

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



**TEAM ARMY**

Serving the people. Securing the land.

[oacpa.army2012@gmail.com](mailto:oacpa.army2012@gmail.com)  
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

22 September 2017

Friday

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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY  
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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

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**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | SEPTEMBER 22, 2017 | FRIDAY**

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SOUTHWEST MONSOON AFFECTING PALAWAN LOW PRESSURE AREA ESTIMATED AT 460 KM EAST OF HINATUAN, SURIGAO DEL SUR (As of 4:00 PM, September 21, 2017)

<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
5:45 AM	5:52 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
7:18 AM	7:29 PM
<b>NEW MOON</b> SEP 20 1:30 PM	<b>FIRST QUARTER</b> SEP 28 10:54 AM
<b>LOW TIDE</b> 4:51 AM 0.29 Meter	<b>HIGH TIDE</b> MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 11:26 AM 0.95 Meter
☁ Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms ☁☁ Cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms	

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<b>METRO MANILA</b>	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	<b>TACLOBAN</b>
25 - 31 °C    24 - 33 °C	21 - 28 °C    22 - 29 °C	25 - 32 °C    25 - 32 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	<b>LEGAZPI</b>	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>
24 - 31 °C    25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C    26 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C    24 - 32 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>
23 - 30 °C    23 - 32 °C	25 - 30 °C    25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C    25 - 32 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>
15 - 23 °C    16 - 24 °C	24 - 32 °C    25 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C    24 - 32 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	<b>METRO CEBU</b>	
26 - 30 °C    24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C    25 - 32 °C	

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

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

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# ML rallyists: History won't repeat itself

By JANVIC MATEO  
and ROMINA CABRERA

Yellow ribbons were replaced with red and black as colors of protest, but the issues remained the same: the protection of democracy and civil liberties.

Thousands of protesters gathered in Manila's Rizal Park and other areas all over the country yesterday, vowing that the nation would "never again" return to the dark days of martial law under dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Vice President Leni Robredo, the highest ranking incumbent official to participate in the mass actions, together with former president Benigno Aquino III and other stalwarts of the Liberal Party stressed that history must not repeat itself as the country marked the 45th anniversary of the declaration of martial law during the Marcos regime.

"It is unfortunate that 45 years since the declaration of martial law, after 14 years of suffering under military rule, it seems that we have not learned," the Vice President said during a mass for the

Turn to Page 2

**ML** From Page 1

victims of the dictatorship and the recent spate of extrajudicial killings at the University of the Philippines in Quezon City.

Robredo noted what appeared to be a recurring culture of violence, apparently in reference to the deadly war on drugs of the current administration.

"The victims are not just those who are against the government, but also children who suffer because of this culture of violence," she added.

For his part, Aquino said "the good part about this (gathering) is that there are so many people concerned from different ages... The sad part is... when we were first doing this, we were the young ones, now we're nearing old age (and) we're still here. *Sana malaki na inabante natin* (We should have moved forward

significantly)."

Speaking to reporters after the Mass for Justice, Aquino dismissed criticisms that the activities were organized by their party to regain leadership.

"There are so many people here, not just the party. This is a common concern for all of us," Aquino said.

"Before they look at the color, they should see whether the message got any sense. Is there a reason to protest against

the killings that are happening?" the former president replied when asked about criticisms that the "yellows" were against President Duterte.

Asked for his message to Duterte, Aquino said his successor seems to be listening to the clamor of the public.

"I think he is listening. I believe he doesn't want unsolicited comments and advice," he said.

**No 'I told you so'**

Meanwhile, former interior secretary Manuel Roxas II – whom Duterte defeated in the May 2016 presidential elections – recalled his warning during the campaign that the former Davao City mayor would lead the country like it was martial law.

He said he does not intend to blame those who voted for Duterte after thousands died in the bloody war against illegal drugs.

"*Wala namang inuwa ng 'I told you so' dahil mga buhay ito.*" Roxas said, referring to the lives lost in the past year.

Robredo said Filipinos must learn from the past as she called on Filipinos to unite despite differences in beliefs and political ideologies.



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In an earlier statement, Robredo also lamented efforts to revise history and fabricate stories about the dictatorship.

"These fabrications are dangerous for our people. If we do not remember the past, we are condemned to repeat it. Sadly, those who are deceived do not even know that they are walking a doomed path," Robredo said.

"This is where our struggle lies today. Remembering the dark past helps our people prevent the same perils from ensnaring our nation once more," the Vice President added.

Robredo won by a slim margin over the late dictator's son, Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in last year's vice presidential elections.

Robredo, Aquino, Roxas and other leaders and mem-

bers of LP joined the candlelighting for the victims of martial law and other injustices.

They also marched to the Commission on Human Rights to attend the unveiling of the monument of former senator and human rights icon Jose Diokno.

Like Robredo and Aquino, Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno also said the fight to protect human rights in the country continues 45 years since martial law was declared.

In her keynote address during the unveiling of Diokno's monument, Sereno bewailed that the people have the same fear for their safety and security just like during martial law.

"The same old problems remain prevalent. There is still that deep fear among mothers and fathers whenever darkness falls," Sereno, who is facing an impeachment complaint at the House of Representatives, said.

Amid moves to have CHR abolished, Sereno said "human rights are the foundation of our Constitution" and that those violating these would have to pay in the end.

### Never again to one-man rule

During the mass, Bro. JJ Jimenez, former president of De La Salle Philippines, called on the public to denounce the possibility of a creeping martial law.

Jimenez warned against the dangers of putting back power into the hands of one man as he condemned the extrajudicial killings happening in the course of the drug war.

"We should not be swayed by fear because in the end, this is the only thing they can do," Jimenez said.

Former education secretary Armin Luistro said the Filipinos could not just move on from the atrocities committed during martial law, noting that the former dictator was even made a hero after what he did to the people.

### 'Culture of lies'

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Socrates Villegas said martial law must not be repeated as it destroyed national values and integrity.

"Martial law was sustained by a culture of lies. Martial law stayed afloat by

murders in the dark of night and in the light of day," Villegas said in a mass held coinciding with the day of protests against a rebooted martial law.

Villegas lamented "that killing the poor and the poorest is the only solution they know to stop crime" and bewailed fake news and liars who are succeeding to mislead and confuse the public.

"Decency has given way to cuss words. The respectful and the polite are ridiculed and the rude and ill-mannered are the new saints. Human rights and the indigenous peoples are worth one thousand pesos," Villegas said, urging the Catholic faithful to stand up for the real Filipino.

Although he did not name names, Villegas said, "We are losing our national soul to the Father of Lies and Prince of Darkness. They are killing the poor and poisoning our consciences. We must return to the Lord and regain our national soul."

He said the people should pray to stay free, ring bells every night, light candles, help the orphans of the killings but also do more by demanding real change. "We voted for change and we want to see it. Keep on demanding for it. Do not relent. Do not tolerate excuses and jokes. Demand for the change promised. Bayan gumising!" he said.

At the San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila, Caloocan Bishop Pablo Virgilio David also assailed the extrajudicial killings and called them "termiles that eat at the collective conscience of the nation."

David said Navotas could be considered the "biggest killing field" in the country because "almost every house" in an area called Market 3 "lost a family member to the drug war—either through a police operation or by the bonnet gang."

