

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Title Affirmation

In this sub-chapter the author will explain the purpose of the title of this thesis so as not to cause misunderstanding for the reader in understanding the title. This thesis is entitled "**Duterte's Security Strategy in Dealing with Extremist Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)**". The terms that need to be explained, namely, the security strategy and counter-terrorism, in essence, strategy is a means of obtaining a decisive victory or accomplishing a defined target. Defense and security policies are concerned with preserving and defending the nation and state, along with national endeavors, as well as overcoming various difficulties, dangers, and impediments. Henceforth, counter-terrorism is a sequence of behavior aimed at increasing response and recovery to the danger of radicalism, extremism-related violence, and terrorism. This idea stems from the necessity to create a data-driven system for combating terrorism and extremism-related violence that includes all aspects of society and adheres to democratic ideals and civil dignity.

Further possible explanation for adopting this topic is the author's concern in national security and resilience, and more specifically, the unit of discourse on terrorism, which is a topic of international relations. Terrorism, according to the author, has evolved into a worldwide danger that requires further investigation, as well as favorable and long-term solutions. The lack of research that has been emphasized on the issue of security imposed by Duterte, the current president of the Philippines, in dealing with ASG prompted the author's interest in investigating the topic of this thesis. As per the activities of ASG members who frequently kidnap other citizens hostage, the danger from ASG has evolved into a worldwide crime. Likewise, ASG has a long history of

working with international extremist groups like ISIS. As a result, this research has expanded to include countries.

B. Background

The rivalry between Christians and Muslims in the Philippines originated in reaction to uniquely Southeast Asian circumstances and norms. Since then, for centuries, the southern Philippines had a sizable Muslim minority. The residents of the region's southern islands are also among the disadvantaged. The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), then launched a secessionist war to against Philippine government which was established 1970s (Gunaratna, 2017). Despite the rise and collapse of the MNLF and its splinter party, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)'s violence and brutality persisted a perennial throughout the southern islands.

Based on the surveillance documents, the Abu Sayyaf group (ASG) was formed by dissatisfied MNLF veterans who joined the International Islamic Brigade, in which opposed Soviet forces in Afghanistan as Banlaoi (2006) referred from 1980 to 1988. While it is generally believed that Ustadz Abdurajak Janjalani created the ASG. Allegations, uprisings, and theological disagreements led guerrilla forces to fragment into smaller military factions over time. (ASG), Banlaoi added, there is no agreed-upon account of how it came to be. The ASG was established in the early 1990s by the military in order to infiltrate the ranks of Muslim militants in the southern Philippines. That one was widely assumed that ASG is a splinter group of the MILF.

The ASG later formed relationships with foreign Muslim terrorist groups, namely al-Qaeda, and group members allegedly gained assistance and coaching from these groups. The initial philosophy of the ASG was based on Janjalani's religious and political convictions. Janjalani's supporters saw him not only as their leader, but rather as an ideological symbol. Janjalani, as a demagogue, seemed to be in the

historical, religious, technological, political, and social circumstances that Muslims in the Philippines faced.

The ASG has indeed evolved from a banditry group to a legitimate terrorist organization. They have the desire and capacity to launch attacks all around the nation, especially in Manila, the nation's capital, and in locations frequented by foreign tourists, including retail centers, entertainment venues, public transportation hubs, and houses of worship. This is certainly very troubling for citizens and the state. Even before those bombing incidents, on March 24, 2004, the government established the Anti-Terrorism Task Force (ATTF) to organize all national and local government activities in the war against terrorism.

Mark in the history of the nation's security forces, systemic weaknesses like as inadequate governance remain a source of worry in areas of the Southern Philippines and far beyond. The ASG may take advantage of such flaws in the future to win ideological dominance, reestablish combat strength, rebuild foreign backing, and participate in terrorist actions. Thus, along with many other things, has forced the Duterte government to rethink its present strategy and seek out new ways to strengthen local communities' resilience to the growing danger of radical Islam. The Duterte government thinks that by strengthening barangays (villages) through community-oriented police (De Leon, Rufo, & Pablo, 2018), it may function as a barricade towards radicalization.

