



PHILIPPINE Fiesta

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US Election 2024: Harris rattles Trump in combative debate



Kamala Harris and rival Donald Trump

BY NANDITA BOSE, GRAM SLATTERY and JOHN AX

PHILADELPHIA, Sept 10 (Reuters) - Democratic candidate Kamala Harris put her Republican rival Donald Trump on the defensive in a combative presidential debate on Tuesday with a stream of attacks on his fitness for office, his support of abortion restrictions and his myriad legal woes.

A former prosecutor, Harris, 59, controlled the debate from the start, getting under her rival's skin repeatedly and prompting a visibly angry Trump, 78, to deliver a series of falsehood-filled retorts.

At one point, she goaded the former president by saying that people often leave

his campaign rallies early "out of exhaustion and boredom."

Trump, who has been frustrated by the size of Harris' own crowds, said, "My rallies, we have the biggest rallies, the most incredible rallies in the history of politics."

He then pivoted to a false claim about immigrants eating pets in Springfield, Ohio, that has circulated on social media and was amplified by Trump's vice presidential candidate, Senator JD Vance.

"They're eating the dogs!" he said, as Harris laughed in disbelief.

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Bicolandia's Celebration of Our Lady of Penafrancia



Photos by Dave San Pedro

On September 7, 2024, The Bicolandia of Sacramento and Vicinity celebrated their annual Our Lady of Penafrancia Fiesta with traditional mass and foot procession held at St. Joseph Church in Elk Grove, Ca.

BY DALE ESPERANTE

Bicolandia, founded by the late Roger Esplana in 1999, holds an annual celebration to honor Our Lady of Penafrancia. The image of our Lady was generously donated by the late Ramon Belleza, a Bicolano from the Bay Area. We remember and pray for the blessed repose of their souls.

Before his passing, Roger entrusted Beth Velasco with the continuation of the Feast of Our

Lady Virgin of Penafrancia, and Beth has been the chairperson ever since.

The Feast Day of Our Lady of Penafrancia is commemorated annually by the Bicolandia Association of Sacramento & Vicinity to honor and spread devotion to Our Lady, lovingly called "INA" by the Bicolanos (which means mother in Tagalog).

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Pastor Apollo Quiboloy Surrenders to Philippine Military Intelligence After Prolonged Manhunt

BY GABRIEL ORTIGOZA

September 8, 2024 - Pastor Apollo Quiboloy, leader of the controversial religious sect Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) and self-proclaimed "Son of God," surrendered to the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) on Sunday after a tense standoff at his compound in Davao City. The high-profile pastor has been facing multiple charges in both the United States and the Philippines.

Quiboloy's surrender followed a series of legal battles and manhunt operations that began with a raid by the Philippine National Police (PNP) on his KOJC compound in Davao City on August 23, 2024.



Apollo Quiboloy, center, a Filipino preacher accused of sexual abuse and human trafficking in the Philippines and the U.S.

The operation was part of an effort to serve arrest warrants issued by the

Regional Trial Court in Manila.

Continued on page 3

PNP: Guo faces Senate today in handcuffs, bulletproof vest

BY MARK ERNEST VILLEZA

MANILA, Philippines — After claiming that there are threats to her life, dismissed Bamban, Tarlac mayor Alice Guo will be wearing a bulletproof vest as well as handcuffs while being transported from Camp Crame to the Senate hearing today, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said.

Guo will be a resource person in the ongoing investigation into the illegal operations of Philippine offshore gaming operators (POGOs).

In an interview over dzBB, PNP public information officer Col. Jean Fajardo yesterday said that the security



Dismissed Bamban, Tarlac Mayor Alice Guo

measures are in line with the order from the Capas, Tarlac Regional Trial Court Branch 109, which mandated the police to ensure appropriate security for people under the court's jurisdiction.

"We have to take into consideration what she (Guo) said about receiving death threats. Just like any individual facing such threats, we have to

take this seriously," Fajardo said.

She said that they have coordinated with the Senate's Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms since Friday, following the court's order allowing Guo to attend the Senate probe.

Guo and her security convoy are expected to depart at 8 a.m. today.

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The Dutertes: A bloodline of vain leadership

Now You Know PH

BY CJ MARTINEZ, DONNA PLACIDO
and CLARESS BANOGON

Concerns over the impact on democratic processes and political diversity are highlighted by the Duterte family's expanding power and pursuit of senatorial seats in the 2025 midterm elections, underscoring the growing dominance of political dynasties in the Philippines.

In the context of the Philippines' political milieu, the name Duterte has been significant and controversial. From Rodrigo Duterte's contentious tenure as President to his children's climb to political power, the Duterte family's prominence has become a flashpoint, sparking conversations on political dynasties in Philippine politics.

