



EDITORIAL

Terror Factor

THE WORLD never really recovered from 9/11, even if it has been already four years since that tragic day. And just when you thought terrorists have decided to take some time off, along comes another incident that has again wreaked havoc and fear to a world on edge.

The recent suicide bombing in Bali that left 26 people dead and hundreds wounded, has raised the same question when the Twin Towers was attacked, "Is there any safe place in the world today?"

In the Philippines, security forces intensify their search for two Indonesian fugitives, believed to have taken part in the terrorist attack in Indonesia. Said to be hiding in the country, former Armed Forces chief Gen. Benjamin Defensor urged lawmakers from the administration and opposition to fast-track the passage of an anti-terrorism law. For a country that has been hounded by bad publicity about being unsafe for tourists and being a haven for kidnapping, an anti-terrorism bill could be a very necessary safety measure.

The proposed draft of the long-pending anti-terrorism bill was given hasty approval by Congress, but with unresolved, contentious issues. One such issue was on the definition of terrorism and whether this would violate human rights under a cover-up to suppress legitimate dissent and legitimate opposition.

As defined in the bill, terrorism is "the premeditated, threatened, actual use of violence, or force or against persons, or force or by any other means of destruction perpetuated against person/s, property/ies, or the environment, with the intention of creating or sowing a state of danger, panic, fear, or chaos to the general public, group or persons or segment thereof or of coercing or intimidating the government to do so or abstain from doing an act."

One lawyers' group made a legal study on the recently proposed draft on anti-terrorism and expressed concern on the vagueness of the definition of terrorism. Upon analysis, the bill truly holds no boundaries because even ordinary people—political dissenters, workers, and jeepney drivers—who exercise their civil and political rights, can be deemed as committing 'terrorist acts.'

Most Filipinos would rather know the definition of terrorism in layman's terms than hear the lawmakers discourse on the issue in legal mumbo-jumbo. Having an anti-terror bill is to assure our people that they are safe, and that the government is hands-on in securing our country from groups that would want to sow terror.

The issue of the proposed anti-terror bill should not be solely focused on whether or not it is an excuse to stop the administration's critics. During this time of terror and uncertainty around the world, it is more important that we find the balance between the need for the law and the respect for human rights. The world, and not only the Philippines, has been blatantly plagued by terror for the past five years. Terror knows no race, age, sex or nationality. On this particular point, no further legal discussion is needed. (AJ)

COFFEE WITH BILL



By Bill Lazaro

THE FIRE-breathing and fisty Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, the Ilonggo breed of Chimera, charged Senate President Franklin Drilon and former President Cory Aquino of plotting to oust President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (PGMA) from power, adding that if this is not possible, the couple planned to "remove her physically," on or about October 15.

How physically? Or, what physical force could the alleged plotters be thinking of, pundits were quick to assume that it could mean "assassination."

More articulate when she is

The Chimera Trade

mad, Miriam got peeved and was enraged when three members of the House - Benigno Aquino III, Rolex Suplico and Rosales, a woman member, slam-banged her tirade as over-stretching her imagination, unfounded and ridiculous; they hinted that she is doing it to enhance GMA's support for her to snatch the Senate presidency from Drilon.

Miriam returned fired against the trio (Aquino, Suplico and Rosales). She called Suplico "bobo," in the college of law: "he was my student, *mabuti hindi ko siya binagsak dahil bobo siya.*" And lambasted that the three can't articulate what they want to say in English; that they are "mga gago at lokoloko and need to take English 101." Miriam also consid-

ered Aquino as a "sorry scion of a well known clan."

Suplico retorted saying if Miriam is really that bright, "*bakit mataas pa ang nakuha ko sa bar exam kaysa sa kanya?*" And Rosales answered back that they may not be as good as she propelled herself in English but "hindi namin kailangan ang English 101." She (Miriam), however, definitely needs "psychology 101."

It's no secret that GMA's scorn against Drilon is brimful for allowing those Senate investigations against her, her family and her administration; she wants Drilon out by any means.

