

# Serving the people. Securing the land.

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

## NEWS CLIPPINGS

09 September 2017

Saturday

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

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# Stray bullet kills CSC

# exec in Marawi

OTABATO CITY - A stray bullet killed the assistant regional director of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) while on official travel in Marawi City on Thursday, authorities said.

CSC-ARMM Assistant Director Marvin Ablando, 45, succumbed to a bullet wound in the head, according to a report attributed to police regional director Chief Superintendent Reuben Theodore Sindac.

The fatality's immediate superior, CSC-ARMM Director Sandra Ar-

## Stray bullet kills CSC...

nica Uzman, 43, who was with him in the trip, suffered a slight wound in the forehead, Sindac said

Ablando and Uzman were on their way from the Mindanao State University main campus to the Lanao del Sur provincial capitol complex in Marawi City when a stray bullet hit their vehicle last Thursday.

The driver of the two CSC officials, whose identity was not available, told responding authorities that he "heard a burst of gunfire before a bullet hit the windshield," Army Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command, said.

Ablando and Uzman were taken to Marawi City's Amai Pakpak Medical Center where attending physicians declared the former dead on arrival, police and military officials said. The body of Ablando taken to this city where the CSC-ARMM regional office is based, Petinglay said

While initial assessment was that the victims were hit by stray bullet, Petinglay said authorities are investigating if the victims were directly fired upon.

Since the fighting between government forces and Islamist militants broke out last May 23, several instances of stray bullets hitting the compound of the provincial government in Marawi City have been reported by occupants and visitors.

A foreign news reporter was wounded in the nape by a stray bullet last July while on media coverage at the capitol complex where the Provincial Crisis Management Committee maintains an operation nerve center.

The provincial capitol complex is about one and a half kilometers from the headquarters of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade.

#### MSU still safe

Despite the death of the CSC official, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said the MSU and the surrounding vicinity are still safe despite.

AFP spokesman Brig Gen. Restituto Padilla confirmed Friday morning that a "member of a government agency" was hit by a stray bullet in the area.

He also assured during the Mindanao Hour/Bangon Marawi press briefing that Task Force Group Ranao is working doubly hard to ensure the safety of some specific roadways.

"The gate of MSU where this incident occurred has been closed and traffic along that thoroughfare has been rerouted to safer areas as a result of this development," Padilla said.

"Task Force Group Ranao has beefed up its forces in the area, especially around MSU, and will provide additional men to ensure the safety of our motorists and our residents in those particular areas that figured in the incident yesterday [Thursday]," he added.

Padilla said that classes in private schools near the area are now sus-

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pended until such time that we can guarantee or ensure that no incident of this nature will happen again.

He however, said that classes and normalcy inside the MSU community remains because they are well secured in that area.

"The MSU, by the way, remains unscathed because it was not part of the attack that was made by the terrorists or the rebels earlier on in the last few months," Padilla said.

"However, there have been a lot of cases of stray bullets getting in that direction, even if it is a number of kilometers away. I think it's about two, if I'm not mistaken, or more," he added.

He attributed the recent stray bullet incident to the proliferation of different calibers of firearms in the area and to some possible Maute Group sympathizers.

"It cannot be farfetched also that there may be some elements who are sympathetic of the group, who have arms with them, who may have made it close to these areas and may have attempted to shoot at vehicles or innocent persons who are in the area," Padilla said.

The military official advised members of the MSU community to keep away from the side of the compound where the incident happened

"MSU is still secured by some of our forces. There are forces that are detailed there to conduct checkpoints and to ensure that no groups will be able to penetrate from a safe distance," Padilla assured.

#### Who's accountable?

Meanwhile, Padilla said that former Marawi City mayor Omar Solitario should be held accountable for the loss of lives in Marawi City, saying the latter instigated the whole thing.

He said this after reports surfaced that Solitario sought a negotiation with Peace Process Adviser Jesus Dureza.

"Solitario should not be taken seriously because he supports the bandits in Marawi." Padilla said. "We should pursue his arrest because he is one of the people who instigated this whole thing."

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By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY - Following the spate of killings of teenagers, President Duterte vesterday said the government's campaign against illegal drugs is being sabotaged.

Duterte suspects that there is a group sabotaging the government's campaign against illegal drugs, citing the brutal killing of 14-year-old Reynaldo "Kulot" de Guzman who was found with at least 26 stab wounds after he went missing for over two weeks.

"Take a closer look at it. It is not our work. I do not allow it. We follow the law," Duterte said during the 17th anniversary celebration of Digos City in Davao del Sur.

Duterte ordered Philippine - National Police (PNP) chief Director General Regald dela Rosa to look into the group Ui said was out to destroy ms administration

"There is somebody that is orchestrating something to destroy us. It is intentional It is a sabotage," Duterte told Dela Rosa during the gathering.

The President did not mention any personality or group behind the killings, which he claimed was undermining police operations against illegal drugs

Duterte mentioned the killing of 17-year-old Kian delos Santos, 19-year-old Carl Angelo

Turn to Page 10

Arnaiz, both of Caloocan City, and 17-year-old Vaughn Carl Dicang of Baguio City.

He stressed the case of De Guzman is not the handiwork of the police.

De Guzman was found floating in a creek in Gapan, Nueva Ecija with around 30 stab wounds and his head wrapped in packing tape.

behind the killings, which he rm with when they went missing people bodies later dumped on unlit last month.

Duterte even claimed Ar-

naiz was his relative.

"Do you think I will allow the police to kill my relative? Watch out, Someone's cooking out there somewhere to discredit us," he said

Duterte said kidnapping people to torture before killing them is not the manner of the police in carrying out the war on drugs

"That's not the way do these things. That's illegal and I won't tolerate it. We have to operate within the bounds of the law. Now if you are an

authority, you have gone overboard," he said.

Duterte's war against drugs remains hugely popular among a citizenry fed up with high crime, according to many surveys.

The crackdown, however, has spawned wider violence and thousands of killings, with near-nightly attacks taking place mostly in slums and often at the hands of vigilantes, human rights groups said.

