

Andanar upbeat on Ampatuan case justice

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Communications chief Secretary Martin Andanar expressed optimism that justice will soon be served to the families of the slain media men in the Ampatuan Massacre.



This, despite, the delay in the promulgation of the case for another month as re-
quested by presiding judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes of **Quezon City Regional Trial Court**
(RTC) Branch 11.

The Supreme Court en banc earlier this week granted Reyes' appeal to move the pro-
mulgation from 20 November to 20 December.

"Be that as it may, we've waited
10 years. What is another month?" Andanar said in the Presidential Communications
Operations
Office (PCOO) radio show,
"Cabinet Report sa Teleradyo" yesterday.

"So, let's just wait and we are very optimistic that the families of the 32 journalists
massacred will be given justice, even the others who are not journalists," he added.
Solis asked for the extension to be able to keenly thumb through the case's volumi-
nous 165 volumes of proceedings, 65 volumes of transcripts of stenographic notes,
and eight volumes of the prosecution's documentary evidence.

More than 100 individuals, including members of the powerful Ampatuan clan who
allegedly masterminded the crime, who were tried for the last 10 years, with the court
receiving the testimony of 357 witnesses.

The Ampatuan Massacre, which happened on 23 November 2009, has been tagged as
the deadliest single-day attack on media workers in the world and the worst election-
related case of violence in recent Philippine history.