

VIOLENT RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM IN MINDANAO:

CHURCH REPOSE

INTRODUCTION

Gratitude for invitation to CEAP Convention

Objectives of talk:

- **To present the ideological and religious roots of the Maute Group**
- **To analyse the impact of Maute extremism on Mindanao and the peace process**
- **To explore responses to religious extremism**

A Cry for Peace in Mindanao – see Rome Declaration

Ongoing protracted war in Marawi against the Maute group

- **thousands of displaced persons**
- **destruction of Marawi**
- **hundreds of lives lost**

Bishop Edwin de la Peña’s impassioned testimony on the War in Marawi City

- **A cry for his people, Muslims and Christians**
- **A cry for peace**
- **A testimony of Muslim-Christian solidarity against evil**

Roots of Violent Extremism

The Maute Brothers / Group

- **Information from the MILF Chairman, Al-Hajj Ebrahim Murad:**
 - **Former MILF members**
 - **Radicalized in the Middle East in Jordan and Egypt**
 - **Influence of ISIS**

ISIS and Salafi Wahhabism – Saudi Arabia

- **Personalities**
- **Doctrines**

Rejection of Wahhabism by Islamic scholars

- **Grand Imam of Al-Azhar University – in Muñster, Germany**
- **Secretary General of the Darul Ifta of ARMM**
- **Secretary General of the MILF Darul Ifta**
- **Fatwa of the MILF and Ulama groups**

Impact of Maute Extremism

Info from “insider”

- Training of young people in the mountains of Lanao del Sur

On-going recruitment of young people in Bangsamoro communities in Mindanao

- Disillusionment of young people on the non-approval of the BBL
- Funds from the Drug trade
- the lure of the Caliphate

Impact on the Peace Process

Marawi War and Mamasano parallelism on the BBL?

Fears of delay in approving the BBL

The BBL as foil to religious extremism

- Addressing the “historical injustices” against the Bangsamoro
- Dissenting voices among Muslim extremists and Christians
- The role of biases and prejudices
- An Inclusive BBL, the interests of various stakeholders, especially minorities in the Bangsamoro

Necessary Responses

IRD – from high level to the grassroots

Intra-faith dialogue: within respective religious constituencies (Muslims and Christians)

Education towards a Culture of Peace:

*** Eradicating or at least reducing biases and prejudices from childhood onwards**

- Education to become persons of dialogue
- Focus on Youth

Peace Education, including Conflict Transformation, at all levels

Catholic Schools, colleges, and universities as catalysts, agents and zones of dialogue and peace

Conclusion – Summing up: 7-points of Rome Declaration

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