



P N P News Release

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MILF REGULARS TAGGED IN KILLING FR. RUFUS HALLEY: POLICE ARREST SUSPECT IN PRIEST'S SLAY

Police arrested yesterday one of the suspects in the killing of Irish priest Fr. Rufus Halley in Lanao del Sur.

This developed as PNP Chief, Director General Leandro R Mendoza instructed Senior Superintendent Acmad Omar, PNP Regional Director in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) to intensify police operations for the arrest of the other suspects.

Abdul Samad IBRAHIM was arrested at 5:45 PM yesterday at Upper Ilian, Nalabagan, Lanao del Sur.

In his report to the PNP Chief, Omar said the arrested suspect was the driver of the getaway weapons carrier truck used by the assailants who shot and killed Fr. Halley Tuesday afternoon in Barangay Diamaro, Malabang, Lanao del Sur.

Ibrahim's arrest, according to Omar, was made possible through the assistance of local executives and barangay officials in the area.

During interrogation, Ibrahim pointed to Akto Daing Sumagayan as the gunman who shot Fr. Halley in the head with an M-16 rifle.

Ibrahim also identified a certain Ali, a certain Dimasangkay, and three other unidentified suspects as Sumagayan's companions.

Omar disclosed that the suspects are confirmed to be regular members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The group has been traced by pursuing lawmen at Camp Jabal Nur, a known MILF encampment in Marogong, Lanao del Sur.

As recounted by Ibrahim, Fr. Halley, Parish Priest of the Our Lady of Peace Church at Barangay Diamaro, Malabang, was shot after he refused to go with the group.

The suspects then fled towards Barangay Tacuk, Malabang town after the shooting.

The focus of the ongoing police investigation is to establish the motive behind the shooting.