As we said in our last column, GMA, being besieged in the Senate, let loose Miriam, her pit bull

in the Senate, and Miriam immediately branded all the Senate investigations against GMA as a "serial impeachment." Miriam contended that the Senate was doing this after the impeachment in the House against GMA was quashed and did not reach the Senate for trial. So the Senate is conducting improperly on its own "a serial impeachment" against GMA.

The Ilongga Chimera promised to shoot herself in the head right at the Senate session hall if they can prove that she was lying on charging Drilon and Cory. Of course she also promised before that "if former President Erap Estrada is jailed, she'll jump off from a plane," but once con-

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THERE'S THE RUB

By Conrado de Quiros

IT WAS the evening of a Tuesday, and most of the stores had just closed. People were on their way home from work, or from shopping. Then, suddenly, at half past eight, the entrance of a big department store let out a roar and sent debris flying in all directions. A woman who was standing in front of it was hurled backwards and thrown into the pavement. Her face was torn off, making her completely unrecognizable. She died there and then. Some 41 other people were wounded and brought to the hospital, some of them critical though they eventually managed to pull through. The bomb blast - which it was -- left a gaping hole

where a wall and a door used to be. And it left a city in shock.

I wrote that in a book called "Dead Aim," which told of how Ferdinand Marcos mounted a dictatorship on this country. That event happened 33 years ago, on Sept. 5, 1972, a couple of weeks before Marcos declared martial law. The store was Joe's Department Store, a fairly well-known place on Carriedo Street, then the shopping center of Greater Manila. It was the fiercest bombing in a series of bombings that had begun to rock the metropolis then.

Everyone knew it was Marcos who was committing the mayhem. But he kept up the pretense of innocence, of course. Without investigation, Juan Ponce Enrile, the defense secretary, immediately claimed it was part of the New People's Army's September-

Madness

October plans, which were a sequel to its July-August plans, calling for a series of terrorist activities.

I remembered that because of the stories going around about Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's plot to declare martial law, or at least emergency rule with powers that could expand to include the ones Marcos held. The stories say she will use a private army from Mindanao to sow terror in Metro Manila, specifically by a series of bombings, blaming it on sundry terrorist groups, local and foreign. The predictions on when she will carry it out vary, but most say she will do it at the end of the month. That is so because Congress will be in recess, and there is a long holiday ahead. Marcos himself declared martial law on the midnight of a Friday, counting on the weekend to pre-

empt rallies and other acts of protest.

Do I believe Ms Arroyo will mount her version of martial law? Well, unless this country moves even now to protest the calibrated madness, yes, I think it is possible. We start seeing a new round of bombings in this city -- and if you're a parent, you know that is a scary thought -- and it becomes more than possible, it becomes probable.

The least of my reasons for believing so is that Raul Gonzalez has a draft of an order declaring emergency rule. Gonzalez is the palace clown, put there to shoot his mouth off and get the brickbats. After all this is over, he could make a fortune by playing villain in movies. Unless Susan Roces, Cory Aquino and the other aggrieved women he has called

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THE LONG VIEW

By Manuel L. Quezon III

DAVID Letterman said it best in his opening monologue last Oct. 10. Right after a joke about the ongoing corruption scandal ("Boy, yesterday down there in Washington, D.C. there was some excitement. They shut down Pennsylvania Avenue due to a suspicious package. It turns out it was just a big bag of laundered cash for Tom de Lay.") that's shaking the US Congress, he said, "And then it turns out that a former marine has been arrested for allegedly stealing intelligence memos from the White House. How about that? The guy would get into the White House and was stealing those intelligence

memos, and I was thinking, well, at least, it's good to know someone was reading those memos... But it's a real mystery. No one can figure out how he got into the White House, no one can figure out how he managed to stay there so long-wait, that's Bush." It might have been a joke, but there it was, in a nutshell.

For Americans, the real issues are: how the US Marine Corps could have produced a traitor to the United States; the espionage leak in the White House (which happens to be ultra-paranoid about such things and takes pride in its being security-conscious), or how an official given responsibilities in Dick Cheney's bunker-mentality office got to do the things he did, and went on doing them in the FBI (and only got

caught when he reverted to Old World [that is, Filipino-at-home] habits by trying to fix a problem for his friend); and the generally low esteem Americans have for their president.

