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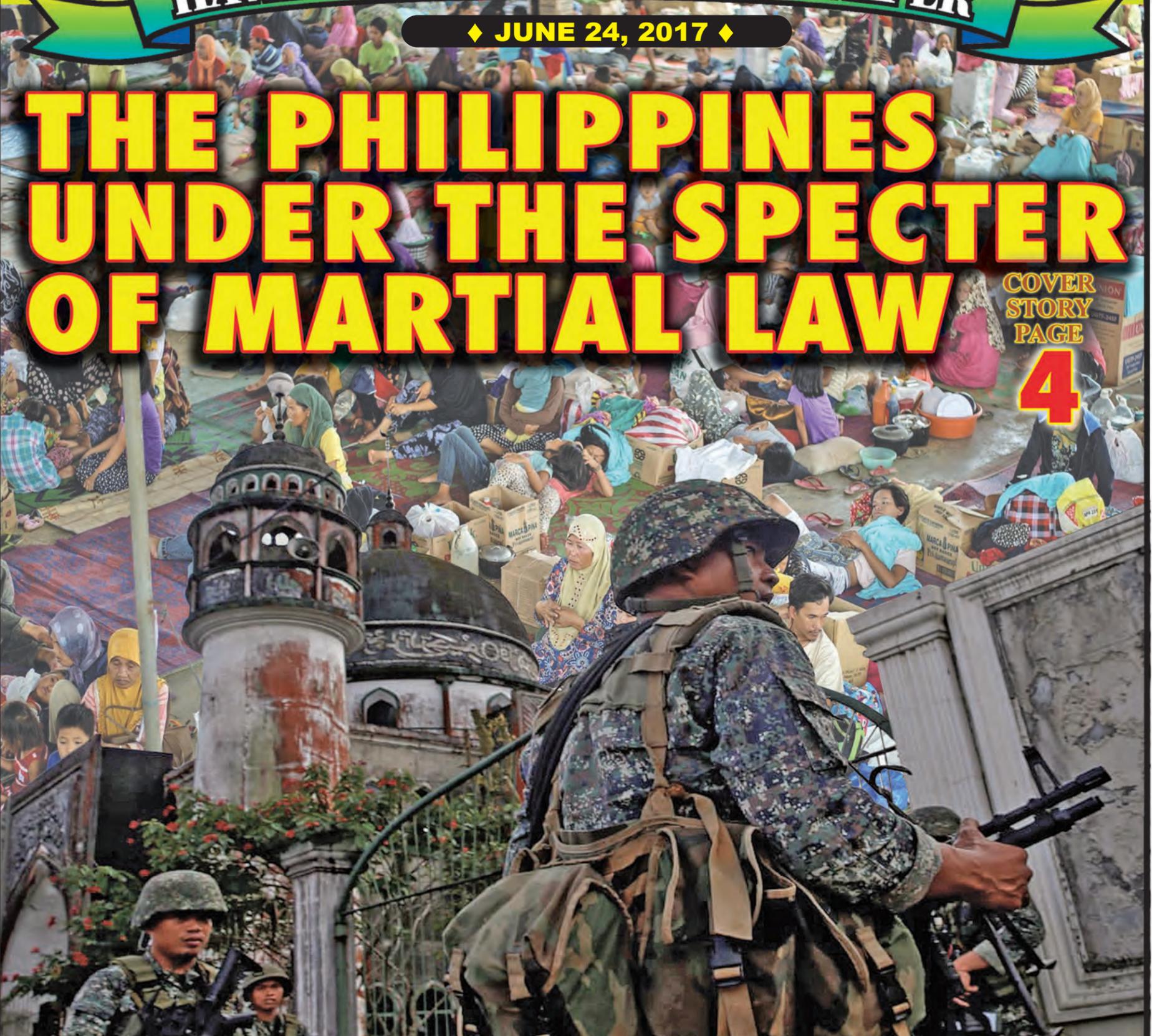
HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ JUNE 24, 2017 ◆

## THE PHILIPPINES UNDER THE SPECTER OF MARTIAL LAW

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## EDITORIAL

# Is Declaring Martial Law Really Needed to Fight Against Insurgents?

**N**ews spread quickly worldwide when Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao, southern Philippines on May 23. Immediately, the specter of living under martial law during the Marcos regime that lasted for years came to the minds of Filipinos when repression, political autocracy, and human rights abuses were rampant, as already well documented in the annals of history. What most Filipinos do not know, especially Filipinos living outside of the Philippines, is that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo also declared martial law in 2009 in the province of Maguindanao following the infamous "Massacre of 58" committed by the Ampatuan clan. That martial law quickly desisted without much controversy. The reason -- the president who declared it was Arroyo, someone not feared as having a history of or propensity toward autocratic rule. The fear of martial law this time around hits a fever pitch because of who is declaring it -- a president who is very much capable of becoming a kind of dictatorial leader to take martial law to that next level, to use the military to commit human rights abuses, and to exact political fear onto anyone who challenges his authority. President Duterte already said he would be willing to expand martial law nationwide if necessary regardless of what Congress or the Supreme Court thought about the idea. This would be in direct violation of the Philippine Constitution if Congress or the Supreme Court disagreed with the president. The fact that Duterte mentions a potential need to expand martial law speaks volumes about his thinking and propensity. It's already suspect that martial law was even necessary to encompass all of Mindanao that includes many areas untouched by terror, instability, or insurgents such as the Maute group.

In fairness to Duterte, the swift and strong move to contain insurgents in Marawi City is more than justifiable. The threat of extremism spreading is also real. But the president could wipe out rebellion as well as maintain a formidable military force in the area without declaring martial law. More appropriately, perhaps, he could implement other legal instruments to achieve the same goal that would not suspend the writ of habeas corpus or basic citizens' rights as does martial law. Remember, martial law is a very rare legal instrument that governments around the world use only in the most extreme, urgent situations, and have not been used at all in most thriving democracies. At the same time, the decades long violence in parts of Mindanao caused by the NPA, the MNLF, MILF, Abu Sayyaf and other insurgent groups is something that thriving democracies do not have to contend with. Added to the lingering problem there, jihadism, extremism influenced by ISIS, and increased drug trade, have made the situation worse, almost demanding that something be done by the federal government, something that goes beyond what has already been tried. Peace talks, community building, attempts at economic stimulation and attracting foreign investments to Mindanao, particularly in the poor and instable areas, must remain as possible solutions for uplifting the region. These cannot be abandoned. But where and when military power is needed, that too, must be an option. What ultimately must be recognized is that force can only contain violence; the real battle is one of counter-ideology. Rebels must abandon their cause themselves, willingly, through reason and a shift in ideology.

Maybe Duterte, the first president from Mindanao, will finally be the leader to bring about peace in Mindanao, and martial law is the first step towards that end. Or maybe martial law could exacerbate the conflict and turn Moro-Mindanao into Asia's hotbed for jihadism. Or maybe, the call for martial law

## FROM THE PUBLISHER



resident Rodrigo Duterte's declaration of martial law in the Philippines was quick and unexpected. To those in the international community unfamiliar with the geography of the Philippines, it's worth clarifying that martial law was only declared in Mindanao, a separate island-region of the country. Even within this vast island, outbreaks of violence and insurgency are limited to smaller, less populated cities and towns.

For our cover story this issue, HFC's associate editor Edwin Quinabo first chronicles the initial violent outbreak between the Maute terror group and government forces in Marawi City that led to the President's declaration of martial law. The loss of life and the insurgents' attempt to occupy the city of about 200,000 people was a dramatic incident in and of itself, but when martial law was declared, it produced an even greater sense of urgency. Our cover story, then pivots into the political aftermath of the controversial declaration. What do politicians, Mindanaoans', journalists', the Philippine Supreme Court think of martial law? Experts on the Philippines based in Hawaii chime in with their opinions not just on martial law, but the President, as well as the history of parts of Mindanao stricken with insurgency for decades. Is there really a ISIS-inspired jihadi movement brewing in Moro-Mindanao? What usually occurs when martial law is declared in terms of civil rights being suspended and the potential for human rights abuse? Will martial law spread to other parts of the Philippines? Is Duterte expanding his drug war to include a war on terror? On the president, what is his motivation? -- all these questions are explored in our cover story. It's said that the freedom is most guarded when threatened. This is the context from which this story is written, and the ongoing narrative Filipinos must now face.

Also in this issue, frequent contributor to HFC Sheryll Bonilla, gives us a detailed accounting of the Watergate scandal that eventually resulted in the impeachment of President Richard Nixon for obstruction of justice. It's a timely piece as the U.S. Congress and a special investigation led by Robert Mueller look into President Donald Trump's possible ties to Russia during the presidential campaign and whether he obstructed justice by firing former FBI Director James Comey who was investigating retired General Michael Flynn. Is history repeating itself?

This issue is jam-packed with other Filipino news and our regular columns.

Lastly, we present a Wedding and Bridal supplement for engaged couples ready to take that next step of marriage. The supplement is filled with ideas and resources to plan a memorable wedding, as well as articles that inspire us to live out successful marriages.

I'd like to close by wishing that all our wonderful fathers who do so much for our families -- had a "Happy Father's Day!" Thank you, dads, for all your support, love, and guidance.

Until next time, warmest *aloha* and *mabuhay!*

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

will evoke red angst among the people and be the beginning of Duterte's downfall. Duterte could easily avoid any one of these dramatic endings by simply discontinuing martial law, continue the status quo of measured military operations in Mindanao, and do what he has been doing that has kept his popularity high. But given his personality, his political unorthodoxy, Duterte is almost destined for infamy and will likely choose to be a headline in Philippine history, not a footnote president who coasts along to leave Mindanao's mess exactly the way his administration inherited it. For better or worse, Mindanao is ripe for change. But what cannot happen, is that martial law be expanded to where it is not needed. Congress and the Supreme Court must make sure of that.



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## CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

**A** few weeks back, I wrote how disheartening it was to see the country of People Power to be once again under Martial Law.

A “partial martial,” perhaps. But what can we expect from a Philippines led by a quick-triggered man out to fulfill his destiny as the second coming of Ferdinand Marcos.

Oh, wait a minute. Maybe you don’t even know martial law has been declared, at least in Mindanao.

That would be telling, that they called for martial law and no one really noticed a difference.