In Rizal Park in Manila, veteran movie director Joel Lamangan said it was about time Duterte step down as his administration was worse than that of Marcos due to the violence and killings now happening.

St. Mary John Manangan of the Movement Against Tyranny said the protests against Duterte should not stop because of these incidents of impunity. —With Edu Punay, Eva Visperas, Evelyn Macairan, Pia Lee-Brago, Jose Rodel Ciapano, Robertson Ramirez

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

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## Scores of NPAs hurt in fierce gun battle with gov't troops

By **MALU CADELINA MANAR**

**KIDAPAWAN CITY** – Government troops, led by the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion, (IB) engaged the communist guerrillas in a 45-minute gun battle in the hinterland of Magpet town in North Cotabato on Wednesday.

First Lieutenant Silver Belvis, spokesperson for the 39th IB, said they encountered some 20 fully-armed New Peoples' Army (NPA) guerrillas while scouring the area after having received reports on the presence of armed men at Sitio Kinampang in Barangay Balite, Magpet.

Belvis said their ground troops sought combat air support to repel the rebels believed to be massing in the area.

Around 430 p.m., also on Wednesday, two MG520 attack helicopters started to hover and fired their .50-caliber machine guns and rocket launchers towards their targets, said the military official.

The ground troops reported to Belvis that after the air attacks, they saw blood stains all over the area, proof that some guerillas were hit during the intense military offensives.

The MG520 attack helicopters were used to provide close air support to ground forces fighting against the NPAs, Belvis said.

The soldiers recovered from the area an improvised explosive device which weighed 15 kilos and a link to a vintage type of a machine gun with 100 rounds of ammunition and other sub-

versive documents.

Belvis clarified, though, that there were no suspension of classes in Barangay Balite despite the heavy air strikes Wednesday afternoon.

"We were just told that students and teachers in the areas affected by conflict had to flee and go home early to prevent from being hit in the cross-fire," he stressed.

Reports, however, from Karapatan, a human rights group based in Kidapawan City, said the armed encounters displaced a number of families in Barangay Balite and nearby villages in Magpet.

Joy Mirasol, secretary-general of Karapatan-North Cotabato, said they have sent quick response teams in the area to conduct an investigation.

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POLICE FILES

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orogan@yahoo.com.ph

## NPA at militar nagka-engkwentro sa Cotabato

**COTABATO CITY** – Patuloy na tinutugis ng tropa ng pamahalaan ang grupo ng New People's Army (NPA) matapos na muling mag-engkwentro ang mga ito sa Sitio Kinampang, Barangay Balite, Magpet, North Cotabato, Miyerkules ng hapon.

Ayon kay 39th Infantry Battalion Spokesperson Lt. Silver Adell Belvis, may presensya umano ng mga armadong grupo na namataan sa lugar kaya agad nag-report ang mga residente sa lugar sa mga sundalo dahilan para magsagawa ng patrol operations ang tropa ng 39th IB.

Dito na nakasagupa nila ang nasa 20 miyembro ng NPA na pinamumunuan ni Ronald Sagcaan alias Lando sa ilalim ng Pulang Bagani na sakop ng Guerilla Front 53.

Tumagal ng halos labingtalong minuto ang palitan ng putok sa magkabilang panig.

Agad namang nagpalipad ng dalawang helicopter bilang combat air support ang 39th IB dahilan para umatras ang mga NPA. Wala namang naiulat na may nasaktan sa panig ng pamahalaan.

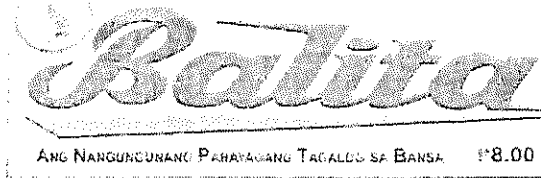
Posible namang may mga sugatan sa rebeldeng grupo, matapos na mamataan sa lugar ang ilang bakas ng dugo.

Nasa 15 kilos ng improvised explosive device, granada, 100 rounds na bala ng K3 machine gun at iba pang gamit ang naiwan ng NPA habang tumatakas sa engkwentro laban sa tropa ng gobyerno sa Brgy. Balite, Magpet, North Cotabato.

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## Abu Sayyaf member tigok sa sagupaan

Patay ang isang hinihinalang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) makaraang makipagbarilan sa mga pulis sa bayan ng Naga sa Zamboanga Sibugay.

Ayon sa report ng Zamboanga Sibugay Police Provincial Office (ZSPPO), nakasagupa ng mga tauhan ng Provincial Public Safety Company (PPSC) ang mga bandido makaraang isumbong

ng mga residente sa Barangay Mamagon, Naga.

Sinabing pulisya na naaktuhan nila ang pitong katao na armado ng matataas na kalibre ng baril sa Sitio Panjang, na nauwi sa 10-minutong bakbakan.

Kinilala ang nasawi sa engkuwentro na si Moner Jikiri Timbol, 44, na nasamsaman ng isang .45 caliber pistol at mga bala, habang kabilang naman

sa nagtagpuan ang isang cell phone

Sa imbestigasyon ng Naga Municipal Police, natuklasang kabilang si Timbol sa mga tauhan ng Abdusalam Group ng Abu Sayyaf, at may arrest warrant sa kasong pagpatay.

Nakatakas naman ang anim na kasamahan ni Timbol, na pinaghahanap pa ng pulisya.

**Fer Taboy**

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ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BARSÁ 1'8.00

## Tri-boundaries bantay-sarado sa NPA

Kinumpirma kahapon ng Northern Luzon Command (NolCom) na mga miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) ang mga armadong napatay nitong Miyerkules sa tri-boundaries ng Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, at Eastern Pangasinan.

Bago ang engkuwentro ay

munamatyagan na ng tropa ng Charlie Company ng 84th Infantry Battalion, 7th Infantry Division ng Philippine Army ang lugar matapos may mai-report na pananakot umano sa mga residente

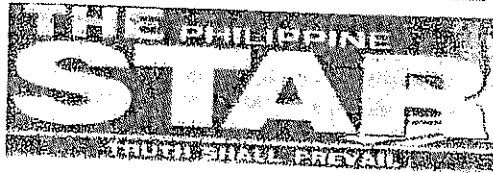
Nasa 15 NPA ang nakasagupa ng militar nitong Miyerkules sa Sitio Barat sa Barangay Burgos sa

Carranglan, Nueva Ecija at siyam sa mga ito ang napatay, kabilang sina alyas "Rasul", alyas "Gian", alyas "Bunso", alyas "Asok", at limang iba pa.

Patuloy pa rin ang clearing operation sa lugar upang maaresto ang iba pang nagsitakas.

**Liezle Basa Iñigo**

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Soldiers distribute candies and goodies to children at an evacuation center in Iligan in this photo taken on Sept. 8.