The Filipino origin of the spy under fire-Leandro Aragoncillo is the most irrelevant part. The problem isn't Aragoncillo's spying for Filipino friends; it's his being downright un-American after that country gave him every chance to prosper and shine.

Of course, there are Right-wing American pundits, like Michelle Malkin, who may be "Filipino-American" but more concerned with pleasing the Great White Fathers and playing a dutiful Little Brown Sister. (She claims to be of Filipino descent of some sort-what sort? Read on.)

When the case of Aragoncillo hit the big networks, she commented, "If it means now that the White House will be applying extra scrutiny to naturalized Americans of Filipino descent working at the top levels of government and in the military, well, yes, I support that. It's obviously overdue. And, as I argued in my last book, it's just one small step towards the kind of national security profiling we should have introduced aggressively after 9/11. But didn't."

You know the type. A fellow native does something bad? Why, kick all your fellow natives just to keep on the good side of Uncle Sam! It gives the embarrassed Great White Fathers, under fire from their fellow Anglo-Saxons

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Fear Your Own

What is A Terrorist?

PUBLIC LIVES

By Randy David

THE PROPOSED "Anti-Terrorism Act of 2005" defines terrorism as "the premeditated, threatened and actual use of violence or force or by any other means of destruction perpetrated against persons, properties, or the environment, with the intention of creating or sowing a state of danger, panic, fear, or chaos in the general public, group of persons, or segment thereof, or coercing or intimidating the government to do or abstain from doing an act." The key word is "fear." A terrorist is someone who threatens or actually uses violence and force to create a climate of fear and panic.

By this definition, former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano could be charged with terrorism. On June 7, 2004, he was caught on tape talking about the abduction of the family of a municipal election officer who offered to testify about electoral fraud committed in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan. He bragged that he had called an officer in the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to pick up members of this person's family so they could be used as a "bargaining chip." The election officer, a woman by the name of Hadja Rashma Hali, had indeed come to Manila to execute an affidavit. A few days later, she withdrew her testimony. She had been effectively terrorized.

A voice widely believed to be that of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

was also caught on tape in a separate conversation with Garcillano. GMA: "Did you get my text about the Tipo-Tipo?" Garcillano: "Oo Ma'am, that's what I'm fearful about...We're asking people to look for her so we can control her." GMA: "She's probably already being held by them." Garcillano: "She is here. That's why if it is possible, we'll have her family call her up." Garcillano told her of the plan to silence Hali, using her family, and GMA did nothing to stop him. That makes her an accessory to terrorism.

I am sure this conclusion can be reasonably argued, especially in the light of the Arroyo regime's penchant for using coercive means to deal with the daily mass protests demanding her ouster from the presidency. The so-called "calibrated preemptive re-

sponse" that Malacañang has recently adopted as a policy can be seen as an example of illegitimate use of police power to sow fear. It occupies the same conceptual bench as George W. Bush's doctrine of "preemptive defense" against international terrorism.

Yet no court of law will probably indict Garcillano and GMA for terrorism. There is nothing even faintly redeeming about plain abduction in the service of electoral fraud, or about police brutality in the service of personal political survival. We more or less have a clear idea of what terrorism means. It is typically associated with acts of defiance and violence in the service of certain political objectives, usually of groups fighting against perceived or real oppression. Because acts

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Alice Bulos Award Goes to Nevin, Dr. Manuel Valle Seeks S.F. Treasurer's Office

FILIPINO American empowerment prevails again.

With Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta and his wife looking on, the "Alice Pena Bulos Award" for commitment to public service was presented to California Senate hopeful, and past San Mateo County Supervisor, Mike Nevin of Daly City. Alice Bulos, the matriarch of Filipino American politics, has done it again. This time, she is not at the receiving end of an award — she is giving one in her name.

The AARS or Asian American Recovery Services held its 20th Anniversary Dinner at the San Francisco Marriott last Friday with former S.F. Mayor Willie Brown, San Mateo County District Attorney Jim Fox, County leaders and many others in attendance. The AARS was formed in 1985 as a grassroots service for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders suffering from drug and substance abuse. For years, Asian Americans were overlooked for such outreach services because APIA's were the "model minorities." Not anymore.

