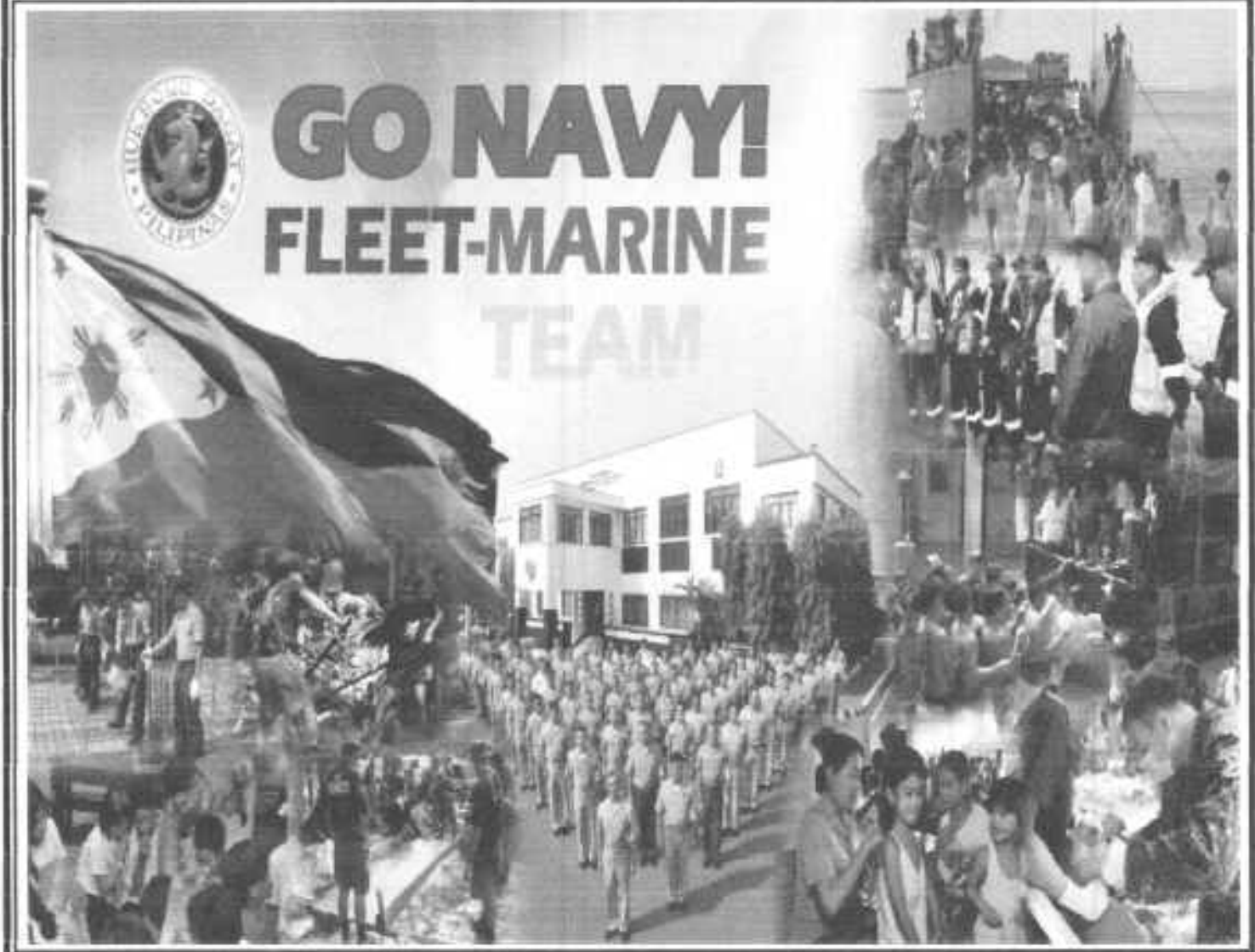




**"NAVY 2020: STRONG AND CREDIBLE"**

Headquarters Philippine Navy  
Naval Station Jose V Andrada  
2335 Roxas Boulevard, Manila



**"A Vital Partner for Peace, Security & Development  
of our Maritime Nation"**

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**Date: 04 FEB 2012**

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## AFP, pinuri ni Pangulong Aquino dahil sa matagumpay na operasyon

### Ni For Taboy

Pinuri kahapon ni Pangulong Benigno Aquino III ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa matagumpay na operasyon laban sa bandidong Abu Sayyaf at kaalyadong Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) sa Barangay Duyan Kabau, Parang, Sulu.

Ibinunyag ng isang mataas na opisyal ng AFP na may 30 dayuhang terosista ang dumating sa Sulu na kinabibilangan ng anim na JI bomb expert.

Inihayag ni Western Mindanao Command Chief Major General Noel Coballes na dumating umano ang mga terosista sa Sulu noong Disyembre 2011 na siyang tinutukan ng mga militar.

Sa naturang operasyon, napatay ang 15 bandido na kinabibilangan ng senior leader ng Abu Sayyaf Group na si Umera Jumail alyas Dr. Abu at dalawa pang lider ng JI na sina Zulkipli bin Abdul Hir at Muhamda Ali.

Personal na tinanggop ni AFP Chief of Staff General Jessie Dellosa ang pagpuri sa kanya ng Commander in Chief sa matagumpay na operasyon laban sa grupo ng Abu Sayyaf at

teroristang JI.

Mismong si Pangulong Aquino ang nag-utos sa AFP para tugisin ang mga teroristang naghahasik ng gulo sa Mindanao.

Kinumpirma ni AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Jessie Dellosa ang pagkamatay ng 15 miyembro ng JI at ASG members sa inilunsad na airstrike ng Philippine Air Force sa Barangay Duyan Kabau, Parang, Sulu.

Tiniyak naman ni AFP PIO Chief Col. Arnulfo Burgos na walang sibilyan na nadamay sa naturang operasyon.

Ito umano ay resulta sa pinaigting na surveillance at intelligence operation ng militar matapos makumpirma ang kuta ng mga bandido.

Sinabi sa report na si Zulkipli ay kilala rin sa alyas na Marwan habang si Muhamda ay kilala naman sa alyas na Muawiyah at Anjala.

Si Dr. Abu ay wanted sa Amerika na may pabuyang US\$5 million o katumbas ng P200-milyon.

Sinabi ng military na si Marwan at Muawiyah ay responsible sa mga serye ng karahasan sa lalawigan ng Sulu na nagsagawa ng

kidnapping at pambobomba.

Kilala din si Marwan, 46-anyos, na US trained Malaysian engineer na matagal nang wanted, maging sa Amerika, dahil sa pagkakasangkot sa terror attacks at noong 2007 ay sinampuhan ito ng kaso sa korte sa Amerika dahil sa pagbibigay tulong sa mga terosista.

Nang magtago sa bansa si Marwan, nagsalabas ng pabuya ang Amerika ng halagang \$5 million para sa makapagbibigay ng impormasyon para sa ikadarakip nito.

Naglaan naman ang pamahalaan ng Pilipinas ng pabuyang 17.4 million para sa ikadarakip nito.

Batay sa rekord ng Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), si Marwan ay miyembro ng JI Central Command at kabilang sa most wanted terrorists sa buong mundo.

Kinukonsidera rin si Marwan na isa sa mga top JI leaders sa Southeast Asia pagkatapos maaresto si Umar Patek sa bansang Pakistan.

May pabuyang \$50,000 naman para sa ulo ni Muawiyah na nagsilbing translator sa mga dimokot na miyembro ng International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) noong 2009 sa Sulu.



## 'Talks next month on US military presence in Phl may be postponed'

WASHINGTON - High-level talks here in March on expanding America's military presence in the Philippines may have to be postponed unless the Aquino administration can come up with specific proposals on where to keep US spy planes and warships on a rotational basis, informed diplomatic sources said.

As part of its "Asia pivot" the US is expanding its military footprint in the Asia-Pacific region to counterbalance China's growing military might and wants facilities in the Philippines for surveillance flights and sea patrols to supplement plans to station troops in Australia and dock littoral combat Navy ships in Singapore.

Both sides are discussing a bigger US military presence and are favorably inclined toward a deal, the Washington Post reported, but at a Phl-US Bilateral Strategic Dialogue in Washington on Jan. 26-27 the Philippine side was unable to come up with details of where, when and how to accommo-

date the rotating US assets, diplomatic sources said.

Foreign Affairs and Defense officials of the Philippine delegation were not on the same page, the sources said.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta from the US side are scheduled to meet Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert Del Rosario and Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin in Washington in March to put their stamp of approval on US military expansion in the Philippines in addition to the current rotating force of about 600 servicemen of the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines, under the US Joint Special Operations Command.

