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# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**05 September 2018**

**Wednesday**



*Honor. Patriotism. Duty*

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# Duterte orders Trillanes arrest

*'No amnesty application, admission of guilt'*

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ and EDU PUNAY

Before departing for Israel, President Duterte ordered the arrest of his arch critic Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, issuing a proclamation that voided the amnesty granted in 2010 to the former Navy officer for his involvement in coup attempts against the Arroyo administration.

Duterte signed Presidential Proclamation No. 572, declaring as "void ab initio," or void from the beginning, the amnesty for the senator, citing the latter's alleged failure to comply with the minimum requirements to qualify under an amnesty program.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra yesterday confirmed

the President's issuance of the proclamation dated Aug. 31 before he left for Israel. The justice chief is the designated government caretaker while Duterte is abroad. Duterte is scheduled to leave Israel for Jordan today.

With the amnesty invalidated, Trillanes can be arrested on the strength of a warrant

issued by a Makati court before he was given amnesty by the Aquino administration, Guevarra pointed out.

"There must be formal filing of application and there must be an expressed admission of guilt on the crime charged for you to be eligible for amnesty. Based on the review taken,

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## Duterte From Page 1

he did not comply with these requirements," Guevarra said at a press conference.

"This means the amnesty never existed. It's not revoked or something that was given and being taken back," the DOJ chief explained.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police are ordered to employ all lawful means to apprehend former LTSG Antonio Trillanes so that he can be recommitted to the detention facility where he had been incarcerated for him to stand trial for the crimes he is charged with," Duterte said in his proclamation.

"The grant of amnesty to former LTSG Antonio Trillanes IV under Proclamation No. 75 is declared void ab initio because he did not comply with the minimum requirements to qualify under the Amnesty Program," the President said in his proclamation.

Duterte said Trillanes was granted amnesty pursuant to the decision of an ad hoc committee in the defense department and approved by then defense chief Voltaire Gazmin.

Trillanes was a junior Navy officer when he and several other fellow officers took over Oakwood Premier serviced residences in 2003 and the Manila Peninsula in 2007 - both in Makati City - to force the ouster of then president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whom

they accused of corruption and poll fraud.

"The matter of taking a look on whether an amnesty granted is valid or not is something that can be done at any time because, as you may probably have seen from the proclamation, if it's declared to be void, that grant of amnesty is declared to be void, it can be attacked at any time because it's void," Guevarra added.

He also said the amnesty granted to Trillanes by then president Benigno Aquino III in 2010 does not have a prescription period.

"The matter of timing is irrelevant, there is no time element or prescriptive period as we call it in legal parlance, for something to be attacked if from the beginning it is void," he said.

"It's there in the proclamation," Guevarra said, referring to possible enforcement of any pending arrest order. "I guess if he has a pending case, at an RTC, and I think there was an ongoing military tribunal, at that time, then I guess all of this will have to proceed and if taking him into custody is an automatic effect of that, then so be it."

In revoking the grant of amnesty, Duterte said in his proclamation that Trillanes "never expressed his guilt for the crimes that were committed" during the siege of Oakwood and the Peninsula hotel.

"CIDG (Criminal Investigation and Detection Group)

can already effect the (arrest) order," Guevarra said, referring to a Makati court's supposedly pending arrest warrant on Duterte.

The DOJ chief also recalled the Makati RTC Branch 148 was supposed to decide on the coup d'etat case against Trillanes but held off action due to the amnesty grant.

### No persecution

Guevarra also denied allegations that the proclamation was a form of persecution of Trillanes, a vocal critic of the Duterte administration.

"This has nothing to do with him being in the opposition. This is about compliance with the law," he explained.

The DOJ chief said that Trillanes anyway has lawyers and would know the legal remedies to pursue.

Guevarra added that while the proclamation applies only to the case against Trillanes, the Palace is reviewing the amnesty for other Magdalo soldiers who joined the Oakwood mutiny and the Manila Peninsula siege and are facing coup d'etat and rebellion cases before the Makati RTC.

In compliance with the proclamation, DOJ prosecutors filed yesterday afternoon an urgent motion seeking issuance of alias warrant of arrest against Trillanes to "update" the arrest warrant previously issued against him.

They also sought the immediate issuance of a hold departure order against the senator.

Makati RTC Branch 148

said it will review Trillanes' case. "We have to review the records again because this actually involves about 53 volumes and the case started from another judge," branch 148 presiding Judge Andres Soriano told reporters after receiving a motion from Senior Deputy State Prosecutor Richard Fadullon for the issuance of hold departure order and alias warrant against Trillanes.

"I will see what I can do, but I really don't think if I can. I'm still trying to retrieve the records. If it's not in the office, it's in the bodega," he added.

Asked if there was a standing arrest warrant against Trillanes, Soriano said there was a previous dismissal of the charges against the senator.

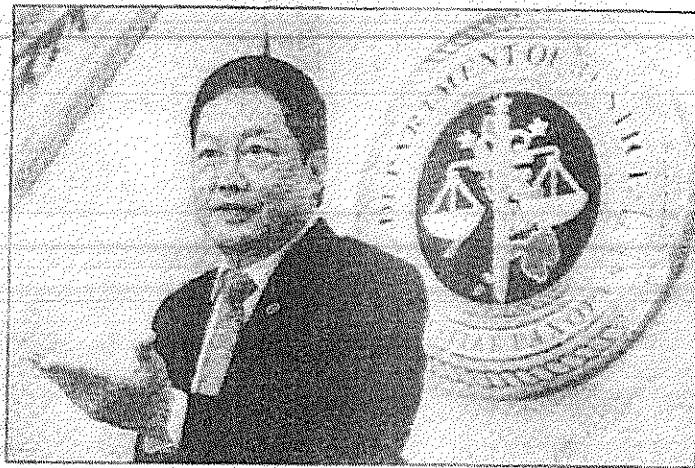
"I don't think there is a standing warrant of arrest right now," he said.

To his knowledge, Soriano said the DOJ motion is the only pending case in his sala involving Trillanes.

In a related development, Solicitor General Jose Calida refused to comment on his role in Duterte's issuance of Proclamation 572.

"I'm sorry, I cannot discuss that because we have what we call privileged communication between the lawyer and the clients, which is the Republic of the Philippines," Calida said in an interview.

For chief presidential legal adviser Salvador Panelo, there is no need for Congress' concurrence for Proclamation No. 572 to take effect.



Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra explains yesterday that the amnesty for Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV 'never existed.' EDD BUMBAN

"Aside from the grounds mentioned in Proclamation No. 572, the amnesty can be declared null even without the concurrence of a majority of all the members of Congress," Panelo said.

Duterte, as President, is the official authority considered by the 1987 Constitution as the only one empowered to grant executive clemencies, Panelo said.

"The State cannot be shackled by an act of clemency it has given to a political offender when the latter pursues subsequent acts inimical to its interest and violative of its fundamental charter," Panelo said.

He stressed it is inherent upon the state, acting through the President, to protect itself from assault coming from whatever source.

"As chief executive and head of government, he has the power to issue orders protective of the State and its people. This is in line with the prime duty of the government to serve and protect

the people under Article II, Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution," he emphasized.

While the Senate and the House of Representatives had concurred with Proclamation No. 75, Panelo noted that the two chambers had recommended that no application for amnesty shall be given due course without the applicant admitting his guilt or criminal culpability.

Consistent with such recommendation, the DND Ad Hoc Amnesty Committee crafted an implementing rule, which basically states that no application shall be approved without an express admission by the applicant of actual involvement or participation in activities detrimental to the state.

"As such, the amnesty granted to Senator Trillanes is void ab initio or one which is to be treated as invalid from the outset," he pointed out. — Marvin Sy, Robertzon Ramirez

# SENATE STANDOFF

STORY BY THE INQUIRER STAFF

**President Duterte revokes the amnesty given to Antonio Trillanes IV as a military mutineer in 2011 and orders the arrest of the senator, but the Senate defies his order and gives sanctuary to his archcritic.**

AG

## SENATE STANDOFF

# Arrest Trillanes-Duterte

FROM A1

By Leila B. Salaverria,  
Jerome Aning,  
Dexter Cabalza  
and Jeannette I. Andrade  
@Team\_Inquirer

President Duterte has ordered the arrest of his critic, Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, after revoking his amnesty on the grounds that the former Navy officer who staged a mutiny 15 years ago had not applied for amnesty.

In Proclamation No. 572 dated Aug. 31 but first made public through its publication in a broadsheet on Tuesday, Mr. Duterte also said Trillanes had not admitted his guilt.

The absence of an application and admission of guilt makes the amnesty granted to the senator in 2011 void from the start, the President said.

He directed the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to pursue all criminal and administrative cases against Trillanes in relation to the Oakwood mutiny in 2003 and the siege of The Peninsula Manila in 2007. Both took place in Makati City.

### Arresting team

The President also tasked the Philippine National Police and the AFP with arresting Trillanes to stand trial for his al-



Menardo Guevarra

MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

leged crimes.

"The past finally caught up with Senator Trillanes," presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said on Tuesday in Israel, where Mr. Duterte is on an official visit.

### Military court, coup case

In the proclamation, the President said the former putsch leader did not file an Official Amnesty Application Form, as attested to by an Aug. 30 certification from Lt. Col. Thea Joan Andrade, chief of the discipline, law and order division of the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff of Personnel.

Trillanes also never admitted his guilt for taking part in the Oakwood mutiny and Manila Peninsula siege during the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo,

Mr. Duterte said.

When Proclamation No. 75 granting amnesty to Trillanes and several other mutineers was issued, he was facing trial before the military tribunal. He was also under trial for a coup d'etat case in the Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC).

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra on Tuesday said that reviewing the validity of an amnesty proclamation could be done at any time.

The President's order to arrest Trillanes, Guevarra explained, stemmed from the court-martial proceedings that were halted when the amnesty was supposedly granted.

He said the review of the amnesty granted to Trillanes was discussed as far back as 2013 by the Office of the Solicitor General and Malacañang lawyers.

In the wake of the President's order, the military will reconvene a general court-martial for Trillanes.

### OSG query

AFP spokesperson Col. Edgard Arevalo said the revocation of the amnesty would bring Trillanes back to his former status as military officer with the rank of Navy lieutenant.

Being reverted to active military service also meant that the senator would have to be taken into military custody, Arevalo said.

Arevalo said it was the Of-

fice of the Solicitor General (OSG) that queried about Trillanes' application for amnesty with the AFP office of the deputy chief of staff for personnel, the records custodian.

"There was no available record on file," he said.

Arevalo said the document was not missing but was just "not found at the time" of the Solicitor General's inquiry.

The DOJ on Tuesday filed a motion at the Makati RTC asking for the issuance of an alias warrant of arrest and hold departure order against Trillanes.

Guevarra said the senator could not invoke his legislative immunity as the offense was penalized by more than six years.

### DOJ urgent request

Judge Andres Soriano of the Makati RTC Branch 148 said he received the DOJ's "very urgent" ex-parte omnibus motion for the court to issue a warrant of arrest and a hold departure order against Trillanes at 3:15 p.m. on Tuesday.

"I still have to review the records," Soriano said, noting that Trillanes' case involved 53 volumes of court documents.

Soriano said the coup d'etat case against Trillanes was dismissed in 2011 by then Judge Ma. Rita Sarabia, after the retirement of Judge Oscar Pimentel.

—WITH REPORTS FROM  
CHRISTINE C. AVENDAÑO AND  
JAYMEET T. GAMIL INQ

## No intention to destroy Phl's alliances - Russian envoy

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

Russia has no intention to inflict any damage on the Philippines' close relationship with the United States and its traditional allies and partners, Russian Ambassador Igor Khovaev said Monday night.

It is possible for the Philippines to have strong security cooperation with Russia while at the same time maintaining its strong alliance with the US and other traditional allies, according to the envoy.

"Yes, why not? That's why I would like to repeat... we have no intention to inflict any damage to a close relationship of the Philippines with your traditional allies and partners. And as ambassador, believe me... I have never received any instructions from Moscow from my government in this respect. Our aim is absolutely different - to build a new partnership between our two countries," Khovaev told "The Chiefs" Monday night on Cignal

TV's *One News* channel.

The ambassador stressed that Russia does not seek any military alliance in the region.

"We are against any other military alliance in the Asia-Pacific region because the security must be for all, not for a select (few)," he said.

Russia provided guns, trucks, helmets and other ammunition to the Philippine military during the Marawi siege.

He said Russia's donation does not require any legal framework.

"It's just a donation, of course, and it was our moral duty to support your country in your legitimate struggle against terrorism because for us Russians, there's no need to explain what terrorism means. My country, we suffered a lot from terrorism and all responsible members of the international community must put all contradictions aside and to combine efforts in the struggle against terrorism," Khovaev added.



# BRP Del Pilar towed out of Hasa-Hasa Shoal

By JAIME LAUDE

The grounded Navy vessel *BRP Gregorio del Pilar* was pulled out of Hasa-Hasa (Half Moon) Shoal late Monday, officials said.

"The operation to pull out the Philippine Navy ship that ran aground in Hasa-Hasa Shoal that started at around 2 p.m. Monday was a success." Col.

Edgard Arevalo, spokesman for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), said yesterday.

Arevalo cited the report of Commodore Rommel Jason Calang, commander of Joint Task Force Goyong, who said the ship was extricated from the shoal before midnight Monday.

Arevalo said preparation for the towing of the ship to Subic is now underway.

The ongoing preparations would include the thorough inspection of the vessel's current state after her successful removal from the shallow portion of Hasa-Hasa Shoal by combined military and civilian salvage teams.

The *BRP Gregorio del Pilar*, a former US Coast Guard cutter, ran aground on Hasa-Hasa Shoal in the West Philippines

Sea, some 60 nautical miles off Batazara town in Palawan on Wednesday.

The warship was conducting a patrol mission when its starboard side hit a submerged feature in Hasa-Hasa Shoal. The accident is now under investigation.

Following the incident, the AFP activated Joint Task Force Goyong to coordinate military

and civilian efforts to pull the grounded warship off the reef.

China had offered to help but Philippine defense and military officials declined the offer, saying they have the tools to get the job done.

In 2012, a Chinese frigate patrolling the region also ran aground at Hasa-Hasa.

The shoal is a rich fishing ground and also serves as

trading point of unscrupulous local fish traders in selling their illegal catch such as sea turtles and even sharks to their Chinese patrons.

Hasa-Hasa is the military's gateway in its regular troop rotation and re-provisioning operations at Rizal Reef Detachment, the most isolated military outpost in the disputed Spratlys archipelago.



# PH removes warship from disputed shoal

The Philippine Navy extricated one of its largest warships which ran aground in a shoal near a hotly disputed region in the South China Sea.

Two Philippine security officials said on Tuesday that tugboats were used to pull the BRP Gregorio del Pilar from the shallow fringes of Hasa-Hasa (Half Moon) Shoal before midnight.

The frigate, which was being towed back to a Philippine port, ran aground during a routine patrol last Wednesday night, damaging some of its propellers. Its more than 100 crewmen were unhurt.

The barren shoal is on the eastern edge of the disputed Spratly archipelago, where tensions have run high in recent years, after China transformed seven disputed reefs into islands and reportedly installed missile defense systems.

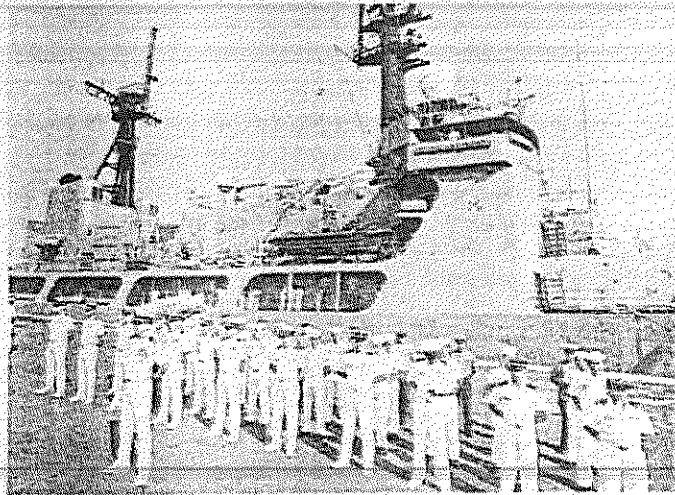
Philippine defense officials notified their Chinese counterparts after the accidental grounding of the Philippine Navy frigate at the shoal, which Beijing claims, to avoid any misunderstanding.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said last week that China offered to help but that the Philippines would handle it.

A Chinese frigate, which ran aground on the shoal in 2012, was pulled away by Chinese military ships.

### Propellers damaged

A military report seen by AP said the propellers of the BRP



SENDOFF The BRP Gregorio del Pilar prepares to leave for naval exercises in Indonesia in May. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

Gregorio del Pilar were damaged by the grounding. The crew checked the frigate after it ran aground and reported that it was not taking in water.

At least four Philippine Navy and Coast Guard ships were deployed to secure the BRP Gregorio del Pilar and provide food and other supplies to its sailors. Tugboats were hired to extricate the ship, according to Col. Noel Detoyato, a military spokesperson.

### Former US ships

The frigate is one of three former US Coast Guard cutters, which were acquired by the Philippine military and are the Philippines' largest warships.

Hasa-Hasa Shoal lies about 110 kilometers from the south-

ern tip of Palawan and south of the disputed Ayungin (Second Thomas) Shoal, where a Philippine Navy transport ship was intentionally grounded in 1999 and has since served as a Philippine military outpost.

### China militarization

China has repeatedly demanded the removal of the now rusty BRP Sierra Madre from Hasa-Hasa Shoal, which is claimed by the Philippines and China.

The United States and Asian governments, which have claims in the disputed sea, including the Philippines, have raised alarms over China's island building and militarization of the strategic territory. —AP

# Navy flagship freed from shoal

By FRANCIS MARCOS

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Colonel Eugenio Arevalo said the Philippine Navy flagship *Gregorio del Pilar* was aground in Hilo-class Shoal has been removed.

In a statement, Arevalo said *Barako ng Republika ng Pilipinas Gregorio del Pilar* that ran aground in the shoal was successfully pulled out shortly before midnight on at 11:45 a.m. of the same day.

Arevalo said that was the information received from the Commander of Joint Task Force "Goppang" Commodore Admiral Jason Galang in his report to the Commander of the AFP Western Command, Brigadier General

"In preparation for the towing of the vessel to Subic," Arevalo said.

Arevalo earlier said Commodore Galang led a team of Sailors, Divers, Aircraftmen, and civilian experts to ensure that they can successfully remove BRP *Gregorio del Pilar* without lateral damage to the vessel and the environment.

Arevalo said Commodore Galang has been aboard BRP 16 since Saturday (September 1, 2018) and has been rendering reports to the Western Command, Philippine Navy and General Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo on the status of the ship.

Reports earlier reaching the General Headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, said BRP *Gregorio del Pilar* ran aground in

Philippine Sea late in the evening of August 26.

AFP Public Affairs Chief Colonel Noel Detovate said all staff vessels in the Western Command were

not used to ensure that the vessel, together with its crew, could return to port safely. The AFP said all personnel on board were wearing life jackets and that the ship was not leaking any oil. Detovate said that none of the personnel on board have been injured in the incident.

An investigation is expected in such situations to find out the possible causes of the accident and to come up with steps to ensure that similar incidents will be prevented, he added.

The *Gregorio del Pilar* weighs 3,230 tons and is 107 feet long. It was expected to be towed during the next 24 hours toward Subic Bay.

The *Gregorio del Pilar* is a former US Coast Guard cutter that was donated to the Philippine Navy in 1961, along with BRP *Navarro Alcaraz* and BRP *Antonio Luna*.

# Navy ship removed from shoal

BY DEMPSEY REYES

**L**ESS than a week after it ran aground, the Philippine Navy's flagship, the *BRP Gregorio del Pilar* (FF-15), has been extricated from a shoal on the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), the Armed Forces of the Philippines confirmed on Tuesday.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, the military spokesman, said the retrieval of the ship was a result of Navy pullout operations that started on Monday at 2 p.m., with help from tugboats from private companies and vessels from the Philippine Coast Guard.

*BRP Gregorio del Pilar* was pulled out at 11:54 p.m. on Monday from

the Hasa-hasa (Half Moon) Shoal, Commodore Rommel Galang, commander of the Joint Task Force Goyong, said in a report.

Arevalo said preparations for the towing of the vessel to Subic Bay were ongoing.

The ship ran aground Wednesday night last week at the Hasa-

hasa shoal, located between Pagasa (Thitu) Island and the southern tip of Palawan.

The *BRP Gregorio del Pilar* suffered damage on its propellers.

Vessels from the Naval Forces West in Palawan and the military's Western Command were mobilized to help pull out the vessel from the shoal.

# Stranded Navy ship pulled out of West PH Sea shoal

By Zaida delos Reyes

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday announced that the Philippine Navy's flagship Barko ng Republika (BRP) Gregorio del Pilar (FF15) was successfully pulled out after it ran aground in Hasa Hasa Shoal or Half-Moon Shoal in the West Philippine Sea.

AFP spokesman Colonel Edgard Arevalo said the frigate was successfully pulled out around 11:54 p.m. on Monday, 10 hours after the salvage operations began.

