



Razor's Edge

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Amnesty For ASG: Aberration Of Justice And Mocks Victims

NEW YORK, NY July 17 (PinoyGlobal) - The Palace already disowned the issue I am about to discuss. I am writing briefly about it to impact upon the powers-that-be that their shenanigans will not go unnoticed. The public has every right to know about it. The people have to take proper action to avert this gross travesty.

Last week, administration Sen. Richard Gordon hoisted the “Bermuda Triangle” idea of giving amnesty to a couple of sick Abu Sayyaf commanders (Albader Parad and Abu Jumdail, alias Dr Abu) to reciprocate the release of kidnap victims, the last one being Red Cross worker Eugenio Vagni. Assuming they are grateful, which I seriously doubt because they are not ideologically motivated but monetarily oriented. Worst, they are weighed over by the passion to kill innocent people to instill fear in the public. More than that they want to impress their ultimate goal to govern from the point of a gun.

I wonder if the Arroyo administration is aware of world events. Sri Lanka, a very small country, had the same problem we have in the South. Her rebels were demanding that certain territories be ceded to them and that they should also be given an autonomous region for their Tamil ethnic population and the whole bit of it that would satisfy their subversive demands. But after listening to the United Nations and other countries the leaders of Sri Lanka got tired following their advice because the terrorists did not relent despite all the government’s effort to cement peaceful relations with them for years. The rebels wanted the whole country. Does that sound familiar?

Finally, when things did not improve, instead of capitulating, Sri Lanka’s leaders reversed gears and resumed bombing the terrorists hiding in the jungles, just like the Abu Sayyaf rats do in Mindanao, until their leaders were killed along with so many rebels. The rest surrendered and now peace is the hallmark of that government after wiping the terrorists out of existence. Indeed, it is not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog that thwarted the terrorists’ intention to create anarchy in that country.

The moral lesson here is that sometimes listening to other countries that do not know our internal problems can be disastrous. I think we should continue bombing Abu Sayyaf lairs and killing them until they are completely erased from the map. That they would retaliate and harm some of us is a collateral damage our people should expect. After shooting the enemy you do not expect them to throw you pancakes, syrup and butter.

I am quite sure Gordon was merely echoing Malacanang’s thought for no sensible lawmaker like Dick who is abreast with the barbaric crimes the ASG is guilty of committing in Sulu, Jolo and other parts of Mindanao would willfully endorse such an aberration of justice. He knows how much the government invested in taxpayers’ money and lives of soldiers in the campaign to halt the wave of atrocities this group has caused, as pointed out by military spokesperson Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner.

It’s just sheer madness to offer the Abu Sayyafs the olive branch or blanket forgiveness when their hands are still dripping with the blood of innocent victims. Has Gordon

forgotten the families and victims of beheadings, murders, and pillaging these bandits are guilty of to even think of letting them go scot-free without answering for their crimes because their commanders are “sick, old and dying”? What about American missionary Mark Burnham, whom they kidnapped and who was killed in the crossfire between them and the soldiers? Did the brutal ASG commiserate with his wife Gracia? Did these barbarians think of those hostages whom they personally beheaded when they were healthy?

It is a relief to hear that Malacanang did not dignify the balloon floated by Sen. Gordon. Or are they just lying low until they can make use of the propaganda of rapprochement for peace in Mindanao with the Abu Sayyafs? In the interest of peace in the country I wish that my morbid prognosis is wrong.

Flipping issues, I could not believe that no less than associate SC Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro ordered the recount of the ballots of the 2007 elections in Pampanga. Is the lady justice that penned this decision oblivious of the fact that she could be playing in the hands of President Arroyo? True, the margin of Gov. Eddie Panlilio over his opponent Mrs. Lilia Pineda (Gloria’s comadre and wife of notorious gambling lord Bong Pineda) was only 2007 votes.

Still this was a huge margin considering that Panlilio had no money and was possibly a victim of bawas-dagdag (vote-shaving and adding) of administration fraud artists. Particularly in Pampanga because GMA’s leadership was at

stake in that gubernatorial race, wherein Lilia was her personal candidate.

To exhume the results in that election when so much water went under the bridge already is to open the proverbial Pandora’s Box. Panlilio’s loyalists will not take it sitting down, especially if Lilia Pineda is declared winner, which is not far-fetched.

More importantly is that with Lilia as governor the election of Ms Arroyo for parliament in Pampanga is a foregone conclusion. This timetable could be in 2012 when her term has been extended and after the Charter change is finalized paving the way for her candidacy. Gloria has to make a categorical commitment to the nation to bow out after her mandate expires at the end of next year for the people to believe her now.

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All signs however, do not show the faintest probability of her stepping down. If she stays beyond her term, Chief Justice Reynaldo Puno’s grim prognosis that the “social volcano” is on the verge of erupting might just happen. From that point on will be chaos: our people will suffer untold atrocities at the hands of fellowmen in a civil strife, because man is wolf to man.

Was this in the mind of Justice Leonardo-de Castro when she penned the decision for the recount of the ballots in Pampanga? Take a bow, Madam - it’s more honest that playing deaf, mute and dumb.