



P N P News Release

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Gang Leader & 11 Members Arrested PNP PACER NABS SAGADA-KALINGA HOLD-UP GANG

In joint operations, elements of PRO Cordillera PACER and PRO 1, arrested 12 of the 13 members of the SAGADA-KALINGA hold-up gang, one of the most notorious hold-up gangs operating in the provinces of Cordillera, Benguet, Pangasinan and La Union.

Chief PNP Director General Hermogenes E Ebdane Jr reported the arrest to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Department of the Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina. The 12 suspects were presented by the Chief, PNP, PRO Cordillera Regional Director George L Aliño and PRO 1 Arturo C Lomibao in Malacañang this morning.

The series of arrests were conducted after the gang robbed Salting Restaurant along Marcos Highway in Barangay Taloy Sur, Tuba, Benguet last July 30, 2002. Aside from the Php 4,000.00 taken from the restaurant, the robbers also took cash and valuables worth Php 115,000.00 of the passengers in a bus which was about to park in front of the restaurant.

The close coordination of the two PROs led to the arrest of the following:

JOHN MALIDOM, JR, Group Leader; HERALDE BAG-AY, Assistant Group Leader; ROMEO BINOLOC, ALEX UVIDO, JONATHAN FOKAN, NELSON BAG-AY, PETER BOCALEN, GILBERT BALUNSAT, EDMUNDO BOSWAL, DAVID PULACAN, ASLO AMBONOC AND JUNEL BALUTOC, members.

The police arrested JOHN MALIDOM, JR, ALEX UVIDO and JONATHAN FOKAN in Binalonan, Pangasinan on August 1, 2002, and confiscated a .9mm pistol. On August 2, a follow-up operation in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan led to the arrest of HERALDE BAG-AY and NELSON BAG-AY. Confiscated in their possession were two(2) revolvers cal .38.

Also on August 2, PETER BOCALEN, GILBERT BALUNSAT and ROMEO BINOLOC were arrested in Pugo, La Union, from whom one cal .45 pistol, one cal .380 pistol, two (2) fragmentation grenades and one Honda TMX motorcycle used in casing operations were confiscated.

On August 3, three more members, namely EDMUNDO BOSWAL, ASIW AMBONOC and DAVID PULACAN were arrested at Navy Base, Pacdal Circle, Baguio City. Confiscated in their possession were one (1) M-16 rifle, one (1) revolver cal 22 Magnum, two (2) revolvers cal .38 and assorted ammunitions.

The gang was also responsible for the robbery-hold up of Jhonz Restaurant/Shell Gasoline station last June 23, 2002 in Barangay Taloy Sur, Tuba. After investigation of the June 23 incident, operatives of the Benguet PPO and Tuba Municipal Police Station were able to identify the 12 perpetrators through mug shots and cartographic sketches shown to the victims. A case of robbery with intimidation was filed against the suspects at MCTC Tuba, Benguet and a Warrant of Arrest was issued.

The suspects are responsible for at least five (5) bank robberies in Pangasinan and La Union; and several hold-ups of passenger buses and restaurants along the highways of Benguet, Pangasinan and La Union.

The joint operations involved elements of Cordillera Pacer, Benguet Police Provincial Office, Binalonan Police Station, Urdaneta Police Station, Pugo Police Station, and Tuba Police Station.