marawi City, after troops recapture a strategic bridge from terrorists Thursday.

But AFP Joint Task Force Marawi and Western Mindanao Command spokesperson Captain Jo-Ann Petinglay said reclaiming the Bangolo bridge from the hands of the Daesh-inspired Maute group terrorists was a costly one as three more soldiers were killed, while 52 others were wounded, mostly because of IED (improvised explosive device) explosions.

Petinglay said most of those

hurt only sustained shrapnel wounds and were treated immediately.

However, at least five Maute terrorists were also killed on Thursday by snipers coming from government troops as fighting lasted from morning till midnight.

The Bangolo Bridge is considered a strategic structure connecting western Marawi to the "main battle area" in the east.

Aside from the Bangolo bridge, an additional 16 buildings were cleared by soldiers from IEDs and other explosive devices over the last two days.

At least 300 buildings have yet to be cleared by the military.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen.

Restituto Padilla, said the offensive on the eve of Eid' Adha has been among the toughest so far government troops has encountered.

"We are working to clear the remaining areas where the enemy is holding out. In yesterday's (Thursday's) operations we lost three good men and incurred 52 wounded mostly from IEDs, although most were slightly injured, there were a few that were seriously hurt," said Padilla.

According to the latest report coming from the AFP Western Mindanao Command (WestMin-Com), a total of 620 Maute terrorists have so far been killed as of 7 p.m. Thursday, the 102nd day of the Marawi siege.



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**Balita**

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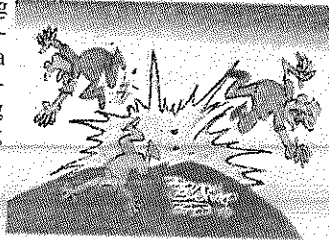
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**Balitang VISMIN Balitang VISMIN Balitang VISMIN**

**3 sundalo patay sa IED, 50 sugatan**

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** --- Patay ang 3 sundalo at marami pang iba ang sugatan matapos silang masabugan ng improvised explosive device (IED) sa Marawi City sa Lanao del Sur na kung saan ay patuloy ang sagupaan sa pagitan ng militar at lokal na ISIS militants.

Mahigit sa 50 ang kumpirmadong sugatan sa naturang pagsabog na naganap kamakalawa. Dahil dito, nadagdagan na naman ang bilang ng mga



Tikom naman ang bibig ng mga opisyal ng Western Mindanao Command sa naturang casualties.

Nasabugan ang mga tropa habang pinaghahapang ang mga militante na nakatakas sa Grand

Mosque kasama ang kanilang mga bihag. Wala rin humpay ang pambobomba ng mga eroplano at sundalo sa mga gusali sa Marawi na binihinalang taguan ng mga militante.

Hindi pa mabatid kung ilang sibilyan at hostages ng ISIS ang napatay sa mga pambobomba ng militar sa Marawi. (Al Jacinto)

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BusinessMirror

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MILITARY COUP DE GRÂCE

# Fighting still rages in Marawi 100+ days later

By RENE ACOSTA

**T**HE Marawi City siege precipitated by the military's "intelligence failure" has reached its 100th day. Yet, the fighting has shown only a few indications of abating. Worse, it appears it wouldn't cease in the succeeding days, or even weeks, not even maybe under the present martial rule in Mindanao.

## Effects of fighting

RATHER than talking about the campaign to drive away the terrorists from the city during the 100th day of the operations on Wednesday, Lorenzana elaborated on the destruction brought about by the fighting, which Islamic leaders have mainly attributed to the bombings by the military.

"Today is the 100th day of the terrorist-inspired rebellion in Marawi City. In such a short time, violent extremism and terrorism claimed countless number of lives, damaged properties, and shattered a thriving city with rich customs and traditions," Lorenzana said.

"The fighting spared no one—Muslims and Christians alike, combatants and noncombatants,

young and old. It has displaced hundreds of thousands of residents," he added.

Various groups, including Islamic scholars, have been prodding the government to stop the continued bombings, although they were fully supportive behind the government's effort to end the rebellion and the neutralization of the members of the Maute-IS Group.

Lorenzana said that, amid the fighting, the government has begun rehabilitating the city from the destruction of the war.

"As our troops continue to mount their offensives against

Except for the oft-repeated words from military officials that they could end the fighting—the longest in the modern history of the Armed Forces—not a single of them could give a timetable as to when the operations will finally end.

Not even Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana, who has imposed three "false" deadlines in the past for the soldiers to finish off the rebellion of the Maute-IS Group, could not say whether an end is already in sight for the terrorists.

cornered leaders and members of the Maute-Daesh group, we are pleased that the Task Force Bangon Marawi has made headways in the rehabilitation and recovery programs we have planned for our affected residents," he said.

"Most important, we are working with the internally displaced persons [IDPs] themselves, our Maranao brothers and sisters, who are as eager as we are to start a new life, and chart a better future for their beloved city," Lorenzana added.

On Wednesday Joint Task Force Marawi Spokesman Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay said at least 617 terrorists, 133 soldiers and 45 civilians have been killed in the fighting. The military has also recovered at least 667 firearms and has rescued 1,728 civilians.



INDIGENOUS peoples, including Muslims from the besiege city of Marawi, converge near the Presidential Palace during a protest against the continued siege by Muslim militants of the city and the martial law imposed by President Duterte in the whole Southern Mindanao region, which has now surpassed 100 days on August 31 in Manila, Philippines. Hundreds of indigenous people from all over the country arrived in Manila Thursday after traveling for nine days to also protest alleged militarization in their ancestral communities. AP/BULLIF MARQUEZ

### Deadline for operations

EVEN Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo M. Año could not give a deadline to the operations, although the soldiers and the terrorists were already confined in the less than 500-square-meter battle zone.

He also said the military is already preparing for the final battle with members of the Maute-ISIS Group.

"It's just a matter of time for this thing to end. What we want really is to minimize still the loss of lives and destructions, we want

this to end without additional casualties, especially from the civilians," Año said.

"Their [terrorists] area is getting smaller and the enemy is also consolidating. Before, they were spread out, but now they are consolidating. So, we expect that there will be fresh fighting when we reach the final phase..." he added.

The chief of staff said he was expecting that the terrorists will fight it out to the last man as they have earlier announced.

"That's because the enemy has said that they will fight it out up

to their last breath, so with that declaration, we expect that they will do a do or die," Año said.

But while the top military chief looks forward to the final battle, military officials on the ground admits that they still have to clear at least 500 houses and buildings from homemade bombs, thus, the end of the fighting may not come sooner as they expect.

The bombs and even ordnance have not only slowed down the military operations, but are even contributing to the high number of wounded soldiers.

The homemade bombs exposed another vulnerability of the military, as evidenced by the statement of Armed Forces Western Mindanao Command commander Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez that they need foreign assistance in dealing and in dismantling the said ordnance.

The country's laws do not allow foreign governments to be directly involved in actual military operations.

On Monday alone, soldiers have recovered at least 32 homemade bombs and unexploded ordnance, according to Petinglay.

“ Their [terrorists] area is getting smaller and the enemy is also consolidating. Before, they were spread out, but now they are consolidating. So, we expect that there will be fresh fighting when we reach the final phase.” —AÑO

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Last week they have also recaptured from the terrorists the city's Islamic Center, a Roman Catholic Church and key government installations.

Meanwhile, prosecutors have dismissed rebellion complaints against 59 men who were stopped by police and Army troops at two checkpoints in the south and accused of attempting to join Islamic State-linked militants who laid siege to a southern city.

Senior government prosecutor Peter Ong said on Thursday the complaints filed by the military against the Muslim men were dismissed because of a lack of strong evidence, and authorities were ordered to free all the men.

"It is clear that respondents were not committing the crime of rebellion or any crime at the time of their arrests," Ong and two other prosecutors said in their findings, a copy of which was seen by The Associated Press.

The men, who traveled in two big groups, may have sparked the suspicion of troops and the police at checkpoints because of the Marawi siege, "but suspicion alone is not sufficient to arrest, detain, charge and indict respondents," the prosecutors said.

Military Spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the military respects the prosecutors' decision, but that security officials still believe the men could "perhaps be eventually deployed to Marawi."

The ruling shows that the rule of law continues to work under martial law that was declared in the south by President Duterte to deal with the Marawi crisis, Padilla said, adding that the men were treated well and would be flown back to the south on an Air Force plane.

The 59 were taken into custody in southern Zamboanga city and Ipil town on July 25, amid intelligence reports that Muslim militants would attempt to reinforce the gunmen who attacked Marawi and were being bombarded by military air strikes and ground assaults. *With AP*

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The Manila Times

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NOT LIFTING MARTIAL LAW YET

# Fighting could spread to ARMM - Duterte

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

**P**RESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte is unlikely to lift martial law in Mindanao before the end of 2017 because of a possible spillover of violence brought about by the fighting in Marawi City to the Muslim autonomous region.

In remarks before the military's Eastern Mindanao Command in Davao City on Friday, the President said he wanted the conflict over soon, but would rely on the military's recommendation on when to lift martial rule, which he imposed on May 23 after the attack on Marawi by the Islamic State (IS)-linked Maute group.

"I was thinking that we could lift it (martial law) earlier but the way it looks, there's a possible spillover (of the Marawi conflict) in ARMM and in Buldon," Duterte said, referring to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and Buldon, Maguindanao.

"Let us see. If it is to the interest of the country that I will lift it, I will lift it. But if not, we just have to continue

➤ ARMM A2

with the martial law. And mind you, when I said that I leave it to the military and the police to solve the problem, *'yun na 'yun. Hindi na ako makialam* (I won't interfere)," he said during ceremonies marking the command's 11th anniversary.