Joint Task Force Cuyang commander Commodore Rommel Jason Galang confirmed the successful oper-

ation to Western Command Commander Lt. Gen. Rozzano Briguez, adding that inspection for the towing of the warship to Subic is on going.

The Navy ship ran aground Wednesday evening while on routine patrol in the vicinity of Hasa Hasa Shoal in the West Philippine Sea, about 60 nautical miles from Rizal, Palawan.

BRP del Pilar, a former US coast guard ship acquired by the Philippines in 2011, was on a regular patrol operation when its starboard or right side hit one of the submerged land features in the area.

The area is within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone but is witness to frequent incursions by Chinese vessels.

## **Navy ship pulled out of Hasa Hasa Shoal – Arevalo**

**By ZAIDA DELOS REYES**

**THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday announced the successful pullout of the Navy ship that ran aground in Hasa-Hasa Shoal.**

AFP spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said Barko ng Republika ng Pilipinas Gregorio del Pilar (FF15) was successfully pulled out at around 11:54 p.m. Monday. Arevalo said the operation started at 2 p.m.

Joint Task Force Cuyang commander Commodore Rommel Jason Galang confirmed the successful operation to Western Command commander Lt.Gen. Rozzano Briguez.

As of press time, the inspection in the area was ongoing for the towing of the vessel to Subic.

It can be recalled that the Navy ship ran aground on Wednesday night while on a patrol mission at Hasa Hasa Shoal in the West Philippine Sea.

The BRP Gregorio del Pilar, a former US coast guard ship acquired by the Philippines in 2011, was on a regular patrol operation when its starboard or right side hit one of the submerged land features in the area.

## Successful pull out for PH Navy ship

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Colonel Edgard Arevalo yesterday said the operations to pull out the Philippine Navy Ship that ran aground in Hasa-Hasa Shoal that started at around 2 p.m. Monday was a success.

In a statement, Arevalo said Barko ng Republika ng Pilipinas Gregorio del Pilar (FF 15) that ran aground in the shoal was successfully pulled out shortly before midnight or at 11:54 a.m. of the same day.

Arevalo said that was the information received from the commander of Joint Task Force "Goyong", Comdre Rommel Jason Galang in his report to the commander of the AFP Western Command, Lt. Gen. Rozzano Briguez.

"Inspection was ongoing as at this time in preparation for the towing of the vessel to Subic," Arevalo said.

Arevalo earlier said Galang led a team of sailors, divers, airmen, marines, and civilian experts to determine how they can successfully extricate BRP Gregorio del Pilar with least collateral damage to herself and the environment.

Arevalo said Galang has been aboard FF-15 since Saturday and has been rendering periodic report to the Western Command, Philippine Navy, and General Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, on the status of the ship.

Reports earlier reaching the General Headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, said BRP Gregorio del Pilar ran aground in the vicinity of Hasa-Hasa Shoal, West Philippine Sea late in the evening of August 29, 2018.

AFP Public Affairs chief Col. Noel Detoyato said all afloat vessels in the Western Command were mobilized to conduct assessment, retrieve the aground vessel and return her to safe harbor, and assist all personnel aboard BRP del Pilar.

Other assets from nearby AFP installations were on standby for any contingency, reports also indicated that none of our personnel on board have been hurt due to the incident," Detoyato said.

"An investigation is expected in such situations to find out the possible causes of the grounding and to come up with steps to ensure that similar incidents will be prevented," he added. (Francis T. Wakefield)



## BRP Gregorio del Pilar, naalis na sa Hasa-Hasa Shoal

Tagumpay ang operasyon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines para hilahin ang sumadsad na barko ng Philippine Navy palayo sa Hasa-Hasa Shoal na nagsimula dakong 2:00 ng hapon nitong Lunes.

Sinabi kahapon ni AFP Spokesman Colonel Edgard Arevalo na ang Barko ng Republika ng Pilipinas Gregorio del Pilar (FF 15) na sumadsad sa bahura ay matagumpay na nahula bago ang natinggabi o 11:45 a.m. ng parehong araw.

Ayon kay Arevalo natanggap niya ang impormasyong ito mula

kay Commander of Joint Task Force "Goyong" Commodore Rommel Jason Galang sa ulat nito kay Commander of the AFP Western Command, Lt. Gen. Rozzano Briguez.

"Inspection was ongoing as at this time in preparation for the towing of the vessel to Subic," ani Arevalo.

Naunang sinabi ni Arevalo na si Commodore Galang ang namuno sa grupo ng sailors, divers, airmen, marines, at civilian experts para tukuyin kung paano nila maalis ang BRP Gregorio del Pilar nang hindi magdudulot ng malaking pinsala sa katawan nito at sa

kapaigiran.

Sumadsad ang BRP Gregorio del Pilar sa bisinidad ng Hasa-hasa Shoal, West Philippine Sea noong gabi ng Agosto 29, 2018.

"An investigation is expected in such situations to find out the possible causes of the grounding and to come up with steps to ensure that similar incidents will be prevented," sinabi ni AFP Public Affairs Chief Colonel Noel Detoyato.

Ang BRP Gregorio del Pilar ay may bigat na 3,250 tonelada at taas na 378 talampakan ang taas.

**Francis T. Wakefield**



# Former Army captain in Oakwood mutiny doubts rearrest

By EVELYN MACAIRAN

Customs official and former Army captain Alvin Ebreo doubts that his amnesty will be revoked because he has complied with all the requirements.

Ebreo, who was arrested along with Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV for the 2003 Oakwood mutiny, was granted pardon by former president and now Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Former president Benigno Aquino III also granted him amnesty.

He was pardoned on May 12, 2008 and given amnesty on Nov. 24, 2010.

Ebreo has left military service. He is now a lawyer and

the head of the Bureau of Customs' Collection Service Department. Former Customs commissioner Nicanor Fael-don invited Ebreo to join the bureau.

"I am not afraid that I would be arrested. I went through all the process and application and submitted all the necessary documents. I applied for amnesty because I wanted to clear my records. I wanted a clean slate," Ebreo said.

Meanwhile, party-list group Magdalo has accused President Duterte of lying on the Trillanes amnesty case.

"Contrary to the lies about the reasons for the revocation of the amnesty granted to

Senator Trillanes, there was an application filed at the Department of National Defense (DND) and there was an admission of guilt," the group said in a statement.

It said a video taken in 2011 at the DND shows Trillanes' amnesty application.

It quoted the senator as saying in the video: "We are man enough to admit that we committed mistakes... We faced the consequences... It was easy for us to do that."

"Members of Magdalo who were present at that time could attest to this. What President Duterte is doing right now is nothing but a cowardly act. (He) wants the intoxicating feeling of people fearing him.

No presidential proclamation can nullify an amnesty that has an effect of an existing law as concurred in by Congress," Magdalo said.

"Instead of signing a highly questionable and unlawful presidential proclamation in the hopes of sowing fear, why not sign a bank secrecy waiver and earn the respect of every Filipino? If the President wants it so bad to send Senator Trillanes to jail, Duterte could easily sign a waiver to show that he does not have two billion worth of bank transactions in his BPI Julia Vargas account and prove that Senator Trillanes is wrong," it said. 12

- With Jess Diaz

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## 'Amnesty valid, final, irrevocable'

By JESS DIAZ

The amnesty granted to opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and other former military rebels was valid, former president Benigno Aquino III said

yesterday, as Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman argued that it could not be revoked by President Duterte because it was approved by Congress.

"The fact that he applied,

Turn to Page 8

# Amnesty From Page 1

went through the process and was granted amnesty means that it was valid. It was not void," Aquino said in mixed English and Filipino in an interview with TV5.

He said no one opposed the amnesty application of Trillanes and military colleagues who rebelled against the administration of his predecessor, former president and incumbent Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lagman said Proclamation No. 75 dated Nov. 24, 2010 issued by Aquino and concurred with by Congress under Concurrent Resolution No. 4 dated Dec. 13 and 14, 2010 "does not provide for any revocation clause."

Consequently, he said Duterte's decision to scrap the amnesty grant to Trillanes "has no legal and factual basis."

"Amnesty, which obliterates past offenses, is final, absolute and irrevocable, unlike a presidential conditional pardon. Alleged present transgressions of a grantee are immaterial and do not militate against the grant of amnesty," he added.

Lagman explained that the President's power to grant amnesty with the concurrence of Congress is contained in Article VII, Section 19 of the Constitution.

"An amnesty is granted to a class of people, while a presidential pardon is given to a specific individual and does not need the approval of Congress. An amnesty obliterates the offense, while a pardon erases the penalty," he said.

Aquino said the amnesty grant allowed the former soldiers "to start anew."

He added that his grant had not been questioned "for the past seven to eight years."

The former chief executive pointed out that Duterte's decision to withdraw the amnesty he granted to Trillanes has implications for any future amnesty program.

"They applied, complied with the process and suddenly, it is withdrawn. Perhaps, next time, they will think for how long amnesty would last? They would think twice in laying down their arms," he said.

If Trillanes were to be arrested, the basis should be an arrest warrant, according to Aquino.

In 2007, then president Arroyo pardoned former president Joseph Estrada after the Sandiganbayan convicted him of plunder.

Lagman said he could not remember any law providing for rules and procedures on applying for amnesty.

"Generally, the applicable rules are those issued by the Department of National Defense. One has to apply and comply with certain requirements," he said.

## **Diversionsary tactic**

The revocation of the amnesty granted to Trillanes proves that the Duterte administration would do everything to silence its critics, Vice President Leni Robredo said yesterday.

Robredo also sees Duterte's Proclamation 572, which declared Trillanes' amnesty as "void," as a tactic to divert the public's attention from the government's failures to address the problems being faced by Filipinos.

"Politicking has no place in times when many of our countrymen are facing hunger, poverty and lack of employment opportunities," Robredo said.

"As elected officials of

the government, we have been entrusted with the power to find solutions and not to advance personal interest," she added.

Robredo said the Duterte administration's latest attack against its critics causes not only divisiveness but also hopelessness among Filipinos.

"We urge this administration to honor the amnesty given to Senator Trillanes and to immediately stop wasting money on senseless quarrel and instead focus its attention on the needs of the Filipino people," she said.

## **'Abuse of presidential powers'**

Trillanes fellow Magdalo and Lagman's opposition colleague Rep. Gary Alejano said Duterte's amnesty revocation "is arbitrary, illegal and clearly an abuse of presidential powers."

"Senator Trillanes was already cleared from all charges. He has duly complied with all requirements set forth by the laws for his amnesty. The proclamation issued by Duterte, therefore, has no basis at all," Alejano said.

"The administration is panicking and trying to silence the opposition," he added.

Alejano was not discounting the possibility that Duterte might also scrap the amnesty granted to him by the Aquino government, but that he would fight it through the legal process.

"They could do that to me and other recipients of amnesty given by previous administrations. That amnesty was given to all. We have long heard that they wanted to do this. They studied it and this is clearly a case of political persecution," Alejano said.

He said Duterte's revoca-

tion of the amnesty granted to Trillanes, his fiercest critic at the Senate, is a "clear act of revenge."

"Fifteen years ago, we stood up against corruption in government. Today, we remain standing and fighting against abuse of power," Alejano said.

The congressman filed the first impeachment complaint against Duterte in the early part of last year. The President's allies at the House of Representatives later dismissed it for lack of merit.

### 'Crazy' decision

Another opposition congressman, Edgar Erice of Caloocan City, described Duterte's decision as "crazy."

Erice said he does not believe Aquino amnestied Trillanes and other rebellious soldiers if they did not apply for it.

He said he saw video footage showing the opposition senator applying for amnesty.

Erice said Duterte should dismiss the official who recommended Trillanes' amnesty revocation.

"We will be transformed into a banana republic if two sitting senators, elected by the people, languish in jail simply because they are in the opposition," Erice said.

For Akbayan Rep. Tom Villarin, Duterte's revocation of Trillanes' amnesty is "clearly a political vendetta."

He said the grounds for such revocation are "too flimsy and won't hold ground as Aquino, with the concurrence of Congress, made the amnesty full and complete."

Like the opposition, the leftist Makabayan bloc criticized Duterte, saying the move against the Magdalo senator shows the "intensi-

fying political persecution against opposition and critics of the Duterte administration."

"We view this as a desperate but treacherous attack of a regime that is under siege by public criticism and broadening social dissent due to rising inflation, worsening poverty and human rights violations. President Duterte has again showed that he cannot be trusted to respect peace agreements with rebels," the group said in a statement.

It said a Sword of Damocles now hangs over the heads of former soldiers who protested against the government and were amnestied.

### Ex-gov't execs dispute revocation

Former officials under the Aquino administration have disputed the basis of Duterte's revocation of amnesty granted to Trillanes.

On social media, former deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte also posted an image of Trillanes' application for amnesty, disputing Malacañang's claim that he failed to file one.

"Obviously, after. You cannot avail of amnesty if it has not been granted yet. All applications under that amnesty are made after, not before," Valte said in response to a question on when the application was filed.

Former presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda shared Valte's post, describing it as a "receipt" that could serve as the best evidence in law.

"You will see Sonny swearing in before a (Department of National Defense) personnel, his application form shown," he said, referring to Trillanes.

"How is it (that the) DND

has a copy then and the application is nowhere to be found now? This is what we call infidelity to the custody of documents," he added.

Lacierda also called out Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra, who also served in the previous Aquino administration in the Office of the Executive Secretary.

"Interesting that DOJ Sec. Guevarra is defending the amnesty revocation which he never took part in. He says Sonny did not admit guilt," Lacierda said.

The former Palace spokesman called on the secretary to read a news article on Trillanes' admission of guilt, saying, "If the records are not there, it means the DND needs to explain."

Former solicitor general Florin Hilbay said Duterte has no unilateral constitutional authority to nullify an amnesty given and accepted eight years ago.

He agreed with Lagman, who noted that Congress concurred with the granting of the amnesty.

### CHR: Let Trillanes exhaust legal remedies

Meanwhile, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) said Trillanes should be allowed to exhaust all legal remedies to challenge the revocation of his amnesty.

"As first and foremost a citizen of the Republic with rights protected by the Constitution, we hope that Senator Trillanes will be allowed to exhaust all legal means in seeking recourse in light of this order by Malacañang," CHR spokesperson Jacqueline de Guia said.

"We will let due process and the rule of law take its due course, guided by the principle of fairness and sound judgment," she added.

- With Helen Flores, Janvic Mateo

# Authorities to arrest Trillanes amid missing amnesty application

By JAIME LAUDE

As the Department of National Defense (DND) is trying to locate the missing amnesty application of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has declared its readiness to implement the directive to take the senator into custody.

DND spokesman Arsenio Andolong yesterday said they are still looking for the amnesty application of Trillanes, which he said is not available at the moment.

President Duterte signed Proclamation 572 revoking Trillanes' amnesty grant and ordered the arrest of the opposition senator.

Andolong issued the statement at a press briefing yesterday in supporting Solicitor General Jose Calida in claiming Trillanes had failed to apply for amnesty.

The AFP, on the other hand, said Trillanes would be reverted to active duty as Navy Lieutenant Senior Grade to face court-martial proceedings.

AFP spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said Trillanes was an active military officer when he was charged in his involvement in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny and Peninsula hotel siege in 2007.

Arevalo said Trillanes will be facing a reconvened general court martial on orders of acting Armed Forces

chief Lt. Gen. Salvador Melchor Mison.

Trillanes, a critic of the President, is facing charges for conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline, among others.

Trillanes, who won a seat in the Senate while in detention in 2007, applied for amnesty in January 2011.

He took his oath of allegiance before then defense secretary Voltaire Gazmin after his amnesty application was approved by then president Benigno Aquino III.

Calida said he requested the AFP for Trillanes' amnesty records last Aug. 30.

The Office of the AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, custodian of military records, could not provide the requested document.

Andolong, however, said efforts are being exerted by the office of the AFP Deputy of Staff for Personnel (D) to locate the amnesty papers, as the document could also include those of his Magdalo colleagues.

"If he has the document then we are more than happy to see and validate the same," Andolong said.

The AFP has dispatched a team of military police to take Trillanes into custody for court martial.

"That being the case, he

will again be subject of military regulation, including the articles of war which ev-

ery military personnel in the active service is supposed to be subject to," Arevalo said.



Members of the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group await the order to arrest Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV outside of the Senate building yesterday. GEREY PINTOLO



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# Palace voids Trillanes' amnesty

Senator not in amnesty list; Senate won't allow arrest within its premises – Sotto

By GENEALYN D. KABILING, VANNE P. TERRAZOLA, and HANNAH L. TORREDOZA

**P**resident Duterte has revoked the amnesty granted to Senator Antonio Trillanes IV by then President Benigno S. Aquino III in connection with two

attempts to overthrow the Arroyo administration.

In Proclamation No. 572, the President declared the amnesty given to Trillanes in 2010 as "void ab

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# Palace voids Trillanes'... <1

initio" since he failed to apply for such amnesty and did not admit guilt for the crimes committed.

"The grant of amnesty to former LTSG Antonio Trillanes IV under Proclamation No. 75 is declared void ab initio because he did not comply with the minimum requirements to qualify under the Amnesty Program," the proclamation read.

Duterte also pointed out in the proclamation that Trillanes "never expressed his guilt for the crimes that were committed on the Oakwood Mutiny and Peninsula Manila Hotel Siege."

"Despite former LTSG Trillanes IV's failure to apply for amnesty and refusal to admit his guilt, his name was nonetheless included among those granted amnesty pursuant to DND (Department of National Defense) Ad Hoc Committee Resolution No. 2 approved by former Secretary of National Defense Voltaire T. Gazmin," it said.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra supported the proclamation, saying Trillanes failed to meet the requirements to qualify for the government's amnesty program.

"There are certain requirements for grant of amnesty, one of them is you need to apply for it. Number two, you have to admit what you have done and to be sorry for it. In other words, you have to make a confession and admit that you were wrong," he added.

But in a privilege speech during the Senate's session Tuesday afternoon, Trillanes presented proof that the amnesty granted to him was valid and that the charges were already dropped by the courts.

He showed before the Senate plenary a video clip of a radio report in January, 2010, when he submitted his application form before the Department of National Defense (DND) Ad Hoc Committee handling the amnesty program.

"That is the application form... That is the personal appearance," Trillanes said while presenting the video clip showing him filing his amnesty application form in Camp Aguinaldo.

As a consequence of Trillanes' alleged failure to comply with amnesty requirements, the President has authorized the arrest and prosecution of Trillanes for his involvement in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny and the 2007 Manila Peninsula Hotel siege against the administration of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

## No arrest in Senate - Sotto

But Senate President Vicente Sotto III said the Upper Chamber will not allow Trillanes or any other senator to be arrested within its premises.

Sotto, in an interview following a meeting with Trillanes, said senators agreed that authorities should not be allowed to arrest the opposition lawmaker inside the Senate building to preserve the institution's dignity.

"To preserve the dignity of the Sen-

ate, we have decided not to allow any senator to be arrested within Senate premises. Outside Senate premises, that's no longer our concern but within Senate premises that is the decision of the leadership," he said.

As of press time last night, Trillanes has decided to stay at the Senate premises.

Aside from authorizing the arrest of Trillanes, Duterte ordered the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) "to pursue all criminal and administrative cases" against the beleaguered senator in relation to the two mutinous incidents.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) and the AFP have also been directed "to employ all lawful means to apprehend" Trillanes "so he could be recommitted to the detention facility where he had been incarcerated for him to stand trial for the crimes he is charged with."

## 'Amnesty can't be revoked'

But Trillanes explained that the granting of an amnesty is an act of Congress and cannot be superseded by an Executive Order.

"Hindi mo pwedeng bawiin ang amnesty. Ano ba yun? I was already subjected to that nung na-try ako tapos na dismiss. Ano ngayon, uulitin yun? Ano ba yan? Magpafuro nga sila sa mga law students (You can't revoke an amnesty. I was already tried and the case was dismissed. So now, it will be tried again? They should seek advice from law students)," the beleaguered senator said.

The Senate minority bloc, led by Senator Franklin Drilon, backed Trillanes and questioned the legality of Proclamation No. 572, saying that the amnesty granted by the Aquino administration was valid and already ruled upon by the courts.

"I'm sorry but we strongly believe that the amnesty is valid, number two, the validity of the application of Senator Trillanes was already ruled upon by the court when the court dismissed the rebellion and coup d'etat case against Sen. Trillanes on the basis of the amnesty," Drilon told reporters in a hastily called press conference with the latter outside his office.

## DOJ seeks arrest warrant

While Duterte authorized the arrest of Trillanes, the DOJ filed Tuesday afternoon before the Makati regional trial court (RTC) a motion asking for the issuance of an alias warrant and a hold-departure order (HDO) against the senator. However, there were reports that it will take the RTC around three to four days to issue the alias arrest warrant.

Guevarra also said the DOJ will reopen the charges against Trillanes over the Oakwood mutiny and the Manila Peninsula siege.

"After proper review of the records of this case, we have determined that it is

something that is ripe for reopening that there are grounds to reopen the case, then the first order of the day is simply to ask the court for the issuance of an alias warrant so that the person of the accused will be brought in the custody of the court," Guevarra told reporters.

In 2010, then President Aquino issued Proclamation No. 75 granting amnesty to active and former military and policemen and their supporters involved in the Oakwood mutiny, Marines stand-off in 2006, and the Manila Peninsula incident.