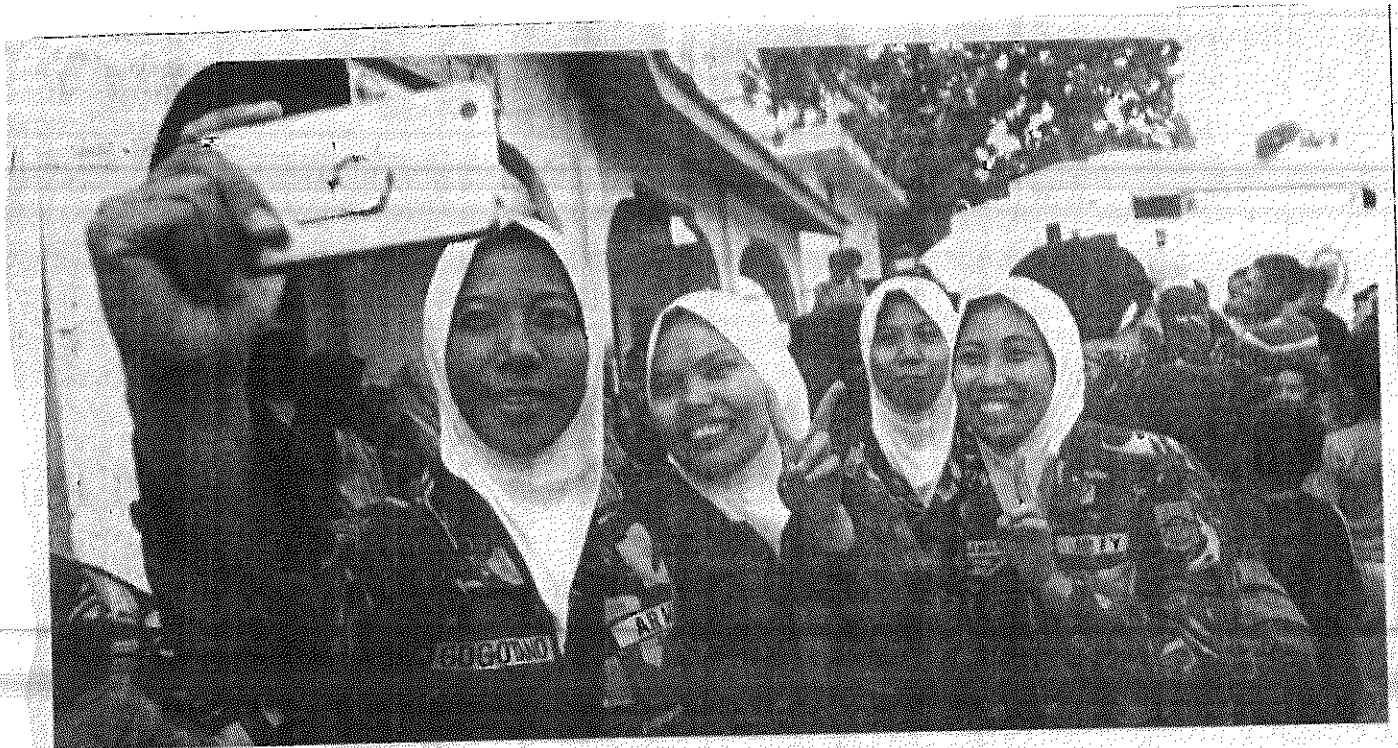
REUTERS

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**GROUFIE – Female Army troopers wearing hijabs pose for a 'groufie' after distributing relief goods to Maranao evacuees in Barangay Lumbaca Toros, Saguiran town, Lanao del Sur. (Keith Bacongco)**



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## Military still confirming MVM's existence

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Wednesday said it is still verifying the existence of the Meranaw Victims Movement (MVM) in Mindanao.

"We will try to find out whether this group indeed exists and who is behind them, including their composition," said AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo in a press briefing at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

"We want to know if they really represent some people because it is possible," he added. "But we hope they aren't really keen on the immediate restoration of peace and order in Marawi like they said. We hope that this group, if indeed they exist, does not intend to disrupt our desire to fast track the reconstruction and rehabilitation (of Marawi City), which will be based on the impending success of the com-

bat operations against the Maute Group."

The group calling itself the MVM posted a 14-minute video online on Monday night demanding the Daesh-inspired Maute group to leave Marawi City. They also want the group to free all their hostages, regardless of religion.

The post claimed the MVM is composed of armed Maranaos displaced by the conflict in Marawi City dedicated to fight for the rights of "the Bangsa Meranaw whose dignity was trampled upon because of this crisis."

The group said they do not conform with the Maute Group's use of Marawi City as sanctuary which "brought about (the) suffering (of) the Meranaw people."

"We hold our local leaders, past and present alike, responsible for failing to prevent the ISIS-inspired Maute Group from carrying out their plan since they were fully aware of the group's presence in the city prior to the siege and for

literally forsaking the civilians like orphans in the midst of great danger during the onset of the siege on May 23, 2017," it added.

The group is demanding the government to allow displaced residents to return to their homes in areas already cleared by the military; to stop the aerial bombings of the city; and to stop abuses committed by military and police personnel at checkpoints.

It is also asking for easier access to and from Marawi City; to secure the remains of civilian victims; and for government to provide financial support to all civilians affected by the siege.

It also seeks compensation for damages to their properties, including the rehabilitation of mosques, madrasahs, and other destroyed structures that represent Meranao culture and heritage.

If their demands fall on deaf ears, the MVM warned "Jihad becomes our legitimate recourse."

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Pahina. 3

## Bagong grupo na pantapat sa Maute lumutang

Kinukumpirma pa ngayon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) kung may bagong tatag na grupo na umusbong ngayon sa Mindanao.

Ayon kay Armed Forces of the Philippines Public Affairs Office Chief Col. Edgard Arevalo, sa ngayon ay nagsasagawa pa sila ng pag-iimbestiga sa pagkakabuo ng Maranao Victims Movement (MVM), ang grupo na sinasabing pantapat sa mga teroristang Maute.

Paliwanag ni Arevalo, titingnan nila kung may mga kinakatawan nga ba ang naturang grupo dahil posible aniyang pakana lang ito ng mga tao na gustong guluhin ang peace

restoration sa Marawi.

Pahayag ni Arevalo, kanila ring inaalam kung may koneksyon ang MVM sa mga Maute, Abu Sayyaf at iba pang terror group na nag-o-operate sa Mindanao.

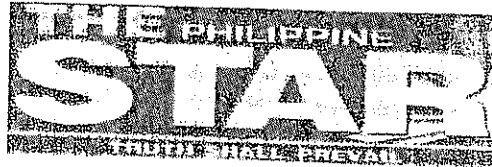
Matatandaang lumutang ang isang video sa internet ng armadong grupo na nagpakilalang sila ay mga armadong Maranao evacuees mula Marawi City.

Sa 14-minutong video, sinabi ng bagong grupo na ang pag-usbong nila ay para ipaglaban ang karapatan ng Bangsa Maranao na napapabayaang umano dahil sa umiiral na bakbakan. (Betchai Julian)

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## Duterte flies to Marawi anew

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

President Duterte went straight to Marawi City last night, leaving Manila amid protests against his administration over extrajudicial killings and police abuses in relation to his drug war.

Duterte spoke to troops stationed in Marawi where he expressed full support for the military's efforts to liberate the city from the Islamic State-inspired Maute terror group.

Unfazed with the massive protests in Rizal Park, Manila yesterday, Duterte also reiterated that there will be no letup in the campaign against drugs despite the "unnecessary deaths" without directly referring to the killings of teenagers Kian delos Santos, Carlo Angelo Arnaiz and Reynaldo de Guzman.

