

SC affirms raps vs. soldiers, cops in 'illegal detention' of Morong 43

MANILA -- The Supreme Court (SC) has ordered the Sandiganbayan to proceed with the prosecution of military and police officers implicated in the alleged illegal detention of 43 suspected communist rebels in Morong, Rizal, more than nine years ago.

In a 12-page resolution, the tribunal's 3rd Division turned down the motion for reconsideration filed by retired Lt. Gen. Jorge Segovia, retired Major Gen. Aurelio Baladad, Major Gen. Joselito Reyes, and Brig. Gen. Cristobal Zaragoza; and police officers Marion Balinglong, Allan Nobleza, and Jovily Cabading.

They had sought the reversal of the resolutions issued by the anti-graft court on June 7 and July 25 in 2017 denying their motion

to quash the criminal case filed against them by the Office of the Ombudsman in connection with the arrest of the group known as the "Morong 43".

Health workers Jane Balleta, Samson Castillo, Mercy Castro, Merry Clamor, Gary Liberal, Reynaldo Macabenta, Alexis Montes, and Teresa Quinawayan filed the charges against them on May 3, 2012 accusing the military and police of failing to inform them of the basis for the arrest and for failing to provide counsel to the Morong 43.

The Morong 43 were arrested by the military in Morong, Rizal in February 2010 on suspicion that they were communist rebels.

They claimed that they were mere health workers illegally detained for 10 months on charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives. They were released in December 2010 after prosecutors withdrew the criminal charges filed against them.

The accused cited the Ombudsman's inordinate delay in the resolution of the preliminary investigation of their case and that the unreasonable delay by the Ombudsman constituted a violation of their right to the speedy disposition of their case.

Ruling otherwise, the SC held that there was no grave abuse of discretion on the part of the Sandiganbayan in denying the accused a motion to quash the information.

"To emphasize, a simple mathematical reckoning of time shall never suffice. Rather, each case shall be scrutinized according to the facts and circumstances peculiar thereto. Considering that the perceived delays in the instant case were justified, the case against the petitioners shall not be dismissed," the SC ruled.

Contrary to the claim of the petitioners that there was a lull in the investigation, the SC said records show that numerous proceedings took place during the two-year period. (PNA)

PRRD, Xi agree to bilateral talks on WPS issue: Palace

MANILA -- Malacañang on Thursday said President Rodrigo R. Duterte and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed that the issue on the West Philippine Sea can be managed through bilateral negotiations.

In a statement, Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said Duterte raised the issue of the West Philippine Sea, particularly the situation on Pag-asa Island during his bilateral meeting with Xi.

"Both agree that the situation can be managed by the mechanism of bilateral negotiations but it should not affect the cooperation being undertaken by both the Philippines and China and they look forward to a productive discussion on matters of mutual concern and interests," Panelo said.

Panelo said Xi spoke of the importance of good neighborliness and proper handling of differences between the countries.

"While the Chinese leader acknowledged the inevitable of having challenges to the bilateral relations, he placed importance on the mutual trust that exists between the two nations in order to resolve the same," he said.

Panelo said Xi cited the Memorandum of Understanding on Oil and Gas as an example, when both Manila and Beijing suspended their differences for a joint exploration that would mutually benefit both countries and their peoples.

He added that Duterte articulated to Xi his position that the Philippines remains China's ally in Southeast Asia.

Duterte said "both countries are allies, and allies strengthen—and do not destroy – each other", according to Panelo.

Duterte is in China from April 25 to 27 for the Belt and Road Initiative forum.

The President is with other world leaders and heads of international organizations in the forum "to discuss, among others, how to boost connectivity, further strengthen policy synergy and build closer partnerships, and promote green and sustainable development." (PNA)

GUN BAN VIOLATORS NOW AT 4.7K: PNP

MANILA -- More than 4,700 persons have been apprehended since the start of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) gun ban on January 13, the Philippine National Police (PNP) reported Friday.

PNP spokesperson, Col. Bernard Banac said as of 6 a.m. Friday, a total of 4,729 persons have been apprehended in 576,983 police operations since the implementation of the gun ban.

Of this number, 2,634 suspects were intercepted during police patrol responses, 977 through search warrants, and 723 during "Oplan Bakal, Sita, Galugad" operations.

Banac said the figure also includes 331 persons apprehended in checkpoints and 64 others during the serving of warrants of arrest.

He said 4,449 of those arrested are civilians while 79 were security guards; 75

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 15
NAIC, CAVITE

In the matter of Cancellation of Entries
in the Certificate of Live Birth of Joanna
Mae Rolloque Lusterio

JOANA MAE ROLLOQUE LUSTERIO,
As represented by her mother MARILOU
LUSTERIO,

Petitioner,

-versus-

SP PROC. NO. NC-2019-06

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF
NAIC, CAVITE: WILLY REY LUSTERIO
AND ALL PERSONS/ENTITIES WHO/
WHICH MAY BE AFFECTED THEREBY

Respondents.
X ----- X

ORDER

A petition has been filed by Joanna Mae Rolloque Lusterio as represented by her mother Marilou Lusterio, respectfully praying that an Order be issued to the Local Civil Registrar of Naic, Cavite to cancel the entries in the Certificate of Live Birth of petitioner which reads: REMARKS/ANNOTATION note: **Legitimated by subsequent Marriage of Parents on November 25, 2002 at Naic, Cavite** and the entry at the right side portion thereof stating: **Legitimated by subsequent marriage of parents, Willy R. Lusterio and Marilou C. Rolloque on November 25, 2002 at Naic, Cavite under Registry Number 2003-13. The child shall be known as: Joanna Mae Rolloque Lusterio** and after the foregoing corrections Order of the Local Civil Registrar of Naic, Cavite to forward the rectified Certificate of Live Birth of petitioner JOANNA MAE to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the hearing of the petition is hereby set on **May 15, 2019 at 1:00 in the afternoon.**

Any interested person who wishes to comment and/or oppose the petition may come to this Court on the date, time and place herein above indicated and show cause why the petition should not be granted.

Let copy of this Order be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Cavite.

Furnish copy of this Order together with copy of the petition to the Office of the Solicitor General, Local Civil Registrar of Naic, Cavite and Philippine Statistics Authority.

Provide copy of this Order to petitioner and her counsel as notice on the above-mentioned date and time and for the former's compliance.

SO ORDERED.

Naic, Cavite, February 15, 2019.

LERIO C. CASTIGADOR
Judge

North South Journal: April 22, 29, May 6, 2019