"I enjoin the troops to continue being faithful to their sworn oath to protect and defend our sovereignty and our peoples, especially as martial law remains in effect in Mindanao, amid the persisting threats of terrorism and insurgency," the President added.

Duterte placed the entire Mindanao under martial rule on May 23, the day the Maute group attacked Marawi City. In July, Congress granted Duterte's request for an extension until yearend. Fighting has so far claimed the lives of 620 Islamist fighters, 136 state forces, and 45 civilians. Three more names were added to the list of soldiers killed on Friday when an improvised explosive device exploded at the strategic Bangolo Bridge, which the military was retaking (*See story on A1*).

Duterte, in a speech on Wednesday, said he told government troops engaged in the conflict in Marawi City that the options were theirs on how they would end the war. "I instructed them to act slowly. But up to this time, there is stalemate. And other senators said, 'There has to be a time when you have to stop – stopping the armed forces,'" Duterte said. "The last time I was there, around

five days, six days ago, I finally said the options [are] already yours because we cannot have a stalemate for over one year," he added. The lengthy battle has allowed government forces to retake the grand mosque in Marawi City, which is deemed as the Islamic city's "most significant landmark."

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said that the troops conducted an "envelopmental approach" to ensure that the Muslim place of worship would not be damaged. Duterte admitted that security forces wanted to bomb the mosque to expedite the operations against the Islamist fighters.

He, however, reminded the troops that they must not resort to such violence because it would only cause "more animosity and outright hostility against the government."

"They really want to bomb the mosque to capture or kill their leaders there and in the process, sacrifice the hostages who are all Filipinos – maybe Maranao and a mingling of Christians and Tagalogs," Duterte said. "I said no, it will just create more animosity and outright hostility against the government. Maranaos will not forgive us... So that's the story why it's taking so long," he added.

### Marawi war over in weeks – Lorenzana

Clashes between government troopers and Maute terrorists will

likely end in three weeks to one month, with soldiers treading carefully in clearing mosques supposedly housing some extremists, according to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

"I am happy to announce that the crisis in Marawi is about to end," he told reporters Thursday night.

"What the ground commanders have told me is that, maybe, there will be three weeks to one month until this war ends. The mosques serve as a big challenge, so as much as possible, we do not want to assault the mosques that is why our troops are being careful," Lorenzana added.

Lorenzana also said it would be possible for the Maranaos to go back to their houses before the holidays.

Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año had said the Maute's strongholds covered only 500 square meters of the city, but according to the Defense chief, "it's still big enough."

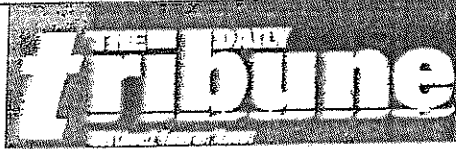
"Even if you say that 250 meters on the other side, and 250 on the other, that is still one quadrant which is still considered as a big [area]," Lorenzana said.

At least nine buildings, the most damaged by the conflict in the Islamic city, were recently cleared by soldiers, the military said.

Lorenzana said Task Force Bangon Marawi, which he leads, had begun putting up shelters to be distributed to displaced Marawi citizens.

DEMPSEY REYES

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## Duterte warns of Marawi crisis spillover

By Mario J. Mallari  
and Julius N. Leonen

President Rodrigo Duterte had considered lifting the declaration of martial law in Mindanao but changed his mind as terror threats have already spread to other parts of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

“I was thinking that they (government security forces) could lift it earlier but the way it looks, it seems like there’s a spillover to ARMM and in Buldon (in Maguindanao province),” the Commander-in-Chief yesterday said at the 11th founding anniversary celebration of the Eastern Mindanao Command held in Panacan, Davao City.

“Let us see. If it is to the interest of the country that I will lift it, I will lift it. But if not, we just have to continue with the martial law,” he added.

The President signed Proclamation 216 last May 23 placing the entire island of Mindanao under martial law and suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus after Islamic State (IS)-inspired

**From page 1**

terrorists engaged in a firefight with the government troops who were initially conducting an operation against Abu Sayyaf leader and alleged IS emir Isnail Hapilon.

The proclamation of martial law lapsed on July 22 after reaching the 60-day period but was extended by Congress until end of December 2017 to completely end the insurgency of Maute extremists.

Mr. Duterte also reiterated that he would no longer intervene in the continuing military and police offensives against the terrorists in the war-torn city.

"When I said that I leave it to the military and the police to solve the problem, that's it. I don't interfere anymore," he stressed.

**Guns silenced**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), meanwhile, momentarily stopped operations yesterday against the Islamic State-inspired terrorists in Marawi City in respect to the observance of Eid'l Adha despite losing three more soldiers while more than 50 others were wounded during intense clash on the eve of the Islamic holiday.

At least five terrorists were reported killed.

"The clashes yesterday (Thursday) have proven to be one of the bloodiest. We had three killed in action and 52 wounded in action. The operations

were part of our offensives to retake the city," AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said.

There were clashes the whole day of Thursday within the main battle area - estimated to only be 500 square meters, he added.

Despite this, Padilla stressed the military's guns went silent for a moment yesterday to be one with the peace-loving Muslims in the country in celebrating Eid'l Adha.

"Early this morning (Friday) prior to the moment for prayers, we momentarily silenced our guns and ceased operations to show respect for today's observance of Eidul Adha."

"The silence was observed for the entirety of the time for prayers," the military official added.

For weeks now, the military has been saying the terrorists' area is getting smaller and that they are running out of ammunition and food.

But the terrorists, believed to still being led by Hapilon and brothers Omar and Abdullah Maute, are still able to put up resistance and inflict huge casualty against government troops as evidenced by Thursday's clashes.

**Rebellion raps junked**

Relatedly, the Department of Justice (DoJ) has dismissed the rebellion charges filed by government forces against 59 alleged Maute group recruits who were arrested in Zamboanga last July.

In a statement, Justice Secretary

Vitaliano Aguirre II said the DoJ prosecution panel, led by Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Peter Ong with members Sonny Ocampo and Aris Reyes, decided to junk the criminal raps filed by the government against them.

"The DoJ will not be a part of any injustice. If in the assessment of our panel of prosecutors that there is no basis to charge a person in court, such a finding should be respected," he stressed.

"They did not find the military witness credible," Aguirre said.

According to him, they have already been ordered released from their detention cell at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig.

In their defense, the 59 alleged Maute recruits claimed that they were only duped into joining the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) with the promise that they would be compensated P30,000 a month and they will eventually join the military.

They pointed to a certain MNLF member Nur Supian as their recruiter.

Of the 59, 32 men were arrested at a checkpoint in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay. The remaining 27, of which four were minors, were nabbed along Daisy Road in Guiwan, Zamboanga City. They were all arrested last July 25.

Government forces confiscated from the 59 suspected Maute recruits military uniforms, boots and MNLF identification cards.



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## Muslims gather for Eid'l Adha amid tight security in Marawi

By JOHN UNSON

MAGUINDANAO - Muslims in Mindanao performed Eid'l Adha open-field congregational prayers yesterday morning in designated areas under tight security.

In the troubled Marawi City where Maute terrorists and soldiers are locked in battle since May 23, worshipers gathered at the Lanao del Sur provincial capitol and Mindanao State University for the obligatory early morning worship rite.

But gunshots in hostile areas in Marawi City were heard while Maranaos prayed in groups under the morning sun.

Assemblyman Zia Alonto Adiong of the 24-seat Regional Assembly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao said worshipers in Marawi City performed their outdoor Eid'l Adha prayers in a somber mood.

Most clerics who led the Eid'l Adha prayers spoke on the importance of religious solidarity, fraternal love for all people regardless of religions and tribes, and respect for life.

"Of course we prayed for peace in Marawi and nearby towns affected by the conflict here," said Adiong, spokesman of the Lanao del Sur provincial crisis management committee.

In Maguindanao, hundreds of Muslims prayed at the parade ground of the Army's Camp Siongco in Datu Odin Sinsuat town in the first district of the province.

Col. Markton Abo, civil-military relations officer of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the Army hosted the Eid'l Adha prayer as part of their confidence-building measure in support of Malacañang's peace overture with local Moro sectors.

The commander of 6th ID,

Major Gen. Arnel dela Vega, led soldiers in distributing food to worshipers while at Camp Siongco.

Abo and Dela Vega jointly organized the religious event in Camp Siongco, the largest Army facility in central Mindanao.

In a message, Dela Vega appealed to Muslims who prayed at Camp Siongco to continue pushing the government's southern Mindanao peace process forward.

Among the worshipers Dela Vega hosted were representatives from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front. Both groups have separate peace accords with the national government.

The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process also launched yesterday the peace month through a simultaneous celebration of Eid'l Adha in four evacuation camps in Iligan City.

Eid'l Adha, or "feast of sacrifice," is an important religious holiday in Islam, along with Eid'l Fitr that marks the culmination of the Islamic Ramadan fasting season.

Eid'l Adha is celebrated yearly to commemorate the biblical story on the willingness of Ibrahim (Abraham) to offer as a sacrifice his own son Isaac in a test of absolute loyalty to Allah. The story is also found in the Qur'an.

### Heroism of soldiers in Marawi honored

The heroism of soldiers who fought against the Maute was not forgotten in the observance



A Muslim woman prays with her children during the observance of Eid'l Adha in Manila yesterday. EDD GUMBAN

of Eid'l Adha.