Many are shot dead by masked, motorcycle-riding gunmen, while others are DeGuzman was said to be a my2012( snatched then killed, their ocal: 5285, 5295

or deserted streets.

The series of killings in the past month of three teenage boys, two at the hands of the police, has sparked public outrage.

Anger and protests have focused on the killing of Delos Santos, who police claimed was a drug dealer who opened fire with a pistol during a raid

His family, however, said he was mercilessly killed by police as he was pleading for his life Witness statements and CCTV footage support this claim

Duterte has expressed extraordinary support for police enforcing the crackdown, promising to pardon them if they are convicted to keep them out of jail.

But with the killing of Delos Santos, Duterte ordered the arrest of the policemen linked to the murder

The outrage also prompted Duterte to meet Delos Santos' parents in Malacañang and assured them of justice.

Duterte also reached out to the family of Arnaiz.

Arnaiz's parents were also summoned to Malacafiang earlier this week and Duterte also assured them that their son's death will be given justice.

ordered the police to allow the rallies being planned by concerned groups on the killings.

He told Dela Rosa not to arrest the protesters and even give them space to demonstrate their concerns.

Duterte told the audience in Digos that he has repeatedly reminded the police to follow the proper procedure in arresting suspects.

As a former prosecutor, Duterte said he knows how the police officer should behave in arresting a suspect.

He said the law also allows a police officer to arrest any person even without a war-In the same speech, Duterte rant - With Christina Mendez M September 2017



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# I no safe area

By Divina Suson, Edwin Fernandez and Leila B. Salaverria @Team\_Inquirer

ILIGAN CITY—Although the military has claimed to have gained back control of most parts of Marawi previously taken by Maute gunmen and their allies, top military officials here warned that nobody remains safe from stray bullets in the city's battle zone

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, renewed this warning after a stray bullet killed an official of the Civil Service Commission in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (CSC-ARMM) and wounded the agency's regional chief in Marawi City on Thursday.

Marvin Ablando, 45, assistant director of the CSC-ARMM. was on his way out of the Mindanao State University (MSU) campus with CSC-ARMM Director Sandra Arnica Usman, 43, when he was hit by one of the stray 50 caliber bullets that pierced through their vehicle at 9 a m on Thursday.

'Not yet generally safe'

Both officials were immediately rushed to the Amai Pakpak Medical Center in Marawi City for treatment but Ablando died upon arrival there Usman, whose for ehead was also grazed by a bullet, was now declared out of danger

'It showed the city is not yet considered generally safe for civilians," Petinglay said

"In Marawi City, we have not declared any safe area from stray bullets," he said

The military merely declared "controlled areas," which means it had "control over the entry and exit and the security condition inside those areas."

#### Controlled area

MSU has been considered a "controlled area" by the military since it remained untouched by nearly four months of fighting in Marawi City, allowing it to reopen classes in June amid heavy security.

Capt. Mike Malacad of the public affairs office of the Army's 4th Infantry Division said while the effective range of a 50 caliber bullet was 1,829 meters, its maximum range was 6,812 meters

The main battle area was about the same distance from the MSU or the capitol compound in Marawi City, where several individuals had also been hit and injured in recent days.

Petinglay said the military had raised their concern over the security of over 6,000 MSU students who were returning to school during the series of conferences before the decision to reopen the MSU campus in Marawi

ARMM's CSC assistant director was the second to have been killed by a stray bullet during the long-drawn Marawi war, Abdillah after 15-year-old Masid was hit on June 9.

Zia Alonto Adiong, the spokesperson of the Provincial Crisis Management Committee

of Lanao del Sur, said the number of the dead and wounded by stray bullets had indeed showed that even if some areas of Marawi City had been cleared of terrorists, danger continued to stalk civilians

#### Normal inside MSU

Meanwhile, the military on Friday said the situation was normal inside the newly reopened MSU.

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the gate near where the shooting occurred had been closed, and traffic in the area has been rerouted.

A private school near there has also been asked to suspend

But the situation remains hand core rappose. Serving the people. Securing the land

normal in the other parts of the MSU compound, Padilla said

"However, classes and normalcy still remain inside the Mindanao State University community, MSU community and will continue because they are well secured in that area," he said.

While the MSU is several kilometers away from the battle area, Padilla said it was "not farfetched" that there were armed sympathizers of the pro-Islamic State extremists who had shot at vehicles or innocent parents near the school

"MSU is still secured by some of our forces. There are forces that are detailed there to conduct checkpoints and to ensure that no groups will be able to penetrate from a safe dis- 5 Local: 5285, 5295 tance," he said. INQ

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September 2017



# Sahiron follower nabbed in Sulu

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AMBOANGA CITY — The military arrested a rabid follower of Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) leader Radullan Sahiron at the village of Buhanginan in Patikul, Sulu, Thursday.

Armed Forces of the Philippines, Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) Spokesman Army Capt Jo-Ann Petinglay identified the ASG member as Milham Saham, 24 and a resident of Barangay Bangkal, Patikul, Sulu.

Petinglay said Saham was intercepted by elements of the 45th Infantry Battalion in Barangay Buhanginan, Patikul, Sulu at 6p.m., September 7.

"Troops conducted a checkpoint following reports on the alleged movement of the Abu Sayyaf in the area, resulting in the arrest of Abu Sayyaf member Saham," said Joint Task

Force Sulu Commander Brig. Gen Cirilito Sobejana.

Seized from Saham were several components of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), including ammunition nitrate fuel with detonating cord, electrical wires, electrical tapes, and a circuit assembly, according to Sobejana

Saham was positively identified by informants as an ASG member under Sahiron, and was previously associated with the group of late sub-leaders Hairulla Asbang and Alhabsy Misaya, Sobejana added

The arrested bandit was also linked to the group of sub-leader. Alden Bagadi, alias Sayning, who is his cousin, Sobejana said.

Saham is known as an Abu Sayyaf member to residents in Barangays Buhanginan and Kaunayan Patikul, Sulu.

