2 soldiers injured by NPA landmine blast

At least two soldiers were seriously injured on Friday when communist rebels set off a landmine during a military offensive in Columbio town, Sultan Kudarat province, an Army spokesperson said Saturday.

(02.03.2005)
The improvised landmine exploded as soldiers from the Army's 27th Infantry Battalion were attacking a position of New People's Army rebels in Barangay Datalblao, according to Lieutenant Colonel Franklin del Prado, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao province.

Del Prado identified the wounded soldiers as Sgt. Jomari Carisma and Cpl. Ronelo Paro.

"The victims were among the platoon-sized contingent deployed in the village after residents sighted the presence of about 50 heavily armed NPA rebels," he said.

Del Prado said the rebels eventually withdrew.

Recovered from the battleground were another improvised landmine, a hand grenade, electrical wirings, a cellular phone and a cassette recorder.

Del Prado said the NPA was continuously using landmines in violation of an international law on warfare under the Geneva Convention.

"That's why we are strongly recommending that the NPA should not be de-listed in the terror list of the United States," Del Prado said.

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