



Razor's Edge

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'Iron Fist' Unveiled

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NEW YORK, NY July 14 (PinoyGlobal) - National Security Adviser chief, Norberto Gonzales, admits having suggested to Pres. Arroyo implementing the draconian "Iron Fist" rule he crafted to combat the chaotic situation created by the sporadic bombings in certain areas of Mindanao and potentially in Metro Manila weeks from now. In plain language he wants her to declare martial law sugarcoated as iron fist (same dog with a different dog tag).

Madam Arroyo is already at the totem pole of a military junta that goes by the innocuous name of "council government." This being the case, we could be under martial law already without knowing it, or a government just as abrasive.

Lest Gonzales forgets, a rose is a rose by any name. Iron fist may sound less offensive than martial law, which is absolutely unpalatable to Juan de la Cruz, nonetheless it's just as oppressive and vicious because it does not zero in on terrorists alone but everybody wreaking havoc on the nation.

What then is the difference between martial law and his iron fist doctrine when their hallmark is oppression? In fact, implementing either one freezes the Constitution and that is the crux of the issue: civil rights will be in a state of suspended animation.

Clearly therefore, the culprit behind this dark prospect is that militarist Norberto Gonzales who wants to

impose his obra maestra (iron fist) to perpetuate his boss in power. His idea is the wild card that will cushion the malignant impact it wallops on civil liberties by ending the stage-managed mosaic of chaos it created in the first place.

But it hasn't averted the possible collateral damage of "No EI" (no elections) or suspension of the 2010 elections to 2012. If you ask me Gonzales' scheme will convert Congress into a constituent assembly - that elusive goal of Gloria by which she could keep holding the reins of government indefinitely.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said that the 62 bombings occurring since January averages 10 bombings a month. If this is not a crisis my dear readers, what is? Whoever is the mastermind/s behind this barbaric spate (bombings), certainly sends the message loud and clear to our horrified people.

Biazon regrets the huge P1.3 billion annual intelligence fund with the office of the president getting the lion share of P650 million because it seems to have caused more harm than good. What is aggravating is that until now GMA has not revealed how she spent this galactic budget. Was it used to fight "Muslim terrorists or Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)", who according to the military are the instigators of these deadly bombings?

The question is - who are causing this havoc? Not many believe the terrorists are behind the tumultuous climate

bedeviling Mindanao, which the military has been peddling. Neither have the NPAs claimed credit for them. The latter do not openly operate in the Muslim region. They are confined in Luzon and certain areas in the Visayas.

National Capital Regional Commander Gen. Jogy Fojas believes that these wildings would soon spillover to Manila. He also claims knowing the hideout of the alleged terrorists. Curiously though, he refuses to divulge where they are for fear that “it will compromise military operations.” Apparently, the military hierarchy censured him for making those assertions without prior consultation because soon after he made a brisk about face moaning that he was quoted out of context.

If he knows these cutthroats and cold-blooded killers of innocent civilians are going to bomb crowded areas in Manila and Mindanao the least he can do is act fast to prevent the possible murders of innocent people. For him to do nothing makes him a virtual accomplice of the crime.

He is credible because no less than the presidential security staff is preparing 11,000 policemen and 2,000 soldiers to comb the area around the Batasan and guard the parameter going there days before she delivers her State of the Nation Address (SONA) on the 17th of July. With that army of bodyguards she has to be on the level of Madam Mao’s unpopularity.

Against this backdrop, we are inclined to ask how important is military “sprit de corps” to Gen. Fojas for him to refuse arresting the suspects lest he jeopardizes “military operations” in Mindanao? What cockeyed priority does he uphold anyway? And is the military really that helpless to tackle the crisis without his cooperation? How weak is our Armed Forces anyway? Foja’s excuses are utterly ludicrous, unless he is under pressure not to act for reasons only Malacanang and the military high echelon know!

Palace spokesmen would not be sounding like a broken record denying the possible imposition of that sugarcoated martial law (“iron fist” rule), if GMA is honest to assure the nation of retiring after the elections next year. Better yet if she endorses as early as now her choice of her successor. Keeping everybody facing a blank wall regarding her intention after her term expires is the source of all these vexing speculations that may not sound fair to her and the people in general.

Suspending the Constitution to have her way is déjà vu of the late Marcos modus operandi to perpetuate. Even

former Speaker Joe de Venecia attests to that.

JDV revealed the wicked scenario contemplated by Gloria et al, in his speech before foreign dignitaries in the Green Hills Rotary Club meeting in San Juan. He recalled that Marcos first declared martial law and later revised the Constitution making him president for life.

Pres. Arroyo is no better, according to De Venecia. He remembered that right after the “Hello, Garci” wiretapping scandal in the 2005 polls, which was exposed by military intelligence Sgt. Vidal Doble, Gloria was about ready to impose martial rule. I surmise it was to preempt a possible overthrow of the government by the public going ballistic.

If the magic number to convert Congress into a constituent assembly (Con-ass) does not materialize, she will surely declare martial law not later than November or early next year, as per the consensus of pundits in the country. If she does that my friends, Gloria will be cutting her nose to spite her cheek because everything will go haywire on her political life.

Former Sen. Pres. Francis Drilon says that Gloria stuffed her administration with retired generals who will pursue her magnum opus (rule of the gun soon) as evidenced by the rampant bombings in various cities in the South. Drilon further observed that these generals are planning the take over if things do not transpire as they expect.

Or if this is not possible because of strong public opposition, then for one reason or other the 2010 elections are suspended and by 2012 the constituent assembly will proceed with the Charter change without the Senate. When that is accomplished Ms Arroyo will schedule the elections.

The rest will follow with the precision of a clock. After changing the form of government, she runs for parliament, which is a piece of cake for her to win in Pampanga, finalizing the jigsaw puzzle. With her unlimited logistics and extensive clout over most, if not all of the would-be parliamentarians, becoming Prime Minister would be a mere formality for her.

What a tortuous melodrama! Question: will the people take that charade nonchalantly or in abject resignation? Only the event will teach us in its hour.