Filipino-Turkish Tolerance School (FTTS), a nongovernmental organization, included the wounded soldiers among the 20,000 poor families who received beef yesterday and today for Eid'l Adha.

About 80 to 90 heads of cattle were slaughtered with the support of the Australian Relief Organization through the Integrated Center for Alternative Development, the foundation of the FTTS.

"We are going to distribute to Camp Navarro for the wounded soldiers of the Philippines who were wounded in the battle," said FTTS director Maruf Celebi.

Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa also called for peace and unity in the observance of Eid'l Adha. - With Roel Pareño, Jose Rodel Clapano, Emmanuel Tupas

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## MUSLIM FEAST

# RESIDENTS OF MARAWI MARK EID AL-ADHA AMID FIGHTING

MARAWI CITY—Residents who stayed put despite the fighting between soldiers and terrorists here trooped to mosques yesterday to celebrate Eid al-Adha or Day of Sacrifice, a key Muslim holiday.

But unlike in the past when Maranao families slaughtered animals for the feast, yesterday's celebration was toned down. There was no revelry and very few families were able to slaughter animals.

The state of war in the city was obvious as mosques were not filled although the military took a pause in offensives against Islamic State followers belonging to Maute group and Abu Sayyaf.

At the sports complex of Mindanao State University (MSU), where congregational prayers were held, only a few people came.

## End to war

Most residents of the predominantly Muslim city said they prayed for an end to war.

In a statement, Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) chair Murad Ebrahim acknowledged the suffering of the Maranao people due to the fighting.

He said the war was among "many tribulations" that faced the Moro people.

Ebrahim said the war in the city, and parts of Maguindanao, escalated because of the "intrusion of violent extremism."

He said provinces belonging to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao were also going through war because of extremism.

Eid al-Adha is celebrated each year in honor of the willingness of Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son—Ismael as Muslims believe—in obedience of Allah.

In the Quran, Ibrahim laid his son on a rock but, before the child was sacrificed, Allah intervened by sending Angel Jibrael (Gabriel) to replace the boy with a ram. The narrative is also found in the Jewish Torah and in the Old Testament.

Muslims observe this annual event, which falls on the 12th month of the Hijri calendar, by slaughtering animals and dividing the meat into three—one for the poor and needy, another for relatives, friends and neighbors, and the third for relatives or neighbors' families.

—JEFFREY MAJTEM INQ

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## AFP makes way for 'feast of sacrifice'

THOUSANDS of Muslims gathered at the Rizal Park in Manila on Friday to celebrate Eid'l Adha or the Feast of Sacrifice.

After the morning prayers, the participants received food and gifts, and that was followed by an imam's sermon.

Thousands more Muslims listened to the morning sermon at the Golden Mosque in Manila.

And as the Muslim world commemorates Eid'l Adha, the military operations in Marawi City were momentarily suspended early in the

morning to show respect for the religious event.

"Early this morning prior to the moment for prayers, we momentarily silenced our guns and ceased operations to show respect for today's observance of Eid'l Adha," military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

"The silence was observed for the entirety of the time for prayers."

President Rodrigo Duterte earlier declared Sept. 1 a regular holiday in observance of Eid'l Adha.

Eid'l Adha commemorates

Ibrahim's offer to sacrifice his son Ishmael to God, but was told to sacrifice an animal instead.

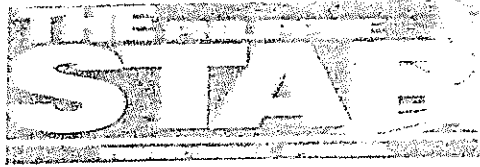
Eid'l Adha is a holy season of sacrifice and giving for Muslims.

Extending help to Muslims in Marawi and other conflict areas affected by the siege between the Maute group and the Philippine government would be part of their sacrifice this year.

Macatanong Dibarosan, national president of the Philippine Muslim Students Alumni Association, said the fund they had gathered would be given to the victims of the Marawi siege. **Bill Casas, with**

PNA

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## Unleash

President Duterte gave the AFP the green light to decide on how to finally end the fighting in Marawi City.

With many soldiers and civilians already sacrificed in the conflict, Duterte said he had to heed the advice some lawmakers to allow the military to conduct their operations freely, even at the risk of sacrificing some more lives in the name of peace.

"But up to this time, there is a stalemate and some senators told me: 'You know, mayor, there must be time that you have to stop stopping the Armed Forces,'" Duterte said during a speech the 23rd anniversary celebration of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority in Taguig on Wednesday.

"The last time I was there, I finally said that the option is already yours because we cannot have a stalemate for over one year," he added.

"I cannot generate more hatred instead of healing, but this has been prolonged already, it's now out of my hands."

Earlier in the day, Duterte said the military operations have entered the "final stage" and he sees an end to the fighting.

Duterte said he wants to immediately start the rehabilitation of Marawi City to allow the thousands of displaced families to return to their communities.

Duterte also revealed he has sent an emissary to reach out to the terrorists and negotiate the release of the remaining hostages.

"But I said, if they can just appeal (to the Maute) to get out and free the hostages, do not harm them, do not cut their heads because it will ignite (the fighting) anew, especially if they see the soldiers, it's gonna be (a) bloodbath," he said.

- With Christina Mendez, Jaime Laude, Roel Pareño, Michael Punongbayan, John Unson, Rudy Santos

President told the troops during the 11th founding anniversary of the Eastern Mindanao Command in Panacan, Davao City yesterday.

The rampage in Marawi forced President Duterte to declare martial law in the entire region of Mindanao on May 23.

Duterte had to cut short his trip to Russia after learning the Maute group attempted to occupy Marawi City in the bid to establish an Islamic State caliphate in the region.

After the declaration lapsed in July, Congress approved the Chief Executive's request to extend martial law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in the region until Dec. 31.

In his speech yesterday, Duterte called on the military to "continue being faithful to their sworn oath to protect and defend our sovereignty, especially as martial law remains in effect in Mindanao amid the persisting threats of terrorism and insurgency."

He said he is leaving it up to the military to decide how it would end the fighting in Marawi.

"Mind you, when I said I leave it to the military to solve the problem, that's it. I will not meddle anymore, except that I advised them not to pepper the mosques," he said.

As the fighting is nearing its conclusion, it is becoming tougher for government forces to finally subdue and defeat the Maute terrorists, military said.

On the eve of Eid'l Adha or the Feast of Sacrifice, one of the holiest religious festivities being celebrated by Muslims worldwide,

three soldiers were killed and 52 others were wounded as government troops continue their advance towards the main battle area in the city.

"The offensive on the eve of Eid'l Adha has been among the toughest so far. We are working to clear the remaining areas where the enemy is holding out. In yesterday's (Thursday) operations we lost three good men and incurred 52 wounded, mostly from improvised explosive devices," Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

In more than three months of fighting, more than 700 have been killed on both sides.

Officials said 620 terrorists were killed and 136 soldiers and policemen lost their lives, including the three soldiers in last Thursday's fighting.

The number of civilian fatalities, all believed to have been executed by the terrorists, remains at 45.

With escape almost impossible, the terrorists are confined in a less than one square kilometer area and are running low on food and ammunition, the military said.

Even as government forces are preparing for one final push against the Maute terrorists, the efforts have been hampered by the number of booby traps and IEDs rigged in several buildings and establishments in the city.

The terrorists are also using civilian hostages as human shields to block the advance of government forces.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the troops are inspecting each building and establishment in the area.

He said the biggest challenge facing the troops is clearing the mosques that are still occupied by the terrorists holding civilians as hostages.

## Martial law may not be lifted even after Marawi conflict

As the battle for Marawi City draws to a close, President Duterte sees no reason to lift martial law in Mindanao, citing the possibility that the violence would spill over other areas of the region.

"I was thinking that we could, you know, lift it earlier, but the way things look, there is a spillover of violence in the ARMM and Buldon," Duterte said, mentioning the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao and Buldon, Maguindanao.

"Let us see, if it is to the interest of the country, and if I will lift it, I will lift it. But if not, then we'll just continue with the martial law," the president said.

Turn to Page 6

Rebellion raps vs 59 Maute recruits' junked. See Page 6.

September 2017



Pahina. 6

# AFP nagpatupad ng ceasefire sa Marawi *Sa paggunita ng Eid'l Adha*

Bilang paggalang sa Eid'l Adha ng mga kapatid nating Muslim at upang pansamantalang makaranas ng katahimikan ang Marawi City, nagpatupad ng ceasefire ang tropa ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) laban sa teroristang Maute ISIS bilang pakikiisa sa selebrasyon ng Eid'l Adha ng mga Muslim.

Bunsod na rin ito sa ulat ni Brig. Gen. Resituto Padilla Jr., AFP Spokesman, na sa bisperas ng Eid'l Adha ng mga Muslim, tatlo pang sundalo ang napaslang habang 50 pa ang nasugatan sa bakbakan sa lungsod.

Samantalang lima pang mga terorista ang napatay sa pagpapatuloy ng bakbakan sa magkabilang panig.

"The clashes yesterday

**Nina JOY CANTOS at TRAINEE ENGRID GENOVA**

(Thursday) have proven to be one of the bloodiest. We had three killed in action and 52 wounded in action. The operations were part of our offensives to retake the city," pahayag ni Padilla.

Ayon sa AFP Spokesman, ang operasyon ay nagresulta rin sa pagkakatambag ng malaking bahagi ng lungsod na inokupa ng mga terorista.

