



# PRESS RELEASE

Department of National Defense – Republic of the Philippines

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## **DND Statement On Reported Plan of US to use Drone Strikes against Daesh Inspired Groups within the Philippines**

The DND denies any discussions regarding the use of US drones to strike against Daesh-inspired terrorist groups in the Philippines. The AFP also states that no such discussions have occurred at their level.

The Chief of Staff AFP, Gen Eduardo Ano, said that at present such a measure is not within the provisions of the Mutual Defense Treaty. Direct military actions are only allowed during actual foreign invasion by another state actor. Hence, such a proposition has to undergo a process and an agreement must be reached that should have the approval of both the highest officials of our nations.

Secretary Delfin Lorenzana reiterated that no discussions regarding air strikes from whatever platforms hitting local targets transpired at his level.

Both officials, however, expressed their appreciation for the reported desire of the US to help the Philippines fight Daesh/ISIS- inspired terrorists groups locally.

Although Philippine-US security relations and counter terrorism efforts are robust, US assistance has been limited to technical assistance, sharing of information and training.

Terrorism has indeed become a global menace that the community of nations must unite against. ASEAN of late has issued strong statements on the matter.

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