



# PRESS RELEASE

Department of National Defense – Republic of the Philippines

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## Statement of Sec. Delfin N. Lorenzana on continued NPA atrocities

Notwithstanding the statement of Secretary Silvestre Bello III that the Government will not undertake offensive operations against the New People's Army to set the ground for a bilateral ceasefire, the Armed Forces of the Philippines will continue to fulfil its mandate and conduct support to law enforcement operations all over the Philippines.

Recent events have shown that the upper echelons of the communist movement do not have actual control of NPA units on the ground, which continue to commit atrocities even while their comrades talk peace with the government.

*Nakita naman natin kung ano ang ginawa nila sa Maasin, Iloilo kamakailan lamang, kung saan inatake nila ang isang police station at nagnakaw ng armas upang gamitin ito laban sa mga inosenteng sibilyan.*

Thus, any member of the NPA who continues to commit terroristic acts such as extortion, burning of property, kidnapping, roaming around with firearms to intimidate people, and attacks on government forces will be pursued, apprehended, and brought to justice.

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