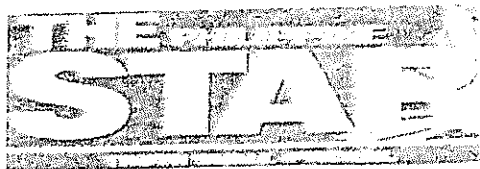
Nilong Huwebes ay halos maghapon ang labanan sa sentro ng battle zone na nasa 500 square meters na lamang.

"Early this morning (Friday) prior to the moment for prayers, we momentarily silenced our guns and ceased operations to show respect

to today's observance of Eid'l Adha," ani Padilla.

"The silence was observed for the entirety of the

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## DOJ junks rebellion raps vs 59 Maute suspects

By EVELYN MACAIRAN

The Department of Justice (DOJ) dismissed the rebellion complaints against 59 men who were stopped at two security checkpoints in Mindanao and accused of attempting to join Islamic State-linked Maute militants who laid siege to Marawi City.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II ordered the dismissal of rebellion charges for lack of strong evidence.

He said the panel led by Senior Assistant Prosecutor Peter Ong recommended the dismissal of the case against the 59 men.

"They did not find the mili-

tary witness as credible," Aguirre said.

"It is clear that respondents were not committing the crime of rebellion or any crime at the time of their arrests," Ong said on Thursday.

The men, who traveled in two big groups, may have sparked the suspicion of troops and police at checkpoints because of the Marawi siege, "but suspicion alone is not sufficient to arrest, detain, charge and indict respondents," the prosecutors said.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the military respects the prosecutors' decision but security

officials still believe the men could "perhaps be eventually deployed to Marawi."

The ruling showed the rule of law continues to work under martial law that was declared in Mindanao by President Duterte to deal with the Marawi crisis, Padilla said, adding that the men were treated well and would be flown back home.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana agreed that the dropping of rebellion charges against the 59 suspects only showed the justice system in the country is working.

"That is what the justice system is supposed to do. To let go the innocent and only punish

those who have committed crimes," Lorenzana said.

"I agree with the decision. There is no evidence of their being involved in the rebellion hence they were set free," he said.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) declined to comment on the decision.

PNP spokesman Chief Supt. Dionardo Carlos said the AFP has to comment over the dismissal since they arrested the suspects at a military checkpoint.

Regional police spokesperson Chief Insp. Helen Galvez also refused to comment.

"It's better to get the statement from the AFP since they

filed the cases," she said.

The 59 were taken into custody in Zamboanga City and Ipil town in Zamboanga Sibugay on July 25 amid intelligence reports that Muslim militants would attempt to reinforce the gunmen who attacked Marawi and were being bombarded by military airstrikes and ground assaults.

They were immediately flown to Manila and detained at the highly-secured jail facility in Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig City.

A lone witness said the suspects were to be given combat training and then deployed to reinforce the beleaguered

Maute militants, who were holding out in buildings and mosques in Marawi.

The arrested men strongly denied the allegation, saying they were recruited by a man who promised to bring them to a rebel camp for combat training and then help them be integrated into the AFP and police under the peace deal between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front.

During a hearing on July 28, some of the arrested men, guarded by heavily armed police commandos, told reporters they were poor and jobless and in search of work and a better life. – With Jaime Laude, Emmanuel Tupas, AP

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# 59 Maute suspects ordered freed

By Marlon Ramos  
@MRamosINQ

Government prosecutors have tossed out the rebellion charges lodged against 59 suspected members of the Islamic State-linked Maute terror group, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said on Friday.

In a text message to the Inquirer, Aguirre said a panel of state prosecutors from the Department of Justice (DOJ) on Thursday ordered the release from detention of the alleged

terrorists after they found “no probable cause” to indict them for rebellion.

“The DOJ will not be part of any injustice,” Aguirre said in a statement.

“If in the assessment of our panel of prosecutors there is no basis to charge a person in court, such finding should be respected,” he said.

The justice secretary said he has yet to receive confirmation if the alleged Maute members, most of whom were teenagers, had already been released from

a tightly-guarded jail facility inside Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig City, where they were taken after their arrest.

Twenty-seven of them were held in a joint police and military checkpoint in Zamboanga City, while the others were accosted at another checkpoint in Ipil town, Zamboanga Sibugay province, on July 25.

As requested by the DOJ, the Supreme Court had approved their detention at the Special Intensive Care Area of Camp Bagong Diwa

A DOJ panel of prosecutors headed by Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Peter Ong conducted the preliminary investigation of the criminal complaint filed against the suspected Maute members.

Assisted by lawyers from the Public Attorney's Office, they insisted that they were only recruited by a certain Nur Supian to join the Moro National Liberation Front in exchange for P30,000.

“It is clear that respondents were not committing the crime of rebellion or any crime at the time

of their arrests,” Ong and two other prosecutors said in their findings, a copy of which was seen by the Associated Press.

The men, who traveled in two big groups, may have sparked the suspicion of troops and police at checkpoints because of the Marawi siege, “but suspicion alone is not sufficient to arrest, detain, charge and indict respondents,” the prosecutors said.

Military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the military respects the prosecutors' decision. —AP INQ

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The Manila Times

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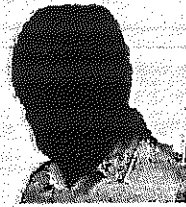
## Martial law and Christmas: Countdown in September

**S**IMULTANEOUS with this writing, the so-called "Ber" months begin. September is the first in a straight series of months with names ending in a "ber," thus after September, come October, November and December.

Like August, September is still wet, but it is distinct as well for the wintry air characteristic of the yuletide season. The Ber months, therefore, connote cold, a climate instantly evoked in fact by the alliterative quality of their name endings, "ber," in relation to the popular tonal description of cold, "brrr."

So accordingly, as the Ber months progress, the shivers that are "brrr" increase.

Before long, the old, familiar strains of Christmas carols will be filling the air all over the nation, including Mindanao where though Muslims seem to dominate culturally, Christians are far superior in number. Until today, folks, mostly young ones, have carried on this tradition from "Pastores a Belen" in the Spanish colonial period, intermixed with American Christmas ditties as "Jingle Bells" and "The First Noel" when it was the turn for the country to suffer the multi-faceted aggression (political, economic, cultural) of US imperialism, and finally the relatively modernized version called "kumbancheros" of the contemporary period. It is delightful



MY SAY

MAURO GIA  
SAMONTE

to witness carolers accompanying their songs with improvised musical instruments, like flattened tin softdrinks bottle caps (*tansan* in the vernacular) strung on a piece of wire to produce the sound of castanets and tambourines; sardine cans made to simulate a guitar, with the grooves, plucked with a piece of steel like a nail, serving as guitar strings; and a contraption made of a bamboo pole set erect on an empty gasoline container from which is stretched a piece of nylon cord to the top end of the bamboo pole which is plucked to produce the sound of a bass.

### Grim forebodings

Meantime, at least in metropolises, Christmas lanterns made from capiz shells already become prominent, displayed for sale in all sorts of shops and stalls; they now make for nights of many-colored splendor.

But limited to September, Ber months bring grim forebodings. Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> should start a countdown to martial law, given a vis-

ible pattern in Philippine history. Two September 22s were dates of declaration of martial law in the Philippines. The first was in 1944, when in the face of bombardment all over the country by the returning Americans, then President Jose P. Laurel was forced to declare it, although he had held back on it for long already. And the second was in 1972 when President Ferdinand E. Marcos realized martial law was the only deterrent to the increasing leftist rebellion.

So on the tenet that history tends to repeat itself time and again, there appears the possibility, nay probability, that a third September 22 is afoot for the declaration of martial law in the Philippines.

And why probability?

On May 23, 2017, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao to contain the perceived spread of Islamist terrorism on the island, as demonstrated that day by the takeover of Marawi City by combined forces of the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups. And on a number of occasions, the President has expressed his readiness to declare martial law nationwide if things got worse so that he should do so.

Until this writing, the Marawi crisis has not been ended, no matter the claims by the military that the entirety of the Maute and Abu



Sayyaf groups have abandoned Marawi, leaving a handful of reportedly ISIS elements carrying on the fight. No timetable has been set by the Philippine government for ending the crisis.

Meantime, there appears to be a resurgence of the notorious Duterte killing machine that is the campaign against the illegal drugs trade. Two recent killings that have jolted the media was that of Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog of Ozamiz City, and 17-year-old student Kian Loyd de los Santos of Caloocan City whose murder in the hands of policemen was caught live on CCTV.

### Grip of fear loosening

The killing of the student has particularly sparked widespread protests. Throngs of people poured out into the streets, demanding an end to extrajudicial killings. The Senate, hitherto perceived as a close ally of the President, conducted an investigation.

Human rights lawyer and chairman of the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) Jose Manuel "Chel" Diokno believes the "grip of fear is loosening" in regard to the President's continuously escalating war on drugs.

"Public opinion is changing, people are more willing to speak out," he says. "As more abuses come to light, more will oppose

it in public."

Even President Duterte has made a public declaration condemning the De los Santos slay.

But Diokno has this to say: "Politicians in the Philippines are like those anywhere, they are sensitive to public opinion. (Now) they sense a change in public opinion and that explains to me why the senators agreed to a hearing."

Does not that explain as well the President's now expressed apparent change in attitude toward extrajudicial killing?

But most importantly, people are getting bolder and bolder in going public about their criticism of the President's war on drugs. If allowed to "worsen," this development can surely lead to upheavals such as what ultimately prompted Marcos to declare martial law in 1972.

I can remember a 17-year-old student from the Feati whose skull was cracked by a pill box bomb lobbed at him by an unknown assailant. The death of that boy—I am grappling with my memory for his name—was a battle cry for the upsurge of the National Democratic Movement that led to the declaration of the Marcos Martial Law.