Trillanes, a former Navy officer detained for seven years at the PNP custodial center pending his trial, was among the officers allowed to walk free by Aquino.

## Not in amnesty list

But Acting Prosecutor General Richard Anthony Fadullon revealed Tuesday that Trillanes was not in the list submitted by the Amnesty Commission to the court trying the coup d'etat charges.

Fadullon recalled that in 2010, Makati City RTC Branch 148 Judge Oscar Pimentel was supposed to hand down a decision on the coup d'etat case concerning the Oakwood mutiny when defense lawyers filed manifestations that all 31 accused have sought amnesty. Pimentel eventually suspended the promulgation.

Pimentel later retired and Judge Andres Soriano took over.

In 2013, Fadullon said, the court approved the list submitted by the Amnesty Commission.

"But when I looked at the records, it did not include Sen. Trillanes," said Fadullon, referring to the list submitted by the Amnesty Commission.

## Trillanes back as military

Meanwhile, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Colonel Edgard Arevalo said that President Duterte's revocation of the amnesty granted to Trillanes in connection with two attempts to overthrow the Arroyo administration effectively brings him back to his former status as a military personnel.

"That being the case, he will again be subject of military regulation, including the Articles of War which every military personnel in the active service is supposed to be subjected," he added.

Arevalo said even though Trillanes is already retired from the military service, he can be again subjected to court martial proceedings.

"Therefore, yung (the) court martial will have to be re-constituted kasi yung ibang (because the other) members ng (of the) court martial has already retired. So in which case, the acting AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Salvador Mison Jr. has already instructed the convening of a general court martial that shall be hearing the case of Lt. Trillanes," he added.

The military spokesman told reporters that court martial proceedings against Trillanes was only stopped after amnesty was granted to him by then President Aquino in 2010. (With reports from Mario B. Casayuran, Jeffrey G. Damicog, Francis T. Wakefield)

OPPOSITION CONDEMNS REVOCATION OF EX-MUTINEER'S 2011 AMNESTY

# Trillanes under Senate custody

BY BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO

**S**EN. Antonio Trillanes 4th submitted himself to the custody of Senate President Vicente Sotto 3rd on Tuesday, with the former Magdalo mutineer fearing he would be arrested without a warrant after the surprise revocation of his 2011 amnesty by President Rodrigo Duterte.

Trillanes spent the night in the Senate building under the tight watch of the chamber's sergeant at arms, after delivering a privilege speech rejecting the basis of the revocation laid down by Duterte's Proclamation 572.

"My lawyers are exhausting all legal remedies to void this stupid executive order. I will abide by the wisdom of the Senate leadership," Trillanes said in an interview.

► CustodyA2

## Trillanes under Senate custody

The senator refused to go with members of the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) who went to the Senate supposedly to arrest him, saying they did not possess a warrant.

Trillanes, however, said he would not resist an arrest order, if implemented by authorities.

"I will pack my things. I will not hide definitely," he said.

Trillanes accused Solicitor General Jose Calida of instigating the revocation of his amnesty and carrying it out on the day he was supposed to investigate contracts obtained by the Calida family's security agency from various government agencies.

"So, we're living basically in a 'de facto' martial law environment of the 1970s kind. The assurance given to me by the Senate president is that for as long as I'm in the Senate premises, he will not allow any arrest," Trillanes said.

Proclamation 572 revoked the Department of National Defense (DND) Ad Hoc Committee Resolution dated January 11, 2011 granting amnesty to Trillanes for leading the "Oakwood mutiny" in Makati City (July 2003), the Marines standoff in Taguig City (February 2006) and the Manila Peninsula hotel siege, also in Makati (November 2007).

Word on the surprise proclamation, signed on August 31 before the President left for Israel, spread after its publication on Tuesday in the classified ads section of *The Manila Times*.

### 'No requirements'

In the proclamation, Duterte said Trillanes failed to comply with the minimum requirements to

qualify for an amnesty proclamation: application for amnesty and admission of the crime.

"The admission of the crime is important. The amnesty is part of beneficence on the part of the state, what happened before will be erased and the crime will not exist anymore but the admission of the crime should be done. Senator Trillanes did not admit anything," Malacañang spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said in a news conference in Israel, where the President was on an official visit.

Duterte, in the directive, ordered the Department of Justice (DoJ), the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to pursue all criminal and administrative cases against Trillanes, who was a lieutenant senior grade, equivalent to captain, in the Philippine Navy.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, the military spokesman, said the Armed Forces' leadership had instructed the convening of the general court martial or the military court to try Trillanes for mounting coup attempts during the term of former president and now House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Trillanes insisted he had complied with amnesty requirements.

"You will not be granted amnesty if you don't have any application. That's clear. That's why this is a clear case of political persecution because they cannot find any case against me. So, they need to invent," he said.

### No warrant yet

The DoJ immediately asked the Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC) to issue an arrest warrant and hold departure order against Trillanes.

The three-page "Very Urgent

Ex Parte Omnibus Motion" was signed by the officer in charge of the prosecutor general's office, Richard Anthony Fadullon, Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Juan Pedro Navera and Assistant State Prosecutor Mary Jane Sitat.

Judge Andres Soriano of the Makati RTC Branch 148 said an arrest warrant could not be issued immediately.

Soriano said he still had to review 53 documents on the Oakwood and Manila Peninsula incidents, some of which he was yet to obtain from the court warehouse.

"Based on this case, I don't think he would be arrested," he told reporters.

Any other arrest would be considered a warrantless arrest, which would need legal basis, the judge said.

### Senators hit order

Senators from the majority and minority blocs said on Tuesday Proclamation 572 had no basis and that pursuing a criminal case against Trillanes would amount to double jeopardy, which is prohibited under the Constitution.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon pointed out that the Makati court had dismissed the criminal cases against Trillanes.

Drilon added that when amnesty was granted to Trillanes, it was as if no crime was committed.

"Jurisprudence provides that the grant of amnesty abolishes and puts into oblivion the offense itself, it so overlooks and obliterates the offense with which he is charged that the person released by amnesty stands before the law precisely as though he had committed no offense," he said, citing jurisprudence in the *Barrioquinto vs Enrique* case.

Drilon lauded Senate President Sotto for instructing the Senate sergeant at arms to bar arresting officers on Tuesday.

Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto said charges should have been filed against Trillanes if he had violated the law, instead of revoking the 2011 amnesty.

Detained Sen. Leila de Lima condemned Duterte's proclamation, saying it was a political move to try to silence Trillanes.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman said any amnesty revocation needed the concurrence of Congress.

In a statement, the lawmaker said Proclamation 75 issued by then President Benigno Aquino 3rd in 2010, the original amnesty proclamation concurred in by Congress, did not provide for a revocation clause.

"Consequently, the reported revocation by President Rodrigo Duterte of the amnesty granted to Sen. Antonio Trillanes has no legal and factual basis," Lagman noted.

In a separate statement, Akbayan party-list Rep. Tomas Villarin said Duterte's order was no more than "political vendetta against a very vocal critic."

Vice President Maria Leonor Robredo said: "The decision of the Palace to declare the amnesty granted to Trillanes as void is another proof that this administration is willing to do anything to silence its critics."

Jose Luis Martin Gascon, head of the Commission on Human Rights, said he would look into the implications of the revocation of the amnesty proclamation.

### **Magdalo, Aquino: Application valid**

The Magdalo party-list composed of Trillanes' fellow ex-mutineers showed a video of the senator submitting an application form for amnesty at the Department of

National Defense, and publicly admitting guilt.

"We are man enough to admit that we committed mistakes... We faced the consequences... It was easy for us to do that. Members of Magdalo who were also present at that time could attest to this," the party said.

Ex-president Aquino said Trillanes' application was in order, and that it was given to him on January 25, 2011.

"We will assist him as far as we are able to, to be able to defend his rights and the rights of anybody else in this country," he told CNN Philippines.

Trillanes, 47, campaigned for and won a Senate seat from his prison cell in 2007. He got the 11th spot out of 12 vacant seats with 11.2 million votes. He was reelected in 2013, placing ninth with 14.1 million votes.

After spending seven years in prison on coup d'etat charges, Trillanes was sworn into office by then-Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and was finally able to attend his first Senate session on January 17, 2011, three years late.

He emerged as a strident Duterte critic and accused the former Davao City mayor of hiding P2 billion in bank transactions shortly before the 2016 presidential election.

In a speech before new barangay (village) officials in Cebu City last June 7, the President said "there will come a day that someone will shoot him (Trillanes) because he's arrogant."

Trillanes dared Duterte to "go ahead [and] order somebody to shoot me," but warned the President "it would lead to your end."

**WITH JEFFERSON  
ANTIPORDA, REINA  
C. TOLENTINO, RALPH U.  
VILLANUEVA, DEMPSEY  
REYES, JOMAR CANLAS AND  
NEIL JAYSON N. SERVALLOS**



# Rody zaps Trillanes freedom

## *Noy-granted amnesty void ab initio*

Admission of guilt is very important. He did not admit to his wrongdoings. Just because someone became senator doesn't mean he can escape the charges

By **Mario J. Mallari, Kristina Maralit and Alvin Murcia**

documents required for his pardon.

From Israel where he is on a state visit, President Duterte yesterday voided the amnesty earlier given by his predecessor to Sen. Antonio Trillanes, his chief critic who vowed to fight the proclamation order nullifying his liberty for his alleged failure to submit the most basic of

Trillanes was condoned of his crimes for leading a *coup de'etat* against a sitting Chief Executive by former President Benigno Simeon "Noynoy" Aquino in 2011, a political ally against another former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, subject of the two failed putsches which Trillanes led.

But Malacañang's legal minds said Trillanes failed to submit a written request for his amnesty, reason for Mr. Duterte to void the presidential pardon issued by Aquino.

While in Israel, President Duterte signed Proclamation 572 revoking Aquino's pardon of the former Magdalo coup plotter.

Also, an alias warrant against Trillanes is now being prepared by the Department of Justice, according to Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra, who added that Trillanes cannot use his legislative immunity from suit in order to prevent his arrest and

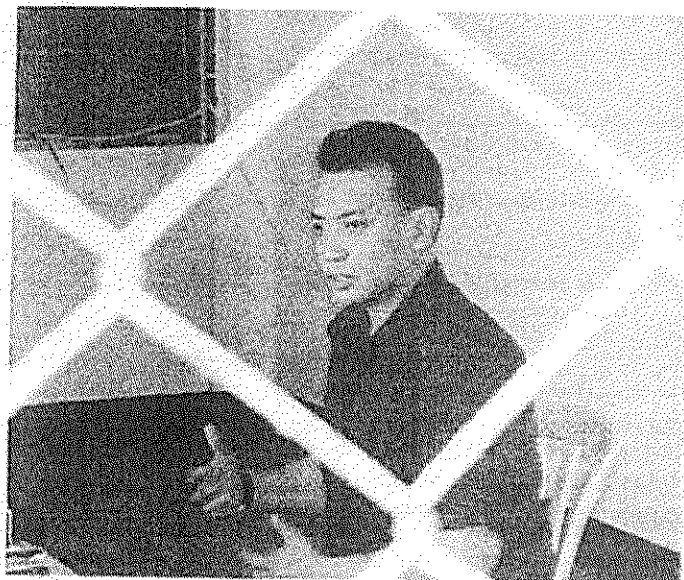
incarceration.

The *coup d'etat* case that was filed against the senator is a non-bailable offence and has a penalty of life imprisonment if found guilty as charged, Guevarra said.

The senator will be detained at Camp Aguinaldo where he was formerly held prior to the granting of amnesty after his arrest.

The documents for the request are being prepared before the DoJ formally asks the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148 to issue the warrant.

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TRILLANES while under detention at the Navy stockade.

FILE PHOTO

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Guevarra clarified that the order to arrest Trillanes was relayed to the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police. They were ordered to bring him to where he was incarcerated in 2011.

He said the burden of proving that he met requirements for amnesty lies with Senator Antonio Trillanes.

Guevarra explained that while Mr. Duterte's proclamation is a "revocation" of the amnesty by title, the text clearly stated that it nullified the amnesty, rendering it void from the moment it was issued.

He said while the title indicates a revocation, the contents of the proclamation shows that it actually nullified the amnesty as if it never existed.

It was set aside and it's a declaration that it was void from the start, Guevarra said.

**It is not political persecution. He (Trillanes) was the one responsible for the Oakwood mutiny, he was the one behind Manila Peninsula (siege). He is the one responsible for his current state.**

The justice chief also explained the senator failed to comply with two requirements for an amnesty: a formal application under oath and an admission of guilt.

Guevarra also emphasized that the review of the amnesty given to Trillanes has been there for some time and that the decision to issue the proclamation did not happen overnight, though he has no information on what prompted the review.

#### Court Martial

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), meanwhile, said it is preparing the formation of a General Court Martial to hear the charges against Trillanes.

Lieutenant General Salvador Mison issued the order, this was revealed by AFP Spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo.

"The acting AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Salvador Mison, Jr. has instructed the reconvening of the General Court Martial that shall be hearing the case of Lt. Trillanes."

From Israel, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque maintained that President Duterte is merely enforcing the law when he rescinded the amnesty granted to Trillanes IV.

He said it is political persecution.

"It is not political persecution. He (Trillanes) was the one responsible for the Oakwood mutiny, he was the one behind Manila Peninsula (siege). He is the one responsible for his current state," Roque Jr. told members of the Philippine media delegation during a news briefing.

The President issued Proclamation 572, published in a newspaper on 4 September, revoking amnesty to Trillanes, then a



Philippine Navy officer involved in coup attempts 15 years ago.

The pardon, it said, was *ab initio* or voided from the beginning because the former military man failed to meet the requisites for amnesty, among them his admission of guilt.

"Admission of guilt is very important. He did not admit to his wrongdoings. Just because someone became senator doesn't mean he can escape the charges," Roque stated.

"If a case is declared void *ab initio*, it is the President's duty to rescind the decision and enforce the law. Even the previous administration should have known that admission (of guilt) and concurrence are prerequisites to granting an amnesty. It is not undoing the amnesty granted by the former President (Noyonoy Aquino) because it was never valid," he added.

Roque said the proclamation applies only to the senator and the revival and review of all charges filed against him - and his fellow Magdalo soldiers - will soon follow.

Roque also refuted allegations that Mr. Duterte's decision was due to Trillanes' role as an opposition critic of the country's leader.

#### 'Enforcing the law'

"That is not true. Like I said, this is just the President

Malacañang's legal minds said Trillanes failed to submit a written request for his amnesty, reason for Mr. Duterte to void the presidential pardon issued by Aquino

enforcing the law. It was two years in the offing," Roque said.

"As a former prosecutor, he (President Duterte) knows the full force of the law must be enforced. The government assures Sen. Trillanes that he will be given his day in court," Roque said.

Trillanes vowed to face Duterte and claimed he had no plans of leaving the country.

He did not surrender to authorities, however.

To avoid arrest and as a matter of policy to preserve the dignity of the Senate as an institution, the Upper Chamber took custody of Trillanes.

"Basically, I was placed under the custody of the Senate President until my lawyers are able to file the necessary petitions before the Supreme

Court," Trillanes said.

"The assurance of the Senate President is that for as long as I am here at the Senate premises, he will not allow any arrest," he added. Trillanes was still at the Senate premises at the time of this printing.

Trillanes made the announcement after a brief meeting with his fellow opposition senators, led by Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon and Senate President Vicente "Tito" Sotto.

Sotto said he is not taking the president's revocation of Trillanes' amnesty as an attack against the Senate.

"The President is exercising his prerogative," Sotto said. "But we have not allowed Sen. Trillanes' arrest within the Senate premises."

As a practical remedy, we have requested the Senate President that the Senate take custody of Senator Trillanes pending remedies in our regular courts.

Drilon, however, maintained that Trillanes is not under arrest.

"Certainly, the Senate President did not arrest Senator Trillanes. The Senate President and the Senate will uphold the dignity of the Senate. We have to protect the institution by resisting any unwarranted and

unlawful acts against a member of the Senate," Drilon said.

#### 'Warrantless arrest'

Drilon explained that the Senate custody of Trillanes does not depend on the session of Congress. "The custody is defined by the boundaries of the building. The custody is when you voluntarily submit to the custody of another person," he said.

Trillanes cried "warrantless arrest" over the attempt by joint elements of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to take him. This despite his earlier claim that he will respect the arresting officers.

"This is a warrantless arrest that is clear. The arresting officers have no warrant because in the warrant, the specific case is stated and the (recommended) bail. In this case, there is none," Trillanes said.

Drilon cited a constitutional provision that states (Trillanes) cannot be arrested while Congress is in session and when the case is punishable with less than six years imprisonment.

"Under the Constitution he cannot be arrested while congress is in session, except for crimes which the penalty is beyond six years, in this particular case

there is even no case. So with more reason that the constitutional protection will apply," Drilon explained.

"As a practical remedy, we have requested the Senate President that the Senate take custody of Senator Trillanes pending remedies in our regular courts," he added.

The minority

leader lauded Sotto for accommodating the opposition's request.

"In fairness to Senator Sotto, even before we came in, he had already directed the Sergeant at Arms not to allow the arresting officers to come into the premises," Drilon shared.

To avoid arrest, Trillanes should not leave the Senate premises.

The presidential proclamation, however, provoked opposition from other legal experts with constitutionalist and former

Solicitor General Florin Hilbay claiming President Duterte could not commit a unilateral act of voiding Trillanes' amnesty by his predecessor Aquino.

Aquino, elected president in 2010 after Macapagal-Arroyo's extended nine-year term, set Trillanes free after his reelection as senator following two campaigns launched from the military stockade where he was confined for leading two coups in 2003 and 2007.

# Trillanes vows to void 'stupid EO'

By Rio N. Araja, Macon  
Ramos-Araneta, Rey E.  
Requejo and Maricel  
V. Cruz

SENATOR Antonio Trillanes IV told reporters on Tuesday he has instructed his lawyers to study ways "to void this stupid executive order" of President Rodrigo Duterte revoking his amnesty for a failed coup attempt over a decade ago, adding it "has no basis whatsoever." *Next page*

## Trillanes..

From A1

"This is a clear case of political persecution, but I will not cower. There's a time for reckoning for you and your minions," he added in a written statement.

The political opposition also chimed in, with Vice President Leni Robredo saying Duterte just wanted to silence his detractors and to hide the problems besetting the country.

"There must be no politics here at the time when our fellow countrymen are faced with so many problems, such as hunger, poverty and lack of employment. As elected public officials, we are given the trust and authority to look for solutions, instead of pushing for our personal interests," she said.

"We call on the [Duterte] administration to recognize the amnesty granted to Senator Trillanes and stop wasting the [people's] money and time on feuds," Robredo added.

Trillanes said Duterte and his allies were making themselves look stupid simply to get rid of him, and dismissed their claim that he had not complied with the requirements of his amnesty.

"This is a big stupidity. I would not be given amnesty if I did not comply with the requirements. I vowed before former [Defense] Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and defense officials can attest to this, so absolutely, these were all complied in the cases in civilian courts," Trillanes told reporters in an interview as he demanded the basis for his arrest.

During the session, Trillanes delivered a privilege speech blasting the cancellation of his amnesty.

Trillanes presented a video showing that he filed his amnesty application and media interviews wherein he admitted that he, along with other Magdalo soldiers, "broke the rules in pursuit of moral cause."

"It is clear from the video that I swore

under oath in this application, admitted being guilty based on the application form provided by the Department of National Defense [DND]," said Trillanes as he emphasized that his amnesty certification passed through a process.

He said a 15-day period was given for any oppositor to file a motion for reconsideration. Since no objection was made, he said, the grant of amnesty is final.

He further showed a copy of court ruling from the regional trial court where his rebellion charge was dismissed. He said his criminal charge for coup d'etat was also thrown out by the court.

He reiterated his question involving the basis for his arrest. He also argued there can be no lawful arrest as indicated by the President to the PNP and Armed Forces of the Philippines due to the absence of an arrest warrant.

"What crime? What court? This is the biggest stupidity he [President] did for this day," Trillanes said.

He also thanked the Senate leadership under Senate President Vicente Sotto III and his colleagues for expressing their concern in his case. "We will be stronger if we unite," he said.

But Trillanes said he applied for amnesty and complied with all the requirements.

Trillanes blamed Solicitor General Jose Calida for the move to revoke his amnesty, saying he wanted to stop a Senate investigation into lucrative government deals that his security firm had bagged.

He branded Duterte a coward for letting Calida do his dirty work.

Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto also said Trillanes IV was granted amnesty, not by one person but by the 11,189,671 people who voted for him.

Recto said Trillanes should be granted every opportunity to challenge the revocation of the amnesty in complete freedom.

With AFP

# Trillanes amnesty voided

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR  
AND ASHZEL HACHERO

PRESIDENT Duterte has voided the grant of amnesty to Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, a former Navy lieutenant who was among leaders of a mutiny 15 years ago, for allegedly failing to comply with requirements for the clemency, including admitting guilt.

He also ordered Trillanes' arrest.

The President signed on August 31 Proclamation Order 572 which revoked Resolution No. 2 (#1) that was issued by an ad hoc committee of the Department of National Defense on Jan. 31, 2011. The resolution granted amnesty to then lieutenant senior grade Trillanes who was then facing several charges including coup d'etat.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevara said based on the Proclamation 572, Trillanes failed to comply with the requirements for amnesty grant, which are to apply for amnesty and admit one's guilt.