Numerous critics are concerned by Duterte's total silence on the horrors done towards Filipino Muslims by the Ferdinand Marcos regime during Martial Law, Franco added, including the aforesaid Jabidah mass slaughter. Throughout January to February 2018, according to De Leon, Rufo, & Pablo (2018), the AFP saw an unusually high number of communist insurgents surrendering to state security forces and declaring allegiance for the Philippine government. The ASG has remained the most dangerous armed Muslim group in the Philippines Notwithstanding its hazy beginnings and small size. Terrorism must be addressed by a holistic long-term strategy that takes into account the social, ethnic, ideological,

democratic, and economic environments in which ASG members work. By the current Philippine government's counter-terrorism responses are expected to be a fortress in handling this case.

According to Duterte, the southern Philippine region of Mindanao has become a center of revolt and bandits. He is concerned that, with the prospect of terrorism and riots approaching, they would exploit the sense of insecurity that has been generated in the community. Duterte is claimed to have taken a more forgiving stance on the issue of terrorism. This can be seen in the fact that after taking office, he did not immediately take significant action against the insurgent group Abu Sayyaf. As per the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Time, Duterte threatened to scarf down the ASG that are guerrillas in the southern Philippines, when he spoke to the Filipino community in Laos.

Terrorism, according to the Philippine government, is an act meant to instill fear and widespread panic not only among the populace but also worldwide in order to force the government to satisfy the demands of individuals in order to counter-terrorism. Philippine National Police intelligence and target handling vulnerable stated that a deterrent in tactical and must-do levels is to remove the attraction of terrorism as a political weapon for crowd control through fear. The ASG has a propensity for captivating tourists and foreign nationals and beheading them if its ransom demands are not satisfied. Then, as the part of international cooperation, an entity that serves as a counter-terrorism forum.

As a result, the Philippine government abides with international anti-terrorism treaties. It underlines its dedication to preventing, suppressing, and combating all kinds of terrorism in conformity well with UN charter, ordinances or decrees, and other pertinent treaty obligations, as an engaged member of the European union. In effort to expand the worldwide community's collaboration in the fight against terrorist activity, it will make an effort to collaborate closely

with the regional and global community, in notably among ASEAN, the United States, and certain other allied forces.

However, the purposes of this research that the author proposed it to understand the security and defense policy implemented by Philippine's current reigning president, Rodrigo Duterte, as well the Philippine's foreign affair regarding to this case in dealing with extremist ASG. This research also developed to analyze how radicalism enters the Philippines and to know how does ASG work. And then, the final findings are to define the security strategy that the Philippines use as the counter terrorism.

C. Research Question

According to the explanation outlined by the background, the author proposed the research question for this thesis: **“How does Duterte deal with the extremist group Abu Sayyaf?”**

D. Conceptual Framework

The terror attack in the Philippines has shifted over time, from homicides, hostage taking, and armed strikes in the past to a devastating increasingly death bombers in current history. Governments and associated allies have developed a counter-terrorism toolset over experience. Conversely, the government should devote some of its resources to developing operational and tactical counter-terrorism capabilities, while focusing more on developing strategic counter-terrorism capabilities, not just in combat zones but also outside of them. The form of counter-terrorism might be vary, in which by this thesis, the author considers as the suitable concept regarding to the case is in the form of spirituality and religiosity. To help the author accomplishing this thesis, the author proposes the concept of **Counter-terrorism; Deradicalization and Disengagement.**

The author will still be using the general concept of counter-terrorism along with its derivative forms. to

understand the variables, the author describes the meaning of each word in which based on combination of understanding from experts and organizations;

1. Counter-Terrorism

OSCE mentioned whether counterterrorism is an initiative to combat terror attacks perpetrated by terrorists who seek to create instability in society, disrupt social integration, and impose the agendas of their organizations, which frequently utilize violence in their acts. Since terrorism has already been a significant danger to global peace, impacting many countries, their people, and socioeconomic progress, the terrorist-targeted law legal actions are both essential and appropriate. Counter-terrorism actions may not go beyond what would be required to maintain international peace and security (Gunaratna, 2017), neither can they be seen to undermine the legal system and democracy.

2. Deradicalization

Deradicalization, in general meaning according to Collins Dictionary, is an attempt to counteract spiritual ideology's misdirection, which promotes illogical, dogmatic, repressive acts and frequently employs violence, although religion should display ideals of tolerance, moderation, justice, and also be a benefit to environment. In the long run, deradicalization must be carried out utilizing a variety of constructive ways in psychology, religion, socio-culture, economy, law, and power (Fink & Hearne, 2008). Accordingly, deradicalization takes many years since it also involves a de-ideological approach to learn in which has already been established.

