



P N P News Release

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POLICE-MILITARY TROOPS PURSUE FLEEING NPA TERRORISTS IN NEGROS

Hot pursuit operations are underway in Negros Oriental against a fleeing group of some 30 New people's Army terrorist who shot and killed a town Police Chief Tuesday afternoon.

In his report to PNP Chief, Director General Hermogenes E Ebdane Jr., PNP Regional Office-7 Director in Central Visayas, Senior Superintendent Ernesto Belen said military elements from the Army's 66th Infantry Battalion and the 303rd Brigade of the Philippine Army under Colonel Alfonso Cruzero have joined the manhunt for the terrorists on-the-run.

The PNP Provincial Mobile Group of Negros Oriental is leading the pursuit operations.

Military armored vehicles and helicopter gunships are on high alert in nearby bases, awaiting signal from ground units to strike at the terrorists' positions.

Based on information provided by some local residents, the NPA group is believed to have suffered heavy casualties after a series of fierce contacts with government troops, according to Belen.

The fleeing NPA group was responsible for the killing of Police Inspector Leopito Gallego, Chief of Police of Villahermoso, Negros Oriental and his driver PO3 Cipriano Saludes,a and the wounding of SPO1 Cielo Cupta during an ambush staged in Barangay Basak, Guihulngan town last Tuesday.

Moments after the ambush, a police patrol team engaged the dissident terrorists in a three-minute encounter resulting in the wounding of PO3 Walden Flores.

A police reinforcement team led by Senior Inspector Ramil Viscaya, Guihulngan Chief of Police, was later ambushed by a blocking force set-up by the terrorists.

SPO2 Cecilio Nilles and PO2 Raghuver Besario were wounded in the attack.

Viscaya, along with SPO4 Jaime Provichado and SPO4 Modesto Lagusad remained missing after the ambush and are now the subject of search operations.