Three weeks into the New ML and in Marawi there are more than 200 dead, with many more victims that cannot be counted due to intense fighting.

Furthermore, there’s the added complication of U.S. involvement, only unmanned planes, say Philippine officials. They added that there were no “boots on the ground” but there were advisors teaching Philippine soldiers.

And doesn’t it always begin this way. Anyone remember Vietnam?

Filipinos in the U.S. and the Philippines should be concerned, if only because of the time-tested political word “quagmire.” As in, once you’re in, you never get out, you only go deeper.

And is this what anyone wants to see in June, the month Filipinos everywhere celebrate Philippine Independence. But that was from Spain. A continued dependence on the U.S. is good? What happened to Duterte’s surliness to Obama? To Trump, D acts far more deferential.

And so we have the natural evolution of Rodrigo Duterte, as if he were just waiting for an opportunity like the one in Marawi.

One small part of Min-

# Martial Law is Back in the Philippines? Does Anyone Care?

danao under siege, yet enough to declare martial law for the entire region for at least 60 days. It means the rights of not just the rebels but all private citizens are compromised.

If you thought the extrajudicial killings of more than 8,000 was bad, just wait till you see what the government can do when the focus goes beyond drugs and is based on international terror.

At his press conference announcing the partial martial, Duterte wasn’t even sure about how bad things were in Marawi. But he used an example of a police chief who was decapitated to illustrate the violence that was spreading.

“These things government cannot allow,” Duterte said. “It is an open defiance and the violence and atrocities continue.”

Oh, wait a minute. The chief wasn’t decapitated after all. At least that what he told the media after D declared him dead.

It was the most grievous example Duterte used to justify his power grab was in error. “Partial martial” for the entire region? Totally unnecessary. The army had yet to deploy what was needed to take on the rebels in that small town in the first place.

And nothing like this, not even a real beheading has forced this kind of reaction in the recent past.

What’s different now?

World events have set up Duterte to maximize a move to approach his real desire and destiny—to be the new world autocrat of Asia.

Consider the perfect storm.

Duterte was in Russia wearing a suit, being the international player, acting tough, and establishing the Trump-like bromance of the world’s tough guy, Putin. I wonder if they talked about Trump? No doubt they did.

As RodDee Dee (my gangsta rap name for the pres) was there, the world is hit by another international terror strike in Manchester, England

this time at a pop star Arianna Grande’s concert that claims young people’s lives and establishes a new wave of fear throughout the world.

With the Marawi incidents, Duterte is handed his spotlight moment on the world stage.

It’s the kind of leverage a small country like the Philippines needs to punch above its class.

What is the RP’s reaction to Islamic rebels in Marawi. As Duterte said, “Government must put an end to this. Government cannot gamble with ISIS because they are everywhere.”

ISIS as bogeyman always works whenever an autocrat wants power.

By cutting short his visit to Russia, he leaves Putin early for the only thing that could boost his image.

I can just hear RodDee saying, “Excuse me, I must crack down on my innocent countryman and impose my will. Give me a rain check on the borscht dinner, please.”

As for the U.S. side, now we have classified documents leaked to the media. It’s a May 2nd memo from Marshall Alferrez, acting assistant secretary of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, issuing a transcript of phone call on April 29 between Trump and Duterte.

In the call, Trump praises Duterte: “I just wanted to congratulate you because I am hearing of the unbelievable job on the drug problem. Many countries have the problem, we have a problem, but what a great job you are doing and I just wanted to call you and tell you that.”

The president of the United States praising the human rights abuses that are extrajudicial killings? That’s a startling admission. Trump would like to shoot them all and ask questions later? That’s not particularly comforting to anyone concerned with human rights and justice.

Even more startling is

Trump and Duterte’s exchange on North Korea’s Kim Jong Un. “He is not stable,” Duterte said. “He keeps on smiling when he explodes a rocket.”

Autocratic small talk?

Trump then reveals a big secret.

“We have a lot of firepower over there,” Trump said. “Two submarines—the best in the world—we have two nuclear submarines—not that we want to use them at all.”

Trump then asks Duterte to call China’s President Xi to help out on North Korea.

In the U.S., people are concerned that such loose lips by Trump has given away a strategic advantage. Trump has been on a tirade against leakers in the probe over his administration’s ties to Russia. But now Trump is the big leaker himself.

For Duterte, the transcript reveals he’s just happy to be in the loop between the most powerful men in the world leading China, Russia and the U.S.

So what does he do to solidify his sense of power and importance?

Of course, Partial Martial, unnecessary for the situation. But necessary for a strongman in the making.

“Martial law is martial law,” Duterte said at his news conference. “My fellow countrymen, you’ve experienced martial law. It would not be different from what President

Marcos did. I’ll be harsh.”

Great. The last thing the Philippines needs.

And who is speaking out against this autocratic force?

Everyone seems to back the action, because as Duterte said, it’s ISIS. The international bogeyman.

No one is questioning the slippery slope we’re on now. What’s next? Free speech? Social media? News black outs?

American Filipinos who left during the Marcos era know how it works: 60 days now; maybe 120? Mindanao today, the entire country next?

You might call this period Duterte’s test drive to absolute power.

Voices worldwide need to speak out. But the voices that count the most are in the Philippines. Duterte’s invocation of martial law was unnecessary. Time to speak out and let your voice be heard, while you still have one. And if they don’t, then American Filipinos have a stake.

When American Filipinos are responsible for sending more than \$12 billion to relatives back home, there is no doubt, your voice counts.

**EMIL GUILLERMO** is an award-winning journalist and commentator who writes from Northern California. He recently won the 2015 Dr. Suzanne Ahn Award for Civil Rights and Social Justice from the Asian American Journalists Association California.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*Carolyn Hildebrand’s cover story Lana’i: Sensing Filipinos as the Fabric of the Community may have left out in her article of famous Filipinos from the island of Lana’i, one of the island’s favorite and recognized Filipino-American son: the late entertainer and Hawaii polo player, Al Lopaka (nee Alton J. Lopez).*

*Al’s tragic early death occurred in June 1985 at the age of 42 after his horse stumbled and fell. (see: “Polo club planning a tribute for Lopaka,” Brian Mcinnis, Honolulu Advertiser, 7/1/2005).*

**Mel Domingo**

*Communications and Government Affairs Director  
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**Editor’s Note:** Thank you Mel for bringing our attention to Al Lopaka. Hildebrand’s cover story was focused on the Filipino community in Lanai as a whole. It was not intended to be a listing of famous individuals from Lanai.

# The Philippines Under the Specter of Martial Law

By Edwin Quinabo

**T**he door of terror swung wide opened in Marawi City. Residents flee from their homes to escape death at the hands of insurgents. Cars and buildings are left studded with bullet holes and flames rise in the streets.

This thick cloud of violent chaos moving through Marawi has led to the unthinkable -- martial law declared once again in the Philippines, something that hasn't been done since President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo briefly declared it in 2009 on the Province of Maguindanao.

Uncertainty lingers; Filipinos are unhinged over what to expect: just how far will President Rodrigo Duterte take martial law beyond the confines of the embattled regions of Mindanao? Will it be brief and limited as Arroyo did, or will it escalate to a latitude as President Ferdinand Marcos imposed -- a nationwide mandate stretched over many years?

## How it began. The day that martial law was declared

Gun battles erupt between Philippine government forces and the Islamist militant group Maute in Marawi City, Mindanao at 2 p.m., May 23.

Philippine soldiers were in hot pursuit of what they called a "high value target," Isnilon Hapilon, leader of the notorious Abu Sayyaf terrorist group. Hapilon, who publicly declared his allegiance to ISIS, is not only being sought after by the Philippine government, but remains prominent on the U.S. Department of Justice most wanted list of known international terrorists.

Hapilon is said to have called on the Abu Sayyaf' affil-

iate group in the area, Maute, as backup and to assist in his escape, government officials report. But there has been no confirmation that Hapilon was in the area.

Philippine intelligence believe Hapilon has been trying to unite various Muslim armed groups that have professed allegiance to ISIS and to bring about a new reign of terror unseen in the already conflict-plagued regions of Mindanao. Injected into the backdrop of decades-old violence is a growing drug trade that insurgents engage in to buy arms and sustain their livelihood, their revolution.

The Abu Sayyaf have been blamed for bombings, attacks against government forces, kidnappings, and even the beheading of a German citizen this year and two Canadians last year. The Abu Sayyaf was also blamed for the 2004 bombing of a ferry in Manila Bay that claimed more than 100 lives.

By evening the same day, the government said that 14 hostages were taken, including a Catholic priest, parts of the city of 200,000 were controlled by insurgents, including the Amai Pakpak Medical Center, City Hall, and Marawi City Jail. Other facilities -- the Dansalan College and Saint Mary's Church -- were set ablaze. Residents throughout the city reportedly heard multiple explosions.

Marawi was under siege. At least 21 people have been



Photo credit: www.philstar.com

reported killed in the initial violent outbreak. Subsequent casualties have risen as high as 200 dead and 70,000 residents displaced.

Thousands of miles away, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte was in Russia for a state visit to meet his political idol Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Briefed by the unfolding events in Marawi, President Duterte declared at 11:30 p.m., that same day, martial law not just in Marawi City, but the entire Mindanao. The president cuts short his Russian state visit and returns to the Philippines.

The timing is nothing short of ironic, that during a state visit to Russia meeting President Putin, a leader known for his strongman tactics in his own country -- that President Duterte would resort to declaring martial law while in Russia in what many critics believe is a gross overreaction, particularly in laying down the mandate to include all of Mindanao, which includes many other cities unaffected by instability, strife or terror.

## Political aftermath of Martial Law

Since the declaration, eyes and ears have been peeled awaiting what President Duterte will do next.

At this stage, the president has broad support for his mar-

tial law mandate from Congress with both majorities in the House and Senate, led by Senate President Aquilo Pimentel III and Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez. But some believe lawmakers are weighing their options, acting as weather vanes to the winds of popular opinion. If the people rise up against martial law, particularly in Manila, they'd follow in kind. But that would only be likely should martial law spread to Luzon. For now, most Filipinos outside of Mindanao are digesting what it really means to live under martial law; and taking heedful warnings from older family and friends who lived through it during the Marcos years.