"The war on drugs will continue. There will be no letup. Just because there were one, two, three, four, five unnecessary deaths," he said in his speech aired over radio dzBB last night.

In his fifth visit to Marawi, Duterte said the criminal

should yield to the authorities to avoid any encounter.

"The duty of the criminal is to surrender. If not, the next law that mandates to the soldier or the police. Surrender, so that you are put under the law," Duterte said.

Duterte added that the law enforcers must assert their mandate to put the suspects under their authority, especially during resistance.

"(The) law says you must overcome the resistance, you can drag him - that process alone would mean that there would be some injury," the President said.

The other day, Duterte called on the public to help him in rebuilding Marawi City from the rubble.

He noted that the government needs at least P50 billion just for the rehabilitation of the city that was destroyed by almost four months of fighting between security forces and the Maute group along with supporters of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon.

Duterte said the conflict in Marawi is almost over but he sees no need to celebrate.

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### WAR VS TERRORISTS

## DUTERTE SPENDS NAT'L PROTEST DAY WITH TROOPS IN MARAWI

As his critics came out in droves on the streets on Thursday, President Duterte decided to spend the day in Marawi, where government forces are said to be in the final stages of battle with Islamic State-allied militants.

Mr. Duterte was accompanied by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Armed Forces Chief Gen. Eduardo Año and Special Assistant to the President Christopher Go, as he motored to Marawi from the 2nd Mechanized Brigade headquarters in Iligan City past 5 p.m.

It was his fifth visit to the city and the second this month.

In the city, the President reiterated his earlier statement that no celebration would take place when the military finally liberated the city.

Instead, he said soldiers would quietly leave the city after clearing it of the enemies and improvised explosive devices.

Mr. Duterte also said the end of fighting in Marawi would signal the lifting of martial law, which he declared on May 23.

He explained that he put Mindanao under martial law after terrorists invaded Marawi.

The President said the authorities were looking for the source of the funds of the fighters in Marawi.

He wondered how the militants had been able to stockpile so much ammunition, as the fighting has lasted for more than three months.

He once more vowed to press his controversial war on drugs despite what he described as "unnecessary deaths," for which he said those responsible would be prosecuted.

"The war on drugs will continue. There will be no letup," he said.

When police arrest a suspect for committing a crime, it is the suspect's duty to surrender because otherwise, the police will have to use force to place him under custody, the President said. —REPORTS FROM LEILA B. SALAVERRIA AND ALLAN NAWAL INQ

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The Manila Times

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## 'End' to Marawi clashes seen

**MARAWI CITY:** Diminishing exchanges of gunfire in this city on Thursday between government forces and the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Maute Group seem to indicate that the end of clashes between the two sides is nearing.

Locals residing a few kilometers away from the fighting zone have noticed "the volume of gunfire and explosions is declining compared to the previous days."

The military had launched its "final push" to finally retake the city from the terrorist Maute Group that had pledged

allegiance to the IS and wanted to gain a foothold in the country.

It said it has retaken two key sites in the city – the Islamic center and the Bato mosques – from the group that was holing up there.

Other operations resulted in a successful rescue of two hostages several days ago, including the priest Chito Soganub, who were among more than a hundred people held by the Maute bandits for almost four months.

Soganub was recovered by govern-

ment troops near the Bato mosque together with another hostage – a teacher – on Saturday evening, officials said.

The plight of the remaining hostages is still unknown.

Reports received by *The Manila Times* said there were "105 hostages" being held by the Maute Group, although the military claims there are only about 60.

The military said it will clear first about 10 hectares still being occupied by the terrorists.

**MOH SAADUDDIN**

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

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## Islamists lure Pinoy youngsters with payments, promise of paradise

MARAWI CITY (Reuters) – When he saw his commander holding the severed head of one of his neighbors, teenage Islamist fighter Jalil knew it was time to

escape from Marawi City. Churches and homes had been ransacked, people had been shot or taken hostage, and now Philippines government troops,

planes, and helicopters were pounding the Islamic State (IS) loyalists who had taken over large parts of the town on May 23.

Six days into the oc- ► **16**

cupation, 17-year-old Jalil said he came across a crowd of fellow fighters led by rebel chief Abdullah Maute, including a boy who looked about 10. They were cheering the beheading of a Christian from Jalil's neighborhood who was accused of being a spy.

"Abdullah Maute was holding a man's head, he was shouting 'Allahu akbar' (God is Greatest)," said Jalil, who spoke on condition his identity was not revealed to protect him from reprisals. "They chanted with him. At that point, I realized I had to get away. I wanted no part in this."

Jalil's story could not be independently verified. Authorities have placed him in protective custody and say he has helped identify militants fighting in Marawi.

Jalil is one of hundreds of Muslim youths lured by Islamic State followers in Mindanao, a poverty-plagued southern island of the Philippines that governments in Southeast Asia fear could become a regional stronghold for the ultra-radical group as it loses territory in Syria and Iraq.

Rommel Banlaoi, executive director of the Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research (PIPVTR), says foreign recruiters have been active in Mindanao for years but Islamic State's powerful propaganda and the rise of the local Maute clan of militants have brought a surge in followers.

"The recruitment is now happening very, very rapidly," said Banlaoi.

Schools, madrassas (Islamic schools) and even day-care centers with extremist leanings have been identified as recruiting grounds.

### 'Back in service'

Jalil said his involvement began when he was 11 at a mosque in Piagapo, Lanao del Sur, a rustic municipality 20 km from Marawi, where an imam convinced him to join 40 youngsters at a training camp in return for meals and P15,000 per month.

He underwent daily weapons and combat training, and teachings from

the Koran. He was expelled from the program after only three months, he said, when he revealed details about his network during a mock interrogation.

Jalil heard nothing from his recruiters for six years, but the day before the Marawi siege began, there was a knock at his door. Outside was a teenager, and behind him a pickup truck with 10 other youngsters on board.

"I knew them, they were my classmates in training," he said. "They told me 'you're now back in service.'"

The ubiquitous villages with tattered mosques, wooden homes and dirt-track roads carved into the jungles and mountains of Mindanao are fertile ground for recruiting unschooled youngsters and turning them into militants in camps far off the radar.

The army discovered one such training ground in Piagapo, after a three-day battle that killed 36 Maute fighters, among them foreigners and an imam. That was one month before the Marawi siege.

Reuters spoke to two teenagers from that camp, who said they were lured by promises of money, marriage, and paradise after death.

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“We were trained how to evade checkpoints. We were trained how to ambush, to move silently,” said 18-year-old Abdul, who described how he and others learned to dismantle rifles, make bombs and engage in hand-to-hand combat.

Faisal, 19, said the imam held Koran classes in small jungle huts, while foreigners, whose nationalities he did not know, trained them to fight non-believers.

“The imam told us we would be rewarded with marriage to any beautiful girl we want,” he said.

The government says poor and uneducated males like Abdul and Faisal are easy prey in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), which comprises five of Mindanao’s 27 provinces.

#### Online profiling

But not all targets are poor, rural and uneducated.

Urban youth and students are also on the radar of recruiters who have infiltrated schools and universities and mastered social media, both to spread propaganda and to spot candidates for radicalization among Mindanao Muslims, known as Moros.