Sources said a results-oriented Panetta wanted "substantive deliverables" ironed out before the so-called 2+2 conference and warned he would not be available for the meeting if there were no substantive matters to be discussed.

By **JOSE KATIGBAK**  
STAR Washington Bureau

Scheduling is also an issue because of the difficulty of coordinating the timetables of the principals.

In a recent review of US defense strategy in the light of budget cuts, Panetta said the United States would rebalance its global posture and presence to potential trouble spots in the world such as the Asia-Pacific and the Middle East and place an emphasis on special operations forces and a rotational presence.

"And in all of these cases, obviously we'll do this in a way that respects the sovereignty of the nations that we will be working with," he said.

Under Article 18 of the Philippine Constitution "foreign military bases, troops or facilities" are not allowed.

The 600 US troops, designated as "visiting forces," were deployed in Mindanao on a rotational basis in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist strikes at the Pentagon in Washington and

the World Trade Center in New York to help the Armed Forces of the Philippines battle the Abu Sayyaf and other terrorist groups.

Ten years on and they are still 'visiting', a touchy issue with Filipino nationalists.

The US wants the same status for warships and planes, leading to speculation it is seeking to re-establish the permanent military presence it had in the Philippines until 1991 when the Senate voted to boot it out.

Military sources said possible sites or coves that the Americans could use to keep their air and ship assets in the Philippines include Subic Bay, Palawan, Cagayan de Oro, the Visayas area, Poro Point in La Union and Pasuquin in Ilocos Norte.

A successful 2+2 meeting would make President Aquino's visit to the White House tentatively scheduled in May or June more likely, informed sources said.



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

With the campaign season in full swing and President Barack Obama facing a difficult election race, time is in short supply for the US leader.

"He will find the time if an important announcement can be made. If it's only a photo then it (the visit) probably won't happen," said an ASEAN diplomat who asked not to be identified.

The State Department has intimated to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila that Aquino will have to be ready to travel to Washington at short notice because of the difficulty of anticipating Obama's campaign schedule, diplomatic sources said.

Defense analysts in Washington said the Philippines and the US are generally on the same page in security matters but differ in emphasis on substance.

The Philippines wants to purchase US ships and aircraft to bolster its maritime defense in the light of Chinese assertiveness over disputed territo-

ries in the South China Sea, some of which Manila also claims. Additionally it wants the US Seventh Fleet to be more active in the area.

The US insists first of all that it be given "visitor's right" to air and sea facilities, pointing out that it would take time to give Filipinos the hardware they want assuming they can afford it, the sources said.

"We want F-16s but we don't have the facilities for them at the moment. Neither do we have any pilots who can fly them or the technicians to maintain them. It takes time and lots of money," a military source said.

He said the F-16s came into the equation only because President Aquino, while on a visit to Indonesia, saw the planes and voiced his opinion that the Philippines should have them too.

"We need a firm decision from the political leadership on our military needs rather than wants," the source added.

# US eyes smaller PH base, revises Guam expansion

■ The Obama administration already is engaged in discussions with the Philippines and Australia as it seeks to realign forces in the region, an official says.

PRESIDENT Barack Obama plans to curtail a plan costing as much as \$21.1 billion to expand the U.S. military's presence in Guam and instead will rotate some of the Marines through the Asia-Pacific region, people familiar with the matter said.

The administration now intends to send about 4,500 U.S. Marines stationed in Japan to Guam and to rotate an additional 4,000 through Australia, Subic Bay and perhaps a smaller base in the Philippines and Hawaii, according to the people, who asked not to be identified because the plan hasn't been announced.

The US is realigning forces in the Asia-Pacific as the Obama administration refocuses attention on the region after more than a decade of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

At the same time, the Pentagon is seeking to cut about \$490 billion from projected defense spending over a decade.

Some of the Marines going to Guam under the administration's revised plan will be based in the US territory in the Pacific temporarily, known as on rotation, instead of being permanently stationed there, the people said.

Next page

# US...

From page 1

As part of a 2006 agreement with Japan, 8,600 Marines and 9,000 dependents were to be transferred from Okinawa in Japan almost 2,413 kilometers south to Guam by 2014.

Non-voting Representative Madeleine Bordallo, a Democrat from Guam, cautioned against depending too much on a temporary presence.

"There must be a balance between a robust permanent presence of Marines as well as a rotational component," she said in an e-mail. "It's foolish to believe a rotational component would save any money in the long run."

"The Pentagon considers Guam 'an essential part of our larger Asia-Pacific strategy,'" Commander Leslie Hall-Ryde, a Defense Department spokeswoman, said in an e-mail.

"We are committed to developing Guam as a strategic hub

and to establishing an operational Marine Corps presence on Guam by relocating some Marines from Okinawa to Guam."

"Recognizing the budget realities here, as well as the environmental challenges we face on Guam, the department is considering options that will fulfill our regional commitments most efficiently and effectively," Hall-Ryde said.

The Obama administration's change in plans on locating forces in Guam also follows objections in the US Senate over the cost of building infrastructure in the island territory.

"I do appreciate that this administration takes seriously the concerns of Congress and I urge them to address those concerns so we can move forward with the build-up," Bordallo said in the e-mail statement.

In May, three senators called on the Pentagon to re-examine military basing plans in East Asia, saying billions of dollars may be saved in

South Korea, Japan and Guam.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat, joined Senators John McCain of Arizona, the panel's senior Republican, and Jim Webb, a Virginia Democrat and the chairman of the personnel subcommittee, in calling for reducing the planned Marine Corps expansion on Guam.

Instead, the lawmakers called for rotating combat units based elsewhere and for examining the feasibility of moving Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on Okinawa, Japan, to Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, while avoiding building a replacement facility. Local officials have complained about noise, pollution and safety issues at Futenma.

In approving the Pentagon's fiscal year 2012 budget, Congress blocked funding for the relocation of Marines to Guam until the Defense Department provided a master plan. The Pentagon had to consider "alternatives

that may provide the needed Marine forward presence at much less expense," McCain said in a Senate speech in September.

McCain said at the time that he expected the redeployment of forces from Japan to Guam to cost \$18 billion to \$25 billion. The Government Accountability Office estimated in a June 27, 2011 report the cost of the Guam military buildup to be about \$23.9 billion, including the \$21.1 billion U.S. share as well as contributions from Japan.

Alternatives to Guam, especially in other countries, might prove more expensive over time. Guam's Republican Governor Eddie Baza Calvo said in an e-mail.

"Guam is the perfect place for the buildup," he said.

"We are the closest US community to Asia."

Unlike "many foreign countries and even some US communities, we welcome an increased military presence."

**Bloomberg**

## 'U.S., UK warnings vs Phi, wag ikabahala'

Tiniyak ngayon ng Malacañang na walang dapat ikabahala sa panibagong travel warning na nilabas ng United Kingdom laban sa Pilipinas.

Una nang naglabas ng babala sa kanilang mamamayan ang Australia at U.S. na iwasan ang pagbiyaha sa Pilipinas lalo sa bahagi ng Mindanao.

Sa UK travel warning, partikular nitong ibinabala ang kidnapping at pag-atake ng mga terorista.

Ang nasabing babala ay kasunod lamang ng pagkakatukot sa dalawang European nationals sa Tawi-Tawi City.

Sinabi kahapon ni Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte, normal lamang ang gantong uri ng babala para sa kaligtasan ng kanilang mga mamamayan.

Ayon kay Valte, UK ang pangunahing pinanggagalingan ng turista mula sa Europa at tiwala silang hindi ito magbabago sa kabila ng travel advisory.

"The UK travel advisory is meant as an advice to its own citizens here. The UK is our main source of tourists from Europe, and we continue to have a positive outlook on the tourism flow from here," ani Valte.

# Military tightens security against Abu counter strike

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY has stepped up security in expectation of retaliatory attacks by the Abu Sayyaf and other Muslim rebel groups after an air strike on a remote terrorist camp in Sulu killed 15 al-Qaida-linked extremists on Thursday.

The Armed Forces said among those killed in the predawn strike in Parang, Sulu, were at least three of Southeast Asia's most wanted terrorist leaders—Malaysian Zulkifli bin Hir, also known as Marwan, a top leader of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) terror network; Abu Sayyaf leader Umbra Jumail, aka Doc Abu or Abu Pula; and a Singaporean JI leader Abdullah Ali, alias Mauwiya.

Military spokesperson Col. Arnulfo

MILITARY/A15

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Burgos yesterday said "no bodies have been retrieved right now."

But he said the military knew the location of the graves which was in an area of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"We are expecting cooperation from the MILF," Burgos said.

"There is an effort to coordinate with local authorities for the cooperation of the relatives because we have to get DNA sample," Burgos said.

He said given the amount of the bounty coming to the informants, authorities may have to exhume some of the bodies to prove the identities of the terrorist leaders.