APIAs can be seen in court-houses and detention halls serving time for substance abuse. For decades, APIAs did not have anyone to turn to to obtain counseling and intervention. Many APIAs suffered and died as a result of oversight and neglect. Under the direction of culturally sensitive teams led by Executive Director Jeff Mori, APIAs now can obtain confidential and first class treatment intervention to impede drug use and abuse.

To commemorate 20 years of public service, AARS invited Alice Bulos, Secretary Norman Mineta, and AARS members to the dinner to show gratitude to the committed efforts of public servants to the community. Bulos presented her named award to Mike Nevin, candidate for California State Senate District number eight and Mineta presented his award to Congressman Mike Honda (D-San Jose) for his past contributions to public education and political awareness among the APIA communities.

Alice Bulos mentioned that her

award to Nevin "was to commemorate his outstanding service to empower our Filipino-American community in North San Mateo County. Without Nevin, our current Vice Mayor Michael Guingona would not have been appointed to a Daly City council seat. Nevin worked hard for the Filipino Americans in his district. He has helped us."

Many commented that "it is about time our Filipino American leaders like Alice Bulos are recognized by mainstream and APIA organizations," states Ademan Angeles, delegate to California Democratic Party. Others say that "Alice Bulos deserves to give an award to someone else since she has been receiving so many plaques and awards for decades. She is indeed a tough act to follow!"

Secretary Mineta awarded Congressman Mike Honda because Honda "worked hard for the Asian American communities. When I (Mineta) was San Jose Mayor, I appointed Honda to his first public service position as Planning Commissioner of the town. Later, he ran and won a school board position. He then succeeded in a campaign to be San Jose Supervisor and then later Assemblyman of his district. He has been a role model for our communities."

Another recipient of the AARS Award was Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). She told the crowd of over 500 people that "AARS represents all that is good about San Francisco." The AARS workers, many of whom used to work for Senator Feinstein when she reigned as SF Mayor in the 1980s, made her successful in government and politics. Feinstein believes that this award will enable recognition of AARS efforts to curb drug abuse and usage among young Asian Americans.

Other attendees included Colma Councilman Larry Formalejo and Vice Mayor Helen Fiscaro, President Teresa Ferrer-Guingona of the Fil-Am San Mateo County Democratic Club, Ombudsman Commissioner Andre and Miniang Belarmino (Daly City), Jefferson Unified

School District Trustee David Mineta, District Attorney Jim Fox (San Mateo County), San Mateo County Education Trustee Rhonda Ceccato; Rene Medina, CEO of Lucky Chances and Lucky Money Inc.; Zen Coronado, RN, Executive VP of Zinnelle International; Ademan Angeles, businessman and CDP delegate; CDP Delegate Marico Enriquez and Fe Enriquez, RN; San Mateo Commissioner for Health Amado Villanueva; Erlinda Galeon, President of Filipina Women Alumni of Philippine Colleges; Malou Mariano of Long Beach; Fred Gomez, SF Commissioner for Veterans Affairs; and Cherie Moreno Querol, former Editor-in-Chief of Philippine News and now working for the San Mateo County's domestic violence prevention program.

Given the large turnout of support for Alice Pena Bulos, AARS will no doubt be given tremendous support from Filipino Americans.

Another Filipino American leader who deserves some attention is Account Manager in the San Francisco Treasurer's Office, Manuel Valle. Valle is running for City Treasurer against CPA Calvin Louie, appointee Jose Cisneros, Isaac Wang, and Julio Ramos. Although Calvin Louie purports in his flyer to be the "only CPA" running for Treasurer, Valle contends in his statement that he holds a CPA as well. Valle is a PhD holder from the University of San Francisco with a near perfect "3.98 GPA." Valle holds MPA from California State University and credits from UC Berkeley in Mathematics. He graduated from Ateneo with a Bachelor's Degree. Valle appears well qualified to raise the bar on accountability and competence.