Might not the current spate of extra-judicial killings form part of that "get worse" scenario already defined by the President as "rea-

son" for his declaration of martial law nationwide?

### Mournful countdown

In fact, for all his admission of having failed, as he promised during the 2016 presidential campaign, in solving the problem of crime and violence during the first six months of his administration, President Duterte can very well seize upon that failure as the outright reason for ultimately declaring martial law in this period.

Sort of saying, "Hey, crime and violence are so *grave* ordinary presidential powers have gone ineffective against them. Martial law is necessary to protect my people and save my country."

Thus, while people generally have begun the countdown to Christmas which is 116 days away, that's in happy anticipation of the yuletide joy.

For the mournful countdown, it's one day down today, 21 days to go.

And, oh, almost forgot. Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> or 9/1 reminds us to add one more 1 to the figure to make it 9/11. We all know, of course, that that's the day in 2001 that the New York Twin Towers were bombed reportedly by Islamic jihadists.

Good heavens, that's a far shorter countdown.

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## DO OUR PART IN FIGHTING TERRORISM

I read from the news that the Mindanao State University (MSU) has finally opened its gates for the first time since the crisis in Marawi City erupted (Regions, 8/23/17). One of the statements that struck me was by Lanao del Sur Vice Gov. Mamintal Alonto Adiong Jr.: "We stood up against them. We would fight terror and we would not allow terror to defeat us."

The vice governor's words, which I can only imagine to have been delivered with utmost conviction, had me thinking about how this country and its citizens should approach and address the challenges on terrorism, rebellion, and violent extremism.

I advance the belief that the duty to safeguard and defend this country does not solely rest on the military and other government security forces. As Filipinos, we are likewise duty-bound, as members of this populace, to protect the land that cradles and nourishes us.

Does this mean we have to march to Camp Aguinaldo and have ourselves enlisted? Well, if one thinks he is fit to become a soldier, then well and good.

How about the rest of us

who may not be physically well and capable to be part of the military force—is it still possible to become part of the solution without having to go to the front line?

I believe we all know the answer—YES.

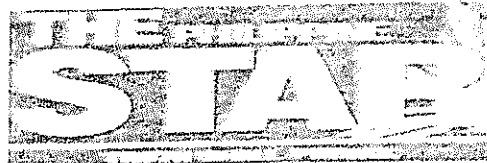
Unfortunately, the current reality these days is that some locals, especially in far-flung areas, have been helping and providing refuge to the Abu Sayyaf, New People's Army, Maute group, and other rebel, terrorist, and extremist groups while others choose to turn a blind eye instead of invoking the power, assistance, and protection of responsible government authorities.

What our country needs in resolving such challenges is proactive cooperation. One solution which all of us may have overlooked in the past years is the value and necessity of active and willing involvement of all local government units and peace-loving communities in this unified cause, in the most practicable way possible.

Indeed, we have to do something about these problems and challenges—and we have to do it NOW.

LEANDRO BILOT,  
lean.bilot@outlook.com

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## AT GROUND LEVEL

SATUR C. OCAMPO



### Looking back: The Hague Joint Declaration 25 years ago

*"The current administration... has not only inherited an accumulation of problems [social, economic, and political] but has adopted and implemented policies that aggravate these problems. It is widely perceived that the Philippine ruling system is inexorably following a course of degeneration and disintegration."*

*"There is growing militarization of the political system. The total war policy continues unleashing torrents of violence against the people in such intolerably painful way as massacres, assassinations, torture, mass arrests, blind aerial bombings and strafing, destruction of property and livelihood, and forced evacuations..."*

Do the above quotes depict the conditions under the Duterte administration? The answer can easily be Yes. However, the statements were made in 1992 – 25 years ago, during the early months of the Fidel V. Ramos government.

That was how Luis Jalandoni, representing the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, described the Philippine situation in his opening statement on August 31, 1992, at the start of exploratory talks in the Netherlands. Facing him was then Tarlac Rep. Jose V. Yap, whom President Ramos had sent as peace emissary to the NDFP. The next day, September 1, the exploratory talks culminated in the signing of the landmark Joint Declaration of The Hague, which set the framework and substantive agenda of the subsequent GRP-NDFP peace talks.

Crafted in concise paragraphs, the Joint Declaration set this four-point framework: 1) formal peace negotiations shall be held to resolve the armed conflict; 2) the common goal shall be to attain a just and lasting peace; 3) negotiations shall take place after the parties have reached tentative agreements on substantive issues in the agreed agenda through the reciprocal working committees to be separately organized by the GRP and the NDFP; and 4) negotiations are to be conducted in accordance with mutually acceptable principles, including national sovereignty, democracy and social justice; and, "no precondition shall be made to negate the inherent character and purpose of the peace negotiations."

The Joint Declaration also set a four-point substantive agenda for the formal negotiations: human rights and international humanitarian law, socio-economic reforms, political and constitutional reforms, and end of hostilities and disposition of forces.

Worth noting is that, under essentially similar conditions portrayed in the above quotes, Fidel Ramos and Rodrigo Duterte acted differently with regard to the GRP-NDFP peace talks (begun under the Cory Aquino administration in mid-1986 but aborted in January 1987).

Even though, as Cory's AFP chief and later as defense secretary, Ramos had strongly opposed the peace talks in 1986-87, he pursued these upon assuming the presidency. In contrast, Duterte, in a fit of personal pique last July ("You want to ambush me!"), scuttled the peace negotiations he had formally resumed in August 2016 to fulfill a promise made during the presidential campaign.

Under Ramos' watch, through on-and-off negotiations from 1994 onward, the two panels completed and signed

nine other agreements. These include the Joint Agreement on Security and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) and the landmark Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL). There was no bilateral ceasefire accord.

On his part, Duterte disrupted the formal negotiations just as these were making substantial gains. He insisted on a prolonged bilateral ceasefire agreement ahead of negotiating and signing a comprehensive agreement on social and economic reforms, the most vital element of the peace talks.

The historical significance of the signing of The Hague Joint Declaration – and its continuing validity as framework for the continuing negotiations – lies in the fact that it was hammered out by two fiercely contending parties with diametrically opposed starting points.

The Ramos government brought to the exploratory talks three “basic principles” that it wanted the NDFP to accept. These were: 1) recognize the supremacy of the GRP Constitution as fundamental law of the land and basis for national peace and progress; 2) renounce the use of force and violence to achieve political ends; and 3) recognize only one authorized armed forces for the country, and the illegality and necessity to disband all other organized armed groups.

Rep. Yap said in his opening statement:

“I am aware that the NDFP has adhered to principles contrary to these basic principles of the GRP, having unequivocally expressed an opposing stand on these matters on various occasions. But our diametrically opposing views should not deter us and cause the outright abandonment of the peace option. Let no one say in the future that we did not give the best shot simply because the differences at the outset seemed to be so overwhelming.”

On the other hand, the NDFP stood fast for mutually acceptable principles of national sovereignty, democracy, human rights, and social justice. The NDFP and GRP constitutions, it said, can be used as frames of reference. It proposed the four-point agenda adopted in the Joint Declaration.

Jalandoni’s marching orders from the NDFP National Executive Committee, issued through Chairman Manuel Romero, included the following: 1) reaffirm and uphold the NDFP’s peace framework, which envisions a negotiated political settlement of the armed conflict by resolving the socio-economic and political problems at the root of the conflict; 2) raise the release of 600 political prisoners as one of the goodwill measures; 3) press for ending the GRP policies on total war, foreign debt, US access to Philippine military facilities and control over the AFP, foreign exchange and trade liberalization, intelligence network in the bureaucracy.

Listening to each other, speaking with candor, imputing no malice to each other’s proposals, the two sides came to a consensus in two days of exploratory talks and signed the Hague Joint Declaration 25 years ago yesterday.

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

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BELOW THE LINE

# Good news, If only...



By **JOSÉ ABETO ZAIDE**

**O**NE of the most popular copywriter's tagline is, "You never actually own a Patek Philippe. You merely take care of it for the next generation." It's a soft sell (actually a snob appeal) for one of the most exclusive timepieces. The truth is that in this day and age of acquisitive consumption, one cannot be too subtle.

As one Wall Street figure wisely decoded the message, there's a difference between what the brand is and what the brand says about you. You will pay 10 times for the former and 100 times more for the latter.

Taking a leaf from that page, thousands of Filipino Catholics congregated yesterday at Luneta Park for the celebration of World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

(By the time you read this, the event is over. His Eminence, Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle celebrated the Holy Eucharist at 4:30 a.m. The observance of the world Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation was instituted by Pope Francis in 2015 to mark the opening of the Season of Creation on every September 1. Don't despair, this will be repeated hopefully with more advocates, every September 1.)

"Walk for Creation is a significant occasion for prayer, reflection, conversion, and the adoption of appropriate lifestyles as enunciated by

Pope Francis in response to the ecological crisis that affects us all," said Fr. John Leydon., convenor of Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM)-in cooperation with church and other faith and ecology groups. "It is our hope that this celebration will bring about unity, inspire one another, and amplify the people's commitment to take bold action together to hear both the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor," he added.

Today's "Walk for Creation" is put to a test with its "zero waste" event. All participants are advised to be mindful of their discards, which should be segregated and placed into their proper bins.

\*\*\*

**All PH-claimed islands in Spratlys secured – AFP Chief.** After President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the AFP to "occupy all" remote reefs claimed by Manila, the military plans to upgrade and improve facilities on islands it occupies in the disputed South China Sea. The Commander-in-Chief added he wanted "nine or 10" islands occupied and fortified, "

It has no relation to the "Nine Dash Line" of China.

