

MONTHLY COUNTRY REPORT

PHILIPPINES

June 2008

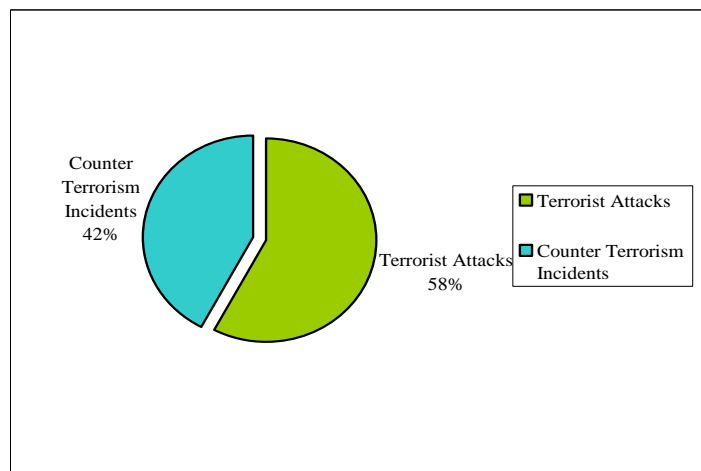
Terrorist attacks in June 2008 significantly increased compared to last month. With a total of 22 attacks and security threat has disturbingly gone up. On the other hand, government efforts also have been sustained with 16 counterterrorism incidents.

There are two significant terrorist incidents for the month of June that hit the headlines. First is the celebrated abduction of the biggest Philippine media conglomerate personality, ABS-CBN broadcast Journalist Ces Drilon, along with three others perpetrated by the Abusayaf group in Sulu (Southern Philippines), and a reported alleged payment of ransom amounting to USD 111,000 (Php 5M). Secondly, the recent communist rebels attacked of two police outposts and government offices in Dapa and General Luna towns on Siargao Island that killed two policemen and injuries of four other officers in the attacks. There is a noticeable upsurge of the communist terrorist attacks against weakly defended military installations and private company's critical infrastructures, such as telecommunication lines and cell sites despite considerable counter-insurgency efforts being conducted by the Philippine Armed Forces.

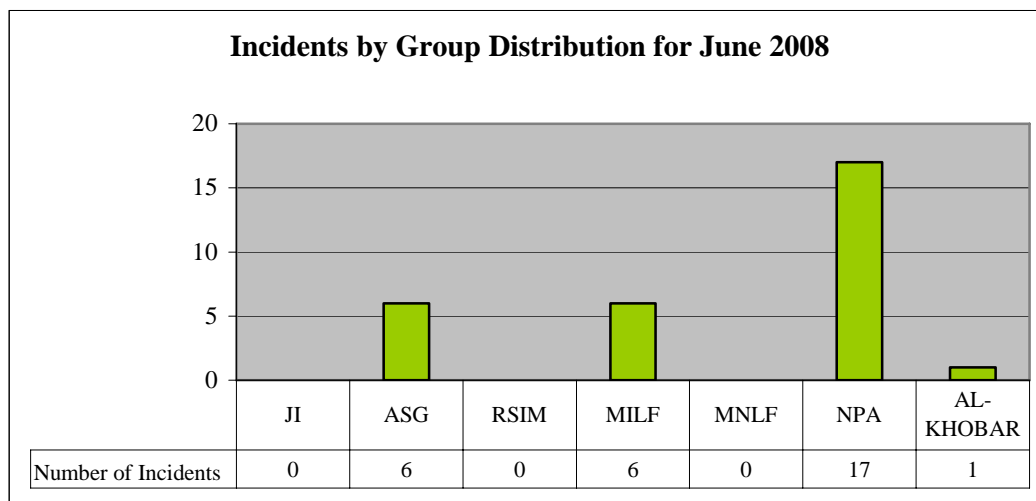
Terrorist Attacks	Counter Terrorism Incidents	Deaths					Injuries					Arrests
		Mil	LEA	Civ	PM	T	Mil	LEA	Civ	PM	T	
14	16	6	3	1	1	28	12	4	2	5	0	15

*TA – Terrorist Attacks CT – Counter Terrorism; Mil – Military; LEA – Law Enforcement Agency; Civ – Civilian; PM – Paramilitary; T- Terrorist