Doc Abu had a bounty of P7.4 million put up by the government on top of a \$140,000 reward offered by the US State Department for his involvement in the May 2001 kidnapping in the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

Marwan, the 29th most wanted personality by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, carried a bounty of P7.4 million and \$5 million for multiple counts of kidnapping. Mauwiya, a known JI contact, had a \$50,000 bounty for his capture.

"We have already prepared for any probable retaliation," Maj. Gen. Noel Coballes, commanding general of the Western Mindanao Command.

He said military units have already deployed forces to secure the "probable targets" of the terrorists.

He said even before the military launched the predawn operation on Thursday, military units were ordered to raise their security level in anticipation of revenge attacks.

"We alerted all our troops even before the execution of the plan. We (informed) our commanders of the probable repercussion or probable retaliation of other groups," Coballes said.

## Many terrorist cells

Coballes said the Abu Sayyaf has splintered into many "terrorist cells" which may be capable of staging attacks.

"They have cells in different small groups in different areas, so we cannot say that they will no longer act in their area. But with the loss of these three people, they have lost the connection to other groups, they have lost leadership," he said.

"Definitely it's a big loss to the terrorist organization. Marwan is considered one of the heads of the JI in Asia while Doc Abu is an icon in the Abu Sayyaf Group. They look up to him," he added.

But a day after announcing that the top regional terrorist leader had been killed, the military yesterday said that troops on the ground were still combing the remote terrorist jungle camp that was bombed on Thursday for the body of Marwan.

## Disrupting JI network

The reported killing of Marwan, a bomb-making expert and one of United States' most wanted terrorist suspects had been hiding out in Mindanao since 2003, would mark a major success in disrupting the JI terrorist network blamed for some of the most spectacular terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia in recent years.

"We are still searching. Our troops are still there," said Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang, spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command based in Zamboanga City, where the bomber planes in Thursday's strike took off.

Military officials dismissed doubts that the three top terrorist leaders had been killed even though their bodies were not recovered, saying comrades re-

moved the dead after the strike.

Cabangbang said the military's announcement of Marwan's killing was based on information provided by informants. He refused to elaborate, saying it would compromise their intelligence assets.

## Body obliterated?

Cabangbang suggested that the blast could have "obliterated" Marwan's body, saying the process of verification linked to the possible disbursement of the reward money to informants will be "more tedious" and could include DNA testing.

Two security officials with knowledge of the air strike who spoke to the Associated Press also said Marwan's body was not found, though bombs shattered the house where he was believed to have been.

One of the officials confirmed the deaths of the other two high-level leaders—Umbra Jumail and Abdullah Ali. The other official confirmed only the death of Jumail, also known as Abu Pula, and his son.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

Cabangbang said the decision to announce the killings, including that of Marwan, was made by Armed Forces Chief Gen. Jessie Dellosa, after he was briefed by commanders.

"There are details that we cannot divulge because of operational security," he said when pressed for details.

## DNA testing

Interior Secretary Jesse M. Robredo yesterday said police scene of the crime operatives have taken samples of the human remains from the site of the air strike which he said would be used for DNA confirmatory testing of the identities of the three most wanted Southeast Asia terrorist leaders.

But Robredo stressed that "from the information gathered from the locals on the ground, there is reasonable certainty that the terror personalities were really the ones who were killed."

He said crime scene specialists had some difficulty in retrieving samples. "The bodies were in such a state that it might be difficult to account for all of them," he said.

Asked how the authorities could ascertain the body count considering the condition of the bodies, Robredo said the information had come from the locals. The names of the 12 others killed in the strike were still not available.

Robredo said he expected the police and the military to coordinate with international authorities, including those from the United States, which has a stake in counterterrorism efforts in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as Southeast Asian neighbors Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.

"Terrorism is an international matter, so we will appreciate whatever assistance we will get from them," he said.

Robredo said he still had no information on who would get the reward money offered for the capture and information on the terrorist leaders. But he believes a group of government informers will be amply rewarded once documentation is finished.

### **Eight more identified**

The military yesterday identified eight more of the 15 slain extremists. It said one of them was the son of the slain Umbra Jumdal and another Malaysian member of the JI.

Burgos said intelligence sources said one of those slain used the alias Jumong and was one of the six Malaysian JI operatives who reportedly slipped

into the country last December.

He said three remains have been identified to belong to Moammar Jumdal alias Ting, who was reportedly the son of Umbra Jumdal, and Abu Sayyaf members Tati Jambali and Tuan Nash Lipaetif.

Burgos said three others were also identified as Abu Sayyaf members who were known only as Leong, Teng Muin and Julpe.

### **Civilians killed?**

The head of the Bantay Cease-fire in Sulu yesterday said some civilians and a Bangladeshi national identified only as Mastal were among those killed in the Parang air strike.

Octavio Dinampo, of the Mindanao State University in Sulu, said the information was relayed to him by a relative of Doc Abu.

"Doc Abu was attending to a wounded patient in a makeshift clinic in Lanao Dakulah when four bombs were dropped, killing him and one Bangladeshi national identified as Mastal and some civilians residing in that area," Dinampo said.

It was not clear what the Bangladeshi was doing in Parang or who the civilians were.

Dellosa denied that any civilians were killed in the air strike.

He also said that contrary to Dinampo's information, the air strike took place in Duyan Kabaw, Parang, and all the fatalities were JI operatives and Abu Sayyaf extremists. *With reports from AP, AFP and Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

# Military ready for JI, Sayyaf reprisal

The military is preparing for possible retaliation from terrorists in the wake of an air strike in Sulu last Thursday that left three terror leaders and 12 of their followers dead.

Armed Forces Western Mindanao Command chief Maj. Gen. Noel Coballes said their troops had been alerted about the possible repercussion of their operations against the militants, believed to be members of Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and the Abu Sayyaf group (ASG).

"Actually, we've alerted all our troops with regard to that even before the execution of the plan. We have informed our commanders about the probable repercussion or probable retaliation of the other groups," he said.

Coballes, however, said it remains uncertain if terrorists are really planning to stage attacks to avenge the deaths of their comrades.

"We cannot say that they will do that but we have already prepared for any probable retaliation," he said.

AFP spokesman Col. Arnulfo Burgos Jr. said some militants survived last Thursday's air raid. Some of the survivors were Malaysian members of the JI who entered the Philippines last December.

"Right now they (survivors) are disorganized. They are on the run. They are subjects of our operations," Burgos said.

Burgos said last Thursday's operation targeted 30 terrorists. Eight of the 30 militants are believed to be members of the JI which has links to international terror cell al-Qaeda.

Two Air Force OV-10 planes with night flying capability launched the attack at around 3 a.m. on Barangay Duyan Kabau in Parang town. Officials said the terrorists were caught by surprise as they may have been asleep during the attack.

Burgos said they will validate the identities of the slain terrorists through DNA tests. He, however, admitted that the military has yet to secure the bodies of the militants.

"We are still finding the bodies but we already know their location. We have to coordinate with the relatives," he said. "(We are not) in possession (of the bodies) right now. We already have their locations. That area is an MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front) territory."

Burgos, however, maintained that they have validated the identities of 11 of the 15 slain terrorists.

"We have assets in the area so we already have the confirmation," he said. Burgos said they expect members of the MNLF to help

in coordinating with the families of the slain militants.

"We are expecting cooperation from MNLF. This is an endeavor to be done in cooperation with civilian authorities," he said.

## Blow to al-Qaeda

For AFP chief Lt. Gen. Jessie Dellosa, the al-Qaeda has suffered a major setback with the killing of the JI and ASG leaders in Parang, Sulu on Thursday.

"Their loss was a big blow to their operation. They have lost their strength," Dellosa said, stressing that the slain terror leaders were the "center of their gravity."

"They controlled their people. Their killings caught the terror groups off balance," Dellosa said in Filipino.

US embassy deputy chief of mission Leslie Basset also called the military operation "a very serious blow against transnational terrorism."

Reported killed in the pre-dawn air strike were JI leaders Zulkipli bin Abdul Hir alias Marwan, Muhamda Ali alias Muawiya and Muin Khalid, and Abu Sayyaf leader Gumbali Jumdalil alias Dr. Abu Pula.

The air strike killed 12 other terrorists, the military said.

Also killed in the raid were Indonesian JI members known only as Saad and Hajan.

The slain Abu Sayyaf members include Abdulla Aziz, brother-in-law of Marwan, Ben Wagas, Hajji Tatti, close aide of Dr. Abu Pula, Muammar, Apo Mike, Abu Daud, Tuan Nas, alias Ainal, and a certain Sissan, a religious leader from Basilan.

The military said there was no doubt Abu Sayyaf and JI leaders and operatives were killed in the pre-dawn raid last Thursday.