The order is to improve on our already occupied islands, islets, and features, The Department of Defense plans to add military barracks, water desalination systems, power generators, light houses and shelters for fishermen to the features that the

Philippines currently occupies.

Palace Communications Secretary Ernesto Abella said PDU30's planned trip to Pag-asa Island is a manifestation of his administration's push for an independent foreign policy.

The eight islands occupied by Philippine Marine troops are Pagasa, the seat of The Kalayaan municipal government; Parola, Likas; Lawak; Kota; Patag; Panata; and Balagtas. Manila calls them as Kalayaan islands Group. Ayungin Shoal is where the Philippine Navy's BRP Sierra Madre is grounded and now serves as barracks for Marine forces.

\*\*\*

Korean firm building a ₱3.6 B Subic golf course, leisure complex - News item. Best sign that they are here to stay.

The proposed leisure complex that will be built on a 200-hectare portion in Tipo is expected to further boost eco-tourism in Subic, bolster investment, and increase livelihood opportunities in the area.

\*\*\*

The PH won 24 gold, 33 silver, and 64 bronze in this year's Southeast Asian Games. Less than in Singapore (29-36-66). Gary Lising says, "Next time, maybe 36-24-36 figures sexier."

**FEEDACK:** joseabetozaide@gmail.com

## ONLINE NEWS

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[www.dwdd.com.ph](http://www.dwdd.com.ph)

### TOUGHEST | AFP offensive vs Maute, intensified

Posted by Alvin Santiago

MANILA (DWDD) – The government's campaign versus the Daesh-inspired Maute terror group in Marawi intensifies.

The offensive on the eve of Eid'l Adha has been among the toughest so far. Troops are working to clear the remaining areas where the enemy is desperately holding out.

In yesterday's operations, the AFP lost 3 good men and incurred 52 wounded mostly from Improvised Explosive Device's, although most were slightly injured and just a few that were seriously hurt.

Following a short pause early today, during the morning prayers to give due respect to the solemnity and significance of this day, the operations continued without let up.

As of today, September 1, Day 102 of the siege, data have shown that:

- Maute members killed: 620
- Recovered firearms: 675
- Civilians killed: 45
- Civilians rescued: 1,728
- AFP/PNP KIA: 136

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

www.philstar.com

## Duterte contradicts earlier statement to bomb Marawi mosque

By Audrey Morallo

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte on Friday said that he advised the military against bombing a mosque in Marawi City where Islamist fighters were believed to be holding dozens of hostages, a remark that contradicts a statement he gave early this week giving the Armed Forces the option to attack the Muslim place of worship to end the siege already more than 100 days old.

Duterte on Wednesday said that during his last visit to Marawi, the country's only Islamic city, he told the military that bombing the mosque was up to them as the country could not afford to have a stalemate for a long period of time.

"Yung the last time I was there, that would be around five days ago, six days ago, I finally said na ano, 'The option is already yours because we cannot have a stalemate for over one year,'" he said in a speech.

The president also detailed that night his earlier apprehension over the bombing of the mosque as it could fuel anger among the town's residents who were already resentful because their property and houses had already been destroyed by the AFP's air and ground assaults.

He said such an offensive would virtually sacrifice the lives of the hostages still in Maute's hands.

"Matagal na 'yan sa on deck na talagang gusto bobombahin ang mosque to capture or kill the leaders there and in the process, sacrifice 'yung mga hostage who are all Filipinos, maybe Maranaos and a mingling of Christians, Tagalog, nandiyan. Kung gusto na nilang lusubin noon, sabi ko, 'Ayaw ko'," the president said.

As Muslims celebrate their Feast of the Sacrifice, one of their holiest celebrations, on Friday, Duterte swung back to his previous position on the issue, this time in front of the soldiers of the Eastern Mindanao Command.

Duterte said that that he had been consistently against the bombing even if he had left the crafting of the military strategy with the AFP's generals and commanders.

He said that he had told the military's generals that bombing the mosque would foment hatred among the resident already reeling from the displacement caused by the most serious security problem to confront Duterte so far.

The military also could not sacrifice the welfare of the civilians, Duterte claimed to have told his generals.

"Sinabi ko sa mga top echelons we cannot destroy the mosques because that will forever wala na katapusan ang hatred dyan," he told soldiers. "But what will give us in terms of good will? We would have wounded the feelings of the entire Muslim world."

The president also discussed how he grieved over reports of deaths of military personnel every night, saying that it was difficult for him to face families left behind by men killed in the conflict.

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

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

He said: "Ako yung nandun, ako yung sinasalubong ng yakap pati iyak."

The chief executive also challenged his critics who had been advocating a different approach to the conflict labeled by one expert as the most serious terror event to have struck Southeast Asia in the past 15 years.

"I hope the time will come na sila talaga. Tingnan natin kung maganda yang suggestion nila. There is another way to fight ISIS let alone Maute," he said, describing the radical group as an organization "geared to the destruction of mankind."

The conflict in Marawi has highlighted the security challenge the Philippines and its neighboring countries face as the specter of a so-called Islamic State province looms in the horizon.

It has also highlighted the deficiency of the Philippine military, especially in waging urban warfare, according to a regional security expert, as well as the possibility of more fighters joining the rebellion as the credibility of Isnilon Hapilon, the group's appointed regional leader, is enhanced.

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

## **President Duterte graces 11th EASTMINCOM anniversary**

**DAVAO CITY** — President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on Friday, September 1, 2017, graced the 11th founding anniversary celebration of the Eastern Mindanao Command (EASTMINCOM), urging political leaders and stakeholders to closely work with the EASTMINCOM in ensuring peace and security in Mindanao.

"Together with your command, I encourage political leaders and stakeholders to work closely with EASTMINCOM towards making Mindanao and its people safe and secure," President Duterte said in his speech.

"May you never falter [nor] cower in your resolve to let our communities enjoy the peaceful and prosperous life they truly deserve," he said.

The President also underscored the efforts of the EASTMINCOM in combatting communists, terrorists, and illegal drugs.

"The nation and our people are eternally grateful for your efforts, [for] the efforts of the troops, in field or in office, in combatting communist insurgency and in actively supporting the campaign against illegal drugs," Duterte said.

According to the President, the EASTMINCOM was able to neutralize more than a hundred NPA members.

"Your relentless operations also forced more than 300 rebels to surrender, yielded hundreds of firearms and IEDs, as well as found more than 800 enemy encampments. Because of this, we are also able to

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clear more than 160 NPA [affected] barangays, and [insulated] more than a thousand barangays from NPA affectations," he said.

"The military has the government's full support and we honor the valor and bravery [of] the selfless EASTMINCOM soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the performance of their duties. I assure you that their sacrifice would not be in vain and the country will forever be in [their] debt," he added.

The President also urged the troops to continue to be faithful to their sworn oath and to protect and defend the country's sovereignty and its people.

Meanwhile, President Duterte announced that he is increasing the reward money for the capture of Ozamiz City Councilor Ricardo "Ardot" Parojinog to P5 million.

Ardot Parojinog is the brother of Ozamiz City Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog, who was killed in a police raid last August.

"Itong si Ardot... I'm increasing the money, the reward money on his head by five million," Duterte said.

The President however emphasized that he will not tolerate policemen who shoot their targets from behind.

"Ako naman sa pulis if mali talaga, as in mali, wala ako magawa sa inyo," he said.

Prior to his speech, President Duterte distributed medals and plaques to the 17 EASTMINCOM awardees during the ceremony. (PND)

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### 3 soldiers killed, 52 troops wounded in Marawi on eve of Eid'l Adha – military

By Rex Remitio

**Marawi City (CNN Philippines, September 1)** — Three soldiers were killed and 52 others were wounded during a clash with the Maute group on the eve of Eid'l Adha in Marawi, authorities said on Friday.

Five Maute fighters were also killed for the battle of the Banggolo bridge (Bayabao bridge).

The Western Mindanao Command (WesMinCom) said most of the government troops died on Thursday due to the explosions caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) left by the Maute members in areas of Marawi.

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Brigadier General Restituto Padilla said soldiers are having a hard time clearing out buildings as the structures are laden with IEDs.

'Habang umaatras ang kalaban, dahil sila ay ganap na nanatili ng matagal sa lugar, marami silang nailatag na mga patibong or traps. These are the IEDs lying around in every corner and every room of these buildings na iniwan nila. Yun ang pinagiingatan natin kaya naging mabagal ang paggalaw," he told CNN Philippines.

[Translation: As the enemies retreat, because they stayed there for a long time, they have laid out traps. These are the IEDs lying in corners and rooms of the buildings they vacate. That's what we're being careful of, which is why it's taking longer for us to move.]

Most of the wounded soldiers suffered minor injuries, while those who suffered more severe wounds were evacuated, Padilla said.

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## **Military retakes strategic Banggolo bridge in Marawi**

By Rex Remitio

**Marawi City (CNN Philippines, September 1)** — The military has retaken the strategic Banggolo bridge (Bayabao bridge) in Marawi City, the Western Mindanao Command (WesMinCom) confirmed on Friday.

WesMinCom Chief Lieutenant General Carlito Galvez said the bridge is vital to their military operations against the Maute group.

The Banggolo bridge is one of three strategic bridges in Marawi, and whoever has control of these bridges gains the upper hand in the war, Galvez said.

With the retaking of the bridge, more supplies can come in for the soldiers and reinforcement of troops can come faster.

The government side paid a heavy price for the battle of the Banggolo Bridge as three soldiers were killed while 52 others were wounded.