September 2017

## The Manila Times

# litary arrests E ng Sayyaf man

#### BY ALJACINTO AND DEMPSEY REYES

N Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) militant transporting improvised explosive devices was arrested in Patikul. Sulu, the Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) said on Friday.

WestMinCom spokesman, said soldiers of the 45th Infantry Battalion

Army Gaptain Jo-ann Petinglay, (IB) intercepted Miham Saham at a checkpoint in Barangay Buhanginan at about 6 p.m. on Thursday

She said soldies put up the blockade after receiving an intelligence report that Saham was transporting explosives to the village Saham, 24, did not resist when troops stopped him at the checkpoint and yielded; ammunition nitrate, fuel oil in a container fitted with a detonating cord, electrical wires and an electronic circuit assembly

The 451B is now interio-

gating Saham, reportedly a follower of top ASG leader Radullan Sahiron, to extractinformation on the activities of the Abu Sayvaf whose leaders have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS)

Brig Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Joint Task Force Sulu commander, said informants positively identified Saham who was previously associated with

the groups of slain sub-lead, ers Hairulla Asbang and Alhabsy Misaya.

The arrested bandit was also linked to the group of sub-leader Alden Bagadi, alias Sayning, who is his cousin

His capture came a day after troops clashed with militants in Talipao town, about 28 kilometers from Patikul The fighting left five gunmen dead and

five soldiers wounded in Upper Binuang village. Solcdiers recovered the bodies of the slain Abu Sayyaf fighters and two automatic rifles, one of them with a grenade launcher, Petinglay said.

Military records show that 299 ASG members had eithet been killed, arrested or surrendered within Western Mindanao

WITH JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

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#### Kilabot na Abu Sayyaf member nakorner

ZAMBOANGACITY-Inaresto ng militar ang kilabot na tauhan ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) leader na si Radullan Sahiron sa Barangay Buhanginan sa Patikul, Sulu, nitong Huwebes ng gabi. Kinilala ni Armed Forces of the

Kinilala ni Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) Spokesman Army Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay ang maarestong bandido na si Milham Saham, 24, taga-Bgy. Bangkal, Patikul, Sulu.

Sinabi ni Petinglay na naharang si Saham ng mga tauhan ng 45th Infantry Battalionsa Bgy, Buhanginan sa Patikul, Sulu bandang 6:00 ng gabi nitong Huwebes.

Ayon kay Joint Task Force Sulu Commander Brig Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, "Troops conducted a checkpoint following reports on the alleged movement of the Abu Sayyaf in the area, resulting in the arrest of Abu Sayyaf member Saham."

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Nasamsam mula kay Saham ang ilang gamit sa paggawa ng improvised explosive device, kabilang ang ammunition nitrate fuel oil na may detonating cord, electrical wires, electrical tapes, at circuit assembly, ayon kay Sobejana

Positibong kinilala si Saham ng mga impormante bilang tauhan ni Sahiron at dati ring iniugnay sa mga grupo rig mga nasawing sub-leader ng Abu Sayyaf na sina Hairulla Asbang, Alden Bagadi, at Alhabsy Misaya, dagdag pa ni Sobejana

Batay sa huling datos ng militar, nasa 299 na sa Abu Sayyaf ang naneutralize—122 ang napatay, 103 ang sumuko, at 74 ang naaresto

Nonoy E. Lacson

M September 2017



ala di <u>Ala</u>ikana di Jarahan

#### **ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

#### Sayyaf man falls

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Government troops arrested an alleged henchman of Abu Sayyaf leader Radullan Sahiron in Patikul, Sulu on Thursday night.

Milham Saham, 24, was nabbed at a military checkpoint in Barangay Buhanginan, Brig Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Joint Task Force Sulu commander, said yesterday.

Sobejana said bomb materials, including ammunition nitrate fuel oil, detonating cord, electrical wire, electrical tape and circuit assembly, were recovered from the suspect.

Saham is reportedly with the group sub-leader Alden Bagadi, alias Sayning, said to be his cousin. He was also linked to the group of slain Abu-Sayyaf subleaders Hairulla Asbang and Alhabsy Misaya.

- Roel Pareño

#### 2 MILF men die in gun fight over basketball game

NORTH COTABATO — Two Moro Islamic Liberation Pront (MILF) guerrillas were killed and three others wounded in a gunfight between supporters of rival basketball teams in this province on Thursday.

The fatalities were identified as Mamaliya Üdlayan and Ismael Muhammadali.

Superintendent Romeo Galgo Jr., Soccsksargen police director, said the rival teams were led by MILF commanders Alim Dubwa and a certain Maseebpha.

The shootout occurred when the players had an argument over the rules during a basketball game in Barangay Gokotan.

— John Unson

#### **Construction equipment burned**

BUTUAN - Around 20 suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels burned around P20 million worth of construction equipment at a road project in Barangay Mapawa, Surigao City on Thursday night.

The NPA guerrillas burned a back hoe and compactor owned by Galeo Equipment Corp., according to 2nd Lt. Jonel Castillo, 30th Infantry Battalion anglesman

Castillo said the rebels also took the mobile phones, gadgets and personal belongings of the security personnel of the construction firm.

Pursuit operations for the rebels are underway.

-Ben Serrano

O September 2017

Which thes

COTABATO CITY — Ginulantang ng malakas na pagsabog ang probinsya ng Maguindanao kamakalawa ng gabi i Ayon kay Maguindanao police provincial director S/Supt Agustin Tello, sumabog ang bomba malapit lamang sa Municipal police station ng Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao sa Barangay Dalu-

Swerteng walang nasugatan sa pagsabog ngunit-nagdulot ito ng takot sa ilang mga sibilyan.

Nawasak din ang sementong pader ng isang bahay dahil sa lakas nang pagsabog

Patuloy pa ang imbestigasyon ng explosive and ordnance team ng Philippine Army at PNP sa nasabing pangyayari

M September 2017



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## AFP: Only 1 Maute brod alive

By Leila B. Salaverria @LeilasINQ

All but one of the seven Maute brothers involved in the fighting in Marawi City were believed to had been killed, the military said yesterday.

