

No verified report of kidnapping – QC police

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THE QUEZON City Police District (QCPD) on Monday assured the residents that there had been no confirmed report of kidnapping of children in the city.

Brig. Gen. Ronnie Montejo, QCPD chief, said the police had started investigating reports of abduction.

that “no reports have come into the QCPD of kidnappings of any kind.” However, Belmonte ordered the police to be vigilant.

Montejo said the QCPD had conducted a thorough investigation on the supposed kidnapping incidents in the city. He promised Belmonte to release a report once completed.

The QCPD said it would increase police visibility, conduct checkpoints to thwart criminal activities in the city.

Belmonte appealed to the public to stop spreading on social media unconfirmed news of alleged series of kidnapping incidents since these cause panic.

“I urge our citizens to stop spreading unconfirmed news because you are causing unnecessary panic,” the mayor said as she urged residents to report any hand information about it.

“In the spirit of transparency, I assure these alleged kidnapping cases have been validated,” she said.

Belmonte also asked QC residents to remain calm and refrain from causing unnecessary anxiety by spreading hearsay “very irresponsible and itself a public menace.”

Fake news

Meanwhile, Philippine National Police (PNP) spokesman Bernard Banac described as “fake news” the alleged kidnapping of teenagers in Pasay City.

“Well, tungkoldoonsakumakalatsa social media naisponatinpabulaanan angmgakumakalatna fake news na ito. Walapapongbasehanathindiito validated (About that [news circulating] on social media, we want to dismiss this news fake news that is spreading. It is baseless and it is not validated),” he said.

“Patungkolsailanginsidentenanakuhaan CCTV (closed circuit television) kasalukuyannamanginiimbestigahan anginsidente. Itoay isolated, hindi namansit-wasyonsabuongbansa (With regard to some [alleged kidnapping] incidents where these were caught on CCTV, these are being investigated. These are isolated [cases] and is not the situation nationwide),” he added.

At least nine teenagers — one female and eight male — aged 15 to 23 reportedly disappeared in Pasay City between November 20 and 22.

Esguerra, 19; Niña Jane Ignacio, 19; Reine Louise de Ocampo, 15; Kojie Marquez, 16; Norealle Butiong, 21; Gil Josh Ramirez, 18; Leogee Tiposo, 23; Roujen Serban, 21; and Sebastian Montoya, 22.

But Pasay City Police chief Bernard Yang claimed that they only learned of the case of the missing individuals on November 25, the day Mayor Emi Calixto Rubiano ordered the police to probe the incidents.

Yang added that the report circulating in social media that almost 20 people were missing now in Pasay City is also fake news.

“Obviously a fake news,” Yang said in a text message to TheManilaTimes when sought for comment on the claim posted on Facebook by a certain Flor Abalye Villarosa, that at least 20 teenagers both male and female were missing. These students were allegedly from Arellano University and Pasay East National High School.

Villarosa claimed that the kidnapped teenagers might have become sex slaves or their internal organs had been taken and were being sold by their abductors.

“Based on the investigation, kidnappers are those who asked you for a job and they’ll ask you to have a meet up. (Most of the meet ups are in MOA),” he added. MOA stands for the Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Walatayo [nakikita]namaykagagawannito (This don’t have [any suspect yet] who may have perpetrated this). Our investigation is still ongoing,”

Banac also appealed to netizens to also urged families of missing persons to the supposed disappearance of their loved one on social media.

He warned netizens against posting be charged for violating the cybercrime act for spreading fake news. Don’t spread news or information which are not yet
Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa allayed fears of the public about the reported abduction of children and teenagers.

The senator, chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs, said the PNP was already pursuing a “theory” on the reported kidnapping of children in Pasay City and Quezon City.

“Huwagsilangmatakotd’yan.Mga isolated cases ‘yan (They should not be afraid. These are isolated cases),” dela Rosa in a text message.

Photos of alleged nine kidnapped minors, including one girl, went viral on social media. The series of abduction reported happened in November.