Just when you thought Sara was the end of the political bloodline, the Vice President had recently announced that three Dutertes would vie for a senatorial seat in the 2025 midterm elections.

Rodrigo's return and Paolo and Sebastian's climb to the political ladder signify the looming impact of the Duterte family on the country's political scene. Simultaneously, they paint a tainted truth about the country's political culture: that political diversity and power are obscured by the dominance of the culture of dynasty.

Expansion of influence

The Duterte family's rise to power in the Philippines shows how local leaders can become big national leaders. Beginning with Vicente Duterte, a governor of Davao, the family's political legacy was firmly established and later expanded by his son, Rodrigo Duterte.

He started his political career in Davao City as the prosecutor before becoming a Vice Mayor and, later, Mayor. Known for his strict policies and tough talk, he served as mayor for over 22 years across several non-consecutive terms.

While his leadership approach, which involved a lot of populist policies and authoritarian methods, was both lauded and feared, Rodrigo's experiences in local politics laid the groundwork for his presidency in 2016. This paved the way for his children to gradually enter the political sphere, from local to national level.

Additionally, the war on drugs campaign was Rodrigo's most controversial legacy as the president of the Philippines. This campaign led to the death of over 12,000 Filipinos who were allegedly connected to drugs and crime. His administration's heinous and massive killings sparked an ongoing case with the International Criminal Court (ICC) that has



not been settled until today.

Sara Duterte, former Davao City mayor, is currently the Vice President of the Philippines. Her leadership, however, drew strong flak when lawmakers criticized the Office of the Vice President's 2022 confidential fund expenditure amounting to over P125 million.

Sara also took on the Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) but resigned on June 19, 2024. Her rise to national politics was a milestone for the Duterte dynasty as it marked the continuation of their family's influence on national politics.

Moreover, Paolo Duterte's presence in the House of Representatives further extends the family's reach and political clout. Issues and anomalies regarding funds and public money marked his standing in the House of Representatives.

According to the House Committee on Appropriations, he was allocated a total of P51 billion for Davao City's first district infrastructure development, the highest budget by any legislative district in history ever acquired. However, a detailed receipt for the distribution of this amount has not been revealed yet.

Meanwhile, maintaining their legacy in Davao City is Sebastian Duterte as mayor, whose governance is closely similar to that of his father. He asserted his power and dominance by presenting a tough image.

Just like Rodrigo, he also ordered a "drug war" in the city of Davao, which killed seven drug suspects in just a week of implementation. This behavior underscores a tendency towards authoritarianism and utilizing force to maintain control.

The Dutertes remain popular despite controversies because some Filipinos like their strong, decisive way of governing, which they believe is necessary to tackle the country's ongoing problems. While the strongman approach offers short-term solutions to some issues, it risks long-term negative impacts on democratic governance and unprejudiced development in the country.

What's at stake?

Sara's confirmation of father Rodrigo and brothers Baste and Paolo's plan to seek senatorial

posts poses an immense threat to the democratic outcomes of the forthcoming 2025 midterm elections. With each electoral success, the Dutertes cement their legacy, potentially sidelining more diverse and representative voices in governance.

Stronger dynastic manifestations. The Dutertes' decision to have multiple candidates for the Senate clearly indicates their intent to expand their political dynasty. Their success in securing seats would amplify their influence over legislative processes, enabling them to significantly shape the national agenda.

This move is about maintaining their political relevance and solidifying their control over key government institutions. It also means that their family's presence could lead to more dynastic manifestations in Philippine politics, where family ties and political loyalty often impact election outcomes.

Shifts in policy direction and political authority. A stronger Duterte influence in the Senate could result in substantial shifts in policy direction. Rodrigo's experience and political clout, combined with his children's perspectives, could push the Senate for more strict law

enforcement measures, which would somehow reflect the Duterte brand of governance.

Furthermore, such dominance could undermine democratic principles, as the balance of power may tilt heavily in favor of one political faction. This could decrease the effectiveness of opposition parties and diminish the Senate's role as a check on executive power. Basically, how can you maintain a healthy political environment if political views are not represented and democratic processes are being ignored?

Balance of power and effects on future elections. If the Duterte family secures a spot in the Senate, it can shape the legislative landscape for years to come. Of course, Baste Duterte, being groomed as the presidential candidate for the 2028 elections, will benefit from the political groundwork laid by his family members.

Well, the midterm election outcome will have a really big impact on the political dynamics in the country. A strong performance by the Duterte candidates could signal a continued public endorsement of their government style and policies.