Prime targets, said Banlaoi, are those posting on social media about economic and social exclusion, or historical injustice. A hot topic is the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front’s (MILF) peace deal with the government, which promised to make ARMM a self-governing region called Bangsamoro (nation of Moros) but has been dogged by delays, breakdowns and mistrust.

Mohagher Iqbal, the MILF’s top negotiator, said extremists exploit disillusionment with the Bangsamoro plan and promote violence by teaching only selected verses of the Koran.

“We monitor them, but because the recruitment is so secretive, we cannot manage to do everything,” he told Reuters.

Banlaoi said extremists had access to technology used in the Middle East by Islamic State to track chatter on platforms like Facebook and Telegram, find suitable candidates and probe their friend networks. These recruiters included Indonesians and Malaysian militants who were “very persistent”.

The government’s fight is as much about winning hearts and minds among the Bangsamoro people as it is the battle for Marawi that has now ground on for nearly four months.

Militants try to sway public opinion with slick videos celebrating their triumph over “crusaders” they say are destroying Muslim homes and businesses in Marawi with artillery and air strikes.

The military says its focus groups have shown some displaced Marawi children “idolize” the militants. It has sent female soldiers to counsel children in evacuation camps and identify those already radicalized.

Jalil, the teen fighter, said he was at first inspired by the rousing speeches

of Abdullah Maute and his brother, Omarkhayam. But he was appalled by the bloodletting that ensued.

“I can’t forget what I saw. Every street corner there were dead bodies, Christians and Muslims,” he said.

On the night of the execution he witnessed, Jalil abandoned his post guarding a bridge and rode a motorcycle for 50 km to evade army checkpoints. He turned himself in to police two weeks later.

A former military intelligence officer who has tracked the Maute clan said the military under-estimated them as a “ragtag group”. But the Mautes have demonstrated a capacity to regroup and, thanks to deep pockets and the respect they command among local youth, would probably strengthen after Marawi is retaken by “filling vacancies” left by hundreds of dead fighters.

The worst-case scenario, the officer said, was if the Maute brothers survive. “Recruitment will be massive,” he said. “There are lots of students idolizing them.”

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The Manila Times

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## Duterte visits Marawi City for 5th time

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte visited Marawi City again on Thursday, the fifth time since the fighting between government troops and Islamic State-inspired terrorists started on May 23.

Duterte made the visit to war-torn city as protesters mounted mass actions in Metro Manila on the "National Day of Protest."

The President was accompanied by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Armed Forces Chief Eduardo Año, and Special Assistant to

– MarawiA2

the President Christopher Go during his visit.

During his visit, Duterte said he would lift martial rule in Mindanao once Marawi has been cleared, especially of improvised explosive devices. He did not give a timeline.

The President placed the entire island of Mindanao under martial law on May 23 after the Maute group laid siege to Marawi City.

A total of 673 terrorists, 47 civilians and 149 government troopers have died since the clashes started, according to latest official data.

**CATHERINE S. VALENTE**

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## Seven Pinoys linked to Abu Sayyaf arrested in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR – Malaysian police have detained seven Filipinos suspected of involvement with the Abu Sayyaf militant group, an official yesterday said, the latest arrest of extremist suspects in the Muslim-majority country.

The seven men, aged between 22 and 38, were working as private security guards in and around the capital Kuala Lumpur, said national police chief Mohamad Fuzi Harun.

One had fought Filipino troops and was previously involved in abductions in the southern Philippines. Police did not give details about the other suspects.

The arrests last week bring to 41 the number of foreigners suspected of being "terrorist fighters" who have been detained in Malaysia this year, he said.

Fears have been growing in Malaysia that Muslim militants are ramping up their activities, inspired by the Islamic State group and a conflict in Marawi City between followers of the jihadists and government security forces.

"The police will continue to launch operations to detect and catch foreign terrorist elements that infiltrate Malaysia," Mohamad Fuzi said in a statement.

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### From page 1

The men caught in the latest arrests had entered Malaysia via Sabah state on Borneo island in September 2015 before heading to the capital city using fake documents, the police chief said.

The Abu Sayyaf is an Islamist militant group engaged mainly in kidnappings for ransom that has operated out of Mindanao for years.

Members of the bandit group have raided Malaysian parts of Borneo, not

far from the southern Philippines, and abducted foreign tourists.

One faction has pledged allegiance to IS and joined militants battling security forces since May in Marawi, the main Muslim city in the mostly Catholic Philippines.

Malaysian police earlier this month said they had arrested 19 suspects including 11 foreigners who had been plotting to disrupt the 2017 Southeast Asian Games and the country's independence day celebrations.

**AFP**

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## Malaysia arrests 7 Filipinos over links to Abu Sayyaf

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) – Malaysia has arrested seven Philippine men suspected of involvement in activities of the Abu Sayyaf militant group, police said on Thursday, as concern grows in Southeast Asia over the possible expansion of militant Islamist activity.

The Abu Sayyaf, whose members have pledged loyalty to Islamic State (IS), is notorious for bombings, beheadings, extortions, and kidnap-for-ransom activities in the Philippines' volatile south.

The men worked as security ►12

## Malaysia arrests 7...

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guards for private companies in the capital, Kuala Lumpur, and the surrounding state of Selangor, Inspector-General of Police Mohamad Fuzi Harun said.

"One suspect, a 22-year-old, was an Abu Sayyaf group member involved in clashes with the military and kidnaping of hostages in the southern Philippines," he said in a statement.

An extremist faction of the Abu Sayyaf helped seize large parts of Marawi City in May, leading to a siege that has killed about 670 militants and 149 soldiers.

Reuters could not reach the men to seek comment as they are in custody. It was not immediately clear if they have lawyers to represent them.

Malaysian police said their arrests were based on information received after authorities thwarted a plan by an

Abu Sayyaf member to stage an attack at the closing ceremony of the Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur last month.

All seven men arrived in Malaysia in September, 2015, through the town of Sandakan in the state of Sabah on Borneo island, off the southern coast of the Philippines, before traveling to Kuala Lumpur on forged documents, Mohamad Fuzi said.

Since 2013, Muslim-majority Malaysia has detained more than 300 people with suspected links to Islamic State.

This year, Malaysia has arrested 41 foreigners classified as foreign terrorist fighters, Mohamad Fuzi added.

Governments in Southeast Asia have been worried over the possible expansion of Islamic State as the group loses ground in the Middle East.

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The Little Newsprint

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## Navy, Air Force launch maritime exercises

**BY VICTOR REYES**

THE Philippine Navy and the Philippine Air Force have started a pilot maritime exercise to improve interoperability in internal security and territorial defense operations in Western Mindanao.

Rear Adm. Rene Medina, commander of the Naval Forces Western Mindanao, yesterday said the drill called "Exercise Ayudahan 2017" formally opened last Monday in Zamboanga City.

Medina said the exercise is also meant to "enhance the overall coordination and responsiveness in the conduct of joint maritime operations in support to Internal Security Operations and Territorial Defense Operations."

The military is facing several threat groups in Western Mindanao, including the Abu Sayyaf Group and the Maute Group which attacked Marawi City on May 23. The conflict is ongoing.

Military units in Western Mindanao are complementing the overall territorial defense operations of the Armed Forces in the disputed areas in the South China Sea which is on

the other side of the Sulu Sea.