"The assets were very credible. But I don't want to elaborate the exact details. The target is very accurate," Dellosa said.

NAVY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



WASHINGTON, DC

Approved for Release by NSA on 05-08-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

Public Release in Full - This report is being released in full because it does not contain information that is exempt from public release.

Sulu 1st district Rep. Tupay Loong said there was "talk among the civilians in the area" regarding the deaths of the ASG and JI leaders, including foreigners.

He said considering the operation was done while it was still dark, the remains of the slain terror leaders might have been carried away and buried by their comrades according to Muslim beliefs.

Loong said he has yet to get word from the mayor of Parang, who is his nephew, on the extent of the military operation and its effect on the area.

"If that will address national issue as far as security is concerned, that is good... we have to congratulate the AFP," Loong said.

Coballes said the JI is joining forces with other Islamic extremist groups to expand its presence and operations in Mindanao.

He also said they have received reports that 30 terrorists, including six foreign JI militants, arrived in Sulu last December. This led the military to hatch "Oplan Nemesis" aimed at neutralizing the militants.

600

DATE: 11/11/14  
TIME: 10:00 AM  
BY: [illegible]

NO FURTHER RELEASE

# Military braces for Abu Sayyaf retaliatory attacks

By Mario J. Mallari

The military is now bracing for probable retaliatory attacks coming from the al Qaeda linked Abu Sayyaf group and Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) following the killing of 15 terrorists, including three top leaders of the groups, during an air strike in Sulu province on Thursday.

Military Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom) chief Maj. Gen. Noel Coballes said that even before launching the air strike against the main body of ASG and JI in Barangay Duyan Kabau, Parang town, he already alerted all military units in his area for atrocities coming from the terrorists.

"We are preparing for that (terrorist retaliation) although we cannot say that they will do that but we have already prepared for any probable retaliation," Coballes said. "Actually, we have alerted all our troops with regard to that

even before the execution of the plan (air strike). We have informed our commanders of the probable repercussion or probable retaliation of other groups."

Coballes was referring to other ASG members who are not part of the main body that was hit by military bombs in Parang town.

The military official refused to identify specific targets of possible retaliatory attacks from the terrorists but cited "population centers" that additionally targeted by the ASG and JI as possible targets.

Meanwhile, Coballes admitted that the military has not recovered any of the 15 terrorists it claimed to have been killed during the air strike.

On Thursday afternoon or barely hours after the 3 a.m. air assault against the ASG-JI main body, the military announced the killing of ASG top commander Gundahad Jumdal, alias Dr. Abu, Mafiywan Zulkifli bin Abdul Hir,

who uses the aliases Marwan and Ibrahim, and Singaporean Muhamda Ali alias Muawiya.

"Apparently, we have not retrieved (the bodies). That's now the subject of our focus to retrieve," Coballes said.

He, however, maintained that the three ASG-JI top leaders were among those killed.

"They were there, among those killed," Coballes said.

According to Coballes, the bodies of the slain terrorists were taken by civilians immediately after the air strike, and only some body parts were recovered by government troops in the area.

Coballes also branded the death of Jumdal, Marwan and Muawiya as a huge blow to the terrorist groups.

"Definitely, it's a big loss to the terrorist organizations... Marwan is considered as one of the heads of the JI in Asia and then Doc Abu is an icon among the Abu Sayyaf group, he is being looked up to,



## P224-m reward for anti-terror informants

By Florante S. Solmerin

THE civilians who tipped off the military on the location of three top terrorists who were killed in an airstrike Thursday will receive around P224 million in reward money, Armed Forces spokesman Arnulfo Burgos said on Friday.

Military officials declined to say who or how many the informants were, but said US officials would hand them the reward.

The Philippine military would help facilitate the release of the ~~terrorists~~ after the US had verified that three top terrorists were indeed among those killed during the airstrike, Burgos said.

The US government had offered rewards for the capture or death of Zulkipri Bin Hir alias Marwan (\$5 million or P215 million), Muhammad Ali bin Abd Al-Rahman alias Masiyah (\$50,000 or P2.15 million), and Gambahadi Jumdal alias Dr. Abu, (\$140,000 or P7.4 million). *Next page*

## P224-m...

From page 1

Marwan's remains had not yet been found, the military said Friday. It said troops were still combing the jungle camp for his body.

Marwan, a Malaysian national, and Masiyah, a Singaporean, were senior leaders of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah. Dr. Abu was a Tausug who helped found the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group.

The three had been charged with kidnapping, multiple-murder and multiple-attempted murder. They and 12 of their supporters were blown to pieces during an air bombing of their lair in Parang, Solu, at dawn on Thursday, said Maj. Gen. Tony Villarete, commander of the 3rd Air Division.

Among the fatalities was an alias Jumong, a Malaysian national who was a member of the Jemaah Islamiyah, Burgos said in a press briefing Friday.

## Soldiers battle Muslim rebels after air strike

GOVERNMENT troops engaged Muslim extremists on a remote southern island on Friday where a day earlier three of Southeast Asia's top terror suspects were killed in a US-backed air strike, the Philippine Army said on Friday.

Soldiers who approached a bombed area

on the outskirts of a small village on Jolo island, the capital of Sulu province in the country's southern Mindanao region, after the raid faced dogged resistance from surviving militants, regional military spokesman Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang said.

"There is intermittent fire, the area is not

yet secured," Cabangbang told GMA television during a telephone interview.

The troops had moved into the scene of the strike in an effort to retrieve the bodies of the three senior militants who were killed, as well as to take on the others who survived

► **BattleA2**

### ■ BATTLE FROM A1

## Soldiers battle terrorists

Thursday's aerial assault.

The military said that 15 members of the al-Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist organizations were killed in the air raid, which followed months of surveillance on the sparsely populated and isolated hinterland of Jolo.

Cabangbang gave no indication as to the scale of Friday's fighting, but military chiefs on Thursday said that about 30 militants were at the scene when the bombings began.

The military said that it had targeted, and killed, Malaysian Zulkifli bin Abdul Hir, alias Marwan, one of the United States most-wanted terror suspects with a \$5-million bounty on his head from the US government.

Zulkifli was one of Jemaah-Islamiyah's top leaders and a bomb-

making expert who has been hiding out in southern Philippines since 2003, according to the US State Department.

Also reported killed was Singaporean Mohammad Ali, alias Muawiyah, another Islamiyah leader who has also been hiding in the Philippines since the group killed 202 people in a series of bomb attacks on the Indonesian island of Bali in 2002.

The third senior militant reported killed was Filipino Abu Pula, also known as Doctor Abu or Umbra Jumail, one of the core leaders of the Abu Sayyaf that is blamed for the worst terrorist attacks in the Philippines.

The military claimed the killings

dealt a major blow to the capabilities of the two terror groups, particularly their ability to strike in the Philippines.

Col. Arnulfo Burgos, the spokesman for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, on Thursday said that the US military provided intelligence that helped in the success on the bombing raid.

A rotating force of 600 US Special Forces has been stationed in Mindanao since 2002 to help train local troops in combating Islamic militants.

The US forces are only allowed to advise Filipino soldiers and are banned from playing a combat role.

The commander of the Western Mindanao Command, Maj. Gen. Noel Coballes, also on Friday said that government forces were on a "heightened security level" even as he admitted that none of the bodies of the three most wanted terror leaders and their 12 men who

were killed on Thursday had been recovered or retrieved.

Coballes said that the bodies of Marwan, Muawiyah and Umbra and those of their followers could no longer be retrieved as they had been mangled by the bombs dropped by military planes.

There were reports that the three terrorist leaders were not among those who perished but the command commander maintained that "they were among the dead."

Coballes said that the death of the three terrorist leaders would greatly affect the terrorist organization in Mindanao, but added that the successful air strike did not mean that it was the end of terror attacks in the country.

He added that in preparing for possible retaliation from the terrorists, they had secured all potential targets of terror attacks, particularly population centers.

AFP AND WILLIAM B. DEPASUPIL

## Militants rely on kidnapping to survive

WITH funding from the Middle East drying up and a decade of US-backed military pressure taking a toll, Islamic militants in Mindanao in southern Philippines are relying on kidnapping for their survival, according to experts. The kidnapping-for-ransom stings

offer the militants a vital source of income, with the best targets the brave or foolhardy foreigners who ignore travel warnings and drift into the most lawless parts of the South, the experts say. The dangers were highlighted on

Wednesday when two European men on a bird-watching trip were kidnapped on remote islands where the al Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf and other militant groups are known to operate.

»feature

► KidnappingA6

Their abductions bring to seven the number of foreigners believed to be being held by militants in Mindanao, with one of them—an elderly Japanese man—not heard of since the middle of 2010.