Where Duterte is already getting some early resistance is in the Supreme Court. Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno said "Given the present day, when the possibility of history repeating itself looms imminent (referring to martial law under former President Ferdinand Marcos), no cause requires your commitment as much as the cause of human rights, justice, and democracy... The culture of impunity is on the rise. People are pressured to favor the easy choice over the right choice: expediency over due process; convenient labeling over fairness; the unlawful termination of human life over rehabilitation."

Under martial law, all of these conditions are more prone to occur. Individuals can be subjected to questioning and detained based on mere suspicion or not having an I.D. Warrants are not necessary for searches or arrests because the writ of habeas corpus is suspended.

"During martial law, your commanders, you, you can arrest any person, search any house. There is no more warrant needed," Duterte told soldiers.

Later the Department of Defense released a statement reminding soldiers to uphold the rule of law and established human rights norms, but no guidelines had been released.

Checkpoints have already popped up along national highway stretches in Lanao del Norte, Misamis Oriental, Iligan City, and Cagayan de Oro City.

While the Catholic bishops in Mindanao support martial law in the region, it also issued a statement that "We shall condemn any abuse of martial law and as in the past will condemn it outright if it goes in the way of evil."

In another press conference where Duterte comments drew international criticism, he said to soldiers: "Just do your job. I will take care of the rest. I will go to jail for you. If you rape three, I will admit it."

(continued on page 5)

COVER STORY

(from page 4, THE PHILIPPINES...)

The Gabriela Women's Party in the Philippines issued a scathing retort: "Rape is not a joke. This attempt to please the military forces using women to feed the macho fascist mentality emboldens military forces to systematically use rape as a tool of war."

Later, the president's spokesman said Duterte was using "heightened bravado" to lift troop morale.

Bravado or not, Gerifel Cerillo, a women's rights group coordinator, said there is evidence of countless incidents of rape by the military, paramilitary and police officers during martial law under the Marcos regime. Historians argue that rape and extrajudicial killings are much more commonplace under martial law. For this reason, it ought to be used only in the most extreme cases and limited to areas of direct insurgency, not to include areas of stability, or worse yet an entire island-region as Mindanao or the country itself.

**To have martial law or not....**

Dr. Belinda Aquino, professor emeritus at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and an international authority on the Philippines, said "there is no justification -- legal, political, geographical, for this declaration of martial law.

"It is perfectly clear that President Duterte is doing what he likes with no consideration at all for the people's wishes, fears, and protests. He is keeping the declaration open-ended so he can lift or keep it going as he sees fit. I'm sure the Supreme Court or the Congress will not approve it (extension of martial law) but if the president goes on anyway, there should be a move to impeach and convict him because it is a clear violation of the law," said Aquino.

Martial law had initially been set for 60 days by the president as the revised post-Marcos Philippine Constitution allows him. But a continuation of martial law must be reviewed and reauthorized by the Philippine Congress and Supreme Court. Duterte already had announced in his



Photo credit: www.philstar.com

usual defiant persona, that he may not only extend that period, but expand it to the rest of the Philippines should it be deemed necessary, no matter if Congress or the Supreme Court approved of his decision.

Professor Aquino added: "As president of the country, Duterte swore to uphold the rule of law when he took his oath. But look at what he is doing. He is acting and ruling with impunity. He will not last very long if he doesn't mend his ways. He cannot do whatever pleases him. In the end, his own violence and impunity will lead to his own destruction."

Another expert on the Philippines, Dr. Patricio Abinales, professor at the University of Hawaii's School of Pacific and Asian Studies, also disagrees with the call for martial law. "I do not agree with the President's decision to impose martial law throughout Mindanao. For one, the incident is only focused on Marawi, Lanao del Sur, and involves a small break-away faction of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). Marawi is a small city that has not had any major conflict since 1975, when the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) attacked the Mindanao State University. Since then it had become a 'sleepy town,' which was exactly what its local elites want it to be portrayed mainly because of its function as a major conduit of the drug and arms trade that is the lifeblood of most of Lanao del Sur. The Maute group is supposedly based in jungle areas south of Marawi. If you have been to that place, it is quite impenetrable. In a lot of parts, roads are virtually non-existent, making it a good safe

haven for the group.

"The rest of Mindanao is relatively at peace. The problem with national and international media is that it mistakes Mindanao to be a very small place. It is not. It is the size of Scotland and much bigger than Singapore. It consists of diverse communities, whose identities are based on religion (Muslim, Christian) but also on language, ethnic origins and even where the families migrated from," said Abinales.

Professor Abinales makes the point that even though the Maute are getting a lot of press coverage because of the initial battle that led to martial law being declared, the Maute is not the major threats to peace and stability in Mindanao. Rather, the NPA or communists, MILF and private armies pose greater danger.

"The communists still have their biggest guerilla army in Mindanao, but this is mainly confined to the Agusan-Surigao and east Bukidnon areas. The MILF's 14,000-man army still keeps its base in central Magindanao province, and there are 40 private armies across the entire island. But the last time the MILF fought a war against the government was in the year 2000. The private armies are mainly security forces aimed at protecting political clans or warlords. The only time they were really used was in the Magindanao massacre of 2008 perpetrated by the Ampatuan clan. The NPA conducts small-scale ambushes and collects 'revolutionary taxes' from corporations as well as 'campaign tax' from politicians running in their areas. This will never become the large force needed to overthrow the government," said Abinales.

Philippine-based journalist Ermin Garcia, Jr. makes a different argument. He believes implementing martial law to the whole of Mindanao region and not limiting it to Marawi City will prevent the spread of extremism. "The confirmed infiltration of ISIS operatives in Mindanao can be expected to gain more following the months ahead from both the secessionist groups and bandits. Unless government shows it is determined to stop ISIS, more groups with extremist leanings will be emboldened to organize. When government tolerated the MNLF's existence, splinter groups surfaced, among them the MILF. And when government decided to tolerate MILF, BILF came into being. Terrorism knows no boundaries. Before, Maute planted a bomb in Davao City. ASG kidnapped victims in Zamboanga. BILF engaged government troops in Cotabato. Today, Maute wants Marawi City as a stronghold. The NPA attacked police stations, burned equipment of plantations in Mindanao. Which town or city will be attacked and under siege next in Mindanao? The armed groups have influence and presence in many towns and cities in Mindanao," said Garcia, Jr.

"Mindanao has been a hotbed of armed conflict for generations. It has become a haven for armed bandits and terrorists. The groups that com-

mit atrocities (kidnap for ransom, extortion, killing of hostages, raiding police stations, terroristic bombing) have been able to operate with impunity. The flow of investments and implementation of development programs have been impaired by continued lawlessness and violence in the region. Many infrastructure projects continue to be sabotaged by the armed groups.

"Poverty in Moro communities have lured many to illegal drug trading, now a major source of funding for the criminal activities of the separatists and bandits," mentions Garcia, Jr. of the dire situation in Mindanao. Garcia Jr. says that implementing martial law gives us "our first and only chance to real peace in Mindanao." He complains that no president in the past was as resolute nor expressed a desire to end the generational armed conflicts than Duterte.

House Rep. Romy Cacho, one of Hawaii's senior politicians who emigrated to the State from the Philippines, said "If President Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao as a way to protect the lives of Filipinos, and as a counter measure to curtail local and foreign aggression, thus preventing the widespread rebellion and invasion beyond Mindanao, then the end justifies the means."

While residents in safer  
*(continued on page 15)*

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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## State Asks DOE to Act On Finalizing Loan Discharges

Hawaii State Attorney General Chin joined other state attorneys in urging the U.S. Department of Education to review the mounting applications and work to timely finalize the discharge of loans where forgiveness has already been approved.

Many Hawaii college students who attended the former Heald College, owned and operated by Corinthian Colleges,

await final discharge of their loans.

Attorney General Chin said, "Students here in Hawaii have already been hurt by these for-profit colleges. The federal government should be protecting them promptly."

Former Corinthian Colleges Inc. students are experiencing delays in review and approval of their loan cancellation applications. About 27,000 students nationwide

who have already been approved for loan forgiveness have yet to see their loans discharged. Some students are nearing the end of 12-month forbearances on their loans, and face restarting monthly payments on debts that should be canceled.

About 2,474 residents who attended programs at Corinthian schools received a letter in April explaining that they are eligible for stream-

lined federal student loan cancellation based on the U.S. Department of Education's findings. The students were directed to fill out a short application for the U.S. Department of Education.

The Hawaii students were notified as part of a bipartisan effort by 47 attorneys general across the country to inform more than 100,000 former Corinthian students that they are eligible for streamlined

loan cancellation.

After intense scrutiny by various government entities, for-profit Corinthian Colleges abruptly ceased operations in 2015.

The U.S. Department of Education found that while it was operating, Corinthian made widespread misrepresentations between 2010 and 2014 about post-graduation employment rates for certain programs at its campuses.

## Filipino Film Festival Celebrated Its 10th Year

The Filipino Film Festival celebrated 10 years of presenting Filipino films in Hawaii. This year's festival took place from June 9-17, featuring the following films: Across the Crescent Moon, the Lullaby to the Sorrowful Mystery, the Woman in the Septic Tank, Sunday Beauty Queen, the Sakada Series, Curiosity, Adventure, & Love, Ma'Rosa.

At the opening reception held at the Honolulu Museum, former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and actor Mateo Guidicelli of Across the Cres-

cent Moon made skype-in appearances.

Here is a synopsis of some of the films.

**The Sakada Series** – three short films that tell the stories of immigrant and second-generation Filipino-Americans who worked in Hawai'i's sugar and pineapple plantations. Directed by local filmmaker Maribel Apuya.

**Across the Crescent Moon** – The story revolves around a Special Action Forces exemplary agent Abbas Misani (Matteo Guidicelli), who is a devout



Muslim, and his wife Emma (Alex Godinez), whose strict Christian parents won't accept Abbas to the family. While the film highlights the struggles of inter-faith relationships, it also reveals the menace of human trafficking. Directed by Baby Nebrida.

**The Lullaby to the Sorrow-**

**ful Mystery** – an eight-hour epic 2016 film that blends fact and mythology as it weaves together narratives against the backdrop of the 1896 Philippine Revolution. Directed by Lav Diaz.