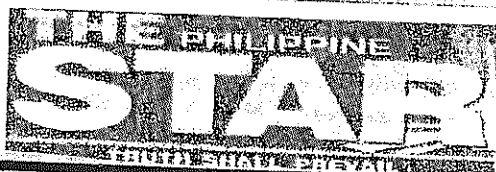
The drill, which will run until October 16, involves the Naval Forces Western Mindanao's Naval Task Force 61, Naval Special Operations Unit 6, Naval Air Unit-Western Mindanao, Naval Intelligence and Security Group-Western Mindanao, Maritime Situational Awareness Center-Western Mindanao and the Naval Station Romulo Espaldon.

Participating units from the PAF's Tactical Operations Command are the 15th Strike Wing, 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing, 304th Air Intelligence and Security Squadron (AISS), 722nd Special Operations Squadron, 505th Search and Rescue Group, Edwin Andrews Air Base Hospital and Philippine Air Force Engineering Construction Group.

Medina said the Naval Forces Western Mindanao is "hopeful that each participating unit will take Ayudahan 2017 as an opportunity to learn and develop their capabilities during the conduct of joint maritime patrols, surveillance and search patrols, and rescue operations in the Western Mindanao region."

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# Air Force, Navy hold drills in Mindanao

By ROEL PAREÑO and JAIME LAUDE

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** - Amid the fighting between government troops and Maute militants in Marawi, the Navy and Air Force have launched joint exercises to enhance counter terrorism and territorial defense operations.

Rear Admiral Rene Medina, Naval Force Western Mindanao (NFWM) commander, said his unit partnered with the Tactical Operations Wing of the 3rd Air Division for the exercise dubbed as Ayudahan.

The drills, which started in Barangay Calarian in this city on Monday, will run until next month.

"The exercises aim to develop interoperability and operational capabilities of NFWM tactical operations command units in Western Mindanao... and enhance the overall coordination and responsiveness in the conduct of joint maritime operations in support of internal security operations and territorial defense operations," Medina said.

Personnel of the Naval Task Force 61, Naval Special Operations Unit 6, Naval Air Unit, Naval Intelligence and Security Group, Maritime Situational Awareness Center of the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) and 15th Strike Wing, 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing, 304th Air Intelligence and Security Squadron, 722nd Special Operations Squadron and the 505th Search and Rescue Group are participating in the drills.

"The continuous collaboration of the two forces is an evidence of a strong commitment to serve and perform their respective duties for the

pursuit of lasting peace, order and development in Western Mindanao," Medina said.

Westmincom's area of operations includes the coastal waters off Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. It also covers the country's border with Indonesia and Malaysia in Sulu Sea, where piracy, kidnapping and other cross-border crimes have been rampant.

A number of foreigners, mostly Malaysian and Indonesian seafarers, are still in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu and Basilan.

Sulu Sea is also used as an entry and exit point of foreign terrorists in the country.

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## Walang martial law - Malacañang

Siniguro kahapon ng Malacañang na walang plano si Pangulong Duterte na magdeklara ng Martial Law sa buong bansa.

"Again and again, hindi iyan ang patutunguhan nation," ayon kay Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella.

"Ang sinabi niya, he's allowing the protest, huwag lang malaglag sa violence and destruction of property, in which case the response will be firm. Pero kung sinasabi na

pinagpapalano ang martial law, hindi po," sabi ni Abella.

Ilang kritiko ni Pangulong Duterte ang nagpapalutang na patungo sa pagdedeklara ng Martial Law ang Duterte government.

Idineklara ng Pangulo na "National Day of Protest" kahapon sa ika-45 taong anibersaryo ng Martial Law. Sinuspinde rin ng Malacañang ang pasok sa government offices at pampublikong paaralan sa lahat ng level upang

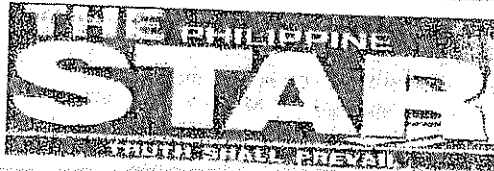
magkaroon ng pagkakataon ang mga gustong sumama sa kilos-protesta.

"So, sa simula't sapul po ang President been very very inclusive and one thing, in his line, a comfortable life for all. In other words, damang dama po ng Presidente ang hinaing ng tao and again and again, especially he is against sa ano-iyong corruptions, crime and iyong pag-aabusos," dagdag ni Abella. (*Rudy Andal*)

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## Thousands join ML anniversary rallies

Thousands of protesters yesterday marked the anniversary of the 1972 martial law declaration by late strongman Ferdinand Marcos with an outcry against what they said is President Duterte's authoritarian tendencies and his brutal crackdown on illegal drugs.

Hundreds of riot police were deployed to secure at least 8,000 protesters joining the rally organized by Movement Against Tyranny (MAT).

Yesterday's mass action under the National Day of Protest was the largest against Duterte since he took office last year.

Pro-Duterte followers also staged rallies at the Plaza Miranda in Manila, which police said they would guard against possible confrontations.

As if to temper the tense atmosphere, supporters with the label "Duterte's Kitchen" gave rice porridge to those who attended the rally.

Leftist groups, waving red flags and carrying placards that read, "Stop the Killings," massed up in Rizal Park, Liwasang Bonifacio and Mendiola.

A few thousands marched at the university belt area, yelling "Never again, never again to martial law."

The protesters burned a "Rody's Cube" – a wooden block modeled on the Rubik's Cube puzzle bearing the faces of Marcos, Duterte and Nazi leader Adolf Hitler.

They marched later to Rizal Park for the main protest but were prohibited at the nearby US embassy along Roxas Boulevard.

Another group of protesters staged a separate rally at the Commission on Human Rights, which has been repeatedly denounced by Duterte for raising an alarm over his police-led campaign against illegal drugs that has left thousands of suspects dead.

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## Thousands From Page 2

Militant groups also held a rally in front of the Armed Forces of the Philippines headquarters in Quezon City denouncing the militarization of the countryside and the war against illegal drugs.

Waving banners that said "No to Martial Law" and "Stop the Killings," about 300 protesters burnt a poster that said "Fascist" over pictures of Duterte and Marcos outside the AFP headquarters.

Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and Bayan, among other groups, staged their protest rallies in other areas across the country.

Students and labor groups joined MAT in the rallies held in Manila during the national day of protest yesterday.

Indigenous people groups joined the students at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City in a rally condemning Duterte's policy against illegal drugs and ill treatment of tribal groups.

– AP, AFP, Robertzon Ramirez, Rey Galupo, Emmanuel Tupas, Jaime Laude, Rhodina Villanueva, Evelyn Macairan, Ding Cervantes, Romina Cabrera, Ramon Efren Lazaro, Kurt Adrian dela Peña, Mayen Jaymalin, Artemio Dumlaog, Non Alquitran, Ghio Ong, Ric Sapnu, Celso Amo, Gerry Lee Gorit, Jose Rodel Clapano, Odessa Leyson, Apple Grace Danuco and May Miasco/The Freeman

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# Race against time to recognize victims of martial law



By Jhesset O. Enano  
@JhessetEnanoINQ

(Last of a series)

For the government agency responsible for the gargantuan task of reviewing thousands upon thousands of haunting stories of human rights violations under the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, its biggest challenge may yet be its race against time.

