

Philippine soldiers surrender

By Hrvoje Hranjski
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines — Mutinous troops who seized a Manila shopping and apartment complex demanding the government resign ended a 19-hour standoff late Sunday and returned to barracks without a shot fired.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo announced the crisis was over in a televised address, as experts defused explosives the mutineers had rigged up inside the financial district's Glorietta complex.

"This is a triumph for democracy. May God bless the Philippines," the smiling and visibly relieved president said as aides with her at the presidential palace applauded.

She said that 296 soldiers, including 70 officers, were involved and that all would face prosecution based on "the articles of war."

Generals loyal to Arroyo had sent hundreds of troops to surround the besieged complex, home to wealthy Filipinos, foreign businesspeople and diplomats. The surrender by nearly 300 renegade forces followed negotiations between their leaders and top government officials — and repeated threats from Arroyo to crush the rebellion with armor and sharpshooters.

The rebellious soldiers and officers, wearing camouflage and red arm bands emblazoned with sun rays, carried rifles as they were trucked away to a nearby army base.

The Philippines has seen dozens of military uprisings and coup attempts since the "people power" ouster of dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

Sunday's rebellion erupted 24 hours ahead of a state of the nation address by Arroyo — and amid rumors of a coup plot — but she denied the standoff had loosened her grip on the presidency.

"I assure the world that this event does not in any way injure our national security and political stability," she said.

Renegade troops claimed to have 2,000 supporters, but the group inside the complex was far smaller. There appeared to have been little public support for the mutiny, and Arroyo's armed forces chief of staff, Gen. Narciso Abaya, pledged loyalty to the president.

The mutineers had complained about corruption and misconduct by senior officers and the government, as well as favoritism within the ranks and problems with a military retirement fund.

Some demanded an inquiry into a recent spate of terror bombings in the country's south and better control over military weapons and ammunition distribution.

"We are not attempting to grab power. We are just trying to express our grievances," a senior mutiny leader, navy Lt. Sr. Grade Antonio Trillanes, told reporters. He said the explosives were for self-defense. "If they try to take us down, we will be forced to use it."

Some emerged from the standoff saying they were happy it was over. "We have gotten across our message clear to the whole nation and maybe to the whole world," said marine Capt. Nicanor Paeldon.

The unrest at the Glorietta complex started after Arroyo ordered the arrest late Saturday of junior officers and soldiers who deserted with their weapons and were believed to be plotting a coup.

The United States has been working closely with the 120,000-strong Philippine military, which has been battling Muslim separatists and communist rebels for three

Heard it through the grapevine



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Senior finance major **Chris Nabours** searches for the "Big Kahuna" at the Messina Hof Winery & Resort located in Bryan Saturday morning during this weekend's harvest festival.

Harvest is held each weekend at the winery until Aug. 17 with a full day of events such as picking, stomping, a tour and wine tasting.

Americans hunt for Saddam near his hometown

By D'Arcy Doran
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TIKRIT, Iraq — American forces focused their hunt for Saddam Hussein around his Tigris River hometown and reported a near-miss Sunday in a raid to capture his new chief of security — and perhaps the ousted dictator himself. A U.S. soldier was killed south of Baghdad, the latest death in a spike of guerrilla attacks.

Troops of the 4th Infantry Division, acting on tips from informants, hit three farms in the Tikrit region in a pre-dawn attack but learned their specific target — the security chief — had left the area the day before.

"We missed him by 24 hours," said Lt. Col. Steve Russell, who led the operation that was witnessed by an Associated Press reporter.

The raid was prompted by Thursday's capture in Tikrit of a group of men believed to include as many as 10 Saddam bodyguards. Soldiers learned from them that Saddam's new security chief — and possibly the dictator himself — were staying at one of the farms, Russell said.

Hundreds of soldiers, backed by Bradley fighting vehicles, surrounded the farms as Apache attack helicopters hovered above. No shots were fired as about 25 men emerged

from the houses peacefully. They were detained briefly and released later Sunday.

"The noose is tightening around these guys," said Col. James C. Hickey, a brigade commander. "They're running out of places to hide, and it's becoming difficult for them to

"They're running out of places to hide, and it's becoming difficult for them to move because we're everywhere."

— Col. James C. Hickey
U.S. Army

move because we're everywhere. Any day now we're going to knock on their door, or kick in their door, and they know it."