The Filipino Film Festival Committee: Rickie Camara, Rose Churma, Pepi Nieva, Rhoda Yabes-Alvarez, Apolonia

Stice, Tracy Larrua, Natalie Aczon, Patrick Parsons, Gabe Torno, and Ethel Ward.

The community partners are Filipino Community Center of Hawaii (FilCom), the Bulacan Circle & Associates of Hawaii, the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW), Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH), Hawaii Filipino Lawyer's Association, Filipino and Philippine Literature Program at University Hawai'i at Mānoa, Center of Philippine Studies at UH Mānoa, and the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Hawaii (UPAAH).

## Honolulu's Metro Train Passes Clearance Test

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, City Councilmembers Brandon Elefante and Joey Manahan and HART Board member Glenn Noahara gathered at a press conference to announce that Honolulu's first light metro train was successfully towed between HART's Rail Operations Center and the future home of the West Loch rail station to see if it would clear all obstacles and structures along the 2 miles of new tracks.

The clearance test went well, all clearances were made and the procedure was finished in just over an hour.

The train car was towed for the test because the electrical grid that will power the trains has not yet been electrified. The purpose of this clearance testing, as the name indicates, is to check whether adequate space exists between the structures and the train. The train gets towed at slow speed enabling engineers to walk along-

side the train and see that the as-built structures meet the criteria for revenue operations.

The rail car was towed at walking speed from the new Rail Operations Center, which is located between Waipahu High School and Leeward Community College past the Waipahu Transit Center station location to the West Loch station and back.

Later this year, once the line is electrified, rail trains will begin regular dynamic test

runs. The testing and the outcome of the tests will help determine the line's opening date in late 2020.

The Honolulu rail system will connect Kapolei to Ala Moana Center via Waipahu and

Pearl City with stations at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, Chinatown, Downtown Honolulu and Kakaako. Construction of the project began in 2012 and the first completed 10 miles of the route is expected to open in 2020.

## Hawaii Ranked #2 for Seniors

SeniorAdvice.com, a leading online information resource and advocacy site for seniors and their caregivers, named Hawaii as the #2 state in the U.S. for senior citizens and retirees for 2017.

The online site wrote: "In addition to having plenty of recreation and leisure activities to enjoy in the near-perfect climate, retirees living on a budget can enjoy low property and sales taxes. While income taxes are amongst the highest in the country, Hawaii offers exemptions for social security income, which can really help offset the

burden paid by seniors. Hawaii also offers excellent healthcare and senior living resources, which is part of the reason The Aloha State boasts the longest life expectancy in America."

The ranking is based on a nationwide study and used data that evaluated over 100 variables across four broad categories, including recreation and leisure opportunities, retirement finances, health and safety, and overall quality of life.

Ahead of Hawaii sitting at the top of the list is Virginia. Following Hawaii and rounding out the top 10 are Nebraska, Oklahoma, Kansas, Maryland, Florida, Texas, Arizona, and West Virginia.

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WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY?



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

# Gender Discrimination in Citizenship Law is Unconstitutional, But Court Denies Relief

**T**he Immigration and Nationality Act provides the framework for acquiring U.S. citizenship at birth by a child born outside the United States when one parent is a U.S. citizen and the other a citizen of another nation. Under 8 U.S.C. § 1401(a)(7) (1958 ed.), which was then the governing law, in the case of married couples, the U.S. citizen parent must have 10 years physical presence in the United States prior to the child's birth, "at least five of which were after attaining" age 14.

This rule is made applicable to unwed U.S.-citizen fathers by Section 1409(a), but not to unwed U.S.-citizen mothers. Under Section

1409(c) there is an exception for unwed U.S.-citizen mothers whose citizenship can be transmitted to a child born abroad if the mother has lived continuously in the United States for just one year prior to the child's birth.

Jose Morales, a United States citizen, moved to the Dominican Republic 20 days short of his 19th birthday, therefore failing to satisfy the requirement of Section 1401(a)(7) that he had at least five years physical presence in the United States after attaining age 14. There he lived with a Dominican woman who gave birth to Morales-Santana. Jose Morales later married Morales-Santana's mother. Morales-Santana came to the United States. In 2000, he was placed in removal proceedings based on several criminal convictions. Morales-Santana claimed he

could not be deported because he was a U.S. citizen at birth based on the U.S. citizenship of his biological father Jose Morales. An Immigration Judge denied Morales-Santana's citizenship claim and ordered him removed. He later moved to reopen the proceedings asserting that the Government's refusal to recognize that he derived citizenship from his U.S.-citizen father violated the equal protection guarantee of the U.S. Constitution. The Board of Immigration Appeals denied the motion. The Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit reversed, holding that the differential treatment of unwed mothers and fathers was unconstitutional. The Court of Appeals further held that Morales-Santana derived citizenship through his father, just as he would were his mother the U.S. citizen.

On June 12, 2017, the U.S. Supreme Court held in *Sessions v. Morales-Santana*, No. 15-1191, that the difference in the residency requirement for unwed U.S. citizen fathers and mothers "violates the equal protection principle". The Court said that Sections 1401 and 1409 "date from an era when the lawbooks of our Nation were rife with overbroad generalizations about the way men and women are. . . Today, laws of this kind are subject to review under the heightened scrutiny that now attends 'all gender-based classifications'" During the era when Section 1409 was enacted (1940), "two once habitual, but now untenable, assumptions pervaded our Nation's citizenship laws and underpinned judicial and administrative rulings: In marriage, husband is dominant, wife subordinate; unwed mother is the natural and sole guardian of a non-marital child." §1409(a) and (c)'s discrete duration-of-residence requirements for unwed mothers and fathers who have accepted parental responsibility is stunningly anachronistic." "Those disparate criteria . . . cannot withstand inspection under a

Constitution that requires the Government to respect the equal dignity and stature of its male and female citizens."

"While the equal protection infirmity in retaining a longer physical-presence requirement for unwed fathers than for unwed mothers is clear," the Supreme Court held that it "is not equipped to grant the relief Morales-Santana seeks, i.e., extending to his father (and, derivatively, to him) the benefit of the one-year physical-presence term §1409(c) reserves for unwed mothers." The court reasoned that "if §1409(c)'s one-year dispensation were extended to unwed citizen fathers, would it not be irrational to retain the longer term when the U.S.-citizen parent is married? Disadvantageous treatment of marital children in comparison to nonmarital children is scarcely a purpose one can sensibly attribute to Congress." The Court suggested that "Congress may address the issue and settle on a uniform prescription that neither favors nor disadvantages any person on the basis of gender. In the interim, as the Government suggests, §1401(a)(7)'s now-five-year requirement

(continued on page 13)

BOOK REVIEW

## Renowned Author Channels Her Anger In Crime Novel; A Must Read

by Rose Churma

**T**he author writes in the acknowledgment to this crime novel that "The first time I wrote this book—in 1996, when I was in my mid-twenties—I was angry about my job, about the state of my country, about the callousness, complacency, and corruption that had dragged it there." But she adds that the second time she revisited the book in 2014—"I found myself even angrier: about the state of my country, which seemed even worse..."

She channeled this anger by writing this crime novel about a serial killer that preyed on young boys who call Payatas home, the garbage dump of Metro Manila. In the process, she describes a society where politics, corruption, the Catholic

**SMALLER AND SMALLER CIRCLES** by F.H. Batacan. Soho Press, Inc. New York. 2015. Softcover. 357p



Church and the desire for power all get in the way of finding the truth.

The lead characters are a Jesuit priest and his mentor—a forensic anthropologist who also is a Jesuit priest. The local police force and the way it deals with solving crime also adds a distinctive flavor to the mix. The description of the crime scenes at Payatas is gruesome and unsettling—one can almost

smell the stench, feel the heat and taste the sweat as it pours down your brows.

The author has channeled her anger well. She gives a face and name to the victims, their families and their community—brings to the fore their humanity. In the process, she indicts an entire country, the continued stratification of its society, and the poverty and injustice that so many have to endure.

Despite its social commentary or perhaps because of it, the novel is engrossing, gripping and a good read—but also unsettling as images it brings forth linger on, long after reading the last page.

The book can be borrowed at our local libraries or can be ordered online. Or email Rose Cruz Churma at <kalamansi-books@gmail.com> for assistance in acquiring a copy.



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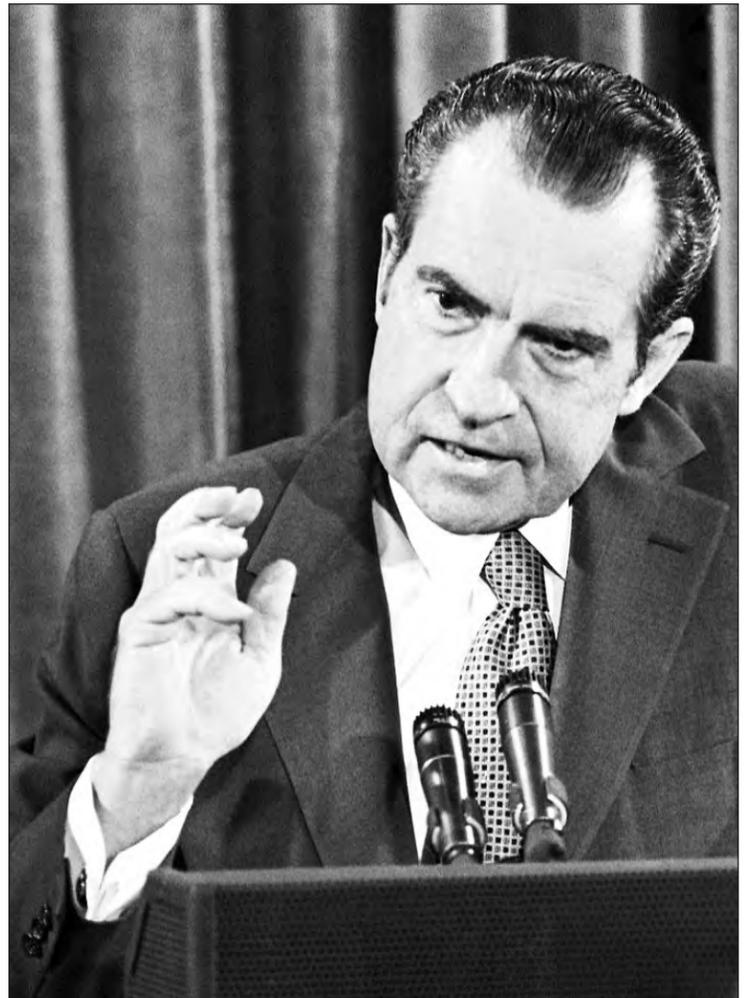
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# Shadow of History *(Part 1)* Revisiting the Watergate Scandal

by Sheryll Bonilla, Esq.