“They (the militants) look at these foreigners as potential hostages and walking dollars,” said Rommel Banlaoi, the executive director of the Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research, a Manila-based think-tank.

But while the kidnappings of foreigners often grab the headlines, many more Filipinos are abducted then quietly released after ransoms are paid.

The Abu Sayyaf carries out most of the kidnappings of foreigners, although smaller gangs are also known to snatch targets and sell them to the militants, according to Banlaoi and other security experts.

Banlaoi said that, based on his group’s study, about 90 percent of the Abu Sayyaf’s funding was now sourced from kidnapping and extortion activities.

Ransom payments are then used to buy more arms, pay off members, hire

recruits or bribe community elders to turn a blind eye to their crimes.

“They have simply realized that kidnap-for-ransom activities is an enterprise to finance their movement,” said Banlaoi, one of the few security analysts to have visited the militants in their strongholds.

The Abu Sayyaf first carried out mass abductions in the 1990s, and in the early part of the following decade launched kidnapping raids that netted them dozens of local, European and American hostages.

The militants’ beheaded several of their hostages when ransoms were not paid, including an American.

The Abu Sayyaf’s brazenness, however, made the group a prime target in the US-led global war on terror.

A rotating force of 600 US Special Forces was deployed to southern Philippines at the beginning of 2002 to help train local troops in dealing with the militant threat.

The campaign has had many high-profile successes, including the killing of a range of Abu Sayyaf leaders. **AFP**

## No ransom demand for kidnapped Europeans

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Gunmen holding captive two European nationals have not demanded any ransom as search and rescue operations by government forces continue in Tawi-Tawi, a police official said yesterday.

Dutchman Elwold Horn, 52, and Swiss Lorenzo Vinciguerra, 47, were seized 48 hours ago, but the police and military authorities believe the victims and their captors are still in Tawi-Tawi.

"There have been no ransom, no communication yet on what they needed," said Tawi-Tawi provincial police director Senior Superintendent Rodelio Jocsen.

Jocsen said Tawi-Tawi Gov. Sadikul Sahali is very eager to resolve the abduction incident the soonest possible time even as the provincial executive has mobilized the local government units to help monitor the possible presence of the abductors and the victims.

Jocsen said they are continuously looking for leads to determine who is behind the abduction.

Horn and Vinciguerra and their Filipino guide Ivan Sarnas were snatched by unidentified gunmen last Wednesday while bird watching in Barangay Parangan, Panglima Sugala town.

Sarnas managed to escape by jumping out of the speeding pump-boat of the suspects and swam to safety. The military suspected that rogue members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) are behind the abduction of the two European tourists.

"We are still identifying those responsible. There was information rogue elements of the MNLF were involved. But we are verifying the reports," said Armed Forces chief of staff Lt. Gen. Jessie Dellosa. Dellosa said government troops and the police have intensified the pursuit operation to locate the victims and their abductors in an area of Tawi-Tawi.

He said military and police forces were trying to isolate the area where the captors are believed to have brought their hostages.

"We are looking at the possibility if they (abductors and captives) were able to slip out from the area," Dellosa said.

Dellosa also cited the possibility that the kidnapers might escape to nearby Sulu province where military forces launched intensified operations following the air strike that killed several top Islamic militants early Thursday.

Col. Orlando de Leon, commander of the 2nd Marine Brigade, said they are yet to receive information on the whereabouts of the victims in the Sulu area.

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## Search for kidnapped foreigners on

With another embarrassing kidnapping incident in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), this time two European bird watchers in Tawi-Tawi, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is ready to join the search for the victims and secure their freedom.

Unidentified armed men snatched on Wednesday Ewold Horn, 52, a Dutch national, and Lorenzo Vinciguerra, 47, of Switzerland, while documenting bird species in Pan-

glima Sugala, and forced them to small water craft that sped off to Languyan, also an island town.

ARMM is composed of the provinces of Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. They are five of the country's most depressed areas, where kidnapping has become a "cottage industry" for many who have no livelihood.

Authorities believe the kidnapers belong to the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

Von al-Haq, spokesman for mil-

itary affairs of the MILF, said that as in the past incidence of abductions, the Muslim rebels are ready to help in securing the release of the latest kidnapping victims.

"The peace process has this joint Ad Hoc Action Group (AHAG) jointly formed since 2002 by the government and the MILF for the interdiction and is a mechanism for interdiction and isolation of criminal elements who take refuge in or near MILF communities," said al-Haq. **(Edd K. Usman)**

# Tempo

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## 3 terror leaders dead – AFP

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is not letting its guard down, as it maintained yesterday that three top leaders of al-Qaeda-linked terror groups the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) were among 15 militants killed during an airstrike in Sulu last Thursday.

The AFP said there was no collateral damage or civilian casualty during the military's surgical operation against the militant groups in Barangay Duyan Kabau, Parang, Sulu.

While no body has been retrieved from the site of the airstrike, AFP spokesman Col. Amulfo Marcelo Burgos Jr. stressed that the military confirmed the death of Malaysian Zulkifli bin Hir, also known as "Marwan," a top leader of the regional JI terror network; Singaporean Muhammad Ali Bin Abd Al-Rahman, also known as "Mauwiyah," a JI member and believed to be the contact of top Bali, Indonesia bombing suspect Umar Patek, and Gumbahali Jumdal, also

known as "Dr. Abu."

In a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Burgos said the death of the terror leaders were verified through military sources on the ground.

He said a DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) test will be conducted to prove the authorities' claim on the killing of the terror leaders, especially Marwan who had a \$5-million reward for his capture offered by the United States government.

Burgos also said the military will be coordinating with families of the slain militant personalities for the conduct of the DNA test, adding that the military has identified the locations of the bodies of slain JI and ASG members.

He said the AFP will eventually show proof that the terror personalities are indeed dead.

Mauwiyah has a \$50,000 bounty on his head while Dr. Abu has a \$140,000 reward.

Burgos said there was no collateral damage or civilian casualties during the airstrike. "As of the latest, still the report that we have received is that there is no collateral damage, no civilians, no civilian casualties whatsoever." (Elena L. Aben)

## Militar todo-bantay sa resbak ng JI, Sayyaf

**ZAMBANGA CITY** — Todo-bantay ngayon ang buong puwersa ng pulisya at militar sa lalawigan ng Sulu sa posibleng paghihiganti ng Jemaah Islamiya at Abu Sayyaf sa pagkakapasiang ng 15 terorista sa lalawigan matapos na bombahin ng US-led military operation ang kuta ng mga ito sa kahundukan.

Napatay sa raid noong Huwebes ng madaling-araw sina Malaysian bomb expert Zulkifli bin Hix, alyas Marwan, at Indian terrorist Abdullah Ali, alyas Muwi-

yah, gayundin si Abu Sayyaf leader Umbra Jumdail.

Apat na bomba mula sa dalawang Philippine Air Force OV-10 ang ibinagsak sa kampo ng mga terorista sa Lanao Dakuha sa bayan ng Panang.

"Mahigpit ang pagbantay natin ngayon dahil sa posibleng retaliation ng mga terorista dahil sa dami ng napatay sa kanila," ani Sr. Supt. Antonio Freyra, ang hepe ng provincial police force.

Sina Zulkifli at Abdullah ay kabilang sa US wanted list at may reward na \$5 milyon at \$50,000

sa kanilang mga ulo; at gayundin si Jumdail na may bounty na \$140,000, ayon sa militar.

Gayunpaman, hindi matagpuan kahapon sa pinangyarihan ng pambomba ang mga bangkay ni Zulkifli na napatay na nasawi kasama ang 14 pa sa isinagawang US-backed airstrikes.

Ginagalugad pa rin ng mga militar at pulis ang jungle camp sa pinangyarihan ng airstrike subalit higit ang mga ito na makita ang mga sinasabing bangkay. (Al Jacinto/JB Salarzon/AP)

# AFP inalerto sa resbak ng Sayyaf

Inalerto ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang buong puwersa nito sa posibleng ganting pag-atake ng Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) terorist at Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) matapos na mapaslang ang 15 terorista kabilang ang tatlong top lider ng grupo sa air strike ng militar sa Parang, Sulu kanakalawa.

Ayon kay AFP West-

ern Mindanao Command (AFP-Westmincom) Chief Maj. Gen. Noel Coballes, nasa istilo na ng mga bandido ang rumesbak kapag nalalagasan ng matataas nitong pinuno.

Pinaalalahan rin ni Coballes ang mga sibilyan na maging vigilant sa lahat ng oras dahil sa maruming lumaro ang mga terorista na maaring magsagawa

## NI JOY CANTOS

ng pambobomba lalo na sa matataong lugar bilang resbak sa sinapi na dagok ng air strike operation.