With its mandate lapsing on May 12, 2018, the clock is ticking fast for the Human Rights Victims' Claims Board (HRVCB), which is in charge of documenting accounts of illegal detention, torture, killings, and disappearances during the Marcos regime and compensating the victims.

HRVCB Chair Lina Sarmiento, however, is undaunted.

"Not finishing the task is not in our vocabulary," the former police general said in an interview with the Inquirer. "Not meeting the deadline is something the board does not see itself in because we already committed to this—even if it means sleepless nights."

## 2-year extension

Republic Act No. 10368, or the Human Rights Victims Reparation and Recognition Act passed in 2013, created the board in 2014 and directed it to complete its task by May 2016. That period was extended by two years by RA 10766 that was approved last year.

The HRVCB has received 75,730 claims backed by voluminous documents that detailed alleged abuses committed against opponents of the dictatorship as well as ordinary people victimized by the Marcos regime.

In May, the board released an initial list of 4,000 eligible claimants, mostly from Metro Manila, the Davao region and Western Visayas. About 3,700 have received partial compensation.

## Validating claims

Before the nation marked the 45th anniversary of the declaration of martial law this week, Sarmiento said the board had already decided on 57,846 claims, but she could not immediately say how many it found valid.

"We are really rushing ... so that we can finish writing all our decisions by the end of the year," she said. "We cannot change the target anymore because we have no more time, no more elbow room."

The HRVCB is divided into three divisions that decide on the claims. With three board members and a handful of young paralegals, each division handles more than 25,000 cas-

es of alleged atrocities committed by state forces from Sept. 21, 1972, to Feb. 25, 1986.

"It's very difficult. I wish there was an easier way, but you have to examine each and every document, counterchecking it with other claims and other references available," Sarmiento said.

Going through the raw and harrowing accounts of the martial law victims from all over the country have taken an emotional toll on some of the paralegals who were too young to remember or were not even born yet during that period, according to lawyer and board member Byron Bocar.

## Reparation law

The reparation law provides a point system to determine the amount of compensation for each victim.

Those who died or had disappeared and still missing would receive the maximum 10 points. Victims of torture, rape or sexual abuse are given five to nine points each and those detained get three to five points.

"Ours is an evidence-based adjudication. So the burden of proof is really on the claimant," said Sarmiento, who once headed the Directorate of Police Community Relations of the Philippine National Police.

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The law provided P10 billion for the compensation, which would be taken from the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcos family, specifically their Swiss deposits, which amounted to \$683 million in 2004 and forfeited in favor of the government.

The final value of each point could only be established once the HRVCB finally decides on all 75,730 claims. Each point was initially pegged at P25,000, but recently approved claimants were to receive only half of this amount for now.

#### **Struggle for recognition**

Beyond the monetary awards, however, the bigger struggle for the survivors is the recognition of their suffering at the hands of martial law authorities.

Writer Bonifacio Ilagan, who was severely tortured and detained for two years when he was a student activist, said the return of the Marcos family to power was a big insult that heightened the "indescribable" pain from his and his family's ordeal.

"For the longest time, [recognition] has been denied, and not one whom we accused of violations of human rights had been formally charged," he told the Inquirer.

Now in his 60s, the torture he was subjected to is still vivid to "Ka Boni," who untiringly retells his harrowing experiences to young people in hopes of opening the eyes of the post-martial law generations to the truth about that dark period.

Beyond his physical torture, he continues to feel the gnawing pain of losing his younger sister, Rizalina, also an activist who was abducted in 1977 and remains missing to this day. She was one of the "Southern Tagalog 10," the biggest single group that disappeared during the martial law period and never heard from again.

"Legislation is a small step. The greater part is that those who were responsible for the dictatorship should be brought to justice," said Ilagan, who is vice chair of Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto.

#### **Noncash benefits**

The law also provides non-monetary benefits to the victims and their families. These include social services from the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

Sarmiento said the HRVCB has been in talks with these government agencies and agreements have been reached with DOH, DSWD and Tesda.

Despite the looming deadline, she said she remained optimistic about accomplishing their task, and later, turning over all their documents to the Human Rights Violations Victim's Memorial Commission.

#### **Tangible contribution**

The commission would be created for the "establishment, restoration and conservation" of a memorial, museum, library or compendium in honor of the victims of human rights violations under Marcos.

"By May 12, 2018, we will cease to exist," she said. "But our tangible contribution, as provided by the law, is the Roll of Human Rights Violations Victims."

The roll ensures that the victims are given due recognition for the suffering and their heroism, during the dictatorship.

For Ilagan and the thousands of other victims and survivors of the Marcos dictatorship, this recognition is but a silver lining to the fight that would continue beyond the HRVCB's lifespan.

"[Our names] will never be erased from the records, from our history," he said. "We may be old now, but we can keep sharing the stories of our youth to the youth of today." INQ



WATCH THE VIDEO  
[inq.news/martial-law-1](http://inq.news/martial-law-1)

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## EDITORIAL

### Marawi hostage Fr. Sukanob free at last

**I**T is surely among the best news reports coming out of Marawi City – that Fr. Teresito Sukanob, vicar general of Marawi Prefecture, was finally free after 117 days of captivity as a hostage of the Maute-Islamic State group that attacked Marawi on May 23, 2017.

There was not much hope for the hostages when the Maute, reinforced with foreign Islamic State-inspired combatants, entered Marawi. For the Islamic State – also known as ISIS (for Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) – had become known for beheading hostages it had captured in the Middle East as well as in North Africa. Father Sukanob, acting rector of St. Mary's Cathedral, must have been deemed a prized captive.

In the months that followed, casualties mounted on all sides. Just as the Abu Sayyaf of Basilan recorded its foreign captives appealing to their governments and their families to pay the demanded ransom, the Maute-IS group filmed Fr. Sukanob appealing to the government to stop the military operations.

The government, of course, paid no heed to the Maute's resort to the use of such filmed appeals from hostages. Everyone appeared resigned to the idea that the hostages were beyond saving, as the fighting continued, with the government pouring in more troops and the Mautes and ISIS surprisingly able to continue fighting with so much ammunition.

On the day that Fr. Sukanob was reported to have been rescued – Saturday, September 16 – the Armed Forces of the Philippines released the following statistics: 673 Maute-ISIS combatants, 149 troopers, and 47 civilians killed. The AFP reported that two more enemy strongholds, the Bato Mosque and the Amaitul Islamiya Marawi Foundation, had fallen to advancing government forces.

It is still not known when the Maute-ISIS rebels can be said to have been rooted out of their enclaves in Marawi City. But the government forces' advance is inexorable and the rebels are bound to fall. It cannot possibly be otherwise.

The statistics being compiled by the AFP will continue to rise for there is still no end in sight. But amid all the blood and the violence and the suffering, we are most fortunate to have this one great piece of good news – Father Sukanob, who also served as chaplain at Mindanao State University and was active in the Inter-faith Council of Peace, is free at last.

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## EDITORIAL

# Rehabilitating Marawi

**R**EHABILITATING Marawi City, like widespread poverty, will be the one of the biggest challenges facing the government. Images of the war-torn city splashed on the front pages of newspapers and television channels show the extent of the damage inflicted by extremists on the predominantly Muslim capital.