**(Editor's Note:** Amidst the current investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller over President Donald Trump's possible collusion with Russia during last year's presidential election; and more importantly, the investigation of whether the President obstructed justice by firing former FBI Director James Comey who was investigating retired General Michael Flynn's ties with Russia at the time Comey was fired -- this article is a timely piece that details the Watergate scandal, the attempted cover up, and the eventual impeachment of President Richard Nixon for obstruction of justice. This is part one of a two-part series to be published in the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle.)

**F**ormer White House Counsel John Dean was a recent special guest on the MSNBC news show "The Last Word." Serving President Richard Nixon from July 1970 to April 1973, Dean was deeply involved in the Watergate scandal. His role resulted in his disbarment. Instead of seeking a reinstatement of his license to practice law, as other disbarred Watergate lawyers did, Dean became an investment banker. He was the first administration official to accuse the president of being directly involved in the Watergate burglary and cover-up, and Nixon vehemently denied Dean's accusations. Dean had no corroboration for his allegations except for notes he took from those meetings. His statement was 245 pages long, covering dozens of different conversations he participated in during his tenure as Nixon's chief attorney.



Former U.S. President Richard Nixon

John Dean was a high school classmate of Barry Goldwater, Jr., and became a close family friend of Senator Barry Goldwater. He was inspired by the Senator's book, *The Conscience of a Conservative*, throughout his career, and after Watergate, wrote his own book *Conservatives Without a Conscience*, which deemed the neoconservative Republicans as dangerously authoritarian. Following his 1965 graduation from Georgetown University Law Center, from 1966 to 1967, Dean was the chief attorney to the Republican members of the House Judiciary Committee. In what later became ironic, in the two years before White House Counsel, he was the associate director of the National Commission on Reform of Federal Criminal Laws.

Richard Nixon lost his 1960 bid for the presidency to John F. Kennedy, and became president in 1968 amidst the turmoil of the Vietnam War. Watergate was part of his effort to stay in office and win re-

election in 1972, by spying on the Democrats and discrediting political opponents.

The Watergate burglars were caught on their second attempted break-in of the Democratic National Committee headquarters. John Dean took evidence and money from the White House safe of the staffer who oversaw the burglaries, then destroyed some of the evidence before it could be found by investigators. Nixon and his top officials schemed to conceal their role in the illegal spying on the Democrats and the trail of re-election campaign money that paid for illegal activities. Nixon directed White House Counsel John Dean to write a report on Watergate, even inviting him to do the assignment in the comfort of Camp David. As the person the FBI called "the master manipulator" of the cover-up, Dean recognized that in carrying out Nixon's directive, he would have to write about his own role in it, implicating and exposing himself to

criminal charges. Dean earlier asked Nixon for immunity from prosecution for crimes he committed as White House counsel, as did top aides John Ehrlichman and H.R. Haldeman. While Nixon promised immunity to Haldeman and Ehrlichman, Nixon rejected Dean's request.

Nixon's refusal to protect Dean after all that Dean had done to protect Nixon did not sit well with Dean. Concluding that Nixon was setting him up as the fall guy, Dean hired a defense attorney on April 6 and began cooperating with the Senate Watergate investigators while still working at the White House as Counsel. He pointed the FBI and prosecutors to the cover-up and led them to crucial evidence. Up until then, the FBI's focus was on the events leading to the break-in and the break-in itself, but not the cover-up. Dean returned from Camp David without finishing the report Nixon asked for, and on April 30, Nixon fired Dean.

Dean long suspected that Nixon kept secret recordings of Oval Office conversations, and steered the House Judiciary Committee to ask witnesses about the tapes in the investigative hearings. On June 25, 1973, Dean began testifying before the Senate Watergate Committee, and suggested the White House taped Oval Office conversations. Alexander Butterfield, who was H.R. Haldeman's assistant, but was not involved in the scandal, in his July 13, 1973 testimony, confirmed the existence of Nixon's secret tape recording system. Butterfield explained how the system worked and that everything was taped as long as President Nixon was there. He told about the installation of the voice activated system, with five hidden microphones in Nixon's desk, two in lamps on the mantel over the fireplace, two in the Cabinet Room, and on all telephone lines in the Oval Office and Lincoln Sitting Room. Only the Secret Service staff who installed it, Butter-

field, Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Nixon, and another Haldeman aide knew about it. Within two days after Butterfield's testimony, the White House removed the taping system.

Archibald Cox, the first Watergate Special Prosecutor, subpoenaed Nixon's secret tape recordings. Nixon refused. On October 20, 1973, he ordered Attorney General Elliot Richardson, who appointed Cox, to fire Cox. Richardson refused and resigned. Nixon then ordered the Deputy Attorney General William Ruckelshaus, to fire Cox. Ruckelshaus also refused Nixon's order and resigned on October 20. Robert Bork, the Solicitor General, was brought to the White House by limousine, and ordered by Nixon to fire Cox. Bork did, later claiming that in exchange for doing so, Nixon would appoint him to the U.S. Supreme Court. (Bork's firing of Cox led to the rejection of Reagan's 1987 nomination of Bork to the

*(continued on page 9)*

FEATURE

(from page 8, SHADOWS...)

Supreme Court.) Americans saw the firing of Cox as a gross abuse of Nixon's power. It tipped the tide of American opinion toward impeaching Nixon, and stirred massive public protests against Nixon. Congress began introducing resolutions of impeachment.

On February 6, 1974, the House of Representatives authorized the Judiciary Committee to investigate impeachment. On July 24, 1974, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that President Nixon must turn over the tapes to the Special Prosecutor. Three articles of impeachment were presented: obstruction of justice (July 27, 1974), abuse of power (July 29, 1974), and contempt of Congress (July 30, 1974).

When Nixon's secret White House tapes were released, the conversations substantiated Dean's allegations. The "Smoking Gun Tape", recorded on June 23, 1972, just six days after the break-in, recorded Haldeman explain-

ing how Nixon's campaign funds got to the burglars, Nixon and Haldeman discussing having White House officials asking the CIA to shut down the FBI investigation into Watergate, and Nixon approving the plan to use the CIA to block the FBI. Once the tape became public on August 5, 1974, it was clear that Nixon was involved in illegal activities, criminal concealment, and obstruction of justice. Nixon maintained all along that he had nothing to do with Watergate and had no knowledge of his campaign's involvement in it. After the tape was released, Nixon's own lawyers found out that he had lied to the country and to them for more than two years, and had been involved in the cover-up from the beginning.

Ten Republicans in Congress who initially voted against all three articles of impeachment against President Nixon for his role in the Watergate cover-up changed their positions after hearing the "smoking gun" tapes, and said



they'd impeach when the vote came before the House of Representatives. On the night of August 7, 1974, Senator Barry Goldwater, as elder statesman, Senator Hugh Scott and Congressman John Rhodes, the Senate and House Republican leaders, met with President Nixon. They informed Nixon that it was certain that if he stayed on as president, the House would vote to impeach and the Senate would vote to convict, and he would leave office in disgrace after a humiliating public trial. On August 8, 1974, Nixon on national television

announced his resignation effective at noon on August 9.

Vice President Gerald Ford succeeded him as President. Nixon appointed Ford to replace Vice President Spiro Agnew, who earlier resigned for other crimes. Ford became the first President who had not been elected to the office, who got there by appointment and succession. From the break-ins to the start of the last trial on January 1, 1975, Watergate spanned 900 days. Full of people loyal to President Nixon, the cover-up among White House staff was widespread. Nixon promised his top aides

H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman that he would give them immunity for their roles in Watergate, but didn't, and they were convicted and sentenced. A month after becoming President, Ford pardoned Nixon, allowing him to escape a fate similar to the 69 staff, including top White House officials, who were indicted. Forty-eight people were convicted and sentenced with prison time up to 40 years for their part in the illegal activities to help Nixon be re-elected to the presidency, the cover-up, and related acts. In exchange for becoming a key prosecution witness, John Dean pled guilty to only one felony count of obstruction of justice and spent four months in prison.

For an interesting article on 14 key lawyers involved in the Watergate scandal and how it led to reforms in ethics education and ethical standards for lawyers, see [http://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/the\\_lawyers\\_of\\_watergate\\_how\\_a\\_3rd-rate\\_burglary\\_provoked\\_new\\_standards](http://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/the_lawyers_of_watergate_how_a_3rd-rate_burglary_provoked_new_standards)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

**New Cases of Mumps Confirmed in Hawaii**

The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) confirmed six additional cases of Oahu residents with mumps and one additional case of a resident on Kauai bringing the total number of cases in 2017 to 89. The recently confirmed cases include children and adults whose infection is linked to other cases on Oahu. None of the individuals required hospitalization.

The department expects to see more cases of mumps in Hawaii as the viral disease is highly contagious and circulating on Oahu. Information on case numbers is updated regularly at <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/departments-of-health-investigating-mumps-cases/>.

Mumps is spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus is also spread by sharing items such as

cups or eating utensils, or by touching contaminated objects or surfaces and then touching the eyes, nose, or mouth.

Prevent the spread of mumps in our community by:

- Ensuring your family is fully vaccinated with the MMR vaccine. High vaccination coverage helps to limit the spread of mumps. Two doses of the vaccine are 88 percent effective at protecting against mumps and one

dose is 78 percent effective. Being fully vaccinated can help protect loved ones, family members, friends, classmates and coworkers.

- Patients suspected or diagnosed with mumps should self-isolate and avoid going out and exposing others for nine (9) days after onset of parotitis (tender, swollen jaw).
- People who have been ex-

posed to mumps and are not vaccinated should not attend school, work or travel from day 12 through day 25 after exposure.

MMR vaccine is available at local pharmacies across the state. To locate a vaccinating pharmacy in your community, visit <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/vaccines-immunizations/vaccine-locators/> or call the Aloha United Way information and referral line at 2-1-1

**AARP Invites Public to Attend Workshops for Caregivers**

AARP Hawaii and community partners are putting on free workshops throughout Hawaii to help caregivers, people thinking about their future needs, and families who care for the elderly.