Proclamation No. 572 also instructed the Department of Justice and the Armed Forces "to pursue all criminal and administrative cases" filed against Trillanes in connection with the July 2003 Oakwood Mutiny, the February 2006 Marines stand-off, and the Manila Peninsula "siege" in November 2007.

The incidents all happened under the administration of former President now Speaker Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, an ally of Presi-

dent Duterte.

Trillanes, Duterte's most vocal opponent, has accused him of hiding wealth, and has supported petitions to the International Criminal Court seeking his indictment over the alleged murders of thousands of suspected criminals and drug dealers.

Trillanes filed his amnesty application on Jan. 5, 2011 and this was widely covered by the media. He took an oath before Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin after his application was approved by a DND-AFP amnesty committee.

In the application, Trillanes and the other applicants admitted that their act constituted a violation of the 1987 Constitution, criminal laws and the Articles of War.

Proclamation 572 directed the Armed Forces and the PNP to "employ all lawful means to apprehend" Trillanes so he can be committed to the detention facility where he had been incarcerated for him to stand trial for the crimes he is charged with.

"The grant of amnesty to former Lt. (sg.) Antonio Trillanes IV under Proclamation No. 75 is declared void ab initio because he did not comply with the minimum requirements to qualify under the Amnesty Proclamation," the proclamation said.

Trillanes was granted amnesty through Proclamation No. 75 issued by President Benigno Aquino

III in November 2010. Proclamation 75 grants amnesty to active and former police and military personnel and their supporters, who have committed crimes punishable under the Revised Penal Code, the Articles of War, and other laws in connection with the Oakwood Mutiny, Marines standoff, and Manila Peninsula incident.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque, in a briefing in Israel where the President is on official visit, said politics had nothing to do with the issuance of the proclamation voiding the amnesty grant, and the President was just implementing the law.

He said the decision on Trillanes' case was reached after about two years since the Duterte government started a review of decisions and issuances issued by the previous Aquino administration.

He said in a mix of Filipino and English: "This has been two years in the offing, and they first had to find the records. They had to make sure that Trillanes does not really have an application and had not admitted his guilt. Second, there was also maximum tolerance being applied on Senator Trillanes. But in the end, it is the job of the President to implement the laws; and when a grant of amnesty is void ab initio, it's part of the role of the President to rescind it or declare it as void ab initio."

## 'NOT MISSING'

Roque said based on AFP records certified by Lt. Col. Thea Joan Andrade of Discipline, Law and Order Division of the Office of the AFP's Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, "there is no available copy of the application" of Trillanes for amnesty.

Asked if this means that Trillanes' application was missing,

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Roque said it is not missing because there was none.

Asked about media footages showing Trillanes submitting his application for amnesty, Roque said government goes by official records.

He also said it was not only Trillanes' case that is being reviewed but also of others who received amnesty.

Roque expressed belief the amnesty grant was a political accommodation to Trillanes.

"Let's say that the amnesty granted to him was political. He was friendly with the previous administration that is why he was granted amnesty, without compliance with the requirements set by law," he said.

Defense department spokesman Arsenio Andolong said it is the first time an amnesty was withdrawn.

Told that Trillanes went to Camp Aguinaldo to fill up the amnesty application form and there was admission of guilt, Andolong said: "Per records of the DND and AFP, the application is not available at the moment. We're still looking for them."

"The certification issued on that day, on that hour, that they are not available. But it does not mean that we have ceased all our efforts to find them... We are still looking for the documents," said Andolong.

#### VOID AB INITIO

Guevarra, in a briefing, explained Proclamation 572.

"It's as if the amnesty never existed, never been valid. It is a declaration that it was void from the beginning, from the moment it was issued," he said.

"There is no time element here or a prescriptive period since from the very beginning, the amnesty is void ab initio," he also said.

Guevarra also said while the Constitution states that the Presi-

dent has the power to grant amnesty with the concurrence of all members of Congress, there is no need for the concurrence of Congress in Duterte's proclamation because the amnesty was void ab initio.

Guevarra also said the review on the amnesty "might have been studied in the past by the Office of the Solicitor General and the review of the granting of the amnesty "probably came from OSG lawyers and Malacañang lawyers.

"This matter of review has been there for quite some time, it's not as if it happened for five days ago. I think this is being discussed a couple of years ago, as far back as 2013," he further said.

Asked if the amnesty granted to other members of the Magdalo group that staged the Oakwood mutiny would also be declared void, he said: "For now the proclamation only covers him but I believe that maybe others who might be similarly situated are, also their applications are also being reviewed. Not too sure about that but since there is a review ongoing it might include not only Senator Trillanes but also the others."

#### COURT MARTIAL

The Armed Forces has ordered the convening of a general court martial that will try Trillanes.

In a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo, AFP spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said Trillanes will be tried by the military tribunal for violation of Article of War 96 or conduct unbecoming of an officer and a gentleman.

Arevalo said the voiding of Trillanes' amnesty reverted him to the status of a Navy lieutenant subject to military regulation.

Trillanes, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1995, and hundreds of military officers and enlisted men were de-

trained and tried by a military court in connection with the failed Oakwood mutiny.

He was also involved in the Manila Peninsula case in November 2007 and was charged with rebellion before a Makati City.

Trillanes and many others involved in the plots to oust Arroyo availed themselves of the amnesty proclamation issued by Aquino, erasing the crime against the coup plotters.

Arevalo said the court martial proceedings against Trillanes were stopped because of a "supervening event," referring to the amnesty grant.

"Now that the amnesty was revoked ab initio, meaning from the beginning, he will be reverted to his status as active military personnel subject to military law and discipline," Arevalo also said.

"The court martial will have to be reconstituted because some its members have already retired. In which case, the acting AFP chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Salvador Mison Jr., has already instructed the convening of a general court martial that shall be hearing the case of Lt. Trillanes," added Arevalo.

Arevalo said the Office of the Solicitor General inquired from the office of the AFP deputy chief of staff for the amnesty papers of Trillanes. "They do not have a copy of it (application) on file," he said.

Copies of Trillanes' amnesty application spread on the internet yesterday.

"If the senator decides to present that as part of his defense, we are more than welcome to see it," Arevalo said.

"He can use that to validate his claim that he submitted an application and we're perfectly willing to verify if the document is authentic... It will be subject to authentication and of course he can use that to validate his (defense)," said Andolong. - *With Victor Reyes and Reuters*

## Trillanes cries 'persecution'; placed under Senate custody

BY JP LOPEZ

SEN. Antonio Trillanes IV was placed under the protective custody of Senate President Vicente Sotto III yesterday, hours after Malacañang declared as void the amnesty granted to him by former President Benigno Aquino III in 2011.

"It was agreed by the Senate leadership that I remain under the custody of the Senate President until my lawyers have filed the nec-

essary petition against the illegal and unconstitutional revocation of my amnesty," Trillanes said after a meeting with Sotto and Senate minority leader Franklin Drilon.

"What Mr. Duterte wants to happen is to order a warrantless arrest which seems to declare a de facto martial law," he added.

Trillanes decried the Palace proclamation voiding his amnesty as a "clear case of political persecution."

"Mr. Duterte, *o'wag ka. Inantay*

*mo pang malaalis ka bago mo nilabas itong proclamation mo.* (Mr. Duterte, you are a coward. You waited until you have left before you made your proclamation public.) This is a clear case of political persecution, but I will not cower. There's a time for reckoning for you and your minions," he said.

The senator called Duterte's proclamation as a "big joke" and insisted he complied with

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## TRILLANES

all requirements when he was granted amnesty in 2010.

He said that when he filed his application for amnesty, he even took his oath in front of then officials of the Department of National Defense led by former defense secretary Voltaire Gazmin.

He added all cases filed against him in connection with the Oakwood Hotel occupation in 2003 and the Manila Peninsula Hotel siege in 2007 have been dismissed by a Makati court on the basis of his amnesty.

"My amnesty was granted after all requirements have been complied with. I even took oath in front of then defense officials. All my cases covered by the amnesty have been dismissed," Trillanes said.

While under Senate custody, Trillanes said he will remain at the premises of the Senate.

He said his lawyers will file the necessary petition before the Supreme Court and question Duterte's Proclamation 572, which states that the amnesty extended to him was void from the start because he did not comply with the "minimum requirements to qualify under the amnesty proclamation."

Members of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group arrived at the Senate grounds at around 10 a.m. but failed to enter the building on orders of Sotto.

Sotto said "the matter concerning one of our colleagues will have to be discussed by the Senate as a collegial body."

Sotto, in a text message to reporters, said all senators backed his decision not to allow the arrest of Trillanes within the Senate premises.

"(They) unanimously support my position," Sotto said when asked for an update on the all-senator caucus held on Tuesday afternoon.

Sotto said he has directed the Sergeant-at-Arms not to allow the arrest of any senator within its premises to preserve the dignity of the Senate.

Sotto also said Trillanes can stay in the Senate as long as he wants but probably with "some limitations," which he said senators will "take up later depending on how the courts will decide on his warrant of arrest."

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has already asked the Makati

City regional trial court to issue an alias warrant of arrest and a hold departure order (HDO) against Trillanes.

Senators denounced Duterte's proclamation was meant to stifle dissent.

Drilon said the arrest of Trillanes has no basis and that the correctness of the amnesty granted to him has already been ruled by the court.

"All questions were ruled upon by the court when it dismissed the case. So there is no case today," he said. "If they want to file another case, first, they must go to court and file another case, and execute a warrant, if warranted."

He, however, said Trillanes can no longer be charged for the same offense because of the double jeopardy principle.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said Proclamation 75, which granted amnesty to the Trillanes in 2010, was concurred in by Congress.

"It could not be easily set aside by the whim of one man. The Constitution provides that an amnesty proclamation requires the concurrence of both Houses of Congress and therefore, the said revocation requires our concurrence and is therefore not immediately executory," Pangilinan said.

"Absent our concurrence, any arrest is illegal. We urge the Armed Forces and the PNP not to enforce an illegal arrest," he also said.

Sen. Risa Hontiveros echoed Pangilinan's position.

"While the Executive has the power to grant amnesty, it must have the concurrence of a majority of all the members of Congress. The same goes with revocation," she said in a statement.

Sen. Paolo Benigno Aquino IV said the opposition will not back down amid threats from the administration.

Senate Majority Leader Ralph Recto said Trillanes was granted amnesty by when 11,189,671 Filipinos voted for him when he sought a Senate seat in 2007 while in detention.

"When I lost my 2007 re-election bid, one of the first congratulatory calls I made was to the detained Sonny Trillanes. In my mind, here was a guy who, without setting one foot out of prison, was granted amnesty, not by one person but by 11,189,671 people," Recto said.

"When he won the reelection in 2013, more people - 14,127,722 million this time - affirmed that the absolution earlier bestowed on him

was right," he added.

"If he had committed offenses after Peninsula, if he had broken any law since, then the right course is to charge him, and not to nullify an amnesty that he applied for, recommended by the military, granted to him by the President, and concurred in by Congress," he added.

Trillanes' fellow mutineer, Rep. Gary Alejano (PL, Magdaño) said the development was a clear political persecution of members of the opposition and warned he might be the government's next target because of his vocal criticisms of the administration.

Alejano said no presidential proclamation can nullify an amnesty that has an effect of an existing law as concurred in by Congress.

"We expect that they (administration) will do everything (to silence the opposition)," he told reporters. "If we can no longer speak up, what more if you are just an ordinary citizen?"

Alejano said he is ready to face the threat of arrest if Duterte also revokes the amnesty granted to him in connection with his participation in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

"They might do the same thing to me but I'm not worried. We will and stand up to it and find legal remedies," he said. "We will not turn our back from our responsibilities. It's clear that the government only wants to silence dissent."

He said the administration is apparently going after its critics, citing the arrest of Sen. Leila De Lima and the ouster of former chief justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno.

Alejano said that contrary to the lies that the administration is spreading about the reasons for the cancellation of the amnesty granted to Trillanes, there was an application form filed before the defense department, including an admission of guilt, and cited a video taken in 2011 at the DND premises showing a copy of Trillanes' application for amnesty.

With regard to the admission of guilt, he said the video also recorded Trillanes saying: "We are man enough to admit that we committed mistakes... We faced the consequences... It was easy for us to do that."

"Members of (the) Magdaño who were also present at that time could attest to this," Alejano said.

Rep. Edcel Lagman (LP, Al-

bay), a leader of the opposition bloc at the House, said Aquino's Proclamation No. 75 issued on November 24, 2010 and which was concurred in by Congress under Concurrent Resolution No. 4 on December 13 and 14, 2010 does not provide for any revocation clause.

"Consequently, the reported revocation by President Rodrigo Duterte of the amnesty granted to Sen. Antonio Trillanes has no legal and factual basis," Lagman said.

He added that since a presidential declaration of amnesty needs the concurrence of the majority of all the members of both the House and the Senate pursuant to section 19 of Article VII of the Constitution, any revocation, if at all allowable, needs the same congressional concurrence.

"Amnesty, which obliterates past offenses, is final, absolute, and irrevocable unlike a presidential conditional pardon. Alleged present transgressions of a grantee are immaterial and do not militate against the grant of amnesty," he said.

Vice President Leni Robredo slammed the Palace decision and said this was "another proof" that Duterte was bent on silencing his critics.

"Ang desisyon ng Palasyo na ideklarang void ang amnestiyang binigay kay Senator Antonio Trillanes IV ay isa namang patunay na gagawin ng administrasyong ito ang lahat para patahimikin ang sinumang kumokontra rito (The decision of the Palace to declare void the amnesty granted to Senator Antonio Trillanes IV is another proof that this administration will do everything to silence all those who oppose it)," Robredo said.

Robredo questioned the timing of the Palace announcement, alleging the matter was made public to distract the public's attention from the country's problems such as continuing rise in prices of commodities, the ongoing rice crisis, corruption allegations being faced by several officials, and worsening traffic situation.

Meanwhile, Commission on Human Rights (CHR) chair Chito Gascon shared the position of other legal luminaries that once a presidential amnesty is granted, it could not be revoked.

He vowed to look study the revocation of the amnesty granted to the opposition senator. — With Wendell Vigilia and Angela de Leon

## DU30: 'War is insanity'

TEL AVIV, Israel – Following an apology for an earlier Hitler remark, President Rodrigo Duterte said "Never Again" to a repeat of the world's ugly history.

The Chief Executive likened himself to Adolf Hitler two years ago, a remark that resonated negatively to the Jewish community and has since apologized for before he visited Yad Vashem - a memorial dedicated to preserving the memory of those who bravely fought Hitler and perished in the Holocaust.

The President brought with him his daughter, Sara Duterte-Carpio, the Davao City mayor whose mother Elizabeth Zimmerman belonged to a family of Jewish settlers in the Philippines.

"I cannot speak for how my daughter feels now, but she is one of those generations that came after," Mr. Duterte said, referring to his children's Jewish roots. Zimmerman was Duterte's first wife by whom he had three children - two sons and Duterte-Carpio.

*Turn to page 6*

# DU30: 'War is insanity'

Duterte said his earlier comment was aimed at critics who likened him to the Nazi leader and was not meant to offend the Jewish nation and community

*From page 1*

But his statement likening himself to Hitler dogged the President who received rebuke from some leaders and politicians halfway through his historic visit to Israel.

The Philippine leader atoned for his mistake by visiting the Yad Vashem and the Hall of Remembrance where he said everyone must learn from the

terrors of the Holocaust, adding: "War is insanity."

"I could not imagine a country obeying an insane leader. And I could not ever fathom the spectacle of a human being going into a killing spree, murdering old men, women, children, mothers," the President stated.

He added visiting Yad Vashem had a deeper meaning for Sara, whose mother Zimmerman came from a Jewish family that fled

Nazi Germany and found refuge in the Philippines.

The country opened its doors to more than a thousand refugees from Germany and Austria during the Holocaust in World War II.

The Chief Executive toured the rest of the museum and wrapped the visit up by offering a wreath in the Children's Memorial.

Before leaving Yad Vashem, the President wrote a dedication in the guest book that read: "Never again. May the world learn the lesson of this horrific and benighted period of human history. May the hearts of the peoples around the world remain

ever open. And may the minds of all men and women learn to work together toward providing a safe haven for all who are being persecuted."

Earlier in the day, Mr. Duterte had a monumental first meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Philippine leader atoned for his mistake by visiting the Yad Vashem and the Hall of Remembrance where he said everyone must learn from the terrors of the Holocaust.

During the face-to-face that lasted a few hours, the President expressed how Israel and the Philippines "share the same passion of peace" and thanked Israel for giving "critical help" in freeing Marawi City from the hands of the ISIS-inspired Maute Group.

The President also said he is grateful to Israel for hosting some 28,000 Filipino workers.

Duterte said his earlier comment was aimed at critics who likened him to the Nazi leader and was not meant to offend the Jewish nation and community.

# Past chases chief mutineer

President Duterte signed Presidential Proclamation 572, invalidating the grant of amnesty to Trillanes for failure to comply with its minimum requirements

The ghost of the failed Oakwood Mutiny continues to haunt Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

On 27 July 2008 the Magdalo rebel soldier's group occupied the Oakwood Premier hotel in Makati with explosives to protest the alleged corruption in the administration of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The soldiers disarmed the security guards and planted explosives around the

building and its vicinity.

Trillanes was designated as the spokesman for the rebel group.

While the rebel soldiers initially refused to heed the initial 5 p.m. deadline given by Malacañang to vacate the premises, they later capitulated and agreed to return to their barracks around 10 p.m. the same day and the rebellion was declared over by 11 p.m.

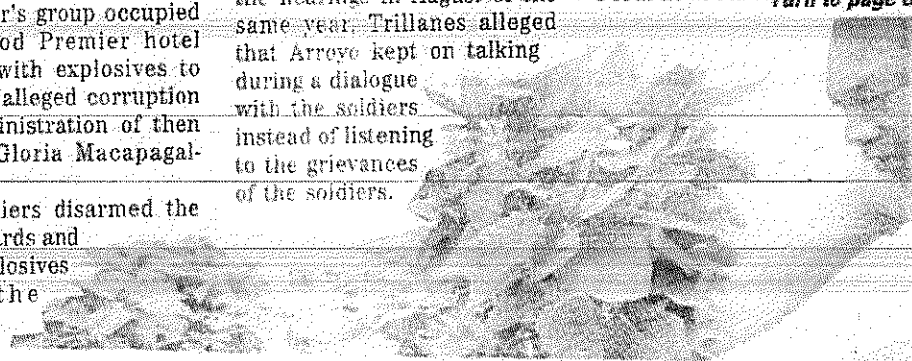
The rebel soldiers were charged and tried in a general court martial. During one of the hearings in August of the same year Trillanes alleged that Arroyo kept on talking during a dialogue with the soldiers instead of listening to the grievances of the soldiers.

More than a year after the mutiny, Trillanes and the Magdalo leaders ate humble pie and apologized for the failed rebellion.

Trillanes was seen on national television being manhandled by a police official, dragging him into a bus by his belt buckle.

On 24 September 2004, Trillanes, along with five other alleged ringleaders of the 2003 uprising - Army Captains Gerardo Gamba and Migs

Turn to page 6



# Past chases chief mutineer

There was no available copy of Trillanes' application for amnesty in the records.

## From page 1

Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo, Navy Lieutenant James Layng and Marine Captains Gary Alejano — gave a salute to President Arroyo during an event at Camp Aguinaldo.

The next month, Arroyo ordered 133 of the 321 soldiers freed, saying they were deceived by their officers into joining the mutiny.

In 2007, Trillanes capitalized on his media exposure during the failed mutiny and the court martial proceedings to run for the Senate and eventually won in the 14 May 2007 elections after campaigning inside his

detention cell at the Philippine Marines headquarters at Fort Bonifacio through an emerging social media platform.

But on 29 November of the same year, Trillanes and other rebel soldiers walked out of their hearing at the Makati Regional Trial Court and tried and took over a portion of the Manila Peninsula hotel to demand Arroyo's resignation.

Trillanes and his cohorts were foiled again when soldiers and policemen, using tanks, breached the rebel soldiers' stronghold inside the hotel and arrested them.

Trillanes was seen on national

television being manhandled by a police official, dragging him into a bus by his belt buckle.

On 24 November 2010 then President Benigno Aquino III issued Proclamation 75 granting amnesty to all rebel soldiers and policemen involved in the Oakwood Mutiny and the Manila Peninsula takeover provided that they apply for it. Trillanes claimed he applied

**The proclamation said the senator was granted amnesty even if he did not file an Official Amnesty Application Form.**

for amnesty in January 2011 and was included in the list of officers

soldiers officially granted amnesty that same month.

But on 31 August 2018 President Duterte signed Presidential Proclamation 572 invalidating the grant of amnesty to Trillanes for failure, to comply with its minimum requirements.

The proclamation said the senator was granted amnesty even if he did not file an Official Amnesty Application Form. Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said an amnesty can only be granted if the person concerned filed an application in person and admitted his guilt.

A certification issued by Lt. Col. Thea Jordan Andrade, chief of the Discipline, Law and Order Division of the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel of the Armed

Forces of the Philippines, stated there was no available copy of Trillanes' application for amnesty in the records.