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said Omar Maute was the only one left among the brothers who lead militant fight-

ers in the Marawi siege, as reported by the ground commander.

Still, the military could only be certain once it had recovered the bodies, Padilla added.

"They have reason to believe that only one of the Maute brothers remains in the fight, and this is Omar The rest are believed to have been killed," Padilla told a press briefing in Malacañang

"But just the same, we need to, with finality and certainty, recover their bodies and subject them to DNA testing before a categorical statement can be issued," he added.

He also said Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon is believed to be still in Marawi, based on the statements of hostages who had escaped from the extremists.

He disputed claims that Hapilon had escaped from the city, saying that if the latter did this, he would have turned his back on his fellow fighters and he would no longer be recognized as their leader.

Padilla also said the pfo-Islamic State extremists in Marawi were confined to a certain area

"Fighting has been very fierce It has been at close quarter battle in the area. But our forces are determined and are focused to seek to end this rebellion as soon as possible," he said. INQ

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## All but one Maute dead; AFP seeks more funds to end war

MILITARY officials said Friday that all of the Maute brothers, except Omar, may already be dead.

"They have reason to believe that only one of the Maute brothers remains in the fight, and this is Omar - recovered and subjected to

been killed," said Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla in a briefing in Malacafiang

Padilla acknowledged that until the bodies of the five other Maute brothers are

By John Paolo Bencito The rest are believed to have DNA testing, they could not say for sure that the reports of their death were true

"But information on the ground, along with those revelations from hostages who have gone out of the area, and other information available to the troops point to this development," he added

Padilla also said they beheved that Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, the so-called emir of the Islamic State in Southeast Asia, was still in-Marawi

He said if rumors that he had fled Marawi were true, he would no longer be recognized as the group's leader Next page

## From A1

At the same time, Padilla said the military has spent P3 billion so far to battle the Islamic extremists in Marawi City, and would need more money to continue the fight

"The cash register is clicking daily as the fighting goes on, and this will be costly for our government." Padilla said

This is why our government has seen it fit to provide the Armed Forces of the Philippines additional funds to allow us to secure the things we will need to

finish this fight," he added. He said the military would need P1 billion more to replenish munitions, fuel and other materials in the war effort, but gave no timetable for the campaign

The crisis in Marawi City poses a serious threat to the government of Presi-

dent Rodrigo Duterte, who has deployed thousands of troops and imposed martial law across the southern third of the country

Padilla, however, said the government will not negotiate with former Marawi City mayor Omar Solitario Ali, who again sent a text message to Peace Process Secretary Jesus Dureza offering to negotiate the release of hostages in exchange for the safe passage of Maute gunmen

"The Chief of Staff [Gen. Eduardo Añol conveys that we stand by the policy of no negotiations with whatever terrorist groups there are," Padilla said "Any negotiation will just prolong the conflict?"

Instead. Padilla called for the former mayor's arrest.

"Solitario should not be taken seriously because he is a supporter of bandits in Marawi. He should be arrested because he is one of those who instigated the conflict." With AFP

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# CSC-ARMM official killed by stray bullets in Marawi

COTABATO CITY—An official of the Civil Service Commission in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (CSC-ARMM) was killed while another was injured after they were hit by stray bullets in Marawi City Thursday morning, police said.

Chief Supi. Reuben Sindac, police Regional Director for ARMM, identified the slam official as CSC-ARMM assistant director Marvin Ablando, 45, who was hit in the head.

Sandra Arnica Uzman, 48, CSC-ARMM regional director, was also hit in the forehead, but now in stable condition, Sindac added Citing reports from Marawi City, Sindac said Usman and Ablando were on board a government vehicle on their way to the provincial capitol of Lanao del Sur in Marawi from Mindanao State University (MSU) campus when bullets from nowhere hit the vehicle at past 10 a.m.

They were there on official business in observance of Civil Service month celebration.

Sindac said both officials were immediately brought to the nearby Amai Pakpak Hospital but Ablando was pronounced dead upon arrival by attending physicians.

Meanwhile, plans are afoot to increase the number of personnel serving in the joint military and police all-female civil relations company, (CRC) in Marawi City, a military spokesman said.

This is because displaced people bond easily with the hijab-wearing members of the CRC as observed by members of the local media and long-time residents of the city, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs office chief, Col Edgard Arevalo, said Wednesday

Some 100 members of the CRC, all enlisted personnel and officials of the AFP and the Philippine National Police (PNP), were deployed to Marawi City last Aug 29, forming part of an interagency team that will help carry out rehabilitation and recovery programs for internally-displaced persons in the batile-stricken city.

"The CRC may also serve as a mother or elder sister figure to the evacuees, especially the youth, to help alleviate their conditions in various evacuation centers," Arevalo added.

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## Militant groups urge probe of Negros Oriental killings

WARK L GARCIA

ACOLOD CITY – In the wake of the ambush by the New People's Army (NPA) last July that killed six policemen and a civilian in Guihulngan City, the number of leaders and organizers of people's organizations continues to rise.

The organizations are urging the Philippine National Police (PNP) to do an in-depth investigation into what they consider as the extra-judicial killings of seven people in Guihulngan

In a press conference at the Negros Press Club in Bacolod City Friday, Kahugpungan sang mga Magagmay nga Mag-uuma sa Oriental Negros (KAUGMA-ON), Karapatan Negros, Kilusang

Mambubukid ng Pilipinas and National Federation of Sugarcane Workers condemned the killings.

"We are not rebels, we are just small peasants that fight for our land rights and asking government's help to increase the production of our crops to provide food on the table," KAUGMA-ON-Guihulngan Chapter Secretary General Marilou Alangilan said

Alangilan, who said he has received death threats, denied that the group has links with the NPA

The group said seven members were killed from July 23 to August 30.

It said Glenn Absin was killed in Barangay Poblacion on July 23, Alberto Tecson in Barangay Bulado on July 24, Danilo Salazar in Barangay Malusay on July 28, Rene Faburada in Malusay on August 4, Leodegario Benero Jr. in Barangay Hinakpan on August 17, Marlyn Vidal in Barangay McKinley on August 26, and Oscar Asildo Jr. in Barangay

Poblacion on August 30

Alangilan said local government officials and even the police appear to be dragging their feet indetermining the motives for the killings.