The workshops cover a variety of topics including understanding dementia, resources for caregivers, and your rights

as a caregiver if a loved one is hospitalized and after he or she comes home.

To register for the workshops go online or call 1-877-926-8300.

On Oahu, the Caregiver Workshop will be held on June 24 from 9 a.m. until noon at Catholic Charities at 1822 Keeaumoku Street. Topics include understanding dementia, steps for a healthy

brain and challenging dementia behaviors. Register online at <https://aarp.cvent.com/care6-24>.

The Hilo Caregiver Workshop will be held on July 8 from 8 a.m. until noon at the Church of the Holy Cross, 440 W. Lanikaula Street. Topics include safe and effective hospital discharge, respite care and county resources for caregivers, effective communica-

tions strategies in dementia and tips for building your care team. Register online at <https://aarp.cvent.com/care7-8>.

The University of Hawaii Maui campus will be the site of the Maui Caregiver Workshop on July 15 from 9 a.m. until noon. Topics include understanding dementia and steps for a healthy brain and strategies for coping with dementia behaviors. Register online at <https://aarp.cvent.com/care7-15>.

A new law, the CARE (Caregiver Advise, Record, En-

able) Act, takes effect July 1 that helps caregivers when a loved one goes into the hospital.

The law provides three basic rights: 1) Provides the patient with an opportunity to designate a family caregiver on their medical record. 2) Requires the hospital to notify the caregiver before a patient is discharged or transferred to another facility. 3) Requires hospitals to offer instructions on the medical tasks you will need to perform at home after a patient is discharged.

# What President Trump Should Know About the Asian American Community

By Chris Lu

**T**his week marks the end of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. First designated in 1978, this annual commemoration is a time to celebrate the proud legacy of the Asian American community and as importantly, to reflect on the important challenges ahead. For the Trump administration, this month has passed with little fanfare.

The White House issued a bland proclamation to “recognize the achievements and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders that enrich our Nation.” However, Donald Trump opted against a public event to mark the month. That’s not a bad thing. After all, at a February roundtable for African American History Month, Trump extolled the virtues of Frederick Douglass as if the abolitionist were still alive.

To fill the gap, Mike Pence spoke to a gathering of AAPI community leaders. Oddly, Pence was unable to express much personal connection to the community de-

spite the 120,000 AAPIs in his state of Indiana. Instead, Pence recounted his recent trip to Asia and recited a series of platitudes about Asian Americans “contributing every day to everything that makes America thrive.”

Trump and Pence are right to appreciate the accomplishments of the Asian American community. These accomplishments are countless and worthy of celebration. However, by focusing only on the positive, the Trump administration ignores the serious challenges facing the AAPI community – and the federal role in addressing these challenges.

In contrast, the eight Heritage Month proclamations issued by Barack Obama acknowledged the discrimination and hardships faced by AAPIs. For instance, Obama recognized the “long history of injustice,” “persistent inequality and bigotry,” and “disparities in health care, education, and employment that keep [AAPIs] from getting ahead.”

On balance, it is true that Asian Americans are wealthier, more educated, more sta-



ble and more established than other groups. Yet, the AAPI community is not a monolithic one, and there continue to be great disparities among its subgroups. Consider just a few examples:

The unemployment rate for Pacific Islanders is more than double the rate for Japanese Americans. As a group, AAPIs have one of the highest rates of long-term unemployment, with 41 percent of all unemployed Vietnamese Americans out of work for more than 27 weeks.

Southeast Asian Americans have some of the highest poverty rates in the country – 38 percent of Hmong and 30 percent of Cambodians. In New York City, the overall Asian American poverty rate is the highest of any racial group. In the area of education, Chinese Americans have a higher percentage of high school dropouts than white Americans. Among Southeast Asian Americans, the high school dropout rate is staggering: 34 percent of Laotians, 39 percent of Hmong, and 39 percent of Cambodians.

With regard to health disparities, AAPIs make up less than 5 percent of the U.S. population but account for more than 50 percent of Americans living with chronic hepatitis B. AAPIs also have the highest

rate of undiagnosed HIV of any racial group.

When Mike Pence addressed AAPI leaders, he said: “[This President wants you and every American, no matter the background, to accomplish more, to climb higher, to make tomorrow even better than today.”

To the contrary, the Trump administration has advocated policies over the past four months that would exacerbate the problems affecting the Asian American community.

The administration has released a budget that drastically cuts critical programs – such as student loan forgiveness, disability benefits, affordable housing, and nursing home care – that benefit poor and working class AAPIs. By decreasing funding for food assistance programs, the Trump administration cuts an essential lifeline that feeds 1.3 million Asian Americans. The budget also slashes funding for job training programs that help AAPIs gain access to fast-growing, high-paying careers.

Asian American-owned businesses, which now number 1.9 million, also would suffer from the Trump budget. Programs to educate and counsel entrepreneurs are cut by 21 percent. And the Trump budget eliminates the Minority Business Development

Agency, which last year helped AAPI businesses secure almost \$900 million in contracts and capital, thus creating or retaining 2,800 jobs.

The administration’s attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) endangers over 2 million AAPIs who have obtained health care in recent years. Also impacted are 4.3 million other AAPIs who have greater access to preventive care, including cancer screenings, because of the ACA.

With regard to immigration, Trump’s divisive policies harken back to an era of discriminatory actions like the Chinese Exclusion Act and Japanese American internment. Trump’s deportation agenda has created fear and anxiety among the 1.5 million undocumented Asian Americans, while his budget cuts to civil rights enforcement would leave the community vulnerable to discriminatory practices.

As troubling as the immigration policies is Trump’s inflammatory rhetoric that has contributed to a rise in hate crimes against Muslim and South Asian Americans. As ten AAPI civic leaders explained in their resignation from a White House commission in February: “[W]e object to your portrayal of immigrants, refugees, people of color and people of various faiths as untrustworthy, threatening, and a drain on our nation.”

In its successes and struggles, the Asian American community is a microcosm of the nation. Instead of recognizing the diversity of AAPI experiences, the Trump administration chooses to perpetuate the model minority stereotype and obscure the destructive nature of its policies.

*Chris Lu served in the Obama administration as Deputy Secretary of Labor, White House Cabinet Secretary, and Co-Chair of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. He is a senior fellow at the University of Virginia Miller Center. You can follow him on Twitter at: @ChrisLu44.*

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NEWS FEATURE

# Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Awards 13 Scholarships

**T**he Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation awarded scholarships to 13 students at the Maui Filipino Chamber's annual Gintong Pamana Leadership & Scholarship Award ceremony on June 14 at the Maui Beach Hotel.

"Each of the scholars excelled academically, received numerous awards, and are very active in our community. They are a shining example of Maui's future. We congratulate them and look forward to their continued success," said Sharon Zalsos, president of the Foundation.

"Thanks to the success of our Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament under the chairmanship of Bill Ruidas and our many community partners for raising the necessary funds to award these scholarships," said Richard Minatoya, chairperson of the Foundation's Scholarship Committee.

The 2017 scholars are:

**Alenette Ballesteros** received the \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation/Richard Caldito, Sr. Scholarship. Ballesteros will major in Political Science at Brown University. She graduated from King Kekaulike High School and was one of the school's valedictorians. She is the daughter of Alex Ballesteros and Elene Ballesteros.

**Jett Bolusan** received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship. Bolusan will major in Mechanical Engineering at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. He graduated from Maui High School and was one of the school's valedictorians. He is the son of Hector Bolusan and Agnes Bolusan.

**Courtney Cadiz** received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship. Cadiz will major in Computer Science at the University of Portland. She graduated from Maui High School and was



one of the school's valedictorians. She is the daughter of Peter Cadiz and MaryJane Cadiz.

**Danny Domingo, Jr.** received the \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation/Megan, Meredith & Mallory Bagoyo Scholarship in Business. He graduated from Maui High School and was one of the school's valedictorians. Domingo will major in Business Management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He is the son of Danny Domingo, Sr. and Rosalie Alcon.

**Jaelyn Domingo** received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship. She graduated from King Kekaulike High School and was one of the school's valedictorians. Domingo will major in Computer Science at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. She is the daughter of Rolyn Domingo and Jasmine Domingo.

**Florimae Garcia** received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship. She graduated from Maui High School and was one of the school's valedictorians. Garcia will major in Music and Education at Western Washington University. She is the daughter of Benedicto Garcia and Adeltrudis Garcia.

**Sheena Marie Garo** received the \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation/Maui Island Cozy Dental Scholarship. She graduated from Maui High School

and was one of the school's valedictorians. Garo will major in Radiologic Technology at Kapiolani Community College. She is the daughter of Johnny Garo and Marites Garo.

**Noah Magbual** received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship. He graduated from Baldwin High School and was one of the school's valedictorians. Magbual will major in Biochemistry / Human Biology/Premedical Studies at Stanford University. He is the son of Arnold Magbual and Marjorie Magbual.

**Braiden Paa** received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship. He graduated from Maui High School and was one of the school's valedictorians. Braiden Paa will major in Applied Mathematics at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He is the son of Edward Paa and Kelly Paa.

**Jordyn Paa** received the \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation/Tante & Araceli Urban Foundation Scholarship. She graduated from Maui High School and was one of the school's valedictorians. Jordyn Paa will major in Travel Industry Management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She is the daughter of Edward Paa and Kelly Paa.

**Denise Torres** received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship. She graduated from Baldwin High School and was one of

the school's valedictorians. Torres will major in Biology/Pre-medicine at Creighton University. She is the daughter of Richard Torres and Maria Torres.

**Nathalya Yadao** received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship. She graduated from Maui High School and was one of the school's valedictorians. Yadao will major in Finance at the University of Hawaii Maui College. She is the daughter of Primo Yadao and Arlen Yadao.

**Raven Yamamoto** received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship. She graduated from Kamehameha Schools Maui. Yamamoto will major in Film and Television Production at Loyola Marymount College. She is the daughter of Darren Yamamoto and Demi Pelayo.

The Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, is the charitable and educational arm of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce.