Authorities said the soldiers died on Thursday due to the explosions caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) left by the Maute members.

Five Maute fighters were also killed in the clash.

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Brigadier General Restituto Padilla said fighting between the soldiers and some 40 Maute fighters holed up in a half-a-square kilometer inside the ruined city is expected to intensify as the war nears its end.

"Ngayon na tayo ay nagkakaroon na ng final push, inaasahan natin na mas mas maigting pa nilang ilalatag itong mga ganitong klase ng mga patibong," he said.

[Translation: Now that we are at our final push, we expect there will be more traps.]

He added, "Ine-expect natin na mas magiging maigting ang kanilang depensa at mas magiging matindi ang labanan."

[Translation: We expect the enemy's defense to strengthen and the fighting to intensify.]

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## Lumad rally in Butuan underscores cry for justice in Lianga killings

By Erwin M. Mascariñas



Protest march in Butuan City to mark the anniversary of the Lianga killings. Photographed by Erwin Mascariñas, News5 | InterAksyon

Butuan City – Hundreds of marchers coming from various Indigenous People (IP) groups and civic organizations throughout the Caraga Region converged here for a protest rally commemorating the September 1, 2015 killing of the three lumad community leaders in the town of Lianga, Surigao del Norte.

“As we celebrate the 2nd death anniversary of Lumad leaders Dionel Campos, Datu Jovello Sinzo and Emerito Samarca, the Executive Director of ALCADDEV, who were brutally murdered by the paramilitary group Magahat because of their stand against militarization and environmental destruction, we call on our brethren, our fellow IPs to resist political persecution against our lumad leaders and communities,” said Josephine Pagalan, Spokesperson of KASALO-Caraga, an organization fighting for the rights of the IP’s.

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Call for justice for the killings of lumad leaders at the hands of paramilitary groups. Photographed by Erwin Mascariñas, News5 | InterAksyon

"We also call for justice for the murder committed in our community, justice for all those who have been killed, justice for those rights had been violated." Pagalan added, reminding the tribal sector to be steadfast in the defense of their rights and ancestral lands "so the deaths of those who have died fighting would not have been in vain."

"We need to be unified, more than ever, in resisting resource extracting activities such as logging, plantations, construction of dams, energy projects and most specially, foreign large-scale mining that destroy our way of life. Even if the president has abandoned his promise during the election campaign, we will push on with our stand," Pagalan said.

Imelda Belandres, chairwoman of Mapasu, a Manobo IP organization, said the deaths of those who fought should never be forgotten: "Today, we remember the martyrdom of Campos, our Mapasu chairman, when we're supposed to mark the foundation day of our organization.

"We stand united to provide our children and community with education. Our leader was gunned down in front of our community, in front of the eyes of our children. Together with Campos, Datu Sinzo and Samarca were also killed. Let's remember them and make sure that what they stood for should never be taken for granted and forgotten."

Belandres expressed her disappointment at how President Duterte has handled the call for justice of the IPs. "Even as we were displaced for a year away from our homes, we did not think twice about supporting Duterte as we thought he would be there to stand for us, the one who would hear our voice, our problems, and help us find a solution. Instead he even threatened to bomb our schools."

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Datu Magno Limbasan of the Yumbagan lumad organization, from Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur. Photographed by Erwin Mascariñas, News5 | InterAksyon

Jeson Tomian, representing SIDLAK, a Manobo IP organization from Tandag City, Surigao del Sur, expressed dismay at the injustices most IPs had to deal with in Caraga Region.

"We stand strong in support of the call for justice, not only for those who were killed in September 1, 2015, but for all the lumad whose rights were violated. We have been living in fear for a long time. Its now time to stand and rise above our fears. For every leader they kill, we will rise up for them and continue the fight," said Tomian.

Datu Mantapaos of Linundigan, a Higaonon IP organization from Esperanza, Agusan del Sur, said: "We have already had enough of the oppression and injustice. We have had enough of how they have stepped on our human rights. We call for real justice to be served, we demand for justice."

Several other leaders from other tribal organizations raised their concerns and also called for justice and respect for the rights to their ancestral lands.

Data from Kasalo reveal that, from 2009 to 2017, at least 15 IP leaders and environmental activists had been killed.

The latest killing in Caraga Region against environmental rights and IP leaders was that of Nico Delamente, a Mamanwa IP calling for a review of the mining agreement between the mining firm operating in the area and their community, on January 20, 2017 in the mining town of Claver in Surigao del Norte.

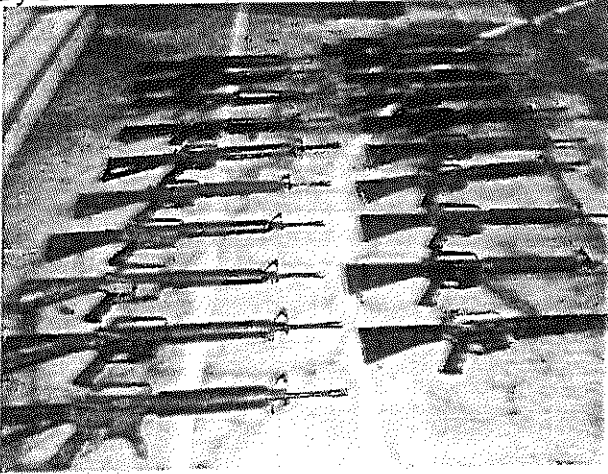
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## 20 M16s seized, 2 suspected rebels captured in Kidapawan

By Dennis Arcon, InterAksyon



M16 rifles seized in Kidapawan City. (Kidapawan police photo)

COTABATO CITY, Philippines — Authorities seized 20 M16 assault rifles and arrested two suspected members of the New People's Army during an operation in Kidapawan City early Friday morning.

Colonel Roberto Ancan, commander of the Army's 1002nd Brigade, said the weapons cache, concealed in two drums, was found in Barangay Katipunan past midnight by a joint patrol of police and troops of the 39th Infantry Battalion.

He identified the arrested suspects as Wowia Boton and George Cuyo.

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## **Battle for Bayabao Bridge: 3 more soldiers killed, 52 others wounded**

By: Jeffrey Maitem

MARAWI CITY – Three more soldiers died while 52 others were wounded when government security forces battled Maute gunmen and their allies over the control of another bridge inside the main battle area here on Thursday, the military said Friday.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, the Western Mindanao Command chief, said Thursday's battle led to the takeover by the military of the Bayabao Bridge in Barangay Banggolo after Thursday's intense day-long fighting that also saw the Maute Group's massive use of improvised explosive devices against advancing troops.

Galvez said most of the injuries incurred by the military were from exploding IEDs.

He said the taking of the Bayabao Bridge also spelled another strategic win for the government after months of battling extremists here.

"The same with Mapandi Bridge. Banggolo is the gateway to the heart of the city. It's also their supply route that's why we needed to get it too," Galvez said.

The Mapandi Bridge that Galvez referred to was officially known as the Baloi Bridge and was also taken over by the military this month as soldiers continued their push into the heart of the city, where Maute gunmen and their allies continued to stand their ground.

www.newsinfo.inquirer.net

## **100 IS militants spotted in Buldon, Maguindanao – MILF**

By: Jeffrey Maitem - @inquirerdotnet

MARAWI CITY — President Rodrigo Duterte's claim of around 100 fully-armed Islamic State-inspired militants being sighted in hinterlands of Buldon, Maguindanao had been verified, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said on Friday.

Duterte, in a speech before soldiers in Davao City on the same day, said he feared a spillover of the Marawi crisis because of the sighting of the armed men in Buldon, a Maguindanao town near Lanao del Sur.

Von Al Haq, the MILF spokesperson, told the Inquirer by phone they asked their men to immediately verify Duterte's claim and it turned out positive.

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But Al Haq said they were still not certain if the armed men were planning to reinforce Maute gunmen here.

"They could be heading to Butig town because it's just near Buldon or in Maguindanao," Al Haq said.



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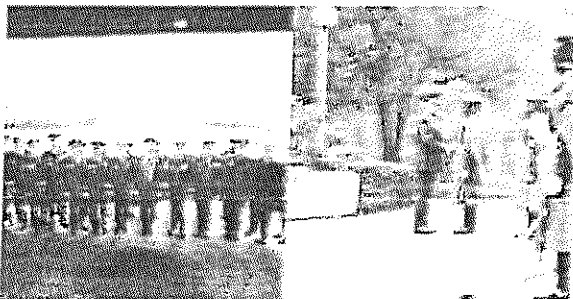
## TESTIMONIAL PARADE | Lt Gen Romeo T Tanalgo, AFP

FORT GREGORIO DEL PILAR, Baguio City (DWDD) – A Testimonial Parade was rendered by the Philippine Military Academy to Lt Gen Romeo T Tanalgo, AFP, Commander, AFP Northern Luzon Command, last August 25, 2017.

Gen Tanalgo is a member of PMA "Matikas" Class of 1983. He was previously the Vice Chief of Staff,

AFP; former chief of the AFP Western Command, which has jurisdiction of the Philippine claims in the West Philippine Sea; and former Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps.

He is a dedicated and seasoned Marine officer who has serviced with distinction in all his previous assignments. A decorated commander and respected staff officer. PMA / MCAG



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## ATIN ITO | PAG-ASA Island development to start soon

Posted by Alvin Santiago

**CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD)** – The Department of National Defense (DND) has awarded the contract for the construction of a ramp and tarmac in the Philippine-occupied PAGASA Island in the West Philippine Sea.