Guevarra also said Trillanes should "show proof he actually admitted guilt for such offenses."

Because of such legal flaws, presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the supposed amnesty granted to Trillanes was void *ab initio*.

# AMNESTY REVOKED

**PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte** has revoked the amnesty given to opposition Senator Antonio Trillanes IV in 2010 in connection with his involvement in unsuccessful attempts to overthrow the Arroyo administration.

Duterte's action was confirmed to the media yesterday by Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra.

The Department of Justice yesterday formally asked the Makati regional trial court to issue an alias warrant of arrest against the senator.

In a motion, the DoJ also asked Makati RTC Branch 48 to issue a hold departure order (HDO) preventing Trillanes from leaving the country.

Signed by Duterte on August 31, 2018, Proclamation No. 572 stated that the amnesty extended to Trillanes was void from the start because he did not comply with the "minimum requirements to qualify under the amnesty proclamation."

The President cited a certification from the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel that there is no available copy of Trillanes' application for amnesty.

Trillanes, a former Navy officer before entering politics in 2007, has also "never expressed his guilt" for the crimes committed in

line with the Oakwood Mutiny in 2003 and Manila Peninsula Siege in 2007, the proclamation said.

"Despite former LTSG (Lieutenant Senior Grade) Trillanes IV's failure to apply for amnesty and refusal to admit his guilt, his name was nonetheless included among those granted amnesty pursuant to Department of National Defense Ad Hoc Committee Resolution No. 2 approved by former Secretary of National Defense Voltaire T. Gazmin," the proclamation stated.

With the revocation of Trillanes' amnesty, Duterte directed the Department of Justice and Court Martial of the AFP to pursue all criminal and administrative cases filed against the senator in connection with the Oakwood and Manila Peninsula incidents.

The President also ordered the AFP and the Philippine National Police to arrest Trillanes "so that he can be recommitted to the detention facility where he had been incarcerated for him to stand trial for crimes he is charged with."

"The proclamation shall take effect immediately," the document stated.

Trillanes and the other Magdalo soldiers were able to avail of amnesty by virtue of Proclamation 75, issued in November 2010 by then President Benigno

Aquino III.

## No politics

Malacañang denied politics was behind the decision of President Duterte to void the amnesty given to Senator Trillanes, one of his staunchest critics.

"There is nothing political. These are all his acts," presidential spokesperson Harry Roque Jr. said at a news conference in Israel, where Duterte is on official visit.

"It's two years in the offing. There was maximum tolerance shown but when it was confirmed na walang compliance with the requirements set forth for the amnesty wala naman pong alternatibo ang Presidente but to execute the laws. Trabaho lang po."

Roque also said the government will check if other mutineers are similarly situated.

Trillanes has branded as a political persecution the move of Duterte to void his amnesty. He also insisted that he applied for amnesty and complied with all the requirements.

Roque said Trillanes may challenge the President's proclamation before the courts.

## Trillanes in Senate building

Trillanes is set to camp out in the Senate Building which was being guarded outside by agents of the Philippine National Police

(PNP) who are tasked to arrest him.

Trillanes bared that the Senate minority bloc and Senate President Vicente "Tito" Sotto III agreed that he will be under Senate custody while he is pursuing legal action against the revocation of his amnesty.

"It was agreed to by the Senate leadership that I remain under the custody of the Senate President until my lawyers have filed the necessary petition against the illegal and unconstitutional revocation of my amnesty. What Mr. Duterte wants to happen is to order a warrantless arrest which seems to declare a de facto martial law," Trillanes said to the media.

The ally of Trillanes, Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano, is ready to face the revocation of his amnesty.

"I am not dismissing the possibility that the amnesty granted to me can also be revoked given the power-tripping that the Duterte administration is resorting to. Hindi ako natatakot at handa kami sa anumang mangyayari dahil alam naming kami ay nasa tama," Alejano said.

Describing it as arbitrary and illegal, Alejano said the revocation of amnesty granted to Trillanes "has no basis at all."

**El Montano, Hector Lawas, Marlon Purificacion, Jester P. Manalastas**



# Palace revokes Trillanes' amnesty

By GENALYN KABILING  
• JEFFREY DAMICOG

It will be back to the police detention facility for Senator Antonio Trillanes IV after President Duterte has revoked the amnesty granted to him in connection with two attempts to overthrow the Arroyo administration.

In Proclamation No. 572, the President declared the amnesty given to Trillanes in 2010 as "void ab initio" since he failed to apply for such amnesty and did not admit guilt for the crimes committed.

"The grant of amnesty to former LTSG Antonio Trillanes IV under Proclamation No. 75 is declared void ab initio because he did not comply with the minimum requirements to qualify under the Amnesty Program," the proclamation read.

As a consequence, the President has authorized the arrest and prosecution of Trillanes for his involvement in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny and the 2007 Manila Peninsula Hotel siege against the administration of then President Gloria Arroyo.

Duterte ordered the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) "to pursue all criminal and administrative cases" against Trillanes in relation to the two incidents.

The Philippine National Police and the AFP have also been directed "to employ all lawful means to apprehend" Trillanes "so he could be recommitted to the detention facility where he had been incarcerated for him to stand trial for the crimes he is charged with."

In this connection, the Department of Justice filed before the Makati Regional Trial Court yesterday a motion to reopen the cases and issue an alias warrant and hold departure order against Trillanes.

"After proper review of the records of this case, we have determined that is something is ripe for reopening, that there are grounds to reopen

the case," Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said.

Acting Prosecutor General Richard Anthony Fadullon disclosed that Makati RTC Branch 148 Judge Oscar Pimentel was set to promulgate a decision in 2010, but the promulgation was suspended after defense lawyers filed manifestations that all 31 accused have sought amnesty.

After Pimentel retired in 2010 and Judge Andres Soriano took over, Fadullon said that the court approved the list submitted by the Amnesty Commission in 2013.

The list did not include Trillanes, according to Fadullon.

In 2010, then President Aquino issued Proclamation No. 75 granting amnesty to active and former military and policemen and their supporters involved in the Oakwood mutiny, Marines stand-off in 2006, and the Manila Peninsula incident.

Trillanes, a former Navy officer detained for seven years at the PNP custodial center pending his trial, was among the officers allowed to walk

free by Aquino.

In the latest proclamation, Duterte, however, pointed out that Trillanes did not file an official amnesty proclamation form required to avail of the program. "There is no available copy of his application for amnesty in the records," the proclamation read.

The same proclamation also noted that Trillanes "never expressed his guilt for the crimes that were committed on the Oakwood Mutiny and Peninsula Manila Hotel Siege.

"Despite former LTSG Trillanes IV's failure to apply for amnesty and refusal to admit his guilt, his name was nonetheless included among those granted amnesty pursuant to DND (Department of National Defense) Ad Hoc Committee Resolution No. 2 approved by former Secretary of National Defense Voltaire T. Gazmin," it said.

The proclamation, issued last Aug. 31, took effect immediately. The documented, published Tuesday, Sept. 4, on a newspaper, was later confirmed by Guevarra.

## 'Malaking kalokohan,' embattled senator cries

By HANNAH TORREGOZA

Senator Antonio Trillanes IV yesterday criticized Malacañang's move to revoke the amnesty granted to him by the Aquino government in January 2010, saying it was a clear case of political persecution.

"Ito ay isang malaking kalokohan. Alam nyo, di naman ako bibigyan ng amnesty kung di ako nag-comply sa mga requirements. Sumumpa ako kay former Secretary of Defense Voltaire Gazmin at mapapatotohanan yan ng mga DND (Department of National Defense) officials," Trillanes said.

"So absolutely complied lahat yan. Yung mga kaso sa civilian courts na-dismiss siya. So ngayon,

ano ngayon ang magiging basis ng pag-aresto?" Trillanes asked.

Trillanes remained at the Senate even after office hours after getting assurance from Senate President Vicente Sotto III that he would not be arrested

within its premises.

Sotto instructed the Senate sergeant-at-arms not to allow the arrest to take place in their premises unless Trillanes voluntarily surrenders.

The Senate leader, however, said that Trillanes' stay at the Senate would have limitations. He did not elaborate.

Facing the media, Trillanes said he would not be given amnesty if he was unable to comply with the requirements and filing an application form for amnesty.

The former navy lieutenant also said he also admitted his involvement in the unsuccessful attempts to overthrow the Arroyo administration in the July 2003 Oakwood Mutiny, the February 2006 Marines stand-off and the November 2007 Manila Peninsula siege.

Trillanes explained that the granting of an amnesty is an act of Congress and cannot be superseded by an Executive Order. **R**

"Hindi mo pwedeng bawin ang amnesty. Ano ba yun? I was already subjected to that nung nag-try ako tapos na-dismiss. Ano ngayon, ulitin yun? Ano ba yan? Magpaturo nga sila sa mga law students," he pointed out. (With report from Vanne Terrazola)

## Trillanes: Di puwedeng bawiin ang amnesty

Nina HANNAH L. TORREGOZA at GENALYN D. KABILING

Isa lang political persecution o harassment ang naging hakbang ng Malacañang sa ipinalabas nitong Proclamation No. 572 na nagpapawalang-bisa sa amnesty na ipinagkaloob ng Aquino administration noong Enero 2010 kay Senator Antonio Trillanes IV.

Ito ang naging pahayag ni Trillanes sa pagbawi ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa kanyang amnesty, sa bisa ng nasabing proklamasyon na nagsasabing "void

ab initio" ang amnestyang ipinagkaloob ni dating Pangulong Noynoy Aquino sa senador dahil hindi ito nakatupad sa mga requirements ng amnesty, at hindi rin inamin ang pagkakasala sa mga inilunsad na kudeta.

Dahil dito, ipinag-utos ni Duterte sa Department of Justice (DoJ) at sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) "to pursue all criminal and administrative cases" laban kay Trillanes kaugnay ng Oakwood Mutiny noong 2003 at Manila Peninsula siege noong 2007.

Inatasan din ng Presidente ang Philippine National Police (PNP) at ang militar "to employ all lawful means to apprehend" Trillanes "so he could be recommitted to the detention facility where he had been incarcerated for him to stand trial for the crimes he is charged with."

Agosto 31 pa pinirmahan ni Duterte ang nasabing proklamasyon, pero binigyang-diin ni Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra na kahapon lang napasakamay niya ang proklamasyon.

Nagsalita kahapon bago sinimulan ang imbestigasyon ng Senado sa umano'y conflict of interest ni Solicitor General Jose Calida nang makakuha ng P150-milyong kontrata sa pamahalaan ang pag-aari nitong security company, iginūt ni Trillanes na hindi siya bibigyan ng amnesty kung hindi siya nakatupad sa mga requirements.

Sinabi rin kahapon ni Trillanes na inamin na niya ang pagkakasangkot sa bigong pagpapabagsak sa administrasyon ni dating

Pangulong Gloria Macapagal Arroyo sa Oakwood Mutiny noong Hulyo 2003, ang Marines stand-off noong Pebrero 2006, at ang Manila Peninsula siege noong Nobyembre 2007.

"Ito ay isang malaking kalokohan. Alam n'yo 'di naman ako bibigyan ng amnesty kung 'di ako nag-comply sa mga requirements. Sumumpa ako kay former Secretary of Defense Voltaire Gazmin at mapapatotohanan 'yan ng mga DND (Department of National Defense) officials," pahayag nito.

"So, absolutely complied lahat 'yan. Yung mga kaso sa civilian courts na-dismiss siya. So ngayon, ano ngayon ang magiging basis ng pag-aresto?" ani Trillanes.

Ipinaliwanag din ni Trillanes na hakbangin ng Kongreso ang pagkaloob ng amnesty, at hindi ito maaaring ipawalang-bisa ng isang Executive Order.

"Hindi mo puwedeng bawiin ang amnesty. Ano ba 'yun? I was already subjected to that nung nag-try ako tapos na-dismiss. Ano ngayon, uulitin 'yun? Ano ba 'yan? Magpaturo nga sila sa mga law students," anang senador.

Gayunman, tinipal ni Trillanes na tatalima siya sa anumang magiging desisyon ng liderato ng Senado kaugnay ng nakatakdang pagpaparesto sa kanya.

"I will abide by the wisdom of Senate leadership and my lawyers are exhausting legal remedies to void this stupid executive order.

"Hindi ako magtatago, definitely. Sa akin lang, my lawyers are existing all legal remedies. I will abide by the Senate leadership kung darating sa punto na kailangan pumunta, magwo-walk in ako mismo.

"I will not resist arrest. I will not escape so harapin ko ito. Pero ang tanungin ni Mr. Duterte sa utak niya, pag dumating ang panahon niya, harapin ba niya?"

Taong 2010 nang makalaya sa PNP Custodial Center sa Camp Crame si Trillanes matapos ang pitong taong pagkapiit.

May ulat ni Beth Camia

## Trillanes arestuhin!

### - Digong *Amnesty* *binawi*

#### Nine RUDY ANDAL, DORIS FRANCHE at JOY CANTOS

Pinasaresto ni Pangulong Duterte sa Philippine National Police (PNP) at Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) si Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV matapos ipawalang-bisa nito ang ipinagkaloob na amnesty sa mambabatas ng nakaraang administrasyon.

Sa pamamagitan ng Proclamation No. 572 na inilagdaan ni Pangulong Duterte noong Agosto 31 ay binawi na ang Revocation of DND Adhoc Committee Resolution No. 2 na mapapatsang Enero 31, 2011 tung saan binigyan ng amnesty si Trillanes.

Ayon kay Justice Sec. Menardo Guevarra na nangangasiwa ngayon sa tanggapan ng Pangulo, hindi umano nakasunod sa requirements ng amnesty

si Trillanes kaya ni-revoke ang kanyang amnesty.

Sa Proclamation 572, sinasabing hindi nagnain ng isang Official Amnesty Application Form si Trillanes at wala silang makitang available record ng aplikasyon niya para sa amnesty.

"Former LTSG Antonio Trillanes IV...a grantee under Proclamation No. 75 did not file an Official Amnesty Application Form as per the Certification dated August 30, 2018...there is no available copy of his application for amnesty in the records," nakasaad sa Proclamation 572.

Binigyang-diin naman ni Guevarra, na lian sa naging batayan ng Proclamation 572 na nagpawalang-bisa sa ibinigay

na amnesty kay Trillanes ay dahil sa teknikalidad tulad ng hindi nito pag-apply ng amnesty at hindi pag-amin ng kanyang pagiging guilty noong July 2003 Oakwood mutiny, Marine stand-off noong February 2006 at Manila Peninsula siege noong 2007.

Nangangahulugan ito, an Guevarra na muling sasalang sa paglilitis si Trillanes sa military tribunal dahil hindi pa naman tapos ang kaso nito. Possible anyang sumailaim sa custody ng militar si Trillanes habang dumaraan sa court martial.

Samantala, inutos na ni AFP Vice Chief of Staff at acting Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Salvador Melchor Mison Jr., ang pagbuo ng Court Martial para isalang muli sa paglilitis si Trillanes.

Si Trillanes ay lilitisin muli sa paglabag sa Articles of War (AW) 96 conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentlemen at AW 97 conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline. Naaharap din ito sa kasong sedisyon at rebelyon.

Si Trillanes at iba pang Magdalo soldiers ay pinagkalooban ng amnesty ni dating Pangulong Noynoy Aquino noong 2010.

### *Trillanes hindi isinuko ng Senado*

Hindi isinuko ng Senado si Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV sa mga operatiba ng Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) na nagtungo kahapon sa Mataas na Kapulungan upang arestuhin ang senador.

Sa halip ay inilagay ito sa ilalim ng kustodiya ni Senate President Tito Sotto. Sinabi ni Trillanes na tiniyak sa kanya ni Sotto na hangga't nasa loob siya ng premises ng Senado ay hindi siya maaaring arestuhin.

Una nito, halos 50 tauhan ng CIDG at militar ang nagtungo sa Senate compound at sinasabing aaresto sana sa mambabatas.

Ang pagkustodiya sa senador ay nangangahulugan: umanong malaya itong makakapagtrabaho para sa sesyon, hearings at iba pang function, ngunit hindi maaaring umalis.

Ayon pa sa senador, sumumpa siya sa harap ni dating Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin at na-dismiss ang kanyang mga kaso maging sa mga civilian courts.

Idinagdag ng senador na kahit saang bahagi ng mundo ay walang binabawing amnesty kapag naipagkaloob na.

Idinagdag nito na hindi maaring bigyan ng amnesty kung wala siyang aplikasyon kaya maliwanag na isang kaso ng political persecution ang ginagawa sa kanya.

Idinagdag din ni Trillanes na ang amnesty ay isang "act of Congress" at hindi ito maaring mabalewala dahil lamang sa isang Executive Order.

Sinabi pa ni Trillanes na hindi siya natatakot kay Duterte na tinawag pa niyang duwag dahil ipinalabas ang proklamasyon labang nasa labas ito ng bansa. (Malou Escudero)

## COURT MARTIAL KAY TRILLANES, TULOY

**M**atapos na bawiin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang ipinagkaloob na amnesty kay Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV ng nakaraang administrasyon, muling isasalang sa paglilitis ang senador sa military court kaugnay ng mga naging kaso nito noon sa Hulyo 2003 Oakwood mutiny, Marine stand-off noong Pebrero 2006 at Manila Peninsula siege noong 2007.

Ito ang kinumpirma

kahapon ni government caretaker at Justice Secretary Meynardo Guevarra.

Ayon kay Guevarra, anumang oras ay puwedeng arestuhin si Trillanes sa sandaling magpalabas ang korte ng 'alias warrant' lutasin sa mambabatas.

Aniya, ilan sa mga naging ground ng revocation sa amnesty ni Sen. Trillanes ay ang hindi pagtugon nito sa mga requirements na itinatangkang kondisyon sa pagkaloob ng amnesty.

Nina RUDY ANDAL at JOY CANTOS

Halimbawa na rito ang hindi pag-amin ng kanyang pagiging guilty noong July 2003 Oakwood mutiny, Marine stand-off noong February 2006 at Manila Peninsula siege noong 2007.

Nangangahulgan ito ani Guevarra na muling sasalang sa paglilitis si Trillanes sa military court gayong hindi pa naman tapos ang kaso nito.

Idinagdag pa ni Guevarra, posibleng sumailalim sa custody ng militar habang dumaraan sa court martial.

Samantala, ganito rin ang naging pahayag sa press briefing sa Camp Aguinaldo ni AFP Spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo.

Ani Arevalo, dahil sa binawi na ang amnesty kay Trillanes, balik sa pagiging aktibong miyembro ng militar ang senador.

"The revocation of the amnesty issued by the President effects ab initio,

effectively bringing him back to his former status as military personnel. That being the case, he will again be subjected as he was subject of military regulation", patanyag ni Arevalo. **L**



# Robredo doubts warehouse raids will solve hoarding by rice traders

By RAYMUND F. ANTONIO

Vice President Ma. Leonor "Leni" Robredo doubts whether or not the military and police raids on warehouses would work as part of the emergency measures to address the rice shortage in the country.

"Unang una, iyong pag-raid, siguro dapat hindi na ina-announce, 'di ba? (First of all, the raid should not be announced, right?)" Robredo said in jest.

Robredo said Duterte should have acted firmly on rice traders engaged in illegal practices to prove the existence of an artificial shortage on Filipinos' staple food.

"Sunod, dapat ginawa ito yesterday Kung naaalala natin, even during the (President's) SONA (State of the Nation Address), mayroon ng ganitong warning (Then it was supposedly done yesterday. If we remember during the SONA, there was the same warning)," she said.

"Parang madali lang kasing mag-speculate, pero malalaman



ROBREDO

natin kung totoong nangyayari ito kapag may nasampahan — kapag may nahuli at nasampahan na ng reklamo (It seems easy to speculate, but we would know if this is indeed true if someone gets arrested and charged)," said Robredo.

The Vice President is not convinced the deployment of military and police to raid warehouses that store hoarded rice would be an effective measure in solving the rice crisis.

# AFP awards 16 soldiers, 4 civilians

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) recognized 16 soldiers and four civilian personnel for their selfless service and sacrifices to the nation at the Bulwagang-Balangiga, Gen-

eral Headquarters (GHQ), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City the other day.

The Distinguished Aviation Cross medal was awarded to Major Juan Paolo V. Yarte of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) for his efforts as Aerial Flight Pilot during the conduct of re-

supply and pick-up of wounded personnel over the conflicted areas in Marawi City last year.

Awarded with the Gold Cross medal were 1Lt. Marwan O. Tawantawan, 1Lt. Dexter Batton, Staff Sergeant Jonathan S. Dalmeig, Sgt. Harley Serrano, and Corporal Darwin C. Loquing, all from the Philippine Army; and S/Sgt. Francis C. Gepulla of the PAF, for their respective contributions in the fight against terrorists in different parts of the country. 4

Meritorious Achievement medals were given to Sgt. Vergie S. Austero PAF, PO2 Isagani A. Gecale PN, Capt. Hercepel C. Pelayo PN, Lt. Col. Marvic B. Domingo PA, S/Sgt. Cornelio C. Lopez Jr. PA, and Corporal Michael T. Orencis PA for their engagements with AFP offices and units in the study, development, formulation, and revision of different SOPs and publications.