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# Bourdain: 'I've Got to Have Lechon & Sisig in My New York Market'

TURO-TURO by Claude Tayag

**W**ith two major food congresses held in Manila this year — Madrid Fusion Manila and the World Street Food Congress — it was highbrow vs. lowbrow, avant-garde vs. traditional, fine dining vs. street food. They may have been on opposite ends of the spectrum, but they did not exactly compete. Rather, they complemented each other. It was biting the two ends of the same sausage, two sides of the same coin. It was a win-win year for the Department of Tourism, positioning the Philippines as the new culinary center of Asia.

The just-concluded World Street Food Congress 2017, the second to be held in the country, is the world's only conference on heritage and street-food culture. The organizers' objective was to put together industry players, individuals and companies to discuss, share, ideate and collaborate, and to get participants to think, act and react in this progressive and dynamic heritage food culture.

The congress had two components: the two-day Dialogue with some 14 guest speakers (including this writer) with the theme "Re-Imagine Possibilities," and the five-day Jamboree, where you'd find

the most toothsome reimaged street food from 28 food vendors from 12 countries, including 10 vendors from the Philippines. (For a complete listing of guest speakers, food vendors and their respective specialties, visit <https://wsf-congress.com/world-street-food-congress/>).

The World Street Food Congress is the brainchild of KF Seetoh, a TV host, author, and founder of Makansutra. He has been dubbed the "guru of grub." Co-hosting the congress was our *kabalen* Sau del Rosario, chef/owner of Café Fleur and 25 Seeds Restaurant, both located in Angeles City.

Anthony Bourdian, the most anticipated among the speakers, came in last on the second day. The international food and travel rock star gave an update on his forthcoming Bourdain Market in New York, to open in 2018. He also came to scout potential partners and vendors for the project, with Seetoh tapped as a consultant for Asia to the Bourdain Market.

Bourdain spoke eloquently on the compelling need to save heritage street food. "Street food is under threat," he said. "It is seen, first of all, as unsanitary. It's seen as a quality-of-life hazard, meaning, 'Who are these dirty people in their trucks, stands, or corners?' It smells, it doesn't fit in the real

estate, and it's taking away business from the brick-and-mortar standing restaurants. I say that's a lot of bulls\*\*t, particularly in New York. New York is a city of immigrants. It's not a place. It's an idea. It's a place where everybody is from someplace else. We have representatives of people and culture from all over the planet. It's been that way from the very beginning. And, shockingly, scandalously enough, we don't have a real market. We don't have a place like Singapore has, or Hong Kong's *dai pai dong* — a place where we can go, a democratic space where people value a good bowl of noodles, or the best *hargaw* (shrimp siomai) in town for \$1.95."

The Bourdain Market will be patterned after the Singapore experience with hawkers and the birth of the hawker center, he explained.

"And this is a thing which has always enticed and attracted me — maybe sparked emotionally again — to Singapore. First of all, you have a problem. You have street vendors, and you have a state government who doesn't like dirt. They managed in Singapore, in my mind anyway, to solve the problem in an elegant way. They, at least, understood that street food — these heritage street vendors, multi-generational operations, people who



The international food and travel rock star Anthony Bourdain



Makansutra's nasi lemak: This is the recipe of WSFC founder KF Seetoh sold at Makansutra Hawkers in SM Megamall. The 24-hour breakfast dish is composed of fluffy rice cooked with coconut milk and topped with fried fish, ikan bilis (salted dried anchovies), hard-boiled egg with sambal sauce, sayour lodeh (spicy mixed vegetables), and cucumber.

have been doing more or less the same thing very, very well over time — that these were businesses worthy of saving. This is something to be treasured and preserved. We have seen the terrible onslaught of fast-food restaurants and generic chains.

"Singapore, at least, understood this is a good thing," Bourdain continued. "They found a way to save it and move it all indoors in enclosed spaces. They imposed certain regulations to ensure safe food handling. But you can still go to those cleanest, most orderly city states, and you can line up, people rich and poor, all of whom value that \$2.95 bowl of noodles just as much as something in a fancy restaurant. They understand and appreciate that it is a vital thing worth hanging on to. Why don't we have this in New York, or Europe, or the rest of the world, for that matter? It's shocking to

me. We like food. We're enthusiastic about food. We blog about food. We Instagram it relentlessly. We can't even enjoy food without taking pictures of it and sharing it with other people on the web.

"Why can't we have this? This is a question I and Seetoh and many others have been asking ourselves in New York and why we've been trying to put together this enormous project that would place specifically some of the people who do what they do so well for a very, very long time."

And yes, he announced, that our *lechon* and *sisig* are definitely on his list for the Bourdain Market. "*Sisig* is a necessity," Bourdain said, telling CNN that it would "win the hearts and minds of the world."

"I've got to have it in the Bourdain Market," he said. *Mabuhay ang lechon at sisig!* ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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LEGAL NOTES



By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan

# Increased Scrutiny Could Lead to Visa Denials and Delays

**P**resident Trump and his administration are pushing through with his campaign promise of extreme vetting and increased scrutiny for people applying for visas at US embassies around the world. Hence, visa applicants, whether family-based or employment-based and also tourists, should triple check all of the documents they submit in order to ensure that there will be no problems.

In the diplomatic cable dated March 17, Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson ordered consular chiefs to create groups of law enforcement

and intelligence officials to "develop a list of criteria identifying sets of post applicant populations warranting increased scrutiny."

Human rights advocates have expressed their concern over this instruction because it could lead to racial profiling and bias against a person's nationality or religion or name. The focus would no longer be on who actually poses a threat to the United States and the public at large. But rather, on who has the right sounding name and religion to enter the United States.

Immigration lawyers predict that this latest policy could mean severe delays for businesses trying to have conferences or for their employees' travel to the US as well as families waiting for

visas. Furthermore, there is no proof that interviewers at the US embassies around the world would be able to obtain the information necessary to determine whether someone is a national security threat because each visa interview only lasts about five minutes.

Experts have also warned that the strict implementation of the rules and procedures at the US embassies around the world would mean that there will be a lot of denials and extended delays in the processing of visas.

It is interesting to note that the strict implementation of the rules will not be applied to nationals of developed countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea, because they continue to benefit

from the visa waiver program of the United States.

Sec. Tillerson sent out diplomatic cables earlier this month but these instructions were later withdrawn because of the Federal court decisions which struck down President Trump's travel ban on citizens from certain Muslim countries. Another reason was because they were issued without prior approval from the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which is responsible for reviewing all agency rules.

In the said instructions, Sec. Tillerson had wanted US embassies to ask for an applicant's travel history, addresses and work history for 15 years; and all phone numbers, email addresses and social media handles used by the applicant in the past five years.

Sec. Tillerson also wanted a "mandatory social media check" for all applicants who have ever been present in territory controlled by the Islamic State. Critics have noted that this would not be feasible because it would be incredibly time-consuming, need a lot of work, and would definitely result in an enormous backlog of applications.

All applicants for visas at US embassies should therefore read all instructions carefully before filling-out documents and submitting documents. Being careful and precise will mean the difference between a denial and approval of the visa application.

**REUBEN S. SEGURITAN** has been practicing law for over 30 years. For further information, you may call him at (212) 695 5281 or log on to his website at [www.seguritan.com](http://www.seguritan.com)

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

# A Tribute to Fathers

By Matthew Mettias

**T**hroughout your lifetime, countless people will support you; some of the most influential of these supporters are your fathers and father-figures.

My biological father is a wise man who has guided me for over sixteen years now - a testimony of dedication and love. My dad taught me - and still teaches me - the skills of perseverance, patience, and positivity to prepare me to live

life independently. Perhaps the most important virtue dad has taught me is that knowledge, financial success, and high social status is meaningless if I do not respect others and manifest generosity. For these reasons, among many, my love for my dad is limitless. However, my biological father is simply one of my many fathers.

A father-figure can be as influential, if not more, than a biological father. I've come across countless father-figures in my life in the shape of coaches, teachers, and older mentors. Just as my biological

father has taught me life's virtues, each one of my father-figures has also benefited me in a unique way. My coaches train me to cultivate work-ethic; my teachers inspire me to expand my intellectual horizons; my mentors teach me to experiment and express myself in the best possible way.

Regardless of blood-relation, a father is a father. Whether or not our fathers develop our physical, mental, or emotional well-being, it is important to set some time aside to show gratitude for these life-changing people.

WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY? (from page 7, GENDER...)

should apply, prospectively, to children born to unwed U.S.-citizen mothers."

**OBSERVATION:** This was a "Pyrrhic victory" for Morales-Santana. He won the argument that the different residency requirements for unwed fathers and mothers denied equal protection of the laws, but lost the case because the court could not

grant him U.S. citizenship that would have been a solid defense in his deportation proceedings.

**ATTY. TIPON** has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. Office: American Savings Bank Tower, 1001 Bishop Street, Suite

2305, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. 808 225 2645 E-Mail: [filamlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:filamlaw@yahoo.com). Websites: [www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com](http://www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com). He is from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice.

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HEALTHLINE

# Pill Packs—Helping Patients Take Their Medicines

By Sheryll Bonilla, Esq.

**O** was a bit sad when K-Mart closed. When I lived on the mainland, K-Mart was the only thing I recognized from Hawaii (besides fast food), so shopping there consoled me in my homesickness. Closure of Sports Authority, Sears, and others have been attributed to an increase in online shopping.

Kaiser and other health organizations have promoted prescriptions by mail for a few years now. The convenience is a definite plus for elders who may not be mobile enough to pick up prescriptions but can still walk to their mailboxes. Still, there's the issue of keeping all those medications straight.

According to one source, about 10% of Americans – 32 million of us – are taking at least five prescriptions. For the elderly and the ill, the number of medicines is often ever higher. At what time do you take which medicine? Did you remember to take the medicine? How do you keep track?

T.J. Parker, son of a retired pharmacist, came up with a simple solution. Instead of grouping the pills by what they are, he sorts and packages the pills by what time it has to be taken. The pills are placed in a plastic wrapper labelled with a date and time on them. The date- and time- stamped pill pillows are dispensed in sequence so that the correct pills can be taken on the correct day at the correct time. It eliminates the risk of memory: no more wondering

which of your 16 bottles of medicine you already opened and swallowed or if you took it when you were supposed to take it. You simply look at the label on the pill pack. These plastic wraps are also helpful because you don't have to open each vial of pills. To the healthy, that doesn't sound like a big deal, but if you're an infirm senior citizen or suffer from arthritis, opening several jars can be an impediment.