According to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, they will leave it to the contractor's decision on when they will start the construction of the said facilities, although it should be done before July because of the rough sea condition in the area during that period.

He added that right, the contractor would be have a hard time bringing in construction materials to the island because of bad weather and sea condition.

It can be recalled that the government announced the plan to develop PAGASA Island, which is currently being occupied by a military detachment and a small community.



Lorenzana earlier stated that aside from the refurbishment of the airport, they will also be building sea ports and commercial structures like an ice plant to benefit the residents in the area and the Filipino fishermen plying the route.

The secretary does not see any problem from China and other claimant countries in the West Philippines Sea regarding these developments since the country has been occupying PAGASA for the longest time. AES / MCAG

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## **WORKSHOP | Improved and Refined PAF CMO**

Posted by Alvin Santiago

**COL JESUS VILLAMOR AIR BASE, Pasay City (DWDD)** – The Philippine Air Force, Office of the Asst Chief of Air Staff for Civil Military Operations, A-7 led by Director, Col Gerardo M Zamudio Jr (MNSA) PAF officially spearheaded a two day interactive CMO Family Workshop 2017 held at the PAF Aerospace Museum, Col Jesus Villamor Air Base Pasay City with the Chief of Air Staff Mgen Romeo N Dela Cruz AFP as the Key Note speaker on August 30-31 2017.

With its theme 'Expanding Horizons and Modernizing Efforts Towards a PAF Jet Force' the workshop aims to develop and enhance the Psychological Operations of PAF-CMO in Information Operation (IO) through the use of different mediums such as televisions, radio, print and the non-stop growth of the internet. The workshop also served as a challenge to all CMO Units to craft an innovative CMO Activities which is relevant in the face of changing times and the demands of institutional plan such as Flight Plan 2028 and DSSP "Kapayapaan".

During the event, hands on workshops were conducted to all participants on how to effectively present PAF to the general public. Lectures and workshop conducted are the following;

Print Graphics, Audio Editing, Video Editing, Story-boarding and Script Writing, Anti-Radicalization and the launching of the new PAF CMO Platform the "Virtual TV.

On the other hand, lectures imparted to the participants were all studied and well performed by experienced speakers such as:

Cpt Frederick Buscano PAF- Status of PAF Modernization  
Ltc Sir Byron L De Ocampo PAF- Current of PAF CMO Efforts and Presentation of new QUASAR Parameters  
Mr Ralph Flora- Print Graphics  
Ms Annabelle Lasaten- Storyboarding and Script Writing  
Mr Dean Macanaya- Audio Editing / Video Editing  
Ltc Oliver Banaria PAF- Review of Stratcom and IO Concepts PLUS Basis on Demographics and Psychographics  
Commissioner Yusuf Morales- Anti-Radicalization and Anti CVE  
Col Noel A Vestuir MNSA (PA)- CMO Support Activities Required by AFP for DSSP

One of the highlight of the event was the application process and presentation of audio visual material which personally crafted by the participants wherein all products were judged and carefully criticized by workshop panelist.

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Lastly, during the closing remarks, Vice Commander PAF, Mgen Rozzano D Briguez AFP applaud all the good work that has been done in two days time knowing the importance of the CMO in modern warfare. He also encourage all the CMO operators to be more creative and adaptive. He even mentioned that the "Mind has no limit". Photo by: SSg Gonda PAF / A2C Alberto PAF / MCAG

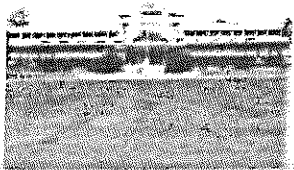
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## PEACE CONSCIOUSNESS | Dugo para sa Kapayapaan

Posted by Alvin Santiago

**CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD)** – The nation is ready to celebrate the National Peace Consciousness Month through a Bloodletting Activity dubbed as "Dugo para sa Kapayapaan"

The Peace Month Celebration and activities in various parts of the country have been festive, meaningful, and truly productive. All over the Philippines numerous Filipinos expressed their desire, not only to support the peace agenda, but more importantly, to take active in part peacebuilding.



In connection with this celebration, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police and Dugong Alay, Dugtong Bahay Inc. (DADBI) will be signing a Memorandum of Agreement, tomorrow, September 2, 2017 Saturday, at the General Headquarters Building Canopy to be followed by a bloodletting activity together with the AFP Reserve Command (AFPRESCOM).

DADBI is a non-government organization founded by Mr Napoleon B Marilag which is an active partner of AFPRESCOM in facilitating bloodletting activities. MCAG

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## 'Spillover' ng terror threat sa ARMM, dahilan kaya lumabo pag-alis sa Martial Law – Duterte

Posted By: Bombo Nestle Cayabyab-Mercado

Inamin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na ikinokonsidera niya sana ang maagang pag-alis sa ipinatupad na Martial Law sa buong Mindanao.

Pahayag ito ni Pangulong Duterte sa kanyang talumpati sa 11th founding anniversary ng Eastern Mindanao Command sa Davao City.

Ayon sa pangulo, napigilan lamang siyang gawin ito matapos makatanggap ng reports na nagkaroon na ng spillover o nakaabot na ang mga terror threat sa iba pang bahagi ng Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

"I was thinking that we could, you know, lift it (Martial Law) earlier. But the way it looks, parang may spillover na sa ARMM eh. sa Buldon (munisipalidad sa Maguindanao province)," ani Duterte. "Let us see. If it is to the interest of the country that I will lift it, I will lift it. But if not, then we'll just have to continue with the Martial Law."

Kung maaalala, naaprubahan sa joint session ng Kongreso at Senado ang kahilingan ni Duterte na palawigin hanggang Disyembre 31, 2017 ang Martial Law sa buong Mindanao.

Sa ginanap na botohan noong Hulyo, kabuuang 261 na mambabatas ang bumotong pabor habang 18 naman ang kumontra.

Unang nagbotohan ang mga senador kung saan 16 ang pumabor habang apat ang kumontra at sinundan ng mga kongresista sa botong 245-14.

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## 4 na sundalo, patay sa sugapaan sa pagitan ng militar at NPA sa Nueva Vizcaya

Posted By: Bombo Radyo Cauayan

CAUAYAN CITY –Patay ang apat na sundalo sa naganap na sagupaan sa pagitan ng tropa ng pamahalaan at rebeldeng New People's Army o NPA sa Sitio Manlan, Barangay Dine, Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya.

Ang mga nasawi ay nakilalang sina Staff Sgt. Dexter John Tagacay, Corporal Jayson Sabado, Corporal Rusty Galan at Private First Class Abraham Lindo, pawang mga kasapi ng Alpha Company ng 84th Infantry Battalion ng 7th Infantry Division ng Phil. Army .

Ang tropa ng Alpha Company ng 84th IB na pinangunahan ni Lt. Chavez ay naka-engkuwentro ang hindi pa mabilang na pangkat ng mga rebelde sa nasabing lugar.

Ang mga sundalo ay kasalukuyang nagsasagawa ng combat operation nang mapalaban sa hindi pa mabilang na mga kasapi ng New People's Army.

Nagpapatuloy ang isinasagawang hot pursuit operation at isa ring platoon ng 84th Infantry Battalion ang ipinadala at tumutuiong na sa nasabing operasyon.

Ang 84th Infantry Battalion ay sakop ng 7th Infantry Division ng Phil. Army na nakahimpil sa lalawigan ng Nueva Ecija.

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## AFP spokesman Padilla, may bagong pwesto

May bagong tungkulin na ang tagapagsalita ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na si Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr.

Si Padilla ay itinalaga bilang bagong deputy chief of staff for plans and programs ng sandatahang lakas.

Dahil dito, pamumunuan na niya ang pagbuo at paghahanda ng strategic plans and programs ng AFP.

Ang nasabing opisina rin ang nangangasiwa sa international military affairs.

Dahil sa bagong pwesto, iiwan na ni Padilla ang kaniyang posisyon bilang assistant deputy chief of staff for civil-military operations.

Gayunman, mananatili pa rin siyang tagapagsalita ng AFP, kung saan siya rin ang regular na nagbibigay ng update ukol sa Mindanao Martial Law.

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www.rappler.com

## Duterte makes U-turn: Bombing mosques in Marawi will hurt Muslims

By: Mick Basa

DAVAO CITY, Philippines – President Rodrigo Duterte has made a U-turn on the parameters for the government's troops' final push to flush local terrorists out of Marawi City.

Within a few days of declaring he would ~~allow~~ the military from bombing the remaining enemy strongholds in Marawi, including mosques with terrorists and hostages inside, Duterte said on Friday, September 1, that bombing the Muslims' place of worship would not help the cause.

"We cannot destroy the mosque... It will breed an unending hatred," Duterte said in his speech on Friday, as Muslims celebrated Eid al-Adha.

"What will it give us in terms of goodwill?" he told the military's Eastern Mindanao Command. He added the government should be conscious of the cultural and ideological implications of destroying the mosques in the fight against terrorists.

On Friday morning, thousands of Filipino Muslims went out to perform the ~~hajj~~, a special occasion where prophet Ibrahim's sacrifice by offering his son Ismail to God is commemorated.

Still, fighting between government troops and the Maute group continued in Marawi. On Thursday night, August 31, three soldiers were killed, while 52 were wounded after soldiers attempted to retake the ~~bridge~~, the second of 3 strategic bridges in the Lanao del Sur capital.

During his speech, Duterte bared that he had earlier thought of lifting the martial law. However, with the current situation, he said "we'll just have [it] continue."

"*Parang may spillover na sa ARMM eh.*" he said. (It looks like [the conflict] has spilled over into the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao). – Rappler.com

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