Karapatan Negros Secretary General Clarizza

Dagatan also called for an inquiry either by the government or an independent agency

"The people who were killed are innocent, some of them are leaders of small organizations but they work as a fishermen, 'habal-habal' drivers and farmers," Dagatan said, adding "We don't just want to count the number of killings but we seek justice for their families."

Guihulngan was a top priority in the government's counter-insurgency program, Oplan Kapayapaan. Karapatan Negros said in a statement military operations under Oplan Kapayapaan have been terrorizing the people.

"Leaders have been targeted for harassments and killings, and we hope that the government will act on it to give justice to them," Dagatan said

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## Basketball game turns deadly

COTABATO CITY (PNA) — A friendly basketball game, involving members of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), turned deadly, Thursday, when players from opposing teams engaged in an unsportsmanlike, and bloody, version of a shootout in North Cotabato.

Chief Insp. Romy Castanares, police chief of Pikit town, said two players were killed and another was injured when what was supposedly a friendly match turned deadly and bloody

 Castanares identified the slain players as Ismael Muhamadali, 34 and Mamaila Udlayan, 32, both of Barangay Gokotan, Pikit, North Cotabato. Injured was a certain Ali Jamel.

All of them were members of the MILF under Commander Karim Dubua, alias "Midnight."

Citing reports from Barangay Gokotan chair Mustapha A Aliman, Castanares identified the suspects as Macabuat Tambungalan and Manguda Tambungalan, also MILF members under a certain Commander Masibpal Macabuat Tambungalan was also injured.

According to the police, the victims and suspects engaged in a friendly basketball money game when the action turned "too physical," triggering the shootout.

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## Duterte to Reds: No ceasefire, no talks

President Duterte yesterday ruled out a resumption of the stalled peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF)

As long as the communist rebels do not stop guerrilla attacks, the peace negotiations will remain suspended, he said.

Duterte in May ordered the scrapping of formal peace talks with the communists after the military said fighters from the NPA stepped up offensives in the countryside.

"There will be no talks until you declare a ceasefire,

Turn to Page 5

### Duterte From Page 1

period," he said.

Duterte gave two Cabinet positions to left-wing activists recommended by the CPP when he assumed power last year to show his commitment to ending nearly five decades of conflict with the commumists.

However, both appointees were rejected by the Commission on Appointments (CA),

which on Wednesday rejected reform secretary Rafael Mariano. His exit came less than a month after the CA ousted Judy Taguiwalo, another leftist, as social welfare secretary.

With the peace talks in virtual limbo, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is just awaiting orders to re-arrest and haul back to jail the freed

communist consultants to the peace process.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP Public Affairs Office chief, the appointment of agrarian - said the freed consultants of the CPP-NPA-NDF have all lost their immunity with the termination of the peace negotiations and should submit themselves to the authorities.

"From what I know, the last pronouncement of our President is for them to be rearrested," Arevalo said.

Arevalo said the freed com-

munist consultants are not covered by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG).

He said JASIG only covers rebels who were in the mountains and came down to participate in the peace negotiations

"But they did not come from the mountains. They are already incarcerated who availed of and were granted temporary liberty by the court, for reasons that they will be

participating in the peace talks as consultants," Arevalo explained.

#### DAR employees disappointed

Meanwhile, employees of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) as well as militant farmers' groups expressed disappointment over the rejection of Mariano by the CA.

"The rank and file from the very beginning showed

support for Ka Paeng. We prepared for this. We even staged rallies every noon within the DAR compound, we made posters just to show our support for him," said Nanette Pascual, DAR Employees Association president.

Pascual said Mariano is deserving of their support as he has shown that he is like a father to them. - Rhodina Villanueva, Jaime Laude, Reuters

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## The Manila Times

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## Declare ceasefire to resume talks, Reds urged

FOUR months after peace talks with the communists collapsed, President Rodrigo Duterte on Friday urged the rebel group to declare a ceasefire to resume negotiations.

Speaking in Digos City, Davao del Sur, Duterte said he was ready to resume talks if the communist rebels, represented by the National Democratic Front (NDF), were also prepared to declare a truce.

"Gusto ninyo balikan ang [If you want-to resume] peace talks, you declare ceasefire or nothing. And if you say you want another war, be my guest," Duterte said in remarks during the 17th anniversary of the cityhood of Digos. Just outside Davao City where he used to be mayor.

will be no talks until you declare a ceasefire," the President added.

**ECEASEFIRE** FROM A

## Reds urged

The once cordial relations between Duterte and the communists have further deteriorated with the rejection of the Cabinet appointments of two NDF nominees, Judy Taguiwalo for social welfare and Rafael Mariano for agrarian reform, by the President's congressional allies.

On May 27, the government peace panel withdrew from the fifth round of peace talks with the rebels in the Dutch city of Noordwijk

This was after the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) ordered its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA) to step up attacks on security forces in response to Duterte's declaration of martial law in all of Mindanao following the terionst attack on Marawi City on May 23

OFFICE OF Against the terrorists in Marawi, but Duterte spurned the offer.

After terminating the peace talks, Duterte called the communists terrorists and ordered the arrest of NDF consultants temporarily freed for the peace talks in Oslo, Norway and Rome, Italy.

Duterte had wanted a bilateral

ceasefire agreement stipulating common rules of engagement for the military and the NPA

But the NDF demanded the release of about 400 detained rebels before agreeing to sign such a deal

A stalemer\* ensued when Dutertesaid he would release some, not all, rebel prisoners after the signing of a bilateral ceasefire deal

#### Makabayan bloc

Earlier on Priday, Malacañang was hopeful leftist party-list groups would remain the ally of the Duterte administration after the bloc indicated its readiness to pull out from the majority coalition in Congress "We do hope the Makabayan bloc will stay with the administration and the House majority," Palace spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a press conference 'However, if they do decide to go, we wish them well and we hope that they will remain open to working together with others on issues of shared interest," he added The Makabayan bloc, a group of left-leaning members of the House of Representatives, on Thursday said it was ready to cut ties with the Duterte administration after the Com-

mission on Appointments rejected the appointments of Taguiwalo and Maniano as secretaries of social welfare and agraname form, respectively

The NDF recommended Taguiwalo and Mariano to President Duterte last year as part of corifidence-building measures to restart peace talks.