Four civilian employees also received commendation and medal from the AFP. Ms. Abbylou Charizze M. Lazo received the Gawad sa Kaunlaran for her contribution in the improvement of the quality of life of Marawi-KIA and WIA beneficiaries, while Plaque of Recognition were given to Ms. Nelia F. Sin, Ms. Rosemarie B. Sta Ana, and Ms. Cecilia R. Florendo.

1Lt. Col. Danilo T. Facundo PN (M), Lt. Col. Thomas Ryan R. Seguin PAF, and Lt. Col. Francis A. Señoron PA also received the Plaque of Recognition for their outstanding job performance.

AFP Chief of Staff General Carlito Galvez Jr. earlier vowed to recognize soldiers and civilian employees for their outstanding achievements and excellent contribution to the AFP.

4

# Duterte on Holocaust: Never again

By ARGYLL CYRUS E. GEDUCOS

**JERUSALEM.** Israel - "Never again."

President Duterte expressed hope that a genocide like the Holocaust will not happen again as he assured that

the Philippines will be one of the first countries to reject it.

Duterte made the statement during his historic visit to the Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial for victims of the Holocaust, in Jerusalem Monday afternoon (Israel time).

In his signed dedication in the guest book at the memorial site's Children's Hall, Duterte said he is hoping that people's heart will remain open.

"Never again," Duterte, who was once criticized for likening himself to German leader Adolf

▶6

## Duterte on Holocaust...

◀1

Hitler, strongly said.

"May the world learn the lessons of this horrific and benighted period of human history. May the hearts of peoples around the world remain ever open," he added.

"And may the minds of all men and women learn to work together towards providing a safe haven for all who are being persecuted," he continued.

Duterte, in his visit to Yad Vashem's Hall of Names with daughter Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio, called Hitler insane and wondered how one country can follow such an insane leader.

"Me, I realized that war is insanity. And what happened here, in Europe especially under the Nazi. I could not imagine of a country obey an insane leader. And I could not ever fathom the spectacle of a human being going into a killing spree, murdering old men, women, men, children, mothers," he added.

Duterte said he is hoping that a tragedy like the Holocaust will not happen again and suggested that leaders who show signs of insanity should be disposed of immediately.

"I hope that this will not happen again. We have learned so much along the years during the two wars. There is always a lesson to be learned and that despots and leaders who show insanity should be - well they should be disposed of at the first instance," he said.

Duterte assured that the Philippines will be the first to speak loudly against a genocide that would stem from hatred.

"I would like to say that we are one in saying that it will not happen again

and my country will be the first to voice (objection to) a massacre of a race just because of hate," he said.

The Yad Vashem's Hall of Names is Israel's memorial to Jews who perished at the Holocaust.

Aside from his daughter, Duterte was also joined in the tour by top Cabinet officials including Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano, Defense Secretary Delun Lorenzana, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, and Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea among others.

Duterte, joined by his daughter, laid a wreath at the Children's Memorial Hall. The venue is a tribute to the approximately 1.5 million Jewish children who were murdered during the Holocaust. The names of the children, their ages, and countries of origin can be heard in the background.

The Holocaust was a state-sponsored persecution and murder of around six million Jews by the Nazis who came to power in Germany in January 1933.

With Israel, the Philippines is celebrating the 81st anniversary of the Open Doors policy of the Philippines under then President Manuel L. Quezon who offered shelter to more than a thousand Jews escaping the holocaust in Europe.

According to Philippine Ambassador to Israel Nathaniel Imperial, the Philippine embassy and the Israeli government in 2009 dedicated the Open Doors monument in the city of Rishon LeZion to commemorate the humanitarian assistance extended to the around 1,300 Jewish refugees in the 1930s.

# AFP steps up patrol checkpoints in Kudarat

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday said that it has intensified the conduct of checkpoints in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat following another blast that rocked the town Sunday night.

In a statement, AFP Spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo, said military units on the ground have further intensified the conduct of checkpoints in all of the town's entry and exit points to prevent terrorists from again placing IEDs (improvised explosive device).

"We have stepped up further patrols and intelligence efforts," Arevalo said.

"We have (also) alerted our troops to augment PNP (Philippine National Police) efforts in the now ensuing police manhunt operations," he added.

Arevalo said the AFP condemns in the strongest terms possible the cowardly attack that targeted innocent civilians.

He said the perpetrators' means of assaulting hapless victims through terror, death and destruction do not justify their ideals.

With this in mind, Arevalo assured that government security forces will address these vile aggressions with vehement counteractions and with the support of the community, they will get those criminals.

"(Also) with the help of the local residents, we can potentially prevent any repeat (of the incident)," he

said.

Arevalo said the local government of Isulan led by Mayor Marites Pallasigue and the PNP are leading the efforts to hunt down the perpetrators behind the incident.

He added that the AFP extend its sincerest condolences to the victims of the bombing and assure their families that the AFP is one with them in their quest for justice.

Two persons perished while 14 others were wounded — three of them critically — as a result of the explosion.

Arevalo said the AFP is urging communities to unite in these attacks by terrorists targeting the lives of people, their freedom of movement, and the peace in the towns and cities.

"We urge every individual — every man or woman, young or old — to be vigilant and actively involved in reporting their observation of any suspicious activities or persons in their localities," Arevalo said.

The Army's 6th Infantry Division (6th ID) said they are looking at the possibility that the Daesh-inspired group under Esmail Abdulmalik alias Abu Toraiife/Toraype, was behind the blast.

In an interview, AFP 6th ID spokesman Capt. Arvin Encinas said Sunday night's bombing in Isulan town, Sultan Kudarat was perpetrated by the faction under Abdulmalik, an influential cleric and skilled bomb expert, said to be involved in previous bombings in Maguindanao.

He said their main purpose is to sow terror and create fear in the community. The group's areas of operations are in Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat.

"Itong pagpapasabog eh part ng retaliation nila as they suffered significant losses during our FMO (focus military operations)," Encinas said.

With regard to criticism by some that another bombing incident happened in Sultan Kudarat despite the implementation of martial law in Mindanao, Encinas said terrorism is a global issue that even the most advance countries are having a hard time dealing with.

Isulan municipal mayor Marites Kapunan-Pallasigue dismissed as baseless the allegations that those behind the twin deadly blasts that hit her town were state forces.

Pallasigue, in an interview over Catholic-run DXND, said it would be absurd to believe such thing.

Pallasigue hinted the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) is more likely the group behind the series of bombings in Isulan.

Pallasigue made the statement after BIFF spokesman Abu Misry accused the state forces of allegedly "masterminding" the so-called terror attacks in Mindanao.

"The BIFF has nothing to do with the bombings, instead, it's the Army and other state forces," said Misry in an interview over DXND. (With a report from Malu Cadelina Manar)

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# MEDICAL CONSULTATION? PRESIDENT'S TIGHT SKED WON'T ALLOW IT - ROQUE

By Christine O. Avendano  
@cavendanoINQ

JERUSALEM—President Duterte's hectic schedule during his four-day official visit to Israel bodes rumors that he is here for medical reasons, according to presidential spokesperson Harry Roque.

Speaking to Filipino re-

porters on Tuesday, Roque said he could not see where in his busy schedule the President could squeeze in time for medical consultation.

For Tuesday, the President was expected to meet with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin and later attend a business forum, Roque said.

Told that actually there

were massive holes in the President's schedule, Roque said those were free time for Mr. Duterte to rest and see important places in the Holy Land. A12

Mr. Duterte denied he was sick after communist leader Jose Maria Sison said the President fell ill and slipped into a coma two weeks ago. INQ

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# 184 Communist supporters affirm allegiance to PH gov't

By MIKE L. CRISMUNDO

**BUTUAN CITY** — One hundred eighty-four former Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)-New People's Army (NPA) mass supporters reaffirmed their allegiance to the state in Southern Mindanao. Capt. Jerry S. Lamosao, chief of Public Affairs Office (PAO) of the Army's Southern Mindanao 10th Infantry (Agila) Division (10th ID) said.

In a statement sent to The Manila Bulletin late Monday afternoon, The 10th "Agila" Division PAO officer also said the reaffirmation and allegiance to the government of the former CPP-NPA mass supporters was conducted by the 71st Infantry (Kalbigan) Battalion (71st IB) at the Carcor Gymnasium, Barangay Carcor, New Corella, Davao del Norte on Saturday.

The mass supporters belonged to Guerilla Front 33 of the SRC 4 of the CPP-NPA Southern Mindanao Regional Committee from five Barangays (Carcor, New Bohol, Poblacion, San Jose and New Cortez) all of New Corella, Davao del Norte.

The activity was graced by the officials of New Corella, led by Mayor Rhodora S. Alcoran, Lt. Col. Esteveyn E. Ducusin, commanding officer of 71st IB, police and barangay officials of New Corella.

"They have expressed reaffirmation of their allegiance to Philippine Government and its Constitution. With no people supporting their cause, the remaining NPA terrorists are expected to go down, back to the folds of the law and join mainstream society," said Maj. Gen. Noel S. Clement, 10th "Agila" Division chief, in the same statement

sent to The Manila Bulletin late Monday afternoon.

In another development, an alleged armed NPA terrorist in Bukidnon province surrendered to Lt. Col. Edwin M. Paredes, commanding officer of the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion in Barangay Sto. Sto. Niño, Talaingod, Davao del Norte last weekend.

A certain "Ka Alex" (name withheld for his security and safety), member of Iskwad Tersera, Platun Caloy, Guerilla Front 53 of the CPP NPA Southern Mindanao Regional Committee also yielded an M16 Armalite Elisco Rifle, an aluminum magazine assembly with twenty bullets, four rifle grenades and a detonating switch/ with two batteries.

"Ka Alex" is now undergoing interview/custodial debriefing at 56th IB headquarters.



## 2 NPA rebels killed in Ecija clash

**FORT RAMON MAGSAYSAY, Nueva Ecija** – Two suspected members of the New People's Army on Monday were killed in a gunfight with members of the Philippine Army's 91st Infantry Battalion of the 7th Infantry Division in Bgy. Villa, Maria Aurora in Aurora province.

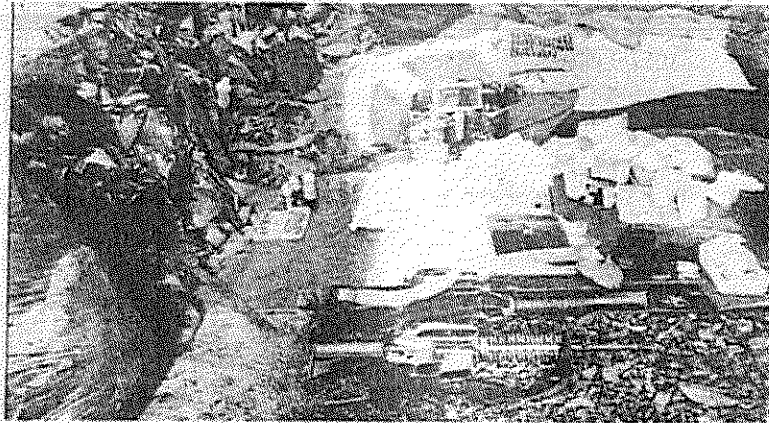
The gun battle broke out at 3:45 p.m. on Monday after a platoon led by 2nd Lt. Hamilton Dawatton responded to a distress call from residents of Maria Aurora about the presence of NPA guerillas allegedly extorting and harassing villagers.

Maj. Gen. Felimon Santos Jr., 7th ID commanding general, said his troops clashed with at least 20 NPA rebels. The firefight lasted for about 45 minutes and resulted in the death of two unidentified rebels.

No casualties were reported on the part of the government.

Recovered at the encounter site were one M653 rifle and one M-16 rifle with an attached M203 grenade launcher.

Santos said the latest



**THE recovered firearms at the Maria Aurora encounter site, including some personal items and subversive documents.**

*Photo courtesy of the 7th ID/Steve Gosulico*

encounter with the rebels occurred barely three days after members of the 24th Infantry (Wildcat) Battalion recovered seven high-powered weapons in Bgy. Ud-udiao, Sallapadan, Abra last August 31.

He said residents tipped them off the location where the guns were being hidden by the rebels who were harassing the villagers.

"The people now realize that the communist New People's Army terrorists are the ones pulling our country down.

The rebels' twisted way of life has caused sufferings for the people. With the locals reporting suspicious activities in their area, this is proof of their

increasing trust and appreciation of the Army's sacrifices and dedication to serve the country and the people," Santos said.

**Steve Gosulico**

## 2 Reds killed in Aurora clash with Army troops

By STEVE A. GOSUICO & MAMER BANEZ

FORT Ramon Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija - Two suspected members of the New People's Army were killed in a gunfight with members of the 91st Infantry Battalion of the Army's 7th Infantry Division in Bgy. Villa, Maria Aurora, Aurora province, Monday afternoon.

An intense gunbattle broke out at 3:45 p.m. after a platoon led by 2Lt. Hamilton Dawaton responded to the area to act on a distress call from residents of Maria Aurora, who tipped them off about the presence of NPA guerillas allegedly conducting extortion and harassment activities against them.

Maj. Gen. Felimon T. Santos Jr., 7th ID commanding general, said his troops clashed with at least 20 NPA rebels with the firefight lasting for about 45 minutes, leaving two still unidentified rebels dead but no casualties on the government side.

Recovered were an M653 rifle and an M-16 rifle with an attached M203 grenade launcher.

Santos said this latest encounter with the rebels occurred barely three days after members of the 24th Infantry (Wildcat) Battalion recovered seven high-powered weapons in Bgy. Ud-udiao, Sallapadan, Abra, last August 31.

He said the FAs were recovered after residents in the area tipped them off about the location where said firearms were being hidden by the rebels, who were harassing the villagers.

"The people now realize that the CNTs are the ones pulling our country down. Their twisted way of life has caused sufferings for the people. With the locals reporting suspicious activities in their area, this is proof of their increasing trust and appreciation of the Army's sacrifices and dedication to serve the country and people," Santos said.

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Reds tagged in port bombing

Communist rebels operating in Bicol could be behind the bombing at a port in Masbate that led to the destruction of boats of the Philippine Army and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). Senior Supt. Benigno Durana, spokesman of the Philippine National Police (PNP), said the traces of the improvised explosive device (IED) recovered during the post-blast investigation revealed the kind of bomb that the New People's Army (NPA) usually uses. "Our Crime Laboratory Office has recovered orange PVC pipes. We have seen this preferred signatures and materials of communist rebels," said Durana. At around 12:30 a.m. yesterday, a loud explosion ripped through the Masbate Port area in Masbate City. Responding cops reported that two boats were damaged - a 25-footer rescue boat of the 21st Battalion of the Philippine Army and another 25-footer boat with Coast Guard marking. (Aaron Recuenco) 4



# Offer reward for BIFF leaders' arrest, Palace asked

By JOHN UNSON

SULTAN KUDARAT - Residents and local officials have urged Malacñang to put up a bounty for information leading to the arrest of the leaders of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

The Soccsksargen police and the 6th Infantry Division (ID) said the BIFF led by Imam Kariaan, Iman Bongos and Abu Toraike were behind the bombings in Isulan town in this province last Aug. 28 and Sept. 2 that left five people dead and 40 others wounded.

The provincial government of Sultan Kudarat offered a reward of P1 million for the arrest of the perpetrators.

Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu said he supports proposals

to raise the reward for the arrest of BIFF leaders, noting that the group is "creating a wedge between Muslims and Christians."

"Islam is all about tolerance, peace and respect for religions," Mangudadatu said.

Members of Central Mindanao's business, political and religious communities turned to social media to call on President Duterte to offer a reward for the arrest of BIFF leaders.

Businessmen expressed concern that they would be the target of bombings if they would not heed the extortion demands of BIFF men.

"It is about time the national government put up a reward for the capture dead or alive of senior leaders of this group," peace leader Kando Omar said.

Peace activists and Muslim preachers called on the police and military to display the photos of BIFF leaders along highways.

"We don't support them. That should be clear to all. Their practices and ideals are absolutely in contrast with Islamic teachings," Ustadz Hanodi Salik, an Islamic theologian in a government-recognized madrasah in Maguindanao,

Brig. Gen. Cirilite Sobejana, 6th ID commander, said military intelligence personnel are verifying the identities of the bomber with the help of peace and

order councils in Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao as well as senior local government officials.

Sobejana said the bombings could be in retaliation for the casualties the BIFF incurred in encounters with the military in the past four months.

Meanwhile, Mangudadatu said he asked the 6th ID to check reports that foreigners with Middle Eastern features are training BIFF recruits on bomb-making.

## 'No need to extend martial law'

On calls for the extension of martial law in Mindanao amid recent bombings, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) said security forces are "fully capable of quelling lawlessness."

"It is also best to carefully assess the situation on the ground, considering... the harsh effects of martial law on communities such as internal displacement, allegations of torture, profiling and other forms of unwarranted violence," Jacqueline de Guia, CHR spokesperson, said.

Several Palace officials had earlier said the Aug. 28 bombing in Isulan could result in the extension of martial law.

The CHR office in Soccsksargen has initiated an investigation into the bombings.

-With Janvic Mateo

**Army says elite US troops helping fight BIFF**

The military on Tuesday said elite US Special Forces troops were helping the Philippines fight Islamic State-inspired homegrown terror groups behind a series of deadly bomb attacks in Mindanao. Capt. Arvin John Encinas, regional military spokesperson, said American soldiers had been feeding vital information to help the Philippine military defeat Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), a group of Moro rebels who broke off from the mainstream Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The Americans, Encinas said, <sup>BY</sup> "were providing us intelligence reports." "Our coordination is limited to only sharing of information," he added. The Philippine Constitution prohibits the direct involvement of foreign troops in counterinsurgency and local security operations. —JEFFREY MAITEM

Dr

# Isulan mayor rejects BIFF claims state forces behind blasts

By MALU CADELINA MANAR

**K**IDAPAWAN CITY - Isulan municipal mayor Marites Kapunan-Pallasigue dismissed as baseless allegations that state forces were behind the twin deadly blasts that hit her town.

Pallasigue, in a radio interview, said it would be absurd to believe such a thing.

Pallasigue hinted the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) was

more likely the group behind the series of bombings in Isulan.

"I was told by [Brig. Gen. Cirilito] Sobejana that this is just a retaliation [of the BIFF] because they're already overpowered and could not fight the Army," said the mayor, adding, "the military won't allow killing children and innocent civilians."

Pallasigue made the statement after BIFF spokesman Abu Misry accused the state forces of allegedly "masterminding"

the so-called terror attacks in Mindanao.

"The BIFF has nothing to do with the bombings, instead, it's the Army and other state forces," said Misry.

The blasts that occurred on August 28 and September 2 killed five people and wounded 19 people, data from the police said.

As of this posting, no one among the terror groups operating in the country has claimed responsibility for the attacks.



# Cotabato Archbishop condemns Isulan bombings

**COTABATO CITY:** Orlando Cardinal Quevedo, OMI, DD, archbishop of Cotabato condemned the two bombings in the town of Isulan, Sultan Kudarat.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Quevedo said the true believers in God have to cry out in outrage at the terrorist bombings in the Isulan adding that all religions are religions of peace.

He said the two bombings in a span five days, August 28 and September 2, have mercilessly snuffed out the lives of at least five innocent people, including two young men who were active in their Catholic youth ministry. Scores of others, equally innocent, have been wounded, he added.

The Islamic State (IS) reportedly claimed responsibility for the first bombing.

Some sectors suspect the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) that had also pledged allegiance to IS. However, all the three BIFF factions have vehemently

denied the accusations saying how could any member of their group bring an improvised explosive device and penetrate the heavily guarded town of Isulan without being detected.

"In either case, religion is distorted in order to commit brazen crimes that cry out to heaven," Quevedo said.

"As the religious leader of all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Cotabato, I absolutely condemn these terroristic acts. I enjoin every true believer in the one true God, by whatever name the almighty and merciful God is called, to pray for the victims and for their families," the cardinal's statement said.

Quevedo said, he is strongly urging the military, security and peace officers with the collaboration of the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, now forces for peace, to flush out the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

**JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL**

## Probers reviewing videos from blast site in Isulan

INVESTIGATORS from the Central Visayas Police Regional Office are reviewing CCTV footage to determine who were behind the explosion inside an internet shop Sunday night.

The blast, the second in the town in less than a week, killed two persons and injured about a dozen others.

Supt. Aldrin Gonzales, regional police spokesman, said scene-of-the-crime operatives and local policemen have gathered CCTV footage from cameras mounted inside the Renz Internet Café in Barangay Kaiawag 2, Isulan and areas near it.

The explosion killed Mark John Luda, 18, and his cousin Marialyn Luda, 15.

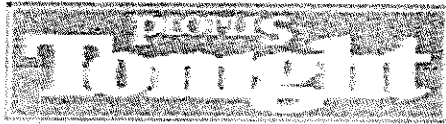
Gonzales said eight other victims remained confined in hospitals in Sultan Kudarat, while four others have been discharged.

Gonzales also said bomb experts are comparing the improvised explosive device used in the Sunday blast with that used in Barangay Kalawag 2 on August 28.

The PNP leadership and military officials are suspecting the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, or a faction of the terrorist group, to be behind the bomb explosion, to prevent peace in Mindanao despite the passage of the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

The two explosions in Isulan in less than a week prompted the relief of Senior Supt. Noel Kinazo, Sultan Kudarat police chief, and Supt. Celestino Daniel, chief of police of Isulan town.