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited 4th Infantry commanders in Tikrit on Sunday and later told reporters in Baghdad that Saddam "was too busy trying to save his own skin" to lead the insurgency against American forces.

"He is so busy surviving he is having no impact on the security situation here," Myers

said. "It's a big country, but we'll find him." Myers met with Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commander of U.S. ground forces in Iraq, and planned to leave Monday.

In Tikrit, the army would not name the man they targeted, but said he was believed to have taken over Saddam's security after the June 17 arrest of Abid Hamid Mahmud al-Tikriti, Saddam's cousin and presidential secretary.

Mahmud, who was No. 4 on the U.S. list of most-wanted Iraqis, controlled all access to Saddam. He and Qusai Hussein, one of Saddam's sons, were believed to be the only two people trusted with knowledge of Saddam's whereabouts.

The U.S. military also had mounted a mission to get Saddam on Tuesday in Mosul after killing Qusai and his brother, Odai, a military source familiar with the operation told the AP. The second raid by elements of the 101st Airborne Division came after intelligence sources reported Saddam as being at a different location in the city.

"We missed him by a matter of hours," the source said on condition of anonymity.

Later Sunday, U.S. forces raided the home of Prince Rabiah Muhammed al-Habib in an upscale west Baghdad neighborhood and killed an undetermined number of people, witnesses said. One hospital reported at least five Iraqis killed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. prison population growth hurts states

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's prison population grew again in 2002 despite a declining crime rate, costing the federal government and states an estimated \$40 billion a year at a time of rampant budget shortfalls.

The inmate population in 2002 of more than 2.1 million represented a 2.6 percent increase over 2001, according to a report released Sunday by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Preliminary FBI statistics showed a 0.2 percent drop in overall crime during the same span.

Some experts say mandatory sentences, especially for nonviolent drug offenders, are a major reason inmate populations have risen for 30 years. About one of every 143 U.S. residents was in the federal, state or local custody at year's end.

Others say tough sentencing laws, such as the "three strikes" laws that can put repeat offenders behind bars for life, are a chief reason for the drop in crime. The Justice Department, for example, this year ordered Bureau of Prisons officials to stop sending so many white-collar and nonviolent criminals to halfway houses.

Israelis release militants before Sharon's U.S. trip

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's Cabinet voted Sunday to release jailed Islamic militants, partially satisfying a Palestinian demand in peace talks and strengthening Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's hand ahead of a meeting with President George W. Bush.

A senior Israeli official traveling with Sharon said that about 540 prisoners would be released within a week — about 210 from the mili-

tant Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups, about the same number from Fatah, headed by Yasser Arafat and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, and the rest criminals.

Ministers voted 14-9 to authorize the release, reversing government resistance to freeing members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The two groups are responsible for most of the suicide bombings that have killed hundreds of Israelis in three years of violence.

The Palestinians have been calling for a mass release of Palestinian prisoners, arguing that at least 3,000 of the 7,700 in Israeli jails present no security risk.

Dems ask Richardson to chair convention

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic officials will nominate Bill Richardson, the Hispanic governor

of New Mexico, to be chairman of the party's 2004 national convention, several Democrats said Sunday.

Alice Huffman, president of the California NAACP, will be nominated to head the convention committee.

The plan to nominate Richardson as convention chairman was mentioned in published reports Sunday. Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe planned to announce the decision Monday in Boston.

"Governor Richardson is honored to have been chosen," Richardson spokesman Billy Sparks said Sunday.

New Mexico has a prominent place in the primary calendar in 2004, holding a Democratic caucus on Feb. 3, when several states have contests just a week after the New Hampshire primary.

Dennehy

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Bolton said Dennehy told him the down payment for the Tahoe he bought came from "one of his girlfriends."

"I find it very difficult to believe that anybody, in a time like this, would be wanting to hold Baylor and the Baylor coaching staff on trial," Bolton said. "I would think you would want to be more worried about your loved one."

But in a high-profile case, it's not surprising that such allegations have surfaced, said Peter Roby, director of Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society.

Given the level of media interest, "there's going to be someone looking for the other big story because they can't keep regurgitating the same story," Roby said.

"I would hope the public-at-large is going to want to wait and be fair and see what happens," he said. "If there are any violations involved, those will come out in due time."

But for now, the focus should remain on the murder case, he said.

"It's life-or-death versus allegations of wrongdoing with recruiting," Roby said. "As much as sports is important to our society, it needs to be kept in its prop-

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