Valle asserted to supporters that "he has worked in the Treasurer's Office in San Francisco as an account manager and is well versed in the workings of the department." Valle was interviewed by the FFAC, Friends of the Filipino American PAC (Political Action Committee), last Saturday and until then many in the kababayan community "did not

know he is the sole Filipino American running for public office in the City."

One alumnus comrade, Monty Martinez of Tracy, attended Cal State University with Dr. Valle. Monty Martinez, Democratic activist, and Chair of the PAC FFAC says that he "is qualified." The PAC endorsed Dr. Manuel Valle and CPA Calvin Louie in a co-endorsement.

In other races throughout the Bay Area region, the 1500 registered Filipino American voters in San Bruno are invited Monday October 17, 2005 to the Patio Filipino on El Camino Real in San Bruno at a 6 p.m. kick-off for fellow kababayan Ken Ibarra, incumbent San Bruno Councilman. This is Ibarra's third re-election campaign. He faces 4 other contentious candidates in a tough race.

In Vallejo, California, two Fil-Ams are running in the city council race against 9 others. Former school board trustee Rozzana

Verder Aliga has raised about \$30,000 to reign as the next Vallejo Councilwoman while Hermie Sunga, Planning Commissioner, has over \$84,000 in campaign funds in his war chest. With so many campaigning to be one of three Vallejo leaders, this Solano County town will hopefully see two qualified kababayan council leaders.

In Los Angeles, Ruby Devera hopes to be the first Filipina Los Angeles Councilwoman to succeed Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Please do not forget to register and vote this November 2005. The movement to vote "no" on all propositions in this fall election has taken the front seat. The "Alliance for California" has made strong efforts to derail the Governor Arnold "Terminator" Schwarzenegger's propositions, especially 75 and 76. Many are urging all voters to just vote "no" on all of them. One Alliance observer asserts that we must "send the signal to the Governor, that

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT



By Dr. Fel Anthony Amistad

enough is enough. The cost to hold this special election will be enormous. It will set the treasury back tens of millions of dollars when it could easily have been held next June 2006 when a bigger primary is held. What a waste!"

Stay empowered and engaged so we can prevail!

(Dr. Amistad holds advanced business and law degrees and is CEO of his own realty and mortgage firms in San Francisco, California. He is VP of 80-20initiative.net, the nation's largest PAC for cyberspace political empowerment with over 700,000 in-tuned readers. Contact activist Amistad at 650-544-5221.)

(Advertising Supplement)

What is...

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groups fighting against perceived or real oppression. Because acts of terrorism are often integral to liberation struggles, defining the concept in precise terms has eluded even the best minds in the United Nations.

In a lecture he delivered in Manila in 2002, the Austrian legal scholar Dr. Hans Kochler made this observation: "Because of the lack of consensus among member states on the basic criteria defining terrorist acts and on the characteristics distinguishing them from acts of national liberation (eventually providing special exemptions for certain movements under anti-terrorist conventions), there exist only implicit or 'operative'-definitions." There are many such definitions, but none, he says, has been able to distinguish adequately between terrorism and

legitimate acts of resistance against foreign occupation or national liberation.

One can immediately appreciate the difficulties that this lacuna poses. How are we to treat the daily bombings in Iraq targeting the American occupying forces and their civilian surrogates? Should we view them as acts of terrorism, as the Americans do, or as acts of legitimate resistance by the Iraqi people? Was the American embargo against Iraq that led to the death of at least half a million Iraqi children a legitimate act of war, or was it an act of terrorism by a bully state?

I think that what should be condemnable-whether we are talking of terrorism or of crimes committed in the course of war-is the deliberate targeting of innocent civilians. But for this, we may not need a new anti-terrorism law. There are enough existing laws that prohibit and punish such acts. If one is needed at all, as Kochler argues, it should be har-

monized with existing laws, in order to avoid applying one set of laws to ordinary crimes and another one to a special set of "terrorist" acts.

In this manner, Kochler says, "acts of national resistance would not be criminalized per se (as is often attempted by states when they are in the position of occupying power), but would be judged according to the same rules as acts of regular warfare by a national army. Both state and non-state actors would be held to the same standards of international humanitarian law."

