



SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2013 13

# Twin blasts rock QC compound

By REINIR PADUA

Two improvised explosive devices went off in front of a contested property in Quezon City before dawn yesterday, destroying two vehicles.

Investigators ruled out a terrorist attack, based on the statements of a couple perceived to be the target of the explosions, Quezon City Police District (QCPD) director Senior Superintendent Richard Albano said.

The destroyed vehicles – a blue Opel Vectra and a green Hyundai Matrix – were parked in front of the compound on Ilocos Sur street in Barangay Ramon Magsaysay, Bago Bantay.

Albano said the vehicles were being fixed at the auto repair shop owned by Joel Tating, who claims to be the owner of the compound.

Albano said the two bombs went off at around 2 a.m. The Vectra's hood was blown away, landing on the roof of a nearby house. The glass windows of four nearby houses were shattered. Some of the shards hit bystander Virgilio Agito in the right foot, knee and face, Albano said.

Tating and his wife, Charmaine Joy, went to see Albano yesterday.

According to Charmaine Joy, there had been previous encounters with a tenant who refuses to leave the compound. She showed Albano photos of an incident in April during which the Vectra's windows were shattered following a hearing at the village hall on the property dispute.

The Tating family left the property following a robbery in 2005 that left a helper dead and Tating's mother critically injured. The couple decided to come back after four years to occupy the property.

Charmaine Joy claimed her mother-in-law had bought the property from a sister, making her husband the legitimate owner of the property.

Charmaine Joy said the tenant was renting his space from a brother of her mother-in-law. The couple said the contract expired in January 2012, prompting them to claim the space. She showed Albano an eviction notice that was supposed to be their basis for evicting the tenant with whom they had been at odds.

September 26, 2013

TOMASITO L. CRUZ  
City Planning and Development  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Quezon City  
Quezon City

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Bombing

# QC Court Grants Bail Motion Of 2 Batasan Blast Suspects

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

A Quezon City court has granted the motion for bail of two suspects accused in the 2007 Batasan Pambansa bombing incident which killed six people including then-Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar.

In an 11-page decision, Judge Ralph Lee of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 83 allowed accused Caidar Aunal and Adham Kusain to post bail in the amount of P200,000 each for their temporary liberty.

Lee said the prosecution "failed to present independent evidence that would link the accused to the Batasan bombing."

He noted that some of the pieces of evidence presented by the prosecution panel like the license plate of the motorcycle that allegedly contained the explosives were obtained without a search warrant.

"Since the primary evidence appear to have been obtained illegally, the secondary evidence arising there from cannot likewise be admissible in evidence in any proceeding against the accused," said the decision.

Also, Lee said that even if the prosecution proves that the motorcycle that was used in the bombing was indeed owned by the accused, it is not "a remote possibility that the subject motorcycle could have been carnapped by the perpetrators of the crime."

"As applied to the present case, it is clear that there is no evidence other than the admission itself," the judge said, referring to the earlier admission of the suspects that they were involved in the Batasan blast.

Aunal, Kusain and a third suspect - Ikram Indama - already recanted the admission, claiming that it was "extracted from them at the point of

torture and without the assistance of the counsel of their choice."

The three were arrested for obstruction of justice on November 15, 2007 during a police operation against a suspected member of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group.

The murder and frustrated murder charges in relation to the Batasan bombing case were filed against them after their supposed confession.

In their confession, they tagged former Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin, then Anak Mindanao Party-list Rep. and incumbent ARMM Officer-In-Charge Mujiv Hataman and the latter's brother incumbent Basilan Rep. Jim Hataman in the incident.

The Justice Department has since cleared the Hataman brothers following the withdrawal of the confession of the suspects.

Salapuddin earlier asked the court to nullify the warrant of arrest against him as there was "no valid and admissible evidence" against him.

Other suspects in the incident were Hajarun Jamiri, Benjamin Hataman, and Police Officer 1 Bayan Judda.

Meanwhile, the court declined to grant Indama's motion for bail "in view of the evidence adduced by the prosecution that he was at the scene of the crime prior to the explosion, for no reason at all, despite the fact that he was no longer an employee of the House of Representatives."

Indama was the former driver of Salapuddin.

"His presence at the scene prior to the explosion, acting suspiciously and his subsequent arrest at the Payatas raid, though illegal, must be taken against him at the stage of the proceedings for the purposes of bail," said Lee.

He noted, however, that it has not been established that the motorcycle which Indama parked near the Southwing lobby of the House of Representatives was the one that carried explosives.

# Bomb threat jolts Quezon City Hall

BINAY ASKS PRIVATE OFFICES TO INSTALL CALLER I.D. DEVICES

TWO phone calls from a person claiming that a bomb will explode any minute sent Quezon City Hall employees hurriedly leaving their offices yesterday.

Supt. Elmo San Diego, chief of the Quezon City Hall's detachment group, said the telephone calls were made shortly after noon.

Investigators from the Central Police District, led by the Special Weapons and Tactics and the bomb disposal experts, were immediately dispatched to search for the bomb.

City government employees were ordered to evacuate their of-

fices as a precautionary measure.

They stayed for two hours at the city hall's grounds as the police scoured all 13 floors for any improvised explosives.

After more than an hour of searching, authorities declared the bomb threat as a hoax and sent the employees back to their offices.

Senior Insp. Rudy Jaraza said the caller was a male.

"Whether bomb threats are true or a hoax, the people should always report the matter to the police for immediate action," Jaraza said.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, meanwhile, asked the private sector to immediately install caller ID devices in their offices to lessen

cases of prank calls that have hit several Makati establishments following the Zamboanga City bombing incident last week.

Binay said prank calls drain the resources of the Makati police, who are under orders to respond to all bomb threats in the city.

"We have made an urgent and serious appeal to the people to please desist from making such prank calls and to make them realize the gravity of the consequences of such irresponsible and silly acts. It would certainly help if all the phones in Makati [both private and public sector] were to be armed with those caller ID gadgets as an effective deterrent," he said.

Binay ordered the installation of caller ID devices in all offices of the Makati City government.

In a letter to the Makati Business Club (MBC), the Makati Commercial Estate Association and the Makati Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Binay called for extra vigilance and caution, in the wake of persistent media reports that the city has been targeted for terrorist attacks.

"It would be foolhardy for us to use the oft-repeated line that everything is under control. We would much rather issue a realistic call for extra vigilance and caution among the citizenry," Binay said.

In his letter, Binay informed

the three business groups of the plan of action adopted during a command conference Monday attended by Makati police commanders and the Southern Police District. He asked the business groups to inform their members of the city's plans.

Among the measures which took effect immediately are the deployment of an undisclosed number of undercover policemen in malls and other public places, and the addition of more uniformed policemen to secure banks, business offices, government buildings and other important facilities in the country's financial and commercial capital.

Roving and random check-

points will also be set up throughout the day to deter any possible terrorist or criminal threat.

The city's Dial 168 operations center will be the central communications center for all requests for assistance, and that the elite K-9 squad has been fully activated and ready to respond on a 24/7 basis.

Binay also said the city government is increasing its financial assistance to the Makati Police Department to further boost its capability to respond to any emergency situation. During Monday's meeting, the mayor approved an increase in gasoline allowance and the purchase of additional hand-held radios for the police force.

M. Punongbayan