They were relieved to pave the way for an impartial investigation, the PNP said Monday. — *Raymond Africa* **152**



# 1 dead, 2 held for drugs in Sultan Kudarat

By ZAIDA DELOS REYES

A DRUG personality was killed while two of his companions were arrested in an anti-illegal drug operation before dawn yesterday in Sultan Kudarat.

The fatality was identified as Emar Jhon Kasim Samadalan. Arrested were Marcelito Bibat and Marcelino Bibat.

Reports reaching Camp Crame said the incident occurred at 1:30 a.m. in Bgy. Pinnalayan, Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat.

Investigators said combined elements of the 1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade and Lambayong police went to the area to serve a search warrant to the suspects. While conducting search operation, the suspects opened fire at the officers, who returned fire, hitting Samadalan, who was rushed to the hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival by an attending physician.

Recovered from the suspects were 16 small plastic sachets and a big sachet of suspected shabu, two plastic sachets of marijuana, a homemade Uzi submachine gun, magazine and ammunition for the gun.

The suspects were taken into custody by the Lambayong PNP, facing criminal charges.

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DI PAKANA NG GOV'T. FORCES—MAYOR

# Sultan Kudarat bombings, isinisi sa BOL

Posibleng may kinalaman sa pagsabatas ng Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) ang dalawang insidente ng pambobomba sa Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, kamakailan.

Ayon kay Philippine National Police (PNP) spokesman, Senior Supt. Benigno Durana, pawang "peace spoiler" ang nasa likod ng dalawang insidente.

Paliwanag ni Durana, hindi lingid sa publiko na hindi pabor ang Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighter (BIFF) sa isinusulong na peace talks ng gobyerno, kaya tumiwalag ang mga ito sa Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MLF).

Pareho lang, aniya, ang modus ng dalawang pagsabog na maminsala at pumataw ang awan ng mga terorista.

Isa anyang phenomenon na sa tiwing may usapang pangkapatagan ay laging mayroong "spoilers" na gagamitin ang karahasan upang maisulong ang kanilang political agenda.

Kaugnay rito, kinumpirma naman ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman, Col. Edgard Arevalo, na grupo ni BIFF leader, Esmarel Abduimalic aniya

"Abu Torayte", ang nasa likod ng ikalawang pagsabog sa isulan nitong Linggo ng gabi.

Pinalagan naman ni Isulan Mayor Marites Kapunan-Pallasigue ang alegasyon ng BIFF na pakana umano ng tropa ng pamahalaan ang magkasunod na pambobomba.

Nakatatwa, aniya, kung panawalaan ang nasabing paratang, ayon sa alkalde.

Ito ang naging reaksiyon ni Pallasigue sa pahayag ni BIFF spokesman Abu Misry na

ibinibintang sa puwersa ng pamahalaan ang dalawang insidente sa Mindanao.

Ang unang pambobomba sa Isulan ay nangyari nitong Agosto 28, na ikinasawi ng tatlong kataw habang 36 ang namagitan, habang ang ikalawang insidente nitong Linggo ng gabi ay nangyari sa katatibing barangay at kumintal sa buhay ng dalawang tao, habang 12 ang sugatan.

**Fer Taboy at Malu Cadelina Manar**

## Duterte thanks Israel for Marawi battle help

By Efren Montano

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Monday thanked Israel for its "critical" help in defeating Islamic State-inspired rebels that laid siege to Marawi City last year.

Duterte extended the country's gratitude during his remarks prior to the signing of agreements he and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu witnessed at the premier's office in Jerusalem.

"Mr. Prime Minister, I can only thank you so much especially the critical help that you have extended my country in time when we needed it most," the President said.

Duterte declined to name the "very substan-

tial and crucial" equipment in his remarks but the President revealed during his meeting with the Filipino community on Sunday evening (early Monday morning in Manila) that Israel provided "most of the intelligence gadgets that we used to win the Marawi siege."

"It was a help to preserve the Republic of the Philippines and I thank you for that," Duterte told Netanyahu.

Duterte was originally scheduled to visit in May last year but it was put on hold so he could supervise government efforts to crush militants led by the Maute group, whom he said were trying to establish a caliphate for the Islamic State.

The President declared Marawi liberated

on October 17 last year after government troops killed terrorist leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute. More than 1,000 people, mostly terror fighters, died amid the clashes and thousands of residents were displaced.

"We share the same passion for peace. We share the same passion for human beings but we also share the same passion of not allowing our country to be destroyed by those who have the corrupt ideology who [do] nothing but to kill and destroy," Duterte said.

"In this sense, Israel can expect any help that the Philippines can extend to your country."

Duterte also hailed the "kindness and benev-

olence" of Israel especially in hosting some 28,000 Filipinos, mostly working as caregivers.

"They have been very happy working here, taking care of the aging population of yours, citizens," he said.

"And I have heard that they have been treated as human beings. Unlike in other places of which I am not at liberty to mention now."

Duterte timed his visit for the 71st anniversary of the open doors policy of the Philippines under then President Manuel Quezon, who offered shelter to some 1,300 Jews escaping the Holocaust in Europe in 1937.

The Philippines was also the only Asian state that voted for the United

Nations Partition Plan in 1947 that paved the way for the creation of the State of Israel.



## PNP to public: Do not believe 'ISIS' claims

THE Philippine National Police leadership yesterday asked the public not to take hook, line and sinker all claims by the ISIS terror group regarding their involvement in bomb attacks, the latest of which was in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat last week which killed three persons and injured 36 others.

The PNP urged the public to be extra wary of ongoing ISIS propaganda around the globe in order to attract attention and support. Shortly after the Isulan bombing, there were reports that the ISIS have claimed responsibility for the terror act although security officials said they have no reasons or proof to believe such claim.

"We need to be extra wary of the alleged claim by extremist terror group IS and its Southeast Asian affiliates. ISIS has been known to falsely claim responsibility for some violent attacks made by other groups as part of its propaganda to project an image of strength after their battlefield debacles and complete failures to establish their caliphates in some parts of Iraq and Syria and quite recently in Marawi City," PNP spokesman Senior Superintendent Benigno B. Durana Jr. said.

There were reports that authorities are looking at the involvement of ISIS-inspired Abu Turafie group in the terror attack. The suspects are reportedly led by Esmail Sheikh Abdulmalik alias Abu Turafie. The suspects claimed they are affiliated with the ISIS and with the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters or BIFF which has been previously blamed for a number of deadly bombings in Mindanao.

The ISIS is known for owning to terror attacks in the country although investigations showed they did not. Last July 31, the group also claimed role in the deadly bomb attack in Lamitan, Basilan which killed 11 persons. However, top police officials said that the extremists are known for making those claims in order to gain international mileage.

"They can always claim whatever they want to claim. There is no truth that the incident is a terror act," said PNP chief Director General Oscar D. Albayalde. *12*



## Don't be fooled by 'ISIS' claims -- PNP

### MAMANG PULIS

By ALFRED P. DALIZON

THE Philippine National Police leadership yesterday asked the public anew not to take hook, line and sinker all claims by the ISIS terror group regarding their involvement in bomb attacks in the country, the latest of which was the one in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat on Tuesday last week which killed three persons and injured 36 others.

The PNP urged the public to be extra wary of ongoing ISIS propaganda around the globe in order to attract attention and support. Shortly after the Isulan bombing, there were reports that the ISIS have claimed responsibility for the terror act although security officials said they have no reasons or proof to believe such claim.

There were also reports that authorities are looking at the involvement of one group, the ISIS-inspired Abu

Turaifie group in the terror attack. The suspects are reportedly led by one Esmail Sheikh Abdulmalik alias Abu Turaifie. The suspects claimed they are affiliated with the ISIS and with the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters or BIFF which has been previously blamed for a number of deadly bombings in Mindanao.

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"We need to be extra wary of the alleged claim by extremist terror group IS and its Southeast Asian affiliates of responsibility in the deadly explosion in Lamitan City, Basilan. ISIS has been known to falsely claim responsibility for some

violent attacks made by other groups as part of its propaganda to project an image of strength after their battlefield debacles and complete failures to establish their caliphates in some parts of Iraq and Syria and quite recently in Marawi City," said PNP spokesman, Senior Superintendent Benigno B. Durana Jr.

In October 2017, ISIS claimed responsibility for the Las Vegas shooting incident that killed 59 persons and wounded 500 which the FBI attributed to a 64-year old suspect who is not in any way connected to the ISIS.

In June 2017, the same group also claimed responsibility for an attack at the Resorts World Casino that left 37 people dead, most of them due to suffocation from the smoke. However, the National Capital Region Police then headed by now PNP chief, Director General Oscar D. Albayalde denied that what happened was terror-related.

Turn to Page 15

## **DON'T...**

*From Page 5*

"They can always claim whatever they want to claim. They have this reputation of claiming all atrocities all over the world to perpetuate themselves to gain global notoriety. There is no truth that the incident is a terror act," Gen. Albayalde said then.

It turned out that the

lone gunman who entered the Resorts World Manila firing shots from an assault rifle and setting fire to gambling tables was a casino addict who incurred huge debts and attacked the casino in an attempt to rob it.

"It should not surprise us that ISIS is now claiming responsibility for this incident in Basilan.

Initial investigation revealed that the Lamitan explosion was the handiwork of the Basilan-based faction of Abu Sayyaf led by Furqan Indama resulting from a botched extortion attempt," said Durana.

The official said the PNP is closely coordinating with military security forces and other government agencies to dig deeper into the incidents in Basilan and Sultan Kudarat. "We have mobilized all available resources and personnel to strengthen defenses in other vulnerable targets," he said.

In the aftermath of the Sultan Kudarat bombing, Gen. Albayalde placed all police forces in Mindanao under full alert status while the NCRPO headed by Director Guillermo Lorenzo T. Eleazar was put on heightened alert.

Officers are also doubling up their intelligence-gathering. However, Eleazar maintained that police have yet to receive information regarding direct terrorism threats in Metro Manila.

**BANKING ON A  
CULTURE OF TRUST,  
INTEGRITY  
AND SERVICE**

85

By Amy R. Remo  
@amyremoINQ

**T**he passion and commitment to serve probably come second nature to them.

Call it intuitive or instinctive, but for the thousands of employees of Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. (Metrobank) across the country, such values have been deeply ingrained in the way they go about their daily tasks, fostered primarily by a culture that enables them to do so.

"At the heart of Metrobank are values that we espouse as we continue to live up to the promise of being the good hands of our bank. These values do not only allow our business to thrive well, but more importantly, enable us to cultivate relationships and be of greater service to our customers, to grow and empower our employees, while helping build the communities where we are present," said Metrobank President Fabian Dee.

These principles—which had allowed the local banking giant to thrive for more than five decades amid several economic boom-and-bust cycles and political turmoil—are immeasurable. There are, however, tales that depict how, to a certain degree, its employees have embraced these values and have come to live by them.

These are the Metrobankers who fortuitously displayed passion and dedication beyond compare, defying odds that proved what courage really is.

And across the country are stories of courage in the face of overwhelming odds, dedication amid difficulties, of service beyond the call of duty. Several occasions saw the Metrobankers' grit and mettle being tested by destructive typhoons, deadly quakes and armed conflicts.

Case in point was 2013. Five years

ago, the Philippines endured some trying times, one adversity after another.

On September that year, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) faction led by Nur Misuari stormed into Zamboanga City and held civilians hostage, a move that paralyzed the city, razed some 10,000 homes and reduced some 40 hectares of once-thriving communities to rubble, an inquirer report stated.

The following month, in October, saw Bohol being struck by a 7.2-magnitude earthquake, which destroyed structures, killed at least 200 people, and displaced more than 300,000 survivors. And in November, that year's strongest typhoon ravaged through Eastern Visayas, leaving a trail of destruction: more than 900,000 families displaced, more than 1 million houses damaged, left about 6,300 people dead, 1,000 missing and 28,000 injured.

## ZAMBOANGA SIEGE

September, 2013

"It was a Monday morning when we heard the gunfire. It was really a war and we didn't know if we would survive it. Add to that the mental torture of being invaded any time by the MNLF. But by September 13 (four days after the siege), I insisted that we open a branch because the clamor was there. Metrobank was one of the first banks to open then," Vice President Rita Ong recalled of the Zamboanga City siege in September 2013.

Despite the fear, Ong related that almost all the Metrobankers in the area, from day one of the war, were calling her, asking when they would need to report for work.

"There is a willingness to help and serve our clients. I think I've got one of the best sets of Metrobank employees. They're all brave and I can

see their passion to do their jobs. I have a very young group, with most of them being in service for three years or less but I'm grateful to them because they showed how it is to be a real Metrobanker, ready to (heed) the call to serve the clients and humanity," she further said.

And this was the same kind of fervor seen in Bohol and Tacloban among the Metrobankers despite the fact that

they too were among the victims of the devastation wrought by the earthquake and strong typhoon.

## BOHOL EARTHQUAKE

October, 2013

Asst. Vice President Evangeline Pacana recalled the terror of that day:

"The tremor was so strong and my knees were trembling—people were already shouting because (portion of) the

"To our fellow Metrobankers, I'm very grateful. I commend all of them because I can see the fear in their eyes when they came to the branch. I salute them for their bravery because they wanted to serve the clients," Pacana added.

## SUPERTYPHOON YOLANDA

November, 2013

It was no different for First Vice President Federico Mariano. His own house in Tacloban was destroyed by the neck-high floods triggered by torrential rains of Yolanda.

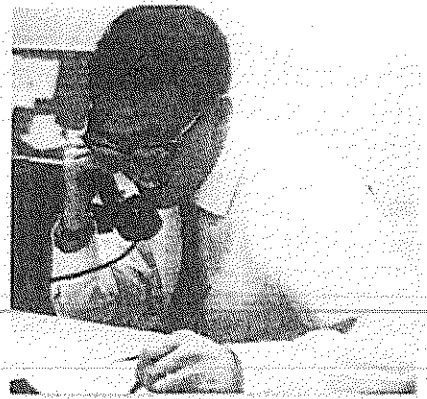
sea in front of the house dried up and we knew that we had to go to higher grounds. My brother gave us one small bottle of water and I remember saying to my son, do not drink this up, just lick your tongue because we don't know when the next bottle will come."

But her commitment to serve their clients and the community prevailed, prompting Pacana to report to the branch the following day.

"I was with my family and we were inside the house. We cannot go out then and the following morning, there was a total blackout. But I braved the floods walked from my subdivision to the city, which was about 15 kilometers. After a three-hour walk, I reached the (Metrobank) office," Mariano recalled.

According to Mariano, the ground floor of the Metrobank office was totally destroyed.

His first instruction then was to



have an inventory of their personnel. On the third day, he was able to contact their region head and secure additional security for the premises as there were reports that the looters were targeting banks and pawnshops. Despite the havoc and troubles, Metrobank was able to restart its operations there and open—the first bank in Tacloban to do so.

"I know that we were also victims of the typhoon. I told them we have a sense of duty and responsibility to our

clients and they understood that sacrifices have to be made in favor of the duty and service that we have to do," Mariano said.

Fast forward to today, Metrobank remains just as resilient, sustaining a strong growth performance that ensures a solid foundation for the years to come. And it stems from the core values that were, from day one, truly embodied by its founder.

From the time he founded Metrobank 56 years ago, Dr. George S. K. Ty, as a young man, had already instilled in his people the values that would define who they are as a bank and their purpose as Metrobankers.

Dr. Ty led with the highest level of integrity, while he worked with deep passion for results. He enjoined everyone to work together as a team with one goal in mind—to remain true and committed for the service of our customers.

At the same time, Dr. Ty believed in paying it forward, as he has a big heart for the community they serve.

Through his philanthropic works

with the Metrobank Foundation, the company remains dedicated to nation-building. That's why every year, the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipino Award recognizes teachers, policemen and soldier whose works transformed a community with a lasting positive impact on people and the country.

"In the business of banking, it is not only important to make money; it is more important to earn and keep the trust of people and help them make more money from their investments or businesses," Dr. Ty explained.

"Banking is not merely the business of money, but is really the business of trust. A proper banker loves the business and protects the interests of people and serves the community," added Dr. Ty.

No doubt, the culture of passion and commitment, along with the company's core values, runs deep through Metrobankers—tried, tested and proven, even after 56 years. And it's the same culture that will see them through over the years to come.

## SKETCHES

ANA MARIE PAMINTUAN

### Smiling Russia

For a Russian, Igor Khovayev smiles a lot. Russia's top diplomat in the Philippines himself says smiling does not come easily to many of his compatriots. He says his posting of two years in the Philippines has infected him with the ready Pinoy smile.



But this is not the only reason the envoy is smiling these days and even cracking jokes on national TV. Russians and Filipinos know so little about each other. Now bilateral ties have warmed significantly, thanks to President Duterte's foreign policy shift and open admiration for his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

Ambassador Igor, as he prefers to be called, is now preparing for what he describes as his "dream" of contributing to the two countries' rapprochement, by laying the groundwork for a likely visit in Manila by Putin. It will be the first ever visit to the Philippines by a Russian leader.

Even if Putin changes his mind, however, and again sends in his stead Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, bilateral ties have so warmed that the Philippines is considering buying big-ticket military equipment from Russia.

Ambassador Igor even proposed last year a joint production in the Philippines of Russia's world-renowned export, the AK-47 and other Kalashnikov weapons and ammunition.

Over 100 countries use Kalashnikovs, Ambassador Igor points out, and many of them also use weapons from other top defense equipment producers such as the United States. Russia, he stresses, knows how to deal with any technical compatibility problems.

We all know what could douse cold water on these warming bilateral ties: the Philippines' treaty ally the United States.

Randall Schriver, US assistant defense secretary for Asian and Pacific security affairs, recently cautioned the Philippines that the purchase of Russian military equipment such as submarines could harm the decades-old Philippine-US alliance.

The comment expectedly drew an acerbic rebuke from Duterte. Ambassador Igor, facing us on "The Chiefs" on Signal TV's *One News*, described Schriver's comment as "outrageous," adding that Manila's traditional allies "have no right to interfere" in such matters.

Russia has no alliance with any state outside the former Soviet Union, Ambassador Igor emphasizes, because alliances shut out others. The Kremlin prefers partnerships, and it's time for the Philippines to "diversify" cooperation arrangements, he said. In the process, he said Russia has "no intention to inflict any damage" on the Philippines' traditional alliances.

Is the Philippines open to such diversification? Under Duterte, it seems likely.



As far back as 2007, Dmitry Medvedev had said in an interview, "It's an argument which dates back to Soviet times—is it better for the world to have a weaker or a stronger Russia?" Medvedev stressed that Russia is different from the Soviet Union and its "totalitarian tendencies."

"A strong, democratic Russia is good for the world. But I'm afraid that old concepts still hold sway among many in the West," Medvedev said.

Russia is still under US-led sanctions for its annexation of Crimea and its support for the regime of Syria's Bashar al-Assad as well as accusations of interference in US elections. The British are also accusing the Kremlin of poisoning a Russian double agent and his daughter in England with the Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok in March this year, with two more Britons becoming critically ill from the same poison in a nearby town in July.

Moscow has vehemently denied the accusations, with suspicion raised that the Brits were trying to sabotage the goodwill generated by Russia's hosting of this year's FIFA World Cup.

Several months ago, the US blacklisted Rosoboronexport, the state-owned Russian arms maker with which the Philippine government was working out the purchase last year of 750 rocket-propelled grenade launchers. The US has warned of sanctions on governments and private sector entities dealing with Russia's defense industry, including disruption of the delivery of the goods.

Duterte has brushed aside these developments and is forging ahead with strengthening ties with Russia and Putin.

Last year during the Marawi siege, Russia donated AK-47s with ammo and military trucks to Philippine troops battling Maute militants. Off-camera, Ambassador Igor told us with pride, "Russian trucks don't need a road, they just need a destination."

Beyond weapons, Russian businessmen are exploring other areas of partnership, including participation in Duterte's Build Build Build infrastructure expansion. Also renowned for their subways and extensive train network (the Trans-Siberian railway from Moscow to Vladivostok is the longest in the world), Russians will be constructing the Clark to La Union railway.

In its rapprochement with Russia, is the Philippines turning its back on democratic ideals? If the world, including democratic Western Europe and the US, can be heavily engaged with China, why not with Russia?

Ambassador Igor prefers to dwell on shared values, pointing to many things in common between Russians and Filipinos. One in particular has not been emphasized: Christianity. The envoy points out that while his country was a communist state for decades, many Russians are Orthodox Christians, and his country, like the Philippines, also has Muslims. Religion, he stresses, is much more binding "than any ideological principles."

He admitted that making people forget Russian stereotypes won't happen overnight and will take some effort.

"Look at me, I'm a typical Russian guy," he told us. "Not those aggressive, stupid Russian guys" as portrayed by Hollywood, which he said has produced "not a single good movie" about his country.

He said the World Cup showed that "the absolute majority of Russian people are friendly and hospitable. They are normal people. We have the same values."

Referring to his country and the Philippines, he acknowledges, "We have never been close friends, but we have never had conflicts... there is nothing that can cast a shadow on the improvement of our relations."

He said defense cooperation is not only technical but also "mental, psychological, even emotional."

"We have to overcome all possible prejudices. I believe it's possible. It's not easy but it's possible," he told us. "My country has only one wish: to become a reliable partner and a close friend of the Philippines. And I believe this is mutual."