As in the global arena, so also in the politics of societies, the promulgation of special measures like the anti-terrorism law brings with it the danger of its easily being used as a comprehensive instrument of unaccountable power. It would be a mistake to put a law like this in the hands of a regime that grows more vicious by the day as it desperately fights to extend its life. (INQ7)

Fear Your...

From Page 8

because of the rising crescendo of conservative exasperation with the bumbling cronyism of President Bush and some of the leading lights (now sadly dimming rather fast) of the Republican Party. As John Stewart of the "Daily Show" recently put it, the Republicans have learned more about how to commit corruption in five years than the Democrats in 50 years.

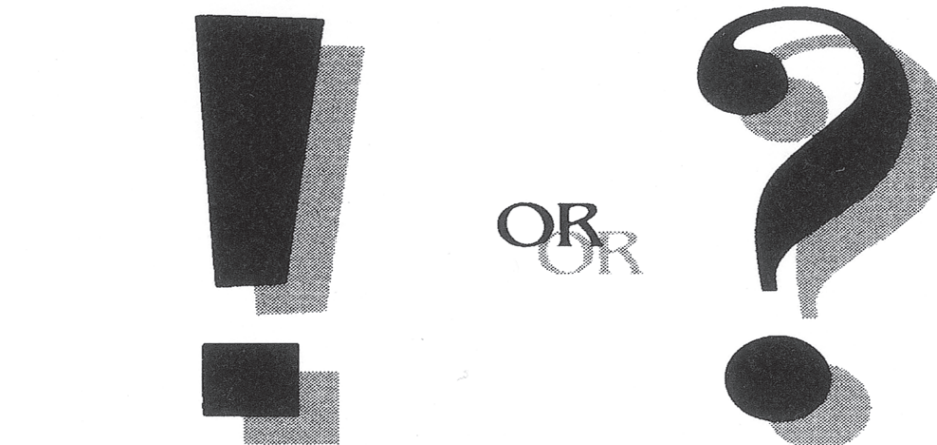
Anyway, the President of the Philippines outdid Malkin in sycophancy-breathing fire and thunder about Aragoncillo and Aquino having placed Philippine-American relations in danger. What Philippine-American relations? There has been no such relations "worth a pitcher of warm spit," to borrow a phrase from John Nance Garner (at one time a US vice president), since she abandoned the coalition of the willing in Iraq. (I disagreed with that decision, much as I opposed the war. An international commitment to an ally is a commitment).

Ms Arroyo-and the Philippines-has been paying the price for that turn-around ever since. The Bush administration is justifiably famous for being vindictive of those who dare to heed considerations that it did not dictate. But a risk to Philippine-American relations? How can that get any worse, after what she herself did to it? That's a pretty battered black pot badmouthing two little kettles.

Now our media are feasting on the nervousness of Filipino-Americans-presumably the naturalized and green card holders, particularly those working for a state government or the federal government-who are worried that a cloud of suspicion will hang over their heads for some time to come and because of this a series of loyalty checks will be conducted with them as targets. But I don't see American Jews getting all that antsy and nervous, even after espionage operations, state-sponsored by a leading US ally, Israel, have been surfacing with some regularity. There's no anti-Jewish suspicion or reprisals ei-

ther. And so, Filipino-Americans should have no reason to worry about anti-Fil-Am sentiments or measures. Or so I thought, until I read Malkin.

The real issue here, is that a security-obsessed administration in America dropped the ball. The bonus for us locals is that the whole affair has pretty much put former President Estrada and his senator-son, and Sen. Panfilo Lacson on the defensive. How Michael Ray Aquino and the hordes of Filipinos who descend on the US Embassy on social occasions, not only to gorge on canap,s but also feed every bit of useful gossip to American diplomats, differ is beyond me. Maybe, the difference is simply determined by your ability to be on the embassy's mailing list, and going home every night to a home on Filipino soil. Anyway, if I were Filipino-American, I'd be giving those Anglo-Saxons running their government frightened looks. Look what adopting their mindset does to Fil-Ams like Malkin. One of their own is egging on the witch hunt. (INQ7)



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