



PRESS RELEASE

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4th Trilateral Defense Ministerial Meeting among PH, Indonesia and Malaysia



The defense ministers of Malaysia, Indonesia, and Philippines during their trilateral meeting in Hawaii for the ASEAN-US Defense Dialogue on 01 October 2016.

Trilateral cooperation among the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia contributes to a stronger ASEAN. This is the shared sense among Philippine Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana and Malaysian and Indonesian defense ministers Hishammuddin and Ryacudu as they met anew while in Hawaii for the ASEAN-US Defense Dialogue.

Meeting on October 1, the three ministers agreed to explore joint air patrols even while their respective armed forces are finalizing the parameters for maritime patrol in the agreed upon transit corridor in what the three countries consider as maritime areas of common concern.

Primarily driven by the need to address the rising incidents of armed robbery at sea, kidnapping and piracy in the three countries' areas of common concern, the trilateral meeting has evolved to be a platform for the defense ministers to address other emerging common concerns to include violent extremism. The phenomenon of returning fighters from the conflict in the Middle East could eventually create security challenges for the three countries, something which the ministers recognized and hence their decision to further get their act together.

With the political support of their respective political leaders, Presidents Rodrigo Duterte and Jokowi Widodo and Prime Minister Najib Razak, the three ministers are confident that the apparent intent of ISIL-affiliated groups in their respective countries to establish a caliphate in Southeast Asia, similar to what the ISIL intends to put up in the Middle East, would not become a possibility.

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