



P N P News Release

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TOP JI FINANCE MAN ARRESTED

Joint efforts of the Bureau of Immigration, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police have resulted in the arrest of suspected terrorist TAUFKE REFKE alias IZZA KUSOMAN/OMAROH KANACAN/ABU OBAIDA in Cotabato City last October 2, 2003.

REFKE, 29 yrs. old and claims to be an Indonesian national, has admitted to being the Finance and Liaison Officer of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) in Mindanao. suspect REFKE was recruited in 1993 and entered the Philippines in August 2001 to undergo training Mindanao. Among his trainers was Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi.

PNP Chief Police director Hermogenes E Ebdane Jr reported to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo that the arrest of REFKE was made possible by the Elements of PNP Intelligence Group, PNP Task Force Sanglahi, PNP Special Action Force, CIDG-ARMM, G2, 6th Infantry Division, Philippine Army, MIG-12, ISAFP and NISU Cotabato. The arrest was made on the basis of a Mission Order issued by BI Director Andrea Domingo on the request of the PNP. Follow-up search operations were also done in a JI safehouse in San Pablo Subdivision, Cotabato City where JI operational documents, a desktop computer and other items were seized.

"The operations against suspected terrorists are a continuing effort, as directed by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. This is solid proof of the Philippines commitment to the global war on terror", Ebdane said.

Based on Refke's revelations, another Ji safe house was raided by the joint PNP AFP Task Force on the basis of a Search Warrant issued by the Honorable Judge Reno E Concha, Presiding Judge,

RTC, 12th Judicial Region, Branch 14, Cotabato City, The Task Force was accompanied by Barangay Captain Rodolfo Maglalang during the service of the warrant.

Seized from the house which was unoccupied at the time of the search, were more than 30 manuals and books, desktop computer, and assorted bomb-making paraphernalia.

The global alliance has been prominent in the on-going operations, with support from US forensic experts particularly to determine the presence of bio-toxins. Initial findings indicate negative presence of any bio-chemical substances, although the seized bomb-making paraphernalia tested positive for presence of explosives substances such as RDX and PETN.