Although Mariano and Taguiwalo are no longer in the Cabinet, former Gabriela party-list Rep. Liza Maza remains lead convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission and former Kabataan party-list Rep. Terry Ridon is head of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor Former Anakpawis party-list Rep. Joel Maglunsod is also an undersecretary at the Department of Labor and Employment

On Thursday, Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Zarate said Duterte's "anti-people, pro-imperialist and fascist" actions and policies have destroyed his alliance with the national democratic Lefust movement.

"We are now inclined to recommend at the National Executive Committee meeting of Makabayan next week to pull out from the alliance with the Duterte administration," Zarate said in a new conference.

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'EGOTIST COWARD'

## DUTERTE TELLS SOLDIERS: DARE TRILLANES TO GUN DUEL

A fuming President Duterte on Priday told soldiers to challenge Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV to a gun duel if they were bulhed by the former mutineer.

Calling Trillanes an "egotist coward," Mr. Duterte also said he would not allow Trillanes to throw "garbage" allegations against him and his family.

Speaking during the Araw ng Digos celebration in Digos City, the President showed his audience a holstered pistol tucked in his waist in the middle of his speech

He recalled how the late Armed Forces chief of staff Angelo Reyes shot himself after the general got bullied by [Fiillanes during a Senate hearing

"Don't give in to Trillanes' style. Don't let him shout at you, bully you," the President said.

"Like Angie Reyes, he said, 'Your honor I would just like to protect my integrity,' but this unconscionable son of a bitch told him, 'No, shut up (Reyes) was a PMAer himself [like Trillanes],'" Mr. Duterte said.

Soldiers, he said, would lose their dignity if they allowed Trillanes to be rude to

them. They should stand up and get out

"If he does that, leave the son of a bitch, ask him to come out and challenge him to a quick draw Tell'him I told you so That egotist coward!" the President said

He said in Cebuano, "only God knows" what would happen if he ever crossed paths with Trillanes.

Showing the pistol tucked in his waist, Mr. Duterte said he carried it not exactly to protect himself from his enemies.

T'Sus, ako maenkwentro ana, bakit naman ako nagadala og baril (If he will only face me squarely, why would I bring a gun with me)?" he said.

"Way lisensya ni ha (This is not licensed, mind you)," he added, eliciting laughter from the crowd. "Dili man kailangan og lisensya para mopatay og tawo (You don't need a license, to kill a man)."

The President went on to say that he was not challenging Trillanes to a gun duel, but the senator could ask around how many persons he had beaten to the draw —ALLAN NAWAL INQ

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## Sandigan asked: Dismiss case filed vs ex-AFP exec

The prosecution handling the graft case of former Armed Porces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Diomedio Villanueva petitioned the Sandiganbayan to reconsider its decision to dismiss the case against the accused.

The former AFP chief of staff was indicted in connection with the alleged anomalous P53-million refund representing terminal dues paid to mail matters sent to Royal mail to Philpost USA

The prosecution panel told the court it should have been given the chance to cure any defects found in the information filed against Villanueva.

"The alleged defect in the information is more apparent than real and assuming arguendo that there was defect, the same is curable and could be remedied in the ordinary course of the law other than dismissing the case with such immediacy and precipitousness," the nine-page petition signed by Deputy Special Prosecutor Mary Susan Guillermo, Assistant Special Prosecutor III Leni Bajo Padaca and Assistant Special Prosecutor I Jackson Domantay stated.

Likewise, they argued in their petition that they were deprived of fundamental fairness when the case was outrightly dismissed by the court instead of ordering the amendment of the alleged defect in the information.

The graft case of Villanueva was dismissed in connection with his stint as postmaster general due to the fatally defective case

It was the refund given to the American postal firm that handled the mail matters

Villanuava and the others were accused of conspiring with one another when they refund the money as representation of alleged Terminal Dues paid for mail-matters sent to the Royal Mail in the United Kingdom.

Aside from Villanueva, the Ombudsman also indicted former Assistant Postmaster General Antonio Siapno and former acting Director Leonildo Basilio for the refund even if they knew that Philpost USA was entitled to it that caused deficit in revenue for PPC

The Sandiganbayan, in its resolution, said the prosecution "failed to use words that would characterize the elements of the offense" such as partiality, bad faith and gross negligence a anist the respondents

In its petition, the prosecution argued that the court could have given the time to amend the defect even in open court as per the Rules on Criminal Procedure.

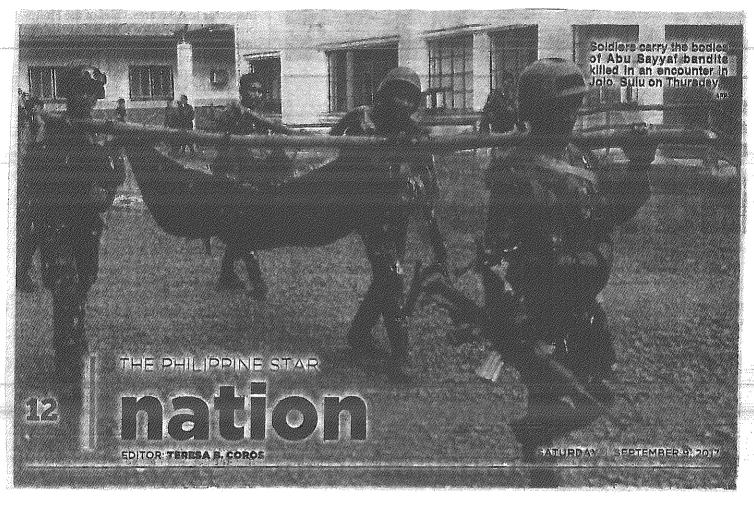
Section 4, Rule 117 states the court can order an amendment to an alleged defect in the case information and the court should give the prosecution the opportunity to correct the defect by amending it.