Number of Incidents



Number of incidents perpetrated by terrorist groups



JI – Jemaah Islamiyah

ASG – Abu Sayyaf Group

RSIM – Rajah Solaiman Islamic Movement

MILF – Moro Islamic Liberation Front

MNLF – Moro National Liberation Front

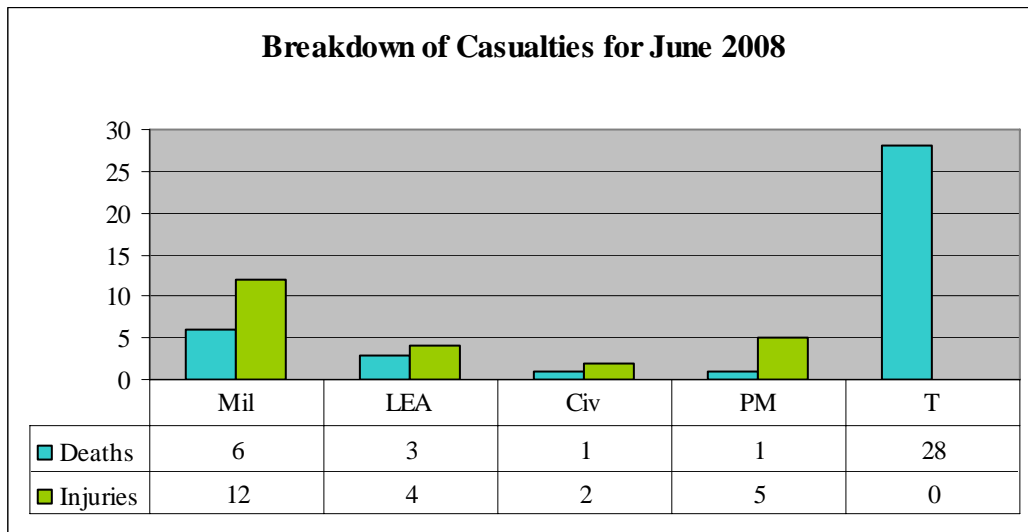
NPA – New People’s Army

Consistent with last month’s report, the NPA has perpetrated most of the attacks. More than 50% attacks carried out by the communist rebels were raids against military camps and privately-owned infrastructures. Raids against telecommunication towers are caused by the owner’s refusal to pay revolutionary tax.

The ASG terrorist attacks, mostly abductions upsurge with 6 terrorist attacks carried this month, that resulted to a ransom payment estimated to be at the range of USD111,000- 450 Thousand (Php5M-20M).

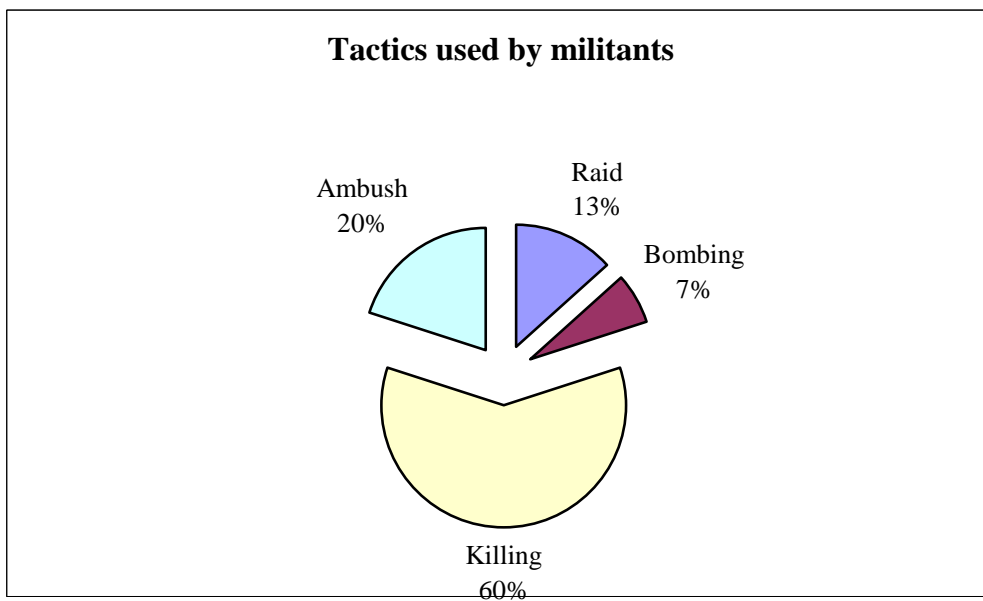
The MILF has considerable increase of operational activities that registered 6 attacks. This can be attributed to the stalled peace talks that render hardliners in the MILF to harass military installations and civil infrastructure such as military camps and power lines.

Terrorist Incidents and Counter Terrorism Operations

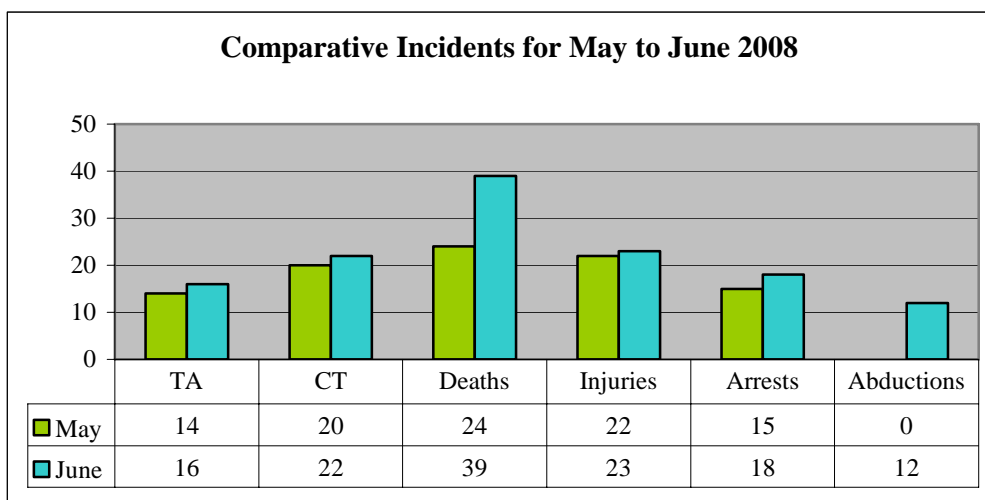


Methodology

Tactics used by militants



Comparative Analysis



The month of June showed positive counterterrorism efforts for the Philippine Armed Forces, but the recent successful ASG bombing attack in Sulu and the increasing attacks of the communist insurgents, coupled by the troubling political situation in the Philippines should keep the Philippine security forces to be cautious and vigilant.

In addition, it is imperative that the government and the MILF end the stalled talks and go back to the negotiating table.