Marawi City must rise from the ashes, but reconstructing it will require massive funding through an integrated approach. Certainly, as President Rodrigo Duterte conceded, P50 billion will not be enough to rebuild the city. The World Bank, foreign governments and other multilateral financing institutions

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this early have pledged billions of dollars to rebuild Marawi and restore order in the city. The bank sees Marawi's reconstruction as a development task that parallels its early efforts right after World War II.

One also cannot isolate Marawi's rehabilitation from the current efforts to develop the whole of Mindanao island. Marawi is an integral part of Mindanao, which itself has suffered from government neglect

for several decades. Any reconstruction job on Marawi will ultimately involve the entire Mindanao.

The World Bank, for one, is committing multi-million dollar loans to fund projects for agriculture and education in Mindanao. Beyond the physical rehabilitation of Marawi City and Mindanao, the bank committed to focus its funding to support the government's program to raise agricultural pro-

ductivity and improve connectivity from farm to market, boost education, skills, and employability of the youth, and help build resilient communities.

Creating job opportunities and providing education will be the key to Marawi's reconstruction efforts and Mindanao's development. Poverty and lack of education have driven part of Mindanao's population to join the rebellion in the island or sympathize with the

cause of Muslim extremists.

Infrastructure projects like roads, bridges and airports will also be critical in the development of Mindanao and the rehabilitation of Marawi. Farmers and fishermen must be given access to sell their crops and harvests to the urban cities.

All reconstruction and development efforts must be inclusive to bring about progress and peace in the neglected south.

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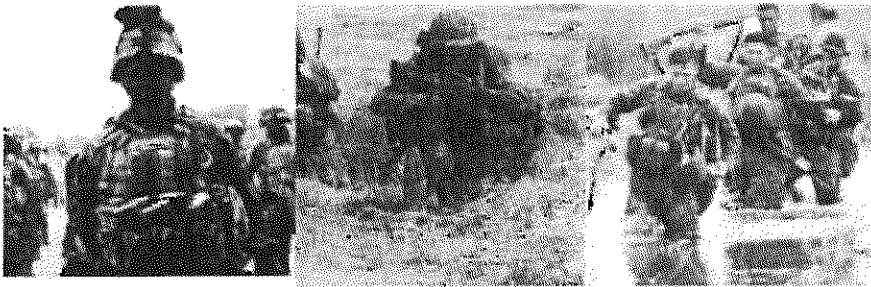
## ONLINE NEWS

22 SEPTEMBER 2017

www.dwdd.com.ph

# TEMPEST WIND | Phi-US Counter-Terrorism Crisis Response Drill

By [Alvin Santiago](#) on September 22, 2017



**CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD)** – The Philippines and the United States governments will participate in a bilateral, inter-agency counter-terrorism drill dubbed “Tempest Wind,” which is scheduled to take place next week in the Philippines and Hawaii.

The PH-US Counter-terrorism Crisis Response Drill Set was approved by the Mutual Defense Board and Security Engagement Board (MDB-SEB) of both countries in November 2016.

“Tempest Wind” is a whole-of-government activity that will include government agencies involved in crisis management, counter-terrorism, and security operations from both countries.

The drill is designed to provide realistic scenarios on terrorism that will necessitate both high-level engagements and responses on a tactical level.

The Philippine government looks forward to joining “Tempest Wind” with the end in view of learning from the activity and sharing best practices with its counterpart.

This drill will strengthen the Philippine-American bilateral partnership and enhance both governments’ inter-operability in crisis situations, especially those involving terrorism. **DND PAS/MCAG**

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www.dwdd.com.ph

# ENCOUNTER | 7ID troops Scores anew in Carrangalan, Nueva Ecija

Report by Alvin Santiago | www.dwdd.com.ph | 2017-09-20

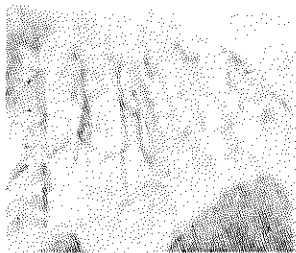
**CAMP GEN SERVILLANO AQUINO, Tarlac City (DWDD)** – Troops from Charlie Company of 84<sup>th</sup> Infantry Batallion, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry “Kagnay” Division have encountered at least fifteen (15) New People’s Army (NPA) led by a certain Joel Manangan alias Razul in Sitio Barat, Brgy Burgos, Carranglan, Nueva Ecija at about 07:25 in the morning of September 20, 2017.

The fire fight lasted until 09:50 am of same day resulting to the wounding in the right leg of one (1) of the operating personnel. On the other hand, the government forces were able to neutralize nine (9) NPAs, which includes alias Razul, alias Gian, alias Bunso, alias ASok and other five (5) unidentified NPAs personalities. Moreover, a total of nine (9) high-powered firearms were recovered from the encounter site comprising of one (1) AK47, one (1) M14, two (2) M653, and five (5) M16 with one (1) M203 grenade launcher attached to one of the rifles. Eight (8) back packs, containing several subversive documents and personal belongings, were also recovered.

The said group of Communist Terrorist were part of the NPA unit operating in the tri-boundaries of Nueva Ecija, Nueva Viscaya and Eastern Pangasinan conducting hostile activities in the area. Meanwhile, pursuit and clearing operations are still conducted to hunt down the NPA remnants who have withdrawn from the site.

The successful conduct of focused military operations was a result of the information provided by the people being threatened by these communist terrorists. MGen Emmanuel Salamat, Commander of NOLCOM, congratulated the troops involved, inspiring further all troops to continue protecting the Filipino people and to contribute to national development. **PIO NOLCOM/MCAG**

## Backpacks containing Subversive Documents



Nine (9) High powered Firearms

30

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# INSPIRATION | Soldiers: People's Hope for Peace

Report by Alvin Santiago on September 19, 2017 at 1:07 PM



**CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD)** – Inspired by the courage, selfless service and valor of soldiers who are fighting the Maute-Daesh terrorists in Marawi, members of the Rotary Club of Makati, J. P Rizal Chapter raised funds to produce HOPE shirts for our defenders.

In a simple ceremony last Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at the DND Social Hall, Camp Gen.

Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana received the initial 1,000 pieces of HOPE shirts with the message, "*Katapangan mo para sa Bayan, Pag-asa para sa Kapayapaan*" from Ms. Caroline Siy, president of the Rotary Club of Makati, J. P Rizal Chapter.

Ms. Siy, in her speech, thanked the soldiers who are risking their life and limb to neutralize the terrorists in Marawi and at the same time, bringing to safety the civilians who were held hostage for almost four months. She said they hope to donate more HOPE shirts until all members of the government security forces fighting in Marawi have one.

Receiving the shirts on behalf of the soldiers, Secretary Lorenzana, who is also the chairperson of *Task Force Bangon Marawi*, thanked members of the Rotary Club of Makati, J. P Rizal Chapter for their unique way of showing their appreciation and gratitude to the soldiers. He said he is elated by the thought that soldiers are held in high esteem and are considered as the people's "hope" to attain peace.

Also present in the ceremony were MGen. Antonio L. Bautista, AFP (Ret), Defense Assistant Secretary for Human Resource who facilitated the turn-over of the HOPE shirts, other DND officials and staff, and the ladies of Rotary Club of Makati, J. P Rizal Chapter. **DND PAS/MCAG**