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Free at last Indonesian Defense Attache Col. Asep Saefudin (fourth from left) renders courtesy call on Capt. Cesar Bernard Valencia, the deputy chief for Fleet Operations, at the VIP Lounge of Naval Forces Western Mindanac to personally express their gratifude to the Philippine Navy for the rescue of the two Indonesians on September 7.

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## Speaker, others to skip FM's Libingan b-day rites

By JESS DIAZ

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imelda Romualdez Marcos has invited congressmen and senators to the celebration of the birth centennial of her husband, the late president Ferdinand Marcos, at his burial site at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on Monday

But from all indications, only a few of the lawmakers

would show up.

Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez said he did not receive an invitation. "I have better things to do." he said.

Opposition Rep. Edcel Lagman of Albay, one of those invited, said the Libingan party shows that "the Marcoses' shamelessness is beyond words and their sense of entitlement knows no bounds." His opposition colleague Tom Villarin of Akbayan said he "puked" or vomited on the invitation upon receiving it.

Several administration allies who received invitations said they are not sure if they could attend, since the House has morning and afternoon sessions on Monday to continue tackling the proposed P3.8-trillion 2018 national

budget

Leftist group Bayan Muna said it would hold rallies at the Libingan to protest the late martial law ruler's planned 100th birthday celebration by his family.

A source at the House of Representatives said Mrs. Marcos had her staff deliver the invitations early this week to the offices of her colleagues at the Batasan complex in

Quezon City.

A Senate source said all senators were invited. However, he was not sure if they would attend. Another source said Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III would skip the event.

Also invited were other government officials, presumably including President Duterte, and foreign diplomats. The Marcoses are Duterte's close allies.

The President has declared Monday a holiday in Ilocos Norte, the Marcoses' home province. It was Duterte who allowed the burial of Marcos at the Libingan.

The President is advocating the grant of immunity from criminal prosecution for the Marcos heirs in exchange for returning their alleged illgotten wealth.

Asked if he and other House leaders got invited, House Majority Leader and Ilocos Norte Rep Rodolfo Fariñas said, "Not that I know of."

Upon Fariñas' initiative, the House is investigating the alleged diversion of tobacco funds by Ilocos Norte Gov. Imee Marcos to the procurement of 115 buses, multi-cabs and mini-trucks. Imee claims there was no irregularity.

House Minority Leader

Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez
said he would go if he received

an invitation.

Negros Occidental Rep. Alfredo Benitez said he has not seen an invitation. Benitez is a son of Jose Conrado Benitez, Mrs. Marcos' deputy when she was minister of human settlements during her husband's rule.

Some congressmen expressed disbelief when informed that Alvarez did not get invited while Lagman and Villarin received invitations.

In a statement, Lagman said
the Marcos heirs "must unequivocally commit the immediate surrender of the totality
of the Marcos ill-gotten hoard

without conditions, instead of celebrating in the Libingan, which he does not deserve and does not deserve him

"The burial of the late dictator in the cemetery of heroes in itself is the height of desecration of a sacred and hallowed memorial shrine," Lagman said.

"This planned party cel-ebrating the centennial of his birth defiles the memory of all the legitimate heroes buried in the Libingan even as it rubs salt on the still-bleeding wounds of the thousands of victims of the Marcoses' brutalities, atrocities and unparalleled greed and plunder of the national coffers," he said.

'Clearly, there is no measure to the depths of depravity that the Marcoses are willing to sink to. In the face of this shamelessness and utter lack of remorse, Filipinos cannot afford not to fight back and be silent.

Villarin said, "With President Duterte's blessings and absolution of their sins, including his push for their immunity from prosecution, the Marcoses are enjoying their heyday since they were booted out by people power.

"While Duterte and Marcos party in the Libingan, the blood

of thousands killed by both of them cry out for justice! The day of reckoning will come and history will judge harshly those who kill the truth and our own humanity," he said. Bayan Muna Rep. Car-

los Isagani Zarate said the the custodian of the Libingan, planned birthday celebration at the Libingan is the "height of callousness" on the part of the Marcoses.

"This is a grave insult to the victims of human rights violations during martial law and even the Filipino nation. They really want to revise the judgment of history on Ferdinand Marcos and their family. It seems that they are really bent to return to Malacanang and this event is part of that plan," he said.

Zarate announced that Bayan Muna and other leftist groups would hold protest actions on Monday "to condemn the resurgence of the Marcoses and call for justice for their victims."

The military, for its part, said they have secured the Libingan after the Marcos family coordinated their efforts to make the gathering a private affair.

"Coordination has been made and the Marcos family

informed us that the event would be private. They even denied media requests to cover the event," Armed Forces Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

The Philippine Army, being is obliged to secure the area.

Arevalo said soldiers would be deployed at the Libingan to ensure the sanctity of the place from anti-Marcos rallyists.

"Rallies or protest actions will not be allowed inside, Arevalo said.

On the other hand, Marcos lovalist Oliver Lozano delivered to Duterte and the Marcos family a proposed compromise agreement for the release of the alleged ill-gotten wealth of the family, which he said would not need congressional approval.

Lozaño proposed the agreement should be signed by Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II, who will represent the President, and Mrs. Marcos on behalf of the family.

Lozano proposed the agreement should be signed on Moriday, during the 100th birth anniversary of the late strongman. – With Perseus Echeminada, Jaime Laude

September 2017

## The Manila Times

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## Marcoses seek private 100th birthday party for FM at Libingan

THE Marcos family has requested permission to celebrate privately the late president Ferdinand Marcos' 100th birth anniversary on Monday at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani (Heroes' Cemetery) in Taguig City, where his remains lie, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said on Friday

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AEP public affairs chief, said any security preparations for the private event will have to be discussed by the Philippine Army, the physical custodian of the cemetery.