A ready smile, which Ambassador Igor says he flashes in Manila more often than in Moscow, is a good start.

★

## DND fuel supply bidding anomaly?

### BIZ BUZZ



There are many ways of winning an open bidding process. Some methods are straightforward, while some involve the use of creative methods. Here's one that looks more like the latter.

Biz Buzz learned that there's a brewing controversy at the Department of National Defense over a P4.5-billion contract to supply the armed forces with fuel for an entire year. And at the root of the controversy, it seems, is some kind of preferential treatment that one bidder is getting over the other.

The controversy began in late May when one contender for the fuel supply contract, Petron Corp., received incomplete requirements from the agency's bids and awards committee. Specifically, what was missing was the wholesale posted price reference for Visayas and Mindanao that serve as the basis for local refiners to set fuel prices. The bidding committee only provided Petron with reference prices for Metro Manila and Luzon.

This early, Petron officials were already sensing that something was afoot, so they immediately asked the committee to supply them with the missing reference prices. The committee replied the following day, however, that it could no longer entertain any queries.

Left with no choice, Petron used for its bid the reference prices for Visayas and Mindanao that it had been using anyway as the incumbent government supplier.

Well, Petron was promptly disqualified because it failed to use the prescribed reference rates for Visayas and Mindanao, which the committee failed to provide the bidder in the first place. Petron, of course, filed an appeal.

But wait. This is where it gets interesting. Its rival bidder—Phoenix Petroleum of Davao-based businessman **Dennis Uy**—apparently didn't have the same problem as it was able to submit a bid using the defense department's reference prices for Visayas and Mindanao.

Phoenix also submitted a lower bid of P3.791 billion, compared to Petron's P4.416 billion. To the surprise of observers, however, Phoenix reportedly retracted its winning bid, claiming it made a mistake in its computations.

Word in the petroleum community is that Phoenix's recomputed bid was now more expensive than Petron's. Uh-oh.

But after further review, the defense department's technical working group decided to disqualify both bidders. Phoenix did not appeal or challenge the disqualification, but Petron elevated its appeal to Defense Secretary **Delfin Lorenzana**.

The defense chief reviewed the matter and sided with Petron. He noted that Petron had, in fact, followed the correct formula for computing the reference prices and also did not exceed the limit set by the government.

In fact, the reference prices Petron used in lieu of the missing ones that the bids and awards committee failed to provide turned out to be even lower, meaning the government could have bought cheaper fuel for the armed forces.

Lorenzana also pointed out that the bidding committee could have addressed Petron's query by issuing a supplemental bid bulletin that would enhance the competitiveness of the process.

He used the words "illogical" and "preposterous" to describe Petron's disqualification since it would result in cheaper fuel costs for the government.

Lorenzana's final verdict was to award the contract to Petron. But wait? Is that the final word? Maybe not. Word on the street is that some parties are moving heaven and earth to have the whole bidding process voided. The end goal, we're told, is to have the entire bidding process redone from square one. It should be worth watching to see if this scheme triumphs. *Abangan!* —DAXIM L. LUCAS

#### 'Fugitive' broker

Local stockbrokerage Salisbury BKT Securities Corp., widely believed to be affiliated with **Lucio Tan Jr.** a.k.a. Bong Khao Tan (hence, BKT), was recently compelled to name a new president and nominee as its British chief executive, **Simon Boulstridge Bailey**, was recently nabbed by the fugitive search unit of the Bureau of Immigration (BI).

According to the BI, the 54-year-old British national was the subject of an Interpol "red" notice in connection with a case for forgery that was filed against him in the United Kingdom.

Bailey allegedly conspired

with another suspect in forging documents in order to misappropriate for themselves the stock investments of a deceased business partner, based on an official BI report.

BI agents recently arrested Bailey—who is now facing deportation charges and black-listing—at the PSE Tower in Makati.

But other sources alleged that Bailey was himself just a victim of forgery and that his signature in this case was faked without his knowledge. Bailey is reportedly now asking for voluntary deportation.

Industry sources said that Salisbury, which caters to institutional accounts, had originally petitioned the PSE to simply allow it to declare Bailey on leave of absence. Bailey, formerly affiliated with a big global investment house, is apparently valuable for Salisbury as he gets business volume out of Hong Kong from his old peers.

But whether or not Bailey has been framed up, and given that there's no telling how long it will take for this case to be resolved, the brokerage house has been directed to appoint a new nominee.

On Aug. 31, Salisbury filed an application to name **Jimmy Yaokasin Jr.** as its new nominee. —DORIS DUMLAO-ABADILLA

#### Pro tax incentives

Biz Buzz has highlighted the arguments for removing tax incentives a few weeks ago. Now it's time to hear the other side of the argument.

As is to be expected, overseas businessmen are opposing the government's move to remove tax perks on foreign companies in special economic zones, citing the detrimental effect such a move would have on investment inflows to the Philippines.

One such group is the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, which recently released a position paper on the second phase of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program, formerly known as "TRAIN 2," and now called the "Trabaho Bill."

In that paper, AmCham pointed out that "the Board of Investments and Philippine Economic Zone Authority approval data for new projects reflect a declining level of new foreign investor interest."

"There are troubling indicators that significant potential foreign investment, especially in IT and manufacturing at Peza zones, is being postponed and even going to competing countries," the group

said.

According to some members of the group, the Philippines has recently lost electronics manufacturing giant Samsung as a potential locator to Vietnam and, indeed, AmCham details that the biggest foreign investor in Vietnam now is Samsung. It assembles half of its global supply of mobile phones there and exported \$50 billion in 2017.

Samsung operations in Vietnam began in 2007 with a \$650 million plant and has now grown to total \$17 billion invested in three mobile phone plants and a consumer electronics factory, employing up to 150,000 Vietnamese directly and an additional 250,000 indirectly through local suppliers.

What incentives do the Vietnamese government provide? Rent-free land near the main airport and long-term fiscal incentives such as a corporate income tax holiday for the first four years of operation and a preferential tax rate of 5 percent over the next nine years. After that, the tax rate rises to 10 percent. <sup>59</sup>

By comparison, another global brand, Nike, is Vietnam's biggest foreign-owned job creator, employing 397,000 workers. It buys apparel and footwear from 89 contracted local factories. On its website of global locations where its goods are manufactured, Nike shows no factories in the Philippines—compared to eight in Cambodia, 10 in India, 29 in Indonesia, nine in Malaysia and 30 in Thailand.

According to AmCham, the impending loss of incentives due to the new tax package will make the Philippines lose competitiveness further against its Asean neighbors.

The question now is: Which side of the tax argument will prevail? We'll know soon enough. —DAXIM LUCAS

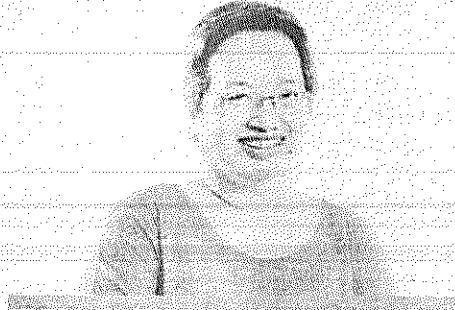
## A taste of CDO

**C**agayan de Oro—On our second day of the “Yes for Peace” workshop, meant to help selected members of civil society organizations in Mindanao to develop a media plan for the coming referendum on the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), the body got down to brass tacks on what a media plan consists of and why it is necessary.

Beverly Orozco of Gaston Z. Ortigas (GZO) Peace Institute outlined the reasons for the need to develop a communications plan to promote and advocate a social issue. First, she said, nongovernment organizations have limited resources and must rely on creative and innovative ways of reaching mass audiences to deliver their messages. Second, sticking to a plan “imposes discipline and clear thinking,” helping a cause-oriented organization in “clarifying objectives and target audiences, while sharpening messages.”

Beverly’s walk-through on the steps to formulating a plan and a message was reinforced by Karlon Rama, who helps NGOs plan their communications programs. With the participants, he conducted an exercise in which they explored a campaign plan and strategy for the BOL referendum. This included identifying the target audience, developing the key messages, planning for resources and implementation for delivering the messages, and refining the message as needed.

One thing that emerged from the discussions was the existence of parties bent on derailing passage of the BOL and returning Muslim Mindanao to the feudal status of old. Among the identified opposition were local, provincial and even regional political leaders who feel their positions of privilege threatened. Another were business interests who may wish to secure their



## AT LARGE

RINA JIMENEZ-DAVID

operations (and continued exploitation of Mindanao’s resources) from an unknown autonomous government.

Would there be enough time to carry out the information/education project even in the face of powerful opposition? That is a question still up in the air.

While in this city, I also had the chance to try restaurants I hadn’t had the chance to visit previously. On our first night, we went out for dinner at the seaside restaurant Panagatan, which Cagayan de Oro native Beth Yang told us had started off as a mere hut in her childhood. Today, it has graduated into a sprawling restaurant that spills over into several pavilions, with whitewashed walls and nipa roofs. We ordered a “seafood basket” with *tinola* of *lapu-lapu* and a side salad of tomatoes, onions, green mangoes and red eggs.

The next day, with GZO Peace Institute’s Karen Tanada and Julie Alipala, a Zamboanga-based Inquirer correspondent, we dropped by Cucina Higala, which

Inquirer desk person and lifetime friend Pennie dela Cruz had discovered while googling for places to see in this city.

Cucina Higala is a charming former residence in a busy district where many of CDO’s heritage houses can be found. Just to give you an idea of how quaint the interiors are, Pennie and I made a point to visit the restroom armed with our smartphone cameras, the better to take photos of the facilities which were done up in an eclectic mix of postcolonial decor and modern fixtures. “There’s no other bathroom in the city like this,” explained our server with pride.

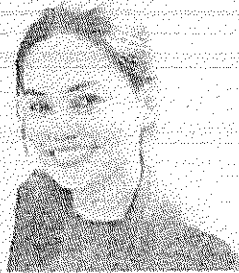
The food was no less memorable, starting with the *tinola* of blue marlin. The *tinola* is supposed to be the Visayan version of the Tagalog *sinigang* or sour soup. But it is far less aggressive in its sourness, with only baby tomatoes as the souring agent.

Then we tried the beef *rendang* that came with a fiery condiment of crushed green peppers, *humba* of soft, “jiggly” pork belly, and *callos* which we deemed a disappointment.

But Pennie was most intrigued by the *binaki*, a dessert item that Beth explained was akin to a *suman* made from corn. What came to our table, though, were two slices of corn bread topped with vanilla ice cream and drenched with caramel sauce. Sure, it was a more “civilized” way of presenting a native dessert, and quite tasty, too. But we were looking forward to enjoying a taste of a childhood treat that Beth said had been a hallmark of her childhood. Maybe we’ll go for a taste of the authentic *binaki* on our next visit.

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# The bloody point



Dinah S. Ventura

High hopes are still on the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) to establish the path to lasting peace in Mindanao.

After President Rodrigo Duterte's historic signing of the BOL creating the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, many hoped this would mean the fight of minority Muslims for self-determination would cease and the whole country would finally work-as-one for the progress, development and security.

Yet recent bombing incidents have put a blight on such optimism. It seems the BOL will not stop the terrorism just yet, if anything ever will.

History shows how rebel forces keep subdividing when ideals clash – the side that decides to pursue a compromise and the side that refuses to give an inch.

Right now, the explosions in Sultan Kudarat and Masbate that killed civilians and led to the sacking of police officials in said regions have brought up a rising new threat. It is not really new, however – this defiant lot whose loyalty had been declared for the global terror network Islamic State.

In reports, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said it believes members of the terrorist group Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) are behind the fatal blast in Sultan Kudarat that killed two persons in the town of Isulan and wounded at least 30 more.

"We believe that the terrorist group BIFF is the primary suspect behind this atrocity. They are the

ones who have the strongest evil desire to initiate this kind of attacks that victimize innocent civilians and disrupt peace," the AFP said in a statement.

The splinter group of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) had claimed responsibility for the blast, specifically the Abu Turaiife group of the BIFF.

Two bombings hit Isulan within a week. In Masbate, two similar incidents happened in a span of a month. Casualties and injuries were reported in Sultan Kudarat while the results were destruction of property, including military equipment in the Masbate blasts.

If the bombings are indeed the work of BIFF, it shows that there are still loopholes in the government peace efforts. Something is not being addressed or targeted, or else these rebel saplings are just plain evil.

Is it all just about disputes on ancestral land and decades of neglect that they want to emphasize by their bombing spree?

What else is at the root of this decades-old conflict that has kept setting the beautiful region at a slower pace of development?

Peace negotiations with rebel groups such as the Moro National Liberation Front and MILF have finally borne fruit after a number of presidents. We now have the the BOL, officially called the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao or OLBARMM.

The question is, does this law abolishing the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao have everything it takes to ensure no repeat of corruption and mismanagement happens? Will it have the system to ensure peace among the clans and tribes that have always made the culture of Muslim Mindanao distinct? Even if someone can answer these questions and help clear the path to real peace, the ones who really need to speak up only seem too happy blasting away at innocent civilians to make a bloody point. What's the point in that? J

“History shows how rebel forces keep subdividing when ideals clash.”

## New threats, old claims

Various thoughts have been put forward on the latest spurts of bombing in Mindanao, most of them rehash of the old but which are also worth looking at and delving into.

But Sen. Panfilo Lacson expressing hope the latest blasts are detached from talks of peace and the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) is more like a desperation on what has become a vicious cycle of history in the Mindanao region which until now is under martial law and with questions on whether peace will remain elusive to its people.

Lacson raised the spectre of yet another young group set to take over the militancy being left by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which many years ago when it was young and drawn to the extremism then being dropped by the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), had superseded its founder Nur Misuari and threaded the path of war it is now renouncing.

But there is always a chance for peace. The BOL is it for the MILF, whose leaders saw fit to set firm grasp of government hand. But it will not, as it looks now, guarantee full peace in the face of what could be an imminent rise of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

Lacson, a former police general, sees the youngest of these groups as a threat like the MILF was then when MNLF talked peace in exchange for autonomous rule which Misuari had wasted in large parts of Mindanao.

The MILF leadership should be able to relate to the BIFF now as they were once there, employing the same tactics like the relatively small bombings now sending the region to a scare.

Lacson is seeing BIFF hands in the recent bombings in Isulan and in Masbate. He claimed hopes that no new organization was or is being formed to thwart the peace process and what the BOL offers to Mindanao.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police ordered a lock up in Isulan. Sultan Kudarat is not at ease now, especially after the possibility of BIFF presence in the province.

At least one teenager died and 15 others were wounded in the 2 September bombings. Many were wounded in a previous incident.

The Masbate City seaport was also rocked by another blast

These incidents gave rise to talks of extending martial law in Mindanao, which Lacson called premature.

*“No image change comes overnight and it will take a long process to achieve.”*



Aldrin Cardona

Newly installed House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, however, assured her support should President Rodrigo Duterte decide to extend what is already an extended martial rule in the region since it was first declared at the height of the Abu Sayyaf/Maute Group invasion of Marawi City.

“It’s not just too early. I don’t think martial law extension is the better solution,” Lacson said, offering a “better solution” by suggesting the military and ground forces “keep their ears on the ground and intensify their intel operations.”

Some persons in authority, however, seem to be offering quick and patch up solutions. Martial law, they seem to be saying, is the panacea to what could be another looming crisis in Mindanao.

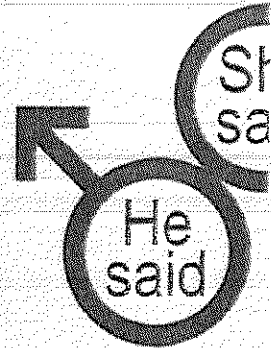
Another school also wants to tag the Maoist communist rebels as complicit to the recent bombings, further raising speculations of government laying the martial law predicate not only in Mindanao but also in the rest of the nation.

Such a suggestion does not help in keeping a fit image of Mr. Duterte. It only reinforces claims by Duterte’s critics of the President setting himself up for a strongman’s rule.

There seems to be an image switch attempt by the President, in case we have not noticed it.

He now sticks to prepared speeches when he can help it. That means less controversial statements when he can. But no image change comes overnight and it will take a long process to achieve.

Rocking the plan through claims no valid information could back up, especially with new threats rising in the Mindanao region, only muddles up the issues stakeholders to peace must uplift.



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## Duterte's desperation

**I**F President Duterte thought that Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV would cower in fear and hide when he ordered the revocation of the amnesty granted to him and other officials who took a stand against the presidency of Gloria Arroyo on July 27, 2003 at then Oakwood Hotel (now Ascott) at the Makati Commercial Center and on November 29, 2007 at The Peninsula Manila hotel in Makati, he is wrong.

No, the 47-year-old senator, who was imprisoned for more than seven years (he won his senatorial seat in 2007 while he was in detention) called Duterte a coward.

"Mr. Duterte, duwag ka. Inantay mo pang makaalis ka bago mo nilabas itong proclamation mo. (Mr. Duterte, you are a coward. You waited until you have left before your released this proclamation.)"

Trillanes said he will not be intimidated. "This is a clear case of political persecution, but I will not cower. There's a time for reckoning for you and your minions."

In a statement, Trillanes said: "It was agreed to by the Senate leadership that I remain under the custody of the Senate President until my lawyers have filed the necessary petition against the illegal and unconstitutional revocation of my amnesty. What Mr. Duterte wants to happen is to order a warrantless arrest which seems to declare

a de facto martial law."

He underscored that all requirements for the grant of the amnesty "have been complied with."

"I even took oath in front of then defense officials. All my cases covered by the amnesty have been dismissed," said the senator who has exposed Duterte's bank deposits amounting to not less than P200 million, contrary to Duterte's claim that he is not a millionaire.

A paid legal notice for Proclamation No. 572 was published in the Manila Times Tuesday (Sept. 4).

Proclamation No. 572 is titled "Revocation of the Department of National Defense AD HOC

*Duterte is scraping the bottom of the barrel in his desire to get back at Trillanes.*



### HONESTLY SPEAKING

ELLEN TORDESILLAS

Social media is now flooded with video of Trillanes filing the application form for amnesty at the Department of National Defense.

Tindig Pilipinas, a civil society group critical of Duterte said, "Kung nag-Google lang sana si Duterte, makikita niya ang public admission na ito. (If only Duterte searched in Google, he should have seen Trillanes' public admission.) It attached a Jan. 5, 2011 GMA-7 news item with the headline, "Trillanes avails of amnesty, admits 'breaking rules'."

Detained senator Leila de Lima, who was secretary of justice when Trillanes was granted amnesty by President Benigno Aquino III, issued a statement from her detention cell in Camp Crame condemning Duterte's revocation of Trillanes' amnesty: "Kinokondena ko at maring kinasusuklamang pagbawi ni Duterte ng amnestiya kay Sen. Sonny Trillanes. Ito ay mali, hindi makatwiran at walang basehan. Tunay na karimarinim!"

De Lima raised a question: "If there is ZERO basis in fact and in law to revoke Sen. Sonny's amnesty, then, why did Duterte issue his Proclamation? Walang legal, legal dito. It was simply a political move to try to silence Senator Trillanes. Another palpable case

Committee Resolution No. 2 (31) dated January 31, 2011 insofar as it granted amnesty to former LTSG Antonio Trillanes IV.

The reason cited in the proclamation signed by Duterte and Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea (who are both in Israel and Jordan on an official visit) was that Trillanes did not file an Official Amnesty Application Form and "there is no available copy of this application for amnesty in the file records."

The proclamation also said Trillanes never expressed his guilt for the crimes that were committed on occasion of the Oakwood mutiny and the Manila Peninsula Hotel siege.

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## DUTERTE'S

of political persecution.”

De Lima said Duterte must now be in a state of panic: “Nagpa-panic na si Duterte. Nasusukol na sya sa kanyang mga kawalang-hiyaan, kabukturan, kasiyangalingan at asal-diktador. Nakikita na rin ng marami ang kapalpakan at kawalang liderato ni Duterte sa maraming isyu gaya ng papataas pang presyo ng mga bilihan at krisis sa bigas at isda. Lumalaki na ang oposisyong umaalma sa kanya. Kaya binabalingan ni Duterte ang mga lider na gaya ni Sen. Sonny.”

She said Duterte will fail: “Pero, mabibigo ka, Duterte. Magwawakas din ang iyong kasamaan. At mananagot ka sa iyong mga kasalanan.”

Duterte's revocation of Trillanes' amnesty shows the depth of his desperation.

We recall what our source in Malacañang related that early in his presidency, Duterte ordered that “dirt” be gathered about his critics who include De Lima and Trillanes. After a few months, his “researchers” came back with some stuff about De Lima which was used against the senator. But they got nothing on Trillanes.

“Wala talaga?” an exasperated Duterte asked, our source said.

The “researchers” replied: “Wala talaga, Mr. President.”

The source said Duterte gave a chilling order: “Itumba na lang ‘yan.”

Some of those in the room were military officers, graduates of the Philippine Military Academy. There's a brotherhood among PMAers. Immediately, Duterte's order reached Trillanes.

Duterte even fell for a scam about Trillanes' bogus foreign bank accounts. Now, this amnesty revocation.

Duterte is scraping the bottom of the barrel in his desire to get back at Trillanes. His desperation is obvious.

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