

Part Two THE MARAWI SIEGE

The Philippine government had been receiving reports of unusual activities in the city and of the increasing number of armed groups roaming the streets of Marawi. Also reported was the sighting of Isnilon Hapilon, affiliated with the ISIS and had been appointed as “Emir of all Islamic State forces in the Philippines” (*Al Naba*). He was in Marawi consolidating the Abu Sayyaf and the Maute group with the ISIS.



On May 23, 2017, government forces launched a military operation to arrest Isnilon Hapilon. The Abu Sayyaf opened fire and asked reinforcement from the Maute group, then deployed in various places in the city.



Abu Sayyaf (Photo: Phil News)

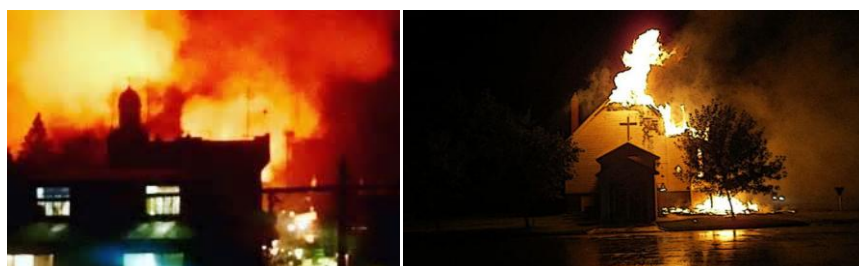
Maute Group (Photo: Bombo Radyo CdeO)

The Maute group attacked Camp Ranao, took over government buildings, burned the city jail, occupied the main street, set Saint Mary's Church on fire, killed the chief of police, took a priest and several churchgoers hostage... They roamed the streets of Marawi, dressed in black, waving the ISIS flag.



ISIS flag during the Marawi Siege (Photo: Phil News)

Power and communication lines were shut down. In the darkness, burning houses and buildings, gunfire, and chaos pervaded the streets. (CNN, ABS-CBN, Philippine Daily Inquirer...)



(Photos: New Politics Today)

On the same day, President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law on the whole island of Mindanao.



Phil military deployment to Marawi (Photo: Wikipedia)



Military helicopter over the city (Photo: Rappler)



Philippine marines (Photo: Reuters)



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Military checkpoint (Photo: Associated Press)

The clashes caused the mass evacuation of the city with residents fleeing by the thousands.



(Photo: NewInfo.Inquirer.Net)



(Photo: ABS-CBN News)

The local government of Iligan City set up centers in different parts of the city for the evacuees. Because of their number, the evacuees, mostly women and children, had to endure the congestion, becoming vulnerable to various illnesses and diseases.



(Photo: PhilStar)



(Photo: presstv.ir)



(Photo: PhilStar)



(Photo: PhilStar)

Within days, the once remarkable Islamic City was turned to rubble.



(Photo: Reuters)

The city in the beginning of the siege



(Photo: Sunstar)



(Photo: GMA News)



(Photo: CNN)



(Photo: levefer07.blogspot.com)



(Photo: CNN Philippines)

DANSALAN COLLEGE

Dansalan College was not spared.

In the evening of 23 May, the men burned Laubach Hall - the administration building which had the offices and library, the science laboratory, the chapel, and eight (8) housing units for faculty and staff.

Academic and financial records, ambulance, Dr Peter Gowing's vintage car, the DC hauling truck, Maranao arts and crafts, desktop computers, laptops, tables, chairs, cabinets, shelves, kitchen wares and appliances, athletic equipment and paraphernalia, piano, keyboard, musical instruments and various other school items were all razed by fire, including the collection from enrollment for two days, amounting to about Php 1.2 million.

Dansalan College had housing facilities for personnel. The Green House, Yellow House, White House, Mission House, Guest House and parsonage inside the campus were for single faculty and staff. Outside the campus, Van Vactor Hall, Spencer Hall and Heffington Hall were for those with families. Everything inside these facilities were all turned to ashes. Most of the residents were left with nothing but the clothes they were wearing.



Laubach Hall the day after the siege



The lobby of Laubach Hall



The science building

In the ensuing days, the Maute group set up Dansalan College as a stronghold, its high structures as machine gun nests and vantage points for snipers. Because of their presence, the buildings became the target of military airstrikes, and eventually caused the destruction of thirteen (13) more structures and an irreparable damage to properties.

All the buildings and structures in the campus -18 in all - were destroyed by fire and airstrikes.



An earlier photo of the campus and the ravaged structures. The buildings were later transformed to empty shells.



What used to be Hamm Hall





After over a month, Dansalan College was liberated by government forces, but its buildings were already reduced to empty shells.



Photo: Scout Ranger Books



Photo: New Marawi City Pulse

Upon the request of Dr Fedelinda Tawagon, and based on the decision of the Board of Trustees of Dansalan College, government military personnel are presently deployed at the Marawi campus.