The late strongman, who declared Martial Law in the Philippines in the early '70s amid a looming communist insurgency, was toppled in a people-power revolt in 1986. He died in exile in Hawaii in 1989, returned to the Philippines, and was buried in

**≫**BirthdayA8

## Marcoses

November last year amid a long drawn-out controversy over whether he deserved to be laid to rest in the company of heroes

Along with their request to be allowed to hold a private celebration at the Libingan, the Marcoses also prefer to keep the media out during the event

"This means that we actually have requests from [media companies] to set up cameras to cover the event, but this was declined by the [Marcos] family because they would rather have a private event." Arevalo told reporters in a news briefing.

The family has sent out invitations to a select group of key government officials and foreign dignitaries for the centennial celebration of the ousted president's birthday on September 11, sources said.

However, Arevalo said such would "entirely be the prerogative" of the former first family and any security requirement will have to be provided by the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police (PNP) as well.

Aside from the army, the Department of National Defense and

the AFP Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Reservists and Retirees Affairs (J9) also have authority over what goes on inside the cemetery premises, Arevalo said.

Some groups who oppose the burial of the former strongman at the Libingan have again set protest actions this year. Arevalo did not give details of the security preparations by the Philippine Army

"What we can be sure of is that we are taking all these into account and we will be taking on necessary precautions, laying out procedures for [the protests]," he said

"Definitely, it is not the AFP who will take this as a primary concern but the PNP (national police) especially in the exercise of the people's freedom of expression," Arevalo added.

In November last year, President
Rodrigo Duterte explained that
Marcos was buried at the Libingan
because he was a soldier and a former president of the Philippines
Marcos burial was also upheld by
the Supreme Gourt in a 9-5 vote.

In August, the high tribunal also junked the pleas of former Bayan Muna party-list Satur Ocampo and Rep Edcel Lagman of Albay to exhume Marcos' remains for "lack of merit" and has allowed the finality of its burial at the heroes' cemetery. **DEMPSEY REYES** 

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September 2017



Pahina.



Dear Sir

Samu't saring kaso ang pinataw sa tatlong miyembro ng New People's Army sa Quirino province Kabilang sila sa nasa higit 100 na umatake sa istasyoning mga parak noong Abril 29. Niransak nila ang istasyon dala ang mga laptop, armas at mga bala.

Sana magawan ng paraan ng gobyerno na mahuli ang mga NPA na nagkakalat ng kasamaan sa iba't ibang panig ng ating bansa. Sila ang dahilan ng takot sa ating mga mamamayan. Sila ang dahilan kung bakit may mga lugar na hanggang ngayon ay hindi umuunlad Sila ang dahilan kung bakit maraming mosente ang namamatay at mga sundalo na nagbubuwis nng buhay. Sana lahat din ng nasa gabinete ng pangulo na makakaliwa alisin na iniluklok sila sa pwesto para may boses ang kamlang grupo, ngunit wala tayong nakitang kahit anung magandang pagbabago bagkus lalo pang lumala ang rebelyon at terorismo

Mark Talledo Cebu

Dear Sir.

Ngayon mababakas na ang malaking pondong kakailanganin sa pagbangon ng Marawi. Aabot sa P56 bilyong halaga ang kailangan punan ng gobyerno Ganito kalaki ang pinsala at perwisyong dulot ng terorismo sa ating bansa. Ito ang ibinigay na sakit ng ulo ng Maute ISIS group sa ating bansa. Bukod pa rito ang mga buhay na nawala ng dahil sa gera at mga ari-ariang m sa hinagap ay hindi mo masusukat aka-

laing maglalahong parang bula Dapat paigtingin ng ating pamahalaan ang kampanya kontra terorismo ng sa gayon ay maiwasan na muling maganap ang ganitong pangyayan. Dapat na pairalin ang mabigat na kapangyarihan ng batas upang hindi rin tayo basta-basta pinapasok ng mga terorista. Palakasin pa sana ang kampanya para sa seguridad ng ating bansa.

Nikki Pabulayan Fort Bonifacio, Tagvig

Dear Sir Nasagip ng Philippine Marines in the Joint Task Force Sulu ang dalawang Indonesian nationals sa ka-may ng mga Abu Sayyaf Nasagip ang mga ito sa Ba-rangay Bunot, Indanan Sa naganap na engkwentro napatay ng mga sundalo ang 5 sa mga Abu Sayyaf

Sa mga panahong ito, mababakasan na sa ating mga kababayan ang unti-unting namumuong paki-kipagtulungan nila sa otoridad. Sawa na sa mata-gal na pagdurusa at takot ang ating mga kababayan Sana ipagpatuloy nila ang suporta sa ating gobyerno at otoridad upang malagas na ang mga teroristang nagdadala ng malaking problema sa ating bansa.

Jamaica Rey Composetela Valley

Dear Sir

Ibinunyagina ni Col. Edgard Arevalo ng AFP Public Affairs Office na may kinalaman sa terorismo ang dalawang Pilipinong nasakote sa Kuala Lumpur sa Malaysia Kasama ng mga ito ang anim na Malaysian nationals Si Hajar Abdul Mubin na kanang kamay ni Abu Sayyaf Group sub-leader Furuji Indama sa Basi-

lan ang kinumpirma ng AFP na asa sa nasabing nahuli.
Isa na ilo sa posibleng hunga ng pakikipagtilungan at ugnayan ng Pilipinas sa bansang Malay-sia at Indonesia kontra teronisme. Isa rin ito sa paraan upang mapigilan ang patuloy na pagrerekrut ng mga miyembro ng mga teroristang grupo hindi lang sa Pilipinas at Asya kung 'di sa buong mundo 'Kaya pang mapigilan at matuldukan ang terorismo lalo na kung mas lamang ang mga taong makikipag ugnayan sa mga otoridad Mas malakas ang panig ng mga mamamayang nagkaka-isa kontra sa mga terorista.

Klein De Guia Guagu, Pampanga

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Meron ba kayong saloobin na gustong iparating sa patnugutan ng ABANTE o gustong ipaalam sa gobyerno sa pamamagitan ng inyong lingkod na dyaryong ito? Ipadala lamang sa email address na ito:

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