3. Disengagement

A behavioral shift, such as quitting a group or altering one's function within it, is referred to as disengagement. This meaning has derived from ICF International (2018). The degree of disengagement might vary depending on whether or not you receive something in return. Horgan (2008), stated that disengaging from a terrorist organization does not always imply quitting it; rather, a person disengages from terrorism by refraining from carrying out violent actions, even if they are

still affiliated with the extreme organization. Disengagement doesn't need a shift in principles or aspirations, but it does necessitate giving up the goal of bringing about transformation by aggression. Despite the fact that study into violent organizations in diverse nations was undertaken separately, researchers discovered consistent trends among the elements that encouraged people to leave violent extremism.

The outcomes of a sequence of counter-terrorism processes, deradicalization and disengagement, are inextricably linked. The phase of disengagement starts with a stimulus, it is often a painful incident or emotional crisis, which causes a conceptual breakthrough and questions about continuing in the group. In addition, the success of deradicalization initiators might be influenced by their time (Rabasa, 2010), government actions can have a substantial impact on the expected value of disengagement and ongoing violence, and deradicalization programs' help should endure after the extremist is discharged.

As per estimated by Banlaoi (2006), the ASG had already been conducted and perpetrated 378 criminal attacks among 1991 and 2000, then slaughtering 288 people. Not even just that, ASG has said to implicate in 640 kidnappings comprising with a total of 2,076 victims. According to claims, the ASG behaved as an agitator again for AFP. Furthermore, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement (BIFM) is becoming progressively vexing, particularly in light of its hostility to the country's peace negotiations with the MILF. The AFP tailored BIFM in January 2014 with Operation Dark Horse (Chan, 2015), which resulted in the acquisition of a significant number of the group's combatants and the obliteration of a multitude of its outposts and camps, along with the group's main stronghold in Barangay Ganta, Shariff Saydona Mustapha in Maguindanao province, Chan added.

E. Hypothesis

Hypothesis is the author's presumption toward the answer of the research question. By using the data and the previous

conceptual framework, that the author believes that Duterte's attitude on the Philippine security strategy in dealing with the Abu Sayyaf terrorist organization is influenced by Duterte's predecessor's counter-terrorism strategies that have not been optimal are marked by the increasing threats faced by both the Philippines' national defense as well other countries as ASG hostages, in which those threats have become a global urgency. The strategies namely;

1. Strengthen the Armed Force of the Philippines (AFP) as the form of counter-terrorism;
2. Political disengagement towards the locals using Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) in which he has signed.

F. Research Methodology

1. Types of Research and Types of Data

The author used a qualitative technique to conduct his research. The qualitative method (Descriptive Analytic) is a writing style that explains the events that occur in a given topic. This strategy seeks to create a description of a systematic and correct explanation based on the facts surrounding the topic.

2. Data Collection Techniques

Literature study is one of the data gathering procedures utilized by the researcher. A range of material linked to research topics, such as books, scientific journals, newspapers, media reports, official government reports, non-governmental organization reports, and official international institution reports, were used to produce this research.

G. Research Scope

This research is conducted in the time since the reign of President Duterte by analyzing the Philippine security strategy that he implemented

H. Writing Systematic

The author structured this research into several chapters in order to make it simpler to prepare conversations about the primary study issues, namely;

1. **CHAPTER I**, this chapter contains introduction to research consisting of Title Affirmation, Background, Literature Review, Research Question, Conceptual Framework, Hypothesis, Research Methodology, Research Scope, and Writing Systematics.
2. **CHAPTER II**, this chapter will describe ASG as a terrorist group along with a brief history of ASG in the Philippines. In addition, with the description on ASG, the dynamic politic of the Philippines will also be mentioned. + isu separatis
3. **CHAPTER III**, this chapter contains several sub-chapters mainly in elaborating findings and discussion. This chapter will elucidate on the cause of a problem context explained at the background, which also will help to emphasize the relation between the Philippine's security strategy. Duterte sudah tau kondisi Moro karena dia pernah jadi gubernur Davao.
4. **CHAPTER IV**, this chapter contains the conclusion in which the study findings are summarize.