Sa nasabing air strike operation dakong alas-3 ng madaling araw sa pinagkukutaan ng mga bandido sa Brgy. Duyan Kabau, Parang, Sulu ay kabilang sa 15 nasawi ang tatlong top JI at Abu Sayyaf lider na sina Gum-

bali Jumail alyas Doc Abu Pula; Commander ng Abu Sayyaf at ang dalawang lider ng JI terorist na sina Zulkipi Bin Hir alyas Marwan at Muhammad Ali bin Al-Bahman alyas Mauiyah.

Si Doc Abu ay may reward na P7.4M mula sa gobyerno at karagdagang \$140,000 naman mula sa Estados Unidos; Marwan, P7.4M maliban pa sa \$200,000 at karagdagang \$5,000,000 mula naman

sa Estados Unidos habang si Mauiyah ay \$50,000 mula sa Estados Unidos.

Sinasabing nagkahihawihalay ang katawan ng karamihan sa 15-napatay na terorista sa tatlong rounds ng bomba na ibinagsak sa natukoy na pinagkukutaan nito ng OV 10 bomber plane ng Philippine Air Force.

Samantala, 6 pang JI members na kumikilos sa Sulu ay pinaghahanap ng AFP.

Saturday, February 4, 2012

# CPP orders NPA to hunt down fugitive Palparan

By Mario J. Mallari

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has ordered its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), to hunt down fugitive retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan as it accused the Aquino administration of coddling the former Army official wanted for the disappearance of two University of the Philippines (UP) students in 2005.

In a statement, the CPP lambasted the Aquino administration for its failure to capture Palparan two months after an arrest warrant was issued against him by a Bulacan regional trial court for the kidnapping of UP students Karen Empeno and Sherlyn Cadapan seven years ago. The two remained missing.

"In failing to put General Palparan behind bars, the Aquino regime is making a mockery of its own justice system. The longer General Palparan evades arrest,



PALPARAN

the more credulous are reports that he is being coddled by high-ranking military and police officers and supported by big bourgeois compradors who have benefited from his brutal suppression of the people's democratic struggles," the

CPP said.

"...General Palparan is being coddled in more ways than one under the Aquino regime. For his valuable service to the reactionary system, he is being afforded all possible accommodation, both legitimate and otherwise," it added.

In this light, the CPP said it authorized the NPA to hunt down Palparan to make him pay for his "war crimes" and human rights violations committed during his stint in the military.

"It is a matter of obligation to the Filipino people and state responsibility that the people's democratic government to undertake the necessary measures to put General Palparan under its duly authorized judicial organs. As such, the central organs of the CPP are authorizing all units of the New People's Army, including the people's militias, to take General Palparan into custody or do battle with him should he put up violent resistance," the CPP ordered.

"Once in custody, General Palparan should be brought to the central authorities tasked to convene a people's court to try him for his crimes and render the appropriate verdict," it also said.

Earlier, the New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) had accused the military of coddling Palparan and urged President Aquino to order the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to capture the former Army general.

AFP spokesman Col. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos Jr., however, challenged HRW to name names as he vowed the military leadership is not and will not protect any person wanted by law.

Burgos cited the AFP leadership's turning over of the two active personnel implicated in Palparan's case, namely, Lt. Col. Felipe Anotado and Sgt. Edgardo Osorio, to the Philippine National Police immediately after the warrants for their arrest were issued last December.

# Our wayward defense strategy



ROD P. KAPUNAN  
BACKBENCHER

**T**HERE is no dispute that every state has the right to strengthen its defenses for its own protection. Maybe one could also give it to Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alberto del Rosario and Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin that the Philippines, like any independent state, is free to enter into a military alliance for purposes of repelling possible aggression. There could be no debate on that. After all, it was through that mode which contributed to peace and security to countries like the Philippines, and on a wider scope stability for the region having in mind that the military outence we seek to renew with much vigor now with our former colonizer is to seek a balance of power in the region, vis-à-vis check the alleged growing military influence of China.

The problem however with our redefined policy is we are adopting a policy not in consonance to those postulates, but one that is obsequious to the renewed desire of the US to be present in the Asia-Pacific region to counter China's alleged military buildup. From that standpoint, one could clearly see that the country has redefined its strategy to supplement that of the US, and not

region, the entry of foreign forces, not a claimant to the disputed area, could altogether alter the situation. China could not just interpret the presence of US troops in the area as intrusion, but could treat our act of accommodating them as provocation. Unlike those territories that have been internationally accepted as part of our national territory, those disputed islands in the South China Sea hastily called by us, upon Washington's instigation, as "West Philippine Seas" form a disputed territory that could easily lead to armed clash.

It is for this that our decision to hold a joint military exercise with the US in the area is pushing our relations with China to a dangerous threshold. That has now created a deep wedge with China, a situation many believe was premeditatedly sought by the US. Should that eventuality happen, the US would have succeeded in inducing China to classify us as a hostile state with us, having no choice but to serve as its advance defense perimeter in Pacific rim. Even if no actual shooting war erupts, the Philippines is bound to lose whatever bargaining leverage

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*Our decision to hold a joint military exercise with the US in the area is pushing our relations with China to a dangerous threshold.*

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it has in seeking to negotiate for a peaceful settlement with China on a wide range of issues, all because of our reckless decision to invite the US forces to join us in holding a military exercise in the disputed area. Our conduct spells out a message there is nothing for us to negotiate as we now consider ourselves part of that demarcated

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the US augmenting our defense requirements based on what essentially constitute our national and strategic interests. According to Secretary del Rosario, part of that new strategy is to augment the number of US troops participating in the military exercise that will be conducted with increased frequency as what he termed "rotating basis", if only to skirt the constitutional ban allowing the presence of foreign military bases in this country.

Many political analysts are apprehensive at our defense posturing. They visibly see it as designed to accommodate the overall strategic plans of the US for the region. Some say the regular holding of joint military exercise, which has been going on since the American soldiers were allowed to return in 1998 under the guise of Visiting Forces Agreement by ousted President Joseph Estrada, could be treated as normal in the conduct of relations of countries having existing military alliances. But to hold war games in the disputed Spratly islands is a different story altogether. They could heighten the tension in our relations with China. Other countries, not even in tow to that vexing US plan, fear it could equally jeopardize their relations with China.

Some contend that since the Spratly islands, specifically those islets occupied and renamed by us as Kalayaan group of islands, cover a disputed area and claimed by us as part of our territory, there is equally nothing that could prevent China from claiming that as part of its territory. While China, at the moment, accepts our presence not really in the context of status quo ante bellum, but of the necessity in keeping a modus vivendi to maintain peace and stability in the

forces stretched by the US to resurrect its xenophobic campaign to contain China.

Of course, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Brunei are also laying their respective claim on some of the disputed islands in the South China Sea. However, nobody appears to be eager in inviting the US to join them in their dispute with China. In fact, it is not even one of their options. On the contrary, such warring-ringing approach could only trigger an arms race with those lackey states picking up the tab for their bloated defense expenditures, a double-edged strategy that could stave off the US economy from finally falling deep into the gutter.

It is realpolitik that underlines their necessity in having to maintain close economic ties with China. They are more concerned in taking the pragmatic approach in dealing with the situation. While not one is willing to abandon the process of peaceful dialogue to settle their dispute with China, they are equally not willing to take action that would antagonize their giant neighbor, and lose altogether the bigger stakes they enjoy in their current dealings with that prosperous country.

Nobody is willing to confront that country knowing it would only serve to snuff Washington's desperate attempt to round up its lackeys in the Asia-Pacific region and to block China's inexorable emergence as a superpower. Unfortunately, only this sanatically blind country swallowed hook, line and sinker the ostentatious gambit of provoking another war in Asia to derailed the economic miracle it gained after the US debacle in Vietnam.

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## **EDITORIAL** Consolidation

Three of the most wanted terrorists together with 12 of their followers were killed in a military airstrike in Sulu the other day, according to the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The deaths of Abu Sayyaf commander Gumbahali Jumdale or Abu Pula, Jemaah Islamiyah member Zulkipli Bin Hir, alias Marwan, and Muhammad Ali Bin Abd Al-Rahman should further weaken the terrorists who have lost their top commanders in recent years.

Some security officials have likened the terrorist threat to a Hydra; cut off one head and two emerge in its place. But not all terrorist leaders are alike. Some are more charismatic than others, and each can have an expertise in different aspects of sowing terror. Al-Qaeda, to which JI has been loosely linked, was thrown into disarray and, by most accounts, has not recovered after the killing of Osama bin Laden by US forces in Pakistan.

The Abu Sayyaf has also been largely decapitated, starting with the deaths of its founding leaders Abdurajak Abubakar Janjalani and his brother Khadaffy, and the head

of its Sulu faction, Ghalib "Robot" Andang. Several of its top JI allies have also been neutralized, in the Philippines and in their home country, Indonesia.