That sounds like a really simple solution to an unfortunate daily ritual for millions of Americans. Parker's company, PillPack, is based in Manchester, New Hampshire, and is licensed almost everywhere in the U.S. Not only is the service very user-friendly, it is also about the same cost as picking up individual bottles from the

pharmacy.

The best part of Parker's solution is that the easiness of using a sequentially dispensed, stamped roll of pill packs raises the odds that people take all the medication they're supposed to take, something doctors call "patient compliance." The Army tested the process in 2006 at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Without the sequentially dispensed pill packs, only 61% of patients faithfully took their medications as prescribed. Using the system, that number skyrocketed to 97%. You can imagine how much healthier those patients became.

Parker's dad packaged medications for patients in nursing homes. The younger pharmacist saw potential in the internet as a way to bring

the packaging service to more people. His company operates out of a 5000-square-foot mill, using the pharmacy robots that hospitals use. The machine can hold canisters of the 400 most-used medications. The pharmacist loads less-ordered pills by hand. Multiple prescriptions can be packaged all at once, making it easier for patients to use while keeping their medication costs down. He's adding a smart phone app to remind patients to take their pills and to renew prescription refills by email instead of calling the pharmacy.

Peace of mind – that's what patients and their families get from this simple solution. It's on its way to becoming the next online substitute for in person "shopping."

MAINLAND NEWS

## MARTIAL LAW AND THE PHILIPPINES PRESENTED IN HERE LIES LOVE MUSICAL

**S**EATTLE--The Seattle Repertory Theater hit musical Here Lies Love took on the topic of martial law and the Philippines in a feature

presentation at Seattle's Philippine Soiree on June 3.

The production is timely given the recent declaration of martial law in southern Philip-

pines. For the first time, a story about the Philippines and the Filipino people is told on mainstream stage by a Filipino cast.



Conrad Ricamora (Ninoy Aquino) and company in Seattle Repertory Theatre's production of Here Lies Love. Photo by Navid Baraty.

The Soiree was presented by 3-time Tony and Grammy Award-winner Jhett Tolentino, in cooperation with the Filipino Young Leaders Program.

"It's time for the Filipino artist to tell the story of the Philippines," said Tolentino.

"We have been portraying someone else's story in plays like Miss Saigon, Allegiance, The King and I and The Flower Drum Song. Here Lies Love's journey to Broadway starts with the community supporting our own.

"Which is why I am grateful to VIPs attending the Soiree to support our cause such as TV and film actress and producer Giselle Tongi and renowned Hollywood designer Oliver Tolentino."

Here Lies Love is a one-of-a-kind musical, which follows the rise and fall of the iconic Imelda Marcos, first lady of dictator Ferdinand Marcos. The show takes the audience in a

wild dance party on the revolution, which led to the end of the martial law regime.

Stories on martial law and the Marcos family in the Philippines remained controversial on mainstream and social media. Those born during the post-Marcos era find themselves sifting through fake news to develop their own conclusions.

"As the musical presented nothing but facts that happened in Philippine history, we thought this was a worthy effort to educate our community, especially this generation thirsty for information," said Kit Zulueta, president of Filipino Young Leaders Program.

"We were also honored to have Philippine Embassy in Washington D.C. Charge de Affaires Patrick Chuasoto and San Francisco Consul General Henry Bensurto join us and support this celebration of culture and history," Zulueta said.



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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**FILIPINO NURSES ORGANIZATION OF HI (FNOH) ANNUAL AWARDS AND BIENNIAL INSTALLATION BANQUET** | August 26, 2017 | 6:30-11:30 pm | HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE RESORTS, CORAL BALLROOMS IV & V | Contact Stephanie Chung at 808-221-6212.2626.

**FILIPINIANA BALL AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS, PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII** | September 2, 2017 | 6:00 pm | ALA MOANA HOTEL, HIBISCUS BALLROOM | For further info, contact Letty Saban @ 255-9429, Jenny Quezon @ 292-8105 or Edna Alikpala @ 282-3669.

**FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER'S BAYANIHAN GALA FUNDRAISER** | October 16, 2017 | Contact FilCom Center @ 808-680-0451 for details.

**2ND PMAH GOLF TOURNAMENT** | October 18, 2017 | 9:00 am (Registration), 11:00 a.m. (Golf Tournament Begins) and 6:00 p.m. (Awarding of Prizes and Buffet Dinner) | HOAKALEI COUNTRY CLUB | For registration, contact Elmer Baysa, MD @ 689-8315, Ray Romero, MD @680-0554 or Christopher Regala, MD @ 622-2626.

**HALLOWEEN AND MASQUERADE BALL FUNDRAISING, PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII (PNAH)** | October 29, 2017 | 5:00 - 10:00 pm | ALA MOANA HOTEL, RUMOURS NIGHTCLUB | Cost is \$30.00, heavy pupus and one drink included. For reservations, contact Ramon Sumibcay @ 489-7148, Tina Salvador @426-6183 or Tina Fernandez @ 721-1721.

**ANNUAL KIMONA BALL AND BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS** | November 4, 2017 | 6:00 pm | DOLE CANNERY POMAIIKAI, BALLROOM AT IWILEI ROAD, HONOLULU, HI | Contact Elsa Talavera @ 358-8964.

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### COVER STORY (from page 5, THE PHILIPPINES ...)

parts of Mindanao such as Davao City or Cagayan de Oro may not find a need for martial law; in other areas afflicted with violence, these Mindanaoans, say it is good for them and that martial law makes them feel safe. They look to the protests against martial law by Filipinos in Luzon as misguided sentiments because they do not have to live in fear as some Mindanaoans do.

But Filipinos from Manila to the Ilocos to Cebu or anywhere that martial law had not been declared yet do live in fear, albeit, not as pressing. Their fear is of human rights abuses, the might of authoritarianism, and for some, fear of Duterte himself who is appearing more and more like the next Marcos, or worse -- a far less educated, less refined, less articulate version of the late president.

Professor Aquino said: "Both Marcos and Duterte are typical examples of strong-willed dictators inclined to control and dominate the country at any cost. Power is the major motivating factor for their irrational and compulsive behavior. Filipinos should be alarmed about Duterte who is proving to be as reckless, if not more so, than Marcos was. But the comparison is really not needed. Dictators are dictators no matter what stripe. Ruthlessness is really their hallmark."

So how did Marcos deal with Muslim insurgents? In part, Marcos was responsible for starting the Muslim resistance in Mindanao. Professor Abinales explains: "The mobi-

lization of the MNLF was also the outcome of a systematic military-Christian militia attack on Muslim communities, and the efforts of Marcos to destroy Muslim politicians who were opposed to him. Word of the 'genocidal campaigns' against the Muslims reached Libya and then leader Moammar Ghaddafi agreed to fund the MNLF. Malaysia pitched in with training camps and weapons delivery in the 1970s because it was pissed off with Marcos' plan to infiltrate Muslim commandos into Sabah and foment unrest there. Duterte is using a small group, the Maute, as excuse for martial law, although how long he can hold water is doubtful. At least in Marcos' case, the amply-supplied MNLF did launch offensives against the AFP starting in late 1975, and fought the latter in a conventional war until about 1977."

Jose L. Cuisia Jr. who served for five years as Philippine ambassador to the United States, agrees that Duterte's desire for more power is behind martial law: "The declaration showed a president who is obsessed about having full control of all branches of government: executive, legislative and judiciary."

Human rights groups view the president's declaration of martial law as a major move to expand his brutal anti-drug campaign to include extrajudicial violence against suspected terrorists. Already, human rights groups estimate at least 7,000 suspects were killed extrajudicially under Duterte's campaign against drugs. What

can we expect of suspected terrorists being killed extrajudicially? Or for that matter, who will be the next group that Duterte targets as he solidifies greater political power?

### Alternative to martial law in Mindanao

Peace talks and cease fires with periodic full-combat against insurgents haven't proved successful for the government in dealing with insurgents. Plans for economic stimulus and foreign investment in the region as a deterrent to radicalization has been almost impossible due to violence. What strategies are left to deal with the complex problem?

Professor Abinales sees different solutions to deal with the different insurgent groups. "The peace talks with the MILF should continue, and the next step in creating the Bangsamoro Entity should be made. The MNLF is too divided to act as one body, so the government should encourage its factions (Misuari, Sema, etc.) to just join local politics and challenge the ruling political clans in Moro Mindanao. The Abu Sayyaf is holed up mainly in Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi. It has been severely crippled. The NPA wants to seize power and it is a folly to engage in negotiations with them thinking they will drop their arms. The government should just step back and watch the CPP-NPA further splinter into factions. Duterte should order the army to go after the 40 private armies, disband them, and deprive local political clans and

warlords of their armed capacity. By extension it will also make elections in Mindanao cleaner and safer. But I doubt if Duterte will do this. These families are his avid supporters at the provincial as well as legislative levels."

### Whether or not martial law continues, expect a long military campaign in Mindanao.

Duterte's state visit to Russia and the timely declaration of martial law while there could be revealing of what to expect. After martial law expires in 60 days, whether it is reinstated or not, it appears Duterte is set on continuing the campaign against insurgents with his newfound providers of armaments in Russia. Duterte already publicly stated that he is phasing out the current streams of arms the country is receiving from the United States, and is looking to acquire future weapons from Russia and China. What exactly was discussed during that state visit in Russia? How is the new acquisition of arms from Russia playing into the government's more aggressive campaign in Mindanao? Was Marawi a convenient excuse

to first declare martial law, and second to spend a lot of money buying new arms from Russia to fight a long, military campaign in Mindanao? Declaring martial law practically screams urgency, and of course, a need for more arms.

After the 60 days expiration of martial law runs out, Filipinos will have a clearer picture of the President's objective. Insurgencies will no doubt still be a threat, but how much of a threat will be acceptable for Duterte to abandon martial law. For now, younger Filipinos who were not around during the Marcos years at the very least have a small taste of what life could be like when freedom is threatened. Filipinos, as citizens around the world where outbreaks of terror occur, must contemplate the question: how much freedom is worth giving up to maintain order?

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