

October 27, 2008

## **AFP DISAPPOINTED ON QUEZON JAILBREAK**

We were disheartened upon hearing the news that several communist terrorist leaders were bolted out from Quezon Prison by the New People's Army. The incident laid to waste years of careful planning, perilous operations and resources in capturing top NPA leaders in Quezon.

It is frustrating to note that despite prior information on the possibility of the attack, not enough effort was undertaken to prevent the incident from happening.

We take this as a wake up call to strengthen our coordination with the Bureau of Jail Management and Protection (BJMP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP).

We expect that decisive actions will be undertaken to punish those who are liable and put an end to these recurring incidents.

In the meantime, the military shall redouble its efforts to recapture the escapees and do whatever is legally possible to correct the system in handling high value prisoners and make those responsible for the escape accountable for their misdeeds.

Nonetheless, the rate of decline of the communist terrorists in Southern Tagalog cannot be reversed by the incident. It just makes the AFP campaign more difficult.

It can be recalled that last Friday, joint forces from the military and the police were able to capture and arrest two top-ranking NPA rebels, Margie Lupo – Navia Secretary of Front Committee 42 and her husband Donato Palo-Navia, Commanding Officer of the Provincial Unit Guerilla by virtue of multiple warrants for murders, string of robberies and rebellion cases during a checkpoint operation conducted at the vicinity of Brgy Bolo, municipality of Labrador, Pangasinan at around 2:10 am, after a

long chase that started from Laguna and ended in Pangasinan. Both rebels have been turned over to Quezon Provincial Police Office and committed to Sariaya PNP jail for presentation to the court. Fortunately, the captured NPA rebels were not yet detained at the Quezon Provincial Jail at the time of the NPA raid.

Meanwhile, joint elements of Alpha Company of the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade under 1Lt. Roger Gobway encountered four (4) communist terrorists believed to be members of the Special Partisan Unit (SPARU) units of NPA's Front Committee 71. The troops were able to capture two rebels, namely Eric de los Santos and Albert Basares. Basares suffered a wound during the firefight. No casualty was reported from the government side, and troops were also able to recover two (2) .45 caliber pistol.