It is possible to weaken a group sufficiently to permanently incapacitate it. Consolidation of recent successful operations should be the focus of the AFP even as its forces continue to hunt down what's left of the Abu Sayyaf and JI. With the two groups losing its key commanders, only assistance provided by another ally, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, can help the Abu Sayyaf and JI recover. The government, which is negotiating peace with the MILF, should see to it that this does not happen.

Consolidation of military gains must be accompanied by sustained development efforts by both the national and local governments. The circumstances that breed extremism must be addressed. Terrorists must be deprived of public support and sanctuary, with residents being made to experience the dividends of living without fear. The AFP must not lose the momentum of its latest victory.

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&gt;&gt; commentary

## (Ret.) Brigadier General Danilo Lim on the Ronald Llamas-DVD Issue

I RENDER my opinion on the ongoing issue involving Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Ronald Llamas over his alleged procurement of a couple of bootlegged DVDs. It is unfortunate that Ronald Llamas is being reduced to a government official caught "breaking the rules." Truth is, he was caught in a candid moment doing what many of us do—finding joy in cheap bargains amid our meager salaries and unmitigated poverty. This is the same thing many of our people do as they rummage through piles of ukay-ukay clothes or

brave the congested and muddy streets of Divisoria to bargain for a good deal. That is life to many of us. Amid the daily adversity we are subjected to, we find joy and happiness in simple things, we bargain for a good deal, even for a better life.

Ronald's detractors call the trivial DVD issue unacceptable; I call it a reaffirmation of Ronald's unbroken association with the masses. It is a confirmation that Ronald, a renowned progressive leader of the mass movement catapulted to the highest echelons of the government remains

an ordinary person with the wisdom, culture and instinct of the ordinary people.

Thus, apart from the isolated Arroyo camp, it is not surprising that those who noisily call for his resignation are from the upper strata of society, a social group that includes in its roster of membership no less than the impeached Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona who described the masses of the EDSA 3 revolt as "walang mga ngipin"—"walang aalawal" and "mababaho." While to some degree the incident can be viewed

as an issue of impropriety, it is also by a large extent a class issue. This is the first time that a man of humble working class origins has the ears of the President. This is also the first time that an avowed and unrepentant activist is the political adviser of the highest leader of the land. That in itself is what the elite find unacceptable and inappropriate, that is what they are fervently opposed to not the petty issue of buying bootlegged DVDs.

Some pundits claim he is no longer an ordinary man the minute he accepted the post as presidential adviser. I agree. But to a certain point. If no longer being an ordinary man means betraying his class by forgetting his past and roots from the masses, if no longer being an ordinary man means he should

►GeneralA5

■ GENERAL FROM A4

## (Ret.) Brig. General Lim

turn a blind eye on corruption or that he should walk, talk and act like the elite and the trapos, then I humbly offer that he should remain an ordinary man doing extraordinary things.

As a soldier I have seen many of my kind put forward the same pretense—"we are no longer ordinary men." Yet, these so-called extraordinary men did the foulest things that only lowlives can do. Together with an illegitimate president, they robbed the nation's coffers, sabotaged our electoral process, bastardized the cherished principles and values of the uniformed service and even

enforced fake consent from the people through coercion and intimidation. Yes. They were no longer ordinary men; they have become extraordinary scoundrels and criminals that tyrannized ordinary people.

Ronald Llamas vehemently opposed these people and their acts. It is an advocacy I share with him and the same crusade that eventually led to the crossing of our paths. I vividly remember during the height of the people's campaign to remove Arroyo in 2006, it was Ronald and his group that first heeded the call of the patriotic soldiers to march in the

streets together with the masses. We paid dearly for that political action. The mammoth mobilization was violently dispersed and Ronald was arbitrarily arrested together with UP Professor Randy David. I, on the other hand was incarcerated for four years. Nonetheless, we have no regrets. We kept our heads high and our principles intact. That is the price one pays for dreaming a better future—something which is slowly turning into a reality with the arrest and detention of Arroyo and her ilk for high crimes against the people.

With all of these, it is not a surprise at all why the trivial DVD issue is in the same stage together with the impeachment trial of the chief justice accused of accumulating millions of ill-gotten

wealth. The elite particularly those who thrive under corruption and patronage politics are afraid of Ronald Llamas, much more the politics and the class he represents. He is not just an outsider, he is an anomaly. He is not just an anomaly or a stubborn irregularity that must be removed; he is a representative of the "wretched and unwashed masses" who for the longest time have been marginalized and unrepresented in the affairs of the state.

I trust the Filipino masses will see the real score behind this issue and will not be hoodwinked by those who want Ronald Llamas out. We will not give them that satisfaction. We now have a new government. The masses and their representatives are here to stay. — Danilo Lim

## Ending the culture of impunity

THE start of the Chinese New Year didn't bode well for the Aquino administration. Well, at least as far as its human rights record is concerned. In its World Report 2012, the New York-based Human Rights Watch called President Aquino to task saying that "despite promises of reform, his administration has made little progress in addressing impunity. Extrajudicial killings of leftist activists and petty criminals continue, with the government failing to acknowledge and address involvement by the security forces and local officials."

To be fair, the report says it's not only the military and police who commit abuses against civilians but also armed opposition forces, including the communist New People's Army (NPA) and various Islamist Moro groups. In fact, the report states that "(t)he NPA has unlawfully killed and detained civilians and extorted 'taxes' from individuals and businesses. NPA leaders have often sought to justify targeted killings by noting that 'people's courts' earlier condemned those killed for 'crimes against the people.' For instance, the NPA killed Raymundo Agoo in Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental on August 19, and Ramelito Gonzaga in Mindanao on September 2 following 'people's court' rulings. Philip Alston, former United Nations special rapporteur on extrajudicial executions,

FLIPSIDE



ATTY. DODO DULAY

concluded that the NPA's court system "is either deeply flawed or simply a sham."

But, of course, it is the abuses committed by government forces that people are most concerned with because it is this armed group that carries with it the martial powers of government and therefore with the most potential for abuse. And when they're unleashed in conflict areas, it is the unarmed and hapless villager who - literally and figuratively - gets caught in the crossfire, regardless of who fires the first shot. Since these security forces bear the imprimatur of government, letting human rights abuses by these professional warriors go unpunished is likened to state-sanctioned terrorism.

It's not as if the government doesn't have the resources to curb these human rights abuses. Of the US\$12 million given by the United States government as military aid to the Philippines in 2011, US\$3 million was earmarked to address human rights violations. That's about 135 million pesos at US\$45:P1. The European Union

also poured in 3.9 million euros or 5.1 million dollars in a program to address extrajudicial killings. So what have we got to show for it? Not much, apparently.

As of this writing, more than 140 journalists and media workers have been victims of extrajudicial killings that included the infamous Ampatuan massacre in 2009. According to the human rights group, Karapatan, there were roughly 1,000 political killings in the previous administration alone. Although President Aquino made a campaign promise to end political killings, a US State Department report confirmed that such killings are still taking place under his watch.

The World Report 2012 puts it more boldly: "While Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo has claimed the Aquino administration has dismantled almost half of the private armies in the southern island of Mindanao, he has not presented any evidence. Promises to revoke Executive Order 546, which local officials cite to justify the provision of arms to their personal forces, also have not come to fruition. Aquino still defends the use of poorly trained and abusive paramilitary forces to fight NPA insurgents and Islamist armed groups." And despite the passage of an Anti-Torture Act more than two years ago, no one has been convicted under that law.

The government's zealous ef-

forts at addressing human rights violations have not gone unnoticed by other human rights groups. In its Submission to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review (May-June 2012) on Impunity for Torture, Unlawful Killings and Enforced Disappearances, Amnesty International said: "In November 2009, after the Maguindanao massacre, President Aquino (then a senator) issued a statement demanding the immediate revocation of Executive Order No. 546, vowing to 'never again [use] public funds to support and maintain a private security force'. Two years later, however, he announced that he no longer intended to revoke it, and instead would 'professionalize' the militias. The military leadership has also been quoted by media as saying that they want to recruit more of such forces. As of early 2011, there were reportedly 50,000 members of such state-sponsored militias, in addition to an estimated 120,000 soldiers in active service."

Clearly, the Aquino administration needs political will more than rhetoric to put an end to human rights abuses and extrajudicial killings. And there's no better time to finish the job than now, during the term of President Aquino, whose own father, Ninoy - a revered Filipino martyr - is the country's most prominent victim of a political killing.

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

B-12 SATURDAY, February 4, 2012



**U.S. NAVY SHIP U.S.S. WAYNE E. MEYER IN PORT VISIT IN MANILA (EPA) -** The USS Wayne E. Meyer (DDG 108), a guided missile destroyer of the United States Navy, is docked at the South Harbor of Manila, Philippines, February 1, 2012. The ship, which is a member of the USS John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group, is in the country for a four-day port visit.

