
**REPUBLIC OF THE
PHILIPPINES**
**República de Filipinas/Republika
ng Pilipinas**

Area: 300,000 sq. km
Population: 51,950,000
Capital: Manila

Head of State: Ferdinand E. Marcos (President)
Minister of Defence: Juan Ponce Enrile

The Philippines consist of a large number of islands, 11 of which are of considerable size. They are: Luzon (the largest, where Manila is located), Mindanao, Samar, Negros, Palawan, Panay, Mindoro, Leyte, Cebu, Bohol and Masbate.

ORGANIZATION

The Integrated National Police, which is divided into 13 regional commands, consists of the Integrated Police Force, in charge of general police duties, and the paramilitary Philippine Constabulary (Hukbong Pamayapang Pilipinas), with headquarters at Camp Crame, Quezon City. Both are part of the Philippine Armed Forces.

The Philippine Constabulary consists of 43,500 personnel in 12 Battalions, plus support units. It has its own aviation element, also operating Air Force light transports on occasions. Specialized departments include: Criminal Investigation Service (CIS); CIS Special Operations Unit; Anti-Narcotics Unit (CANU); Home Defence Unit; Highway Patrol Group; Off-Shore Anti-Smuggling Battalion; Firearms and Explosives Unit; Highway Patrol Group; and the Computer Centre. The CIS includes the Police Intelligence Bureau.

An important element of the Philippine Constabulary is the Manila-based Metropolitan Command (Metrocom), a dedicated internal security unit. It comprises three sector commands: Northern, (HQ Quezon City); Southern, (HQ Makati); Western, (HQ Malacanang); plus the Police Intelligence Service, and two riot control units, both quartered at Quezon City (the Reaction Strike Force and the Sampaguita Task Force). Metrocom also controls the Bureau of Customs Police Service.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is the Philippine equivalent of the American FBI and has generally similar duties.

The National Intelligence Security Authority (NISA) comprises two departments: one is responsible for the

security of the president and members of the government; the other opposes subversive movements and gathers information on potential security risks. It often collaborates with the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP).

Philippine Constabulary HQ, Camp Crame, Quezon City (78-79-61)

PC Metropolitan Command HQ, 80 Lovely Road, Las Pinas, Manila (83-80-21)

PC Intelligence Service, Camp Crame, Quezon City (79-94-66)

PC Crime Laboratory, Manila (78-34-33)

OPERATIONS

Thefts remain a serious problem in urban areas. A force of 1000 Special Marshals was raised in Manila in June 1984 to combat muggers and pickpockets on public transport. Due to criticism of the violence they sometimes used, they were disbanded five weeks later, but not without having achieved some results: 18 thieves were arrested, 3 wounded, and 27 killed.

As usual in strategically important areas, civil liberties groups (some operating from abroad) are very active, and allegations of violations of human rights by the authorities are frequent. Government forces have had to oppose certain Roman Catholic prelates who actively support the overthrow of the regime and have the tacit backing of the Cardinal Archbishop of Manila, Jaime Sin. Both the Constabulary and NISA have been involved in these assignments and, not surprisingly, have been accused of anti-religious prejudice by some people – about 90 per cent of the Filipinos, including the country's leadership, are Roman Catholic. The situation escalated even further in October 1984, when President Marcos openly accused Cardinal Sin of fomenting rebellion.

PRIVATE SECURITY

The main private security companies are:

Enriquez Security and Investigation Agency, 30 Cetacio Street, Quezon City (61-67-61)

GVM Security Agency Inc, 78E East Rodriguez Senior Boulevard, Quezon City (60-72-49)

Pentagon Security and Investigation Agency, 201 East De La Paz Street, Mandaluyong, Rizal (78-17-06)

PSV Security and Investigation Agency Inc, 82 East Rodriguez Senior Boulevard, Quezon City (61-27-24)

Safeguard Investigation and Security Co Inc, Manufacturers Bank Building, Plaza Santa Cruz, Manila (48-87-79)

Sentry Protection and Investigation Agency Inc, 19 Stanford Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City (78-56-33)