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1800

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

B-12 SATURDAY, February 4, 2012



**RUSSIA NAVY SHIP ADMIRAL PANTELEYEV GOODWILL VISIT IN MANILA (EPA)** – The Admiral Panteleyev, an anti-submarine ship of the Russian Navy, is docked for a goodwill visit at the South Harbor of Manila, Philippines February 1, 2012. According to Philippine Navy officials, the visit of a Russian Navy delegation to the country is part of efforts to strengthen a joint environment in the future for response measures against terrorism, piracy, and transnational crime.

USD-DOLLAR RATE

Closing February 3, 2012



P42.600  
CLOSE

P42.820

ASKED  
P42.731

Volume: 1011,500

2:590

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# Manila Standard Today

SATURDAY, February 4, 2012

Manila, Philippines [manilastandardtoday.com](http://manilastandardtoday.com) • [www.manilastandardtoday.com](http://www.manilastandardtoday.com)

### WEATHER FORECAST

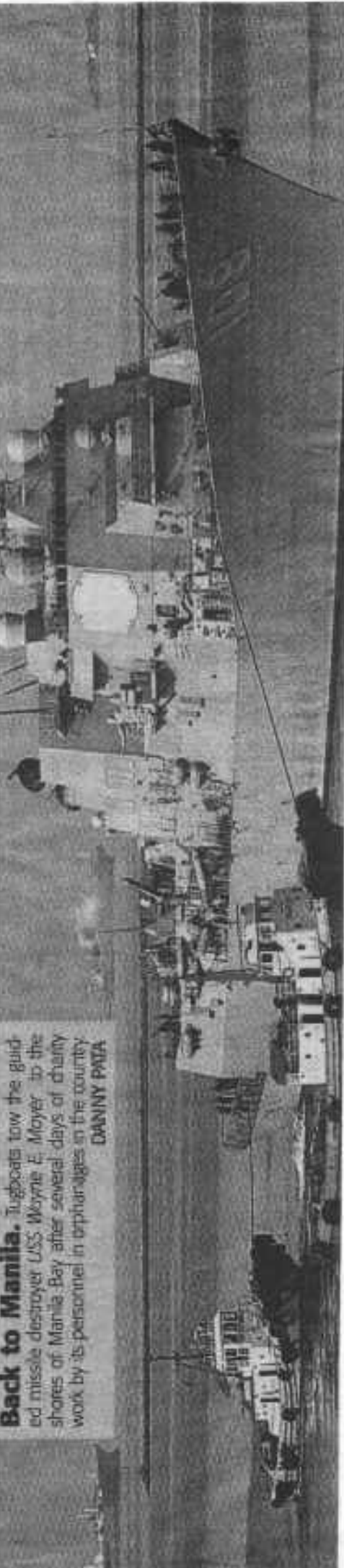
THE whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered light rain and isolated thunderstorms, while the eastern portions of Luzon and the Visayas will have widespread rain.

Modest to strong winds blowing from the northeast will spread over Luzon, the Visayas and Eastern Mindanao, where the coldest waters will be noticeable to touch.

Elsewhere, the winds will be light to moderate and the seas slight to moderate.

Temperature Range: Metro Manila, 29°C to 31°C; Metro Cebu, 24°C to 30°C; More Details, 22°C to 31°C  
Manila 760-424

**Back to Manila.** Tugboats tow the guided missile destroyer USS Weymouth (DDG-921) to the shores of Manila Bay after several days of charity work by its personnel in orphanages in the country.  
DANINY PATA



PEOPLES  
JOURNAL  
**Tonight**  
★★ <http://www.journal.com.ph>  
Volume XXXII, No.97 ● Saturday, February 4, 2012 ● P10.00



**Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and Customs deputy commissioner for Intelligence group ret. Gen. Danilo Lim leads the wreathlaying ceremonies during the 67th commemoration of the Battle for Manila held in city oall yesterday.**

*Photo by JERRY S. TAN*



**BALLOT BOXES SAFEGUARDED** — A soldier from the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion secures last Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2012, ballot boxes stored at the Capitol in Iba, Zambales, that will be used in today's special polls for the election of a congressman for the 2nd District of the province. (Jonas Reyes)

**10 REMATE 04 FEBRERO 2012 SABADO**



**MATYAGANG** binabantayan ng sundalong ito mula sa 24th IB ng Philippine Army ang ballot boxes na gagamitin sa February 04, 2012 special congressional election para sa Ikalawang Distrito ng Islewigan ng Zambales upang ihanap ng kapolit ang namayapang kongresistang si Antonio Diaz. **JUN DUMAGUNG**

PEBRERO 4, 2012 YALIBA P.3



PINANGUNAHAN nina Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim at Customs deputy commissioner for intelligence group ret. Gen. Danilo Lim ang 'wreath laying ceremonies' sa paggunita ng ika-67 commemoration ng Battle for Manila na ginanap sa City Hall kahapon.

JERRY S. TAN

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2012

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2012 **NEWS A**



**SULU BOMB SQUAD** Members of the police special action force scour the bombed site in Jolo where three most wanted leaders of the Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah were among those allegedly killed in a US-backed dawn air strike on Thursday. **AP**

## **Open house for BRP Gregorio Del Pilar**

By Thelma B. Oliver

Friday 27th of January 2012

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, Palawan, Jan. 27 (PIA) – The newest naval asset of the Naval Forces West - Barko ng Republika ng Pilipinas (BRP) Gregorio del Pilar (PF-15) will be open to the general public on Feb. 5 and will be anchored at the Puerto Princesa Anchorage Area.

The open house activity aims to show the people of Palawan the state of readiness of the vessel as protector of Palawan waters and the West Philippine Sea.

Since PF-15 arrived in the province of Palawan last December 25, 2011, it started patrolling the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone at the West Philippine Sea to fulfill its mission to protect the interest of the country, especially the much disputed Spratly Islands.

BRP also serves as an added naval security to the Malampaya Oil Fields and other petroleum service contract areas of the Department of Energy (DOE) in the West Philippine Sea.

All the directives of PF-15's daily operation come from Naval Forces West according to Commodore Rustom Joseph Pena, Armed Forces of the Philippines Commander. BRP Gregorio del Pilar is now the fastest and largest warship of the Philippine Navy. It was transferred to the Philippine Navy by the United States Coast Guard on May 13, 2011 and was commissioned and christened into the naval service last December 14, 2011. (Major Bogaoan-6CRG/OCJ/TBO-PIA4BPalawan)

Posted on February 02, 2012 09:54:35 PM

## Palace condemns abduction, says safety measures in place

MALACAÑANG yesterday condemned the abduction of two foreign tourists in Tawi-Tawi, assuring that the government is exhausting all means to resolve the situation and that such incidents will not affect the government's campaign to bring in more tourists.

"We condemn the abduction. The national and local governments, as well as all agencies concerned, are working to ensure the resolution of the situation," said Presidential Deputy Spokesperson Abigail F. Valte.

On Wednesday, 52-year-old Dutch national Elwold Horn and 47-year-old Swiss national Lorenzo Vinciguerra were abducted by five armed suspects in Sitio Look-Look, Barangay Parangan, Panglima Sugala, Tawi-Tawi.

Ivan Sarenas, who served as the local guide of the foreign nationals and was also abducted, was able to escape and is currently cooperating with authorities.

Ms. Valte said that the Tawi-Tawi crisis management committee was immediately activated.

Governor Sadikul Sahali, through the crisis management committee, is in charge of all police and military operations. Joint elements of the Philippine National Police, the Philippine Navy, and Philippine Marines are now conducting search operations.

At a press briefing yesterday, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Col. Arnulfo B. Burgos, Jr. said that according to field reports, the visitors failed to coordinate with local security troops.

"The report that we got from the field is that the group violated this SOP (standard operating procedure) to inform the local authorities, particularly the Philippine National Police or the security forces in the area, for appropriate security," he said.

The victims and Mr. Sadenas left to watch birds escorted only by an unarmed policeman, a town councilor and the vessel's skipper.

For its part, the Department of Foreign Affairs has notified the embassies of the nationals concerned, and will keep them abreast of all relevant information and updates on the situation.

Ms. Valte assured that the recent incident does not preclude a lack of security on the part of the Philippine government, nor should it shake the confidence of tourists in their safety while staying in the country.

She echoed sentiments recently expressed by President Benigno S. C. Aquino III that the Philippines is "not the only country that deals with these kinds of incidents," and that measures are in place to ensure the safety of tourists, including the provision of "additional security." --  
Johanna D. Poblete with a report from Mariae Francesca C. Ramos