Conversely, if they face sig-

nificant resistance or fail to have the desired seats, it could indicate a shift in public opinion and open opportunities for other political actors to gain traction.

Tainted political diversity

The truth is that power is hereditary in a dynasty. By patronizing such a culture, we limit the political arena only to those whose family names already have established capability to rule. Consequently, we neglect the right to political independence inherent to us, the Filipino masses.

A dynasty's polarized promise of sustaining effective leadership through a bloodline of rulers is no different from the Dutertes' objective to continue the legacy of their name. However, with political legacies as tainted as the Dutertes', we risk a whole nation and a political system becoming further entrenched in the culture of a dynasty, thereby perpetuating the cycle of power concentration and potentially stifling true democratic progress.

As the three Dutertes continue to make their way to national politics, a single win adds to Sara's vain victory as the country's Vice President. The family's expanding influence reveals a consolidation of power and a reinforcement of their dynastic hold over the political landscape.

This progression raises questions about the future of democratic processes in the Philippines and whether political power will remain concentrated within a few elite families, fashioning policies and national direction in conformity with their interests.

The Duterte family, branded with populism and authoritarian tactics, continues to dominate, leaving an indelible mark on the country's political and social fabric.



Editor's Note

This issue again, is our last of Philippine Fiesta in its newspaper format online. After more than 22 years in serving our Filipino community in Sacramento with this publication, we are humbled to say, it's has been a memorable journey in highlighting our community in all forms of momentous celebrations. Dave and I are forever grateful to all our contributing writers through all those years and to all our readers and supporters in our community.

With the upcoming month of October next month, recognized as Filipino History Month, may we continue to proudly remember and recognize the contributions and experiences of Filipino Americans. It's a great opportunity to honor the early Filipino settlers who paved the way for future generations, overcoming challenges and sacrifices to build a better life for our families.

Their stories and legacies serve as an inspiration to many, and it's essential to keep their memories alive. Let's continue to proudly celebrate and recognize their achievements, resilience, and cultural heritage.

This issue of Philippine Fiesta News also culminates our association with the Laban Group in our fight to Stop Asian Hate, with grants awarded by the California State Library. Let's continue to join forces to fight and protect our rights against Asian Hate.

In this issue are reminders and advertising announcements of what's to come in the celebration of Filipino History Month, next month in October.

See you all around in our community celebrations and in social media. We will continue to share our Filipino American community news in Sacramento, however way we can as always, in the online Philippines Fiesta News Channel.

With love to all of you in celebrations,
Dinnah San Pedro

PNP: Guo faces Senate today in handcuffs, bulletproof vest

From page 1

BY MARK ERNEST VILLEZA

Guo and her security convoy are expected to depart at 8 a.m. today.

“The initial security arrangement is that she will wear a bulletproof vest and travel in a secured vehicle accompanied by female police officers,” Fajardo said, adding that the PNP’s special weapons and tactics personnel will also be part of the convoy.

Fajardo said that they will follow the Senate’s directive regarding whether the handcuffs will be removed during the inquiry.

No special treatment is being given to Guo, who is detained in the custodial facility at Camp Crame, Fajardo said.

Upon Guo’s arrival at the facility early Friday, standard booking procedures were followed, including taking her mugshot and ensuring that only her basic necessities, such as clothing and personal hygiene items, were allowed in her cell. Gadgets and other prohibited items were not permitted.

The former mayor is being held in a single detached cell, which Fajardo described as having a steel bed, blanket, pillow and no air conditioning.

Guo does not share her space with other inmates. The facility is the same one where former senator Leila de Lima was detained.

At the Senate today, Guo is expected to be grilled regarding the money trail of about P7 billion used as capital for POGOs

in Central Luzon and to tie up loose ends on the details of her escape.

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, one of the senators leading the Senate investigation on Guo, her identity and POGOs, said Guo should answer most of their questions.

“Actually, we have already talked a lot about her. Even if she lies or doesn’t confirm, the evidence is clear about who she is and what her participation in POGOs is,” Gatchalian said in an interview over dzBB.

“But there are still a lot of what I call loose ends... For example, I mentioned this in the last hearing, where did the money come from? Because of the huge POGO hub that was built in Bamban, it is not yet clear where the money came from,” he added.

The Senate ordered Guo’s arrest for failure to attend a series of public hearings by the Senate committee on women, children and family affairs chaired by Sen. Risa Hontiveros.

“And we have other questions. For example, how did she really escape? Shiela Guo didn’t give too many details, because, she said, she just followed her (Alice Guo’s) orders. If so, it means that Guo Hua Ping (Alice Guo’s Chinese name) is the mastermind behind their escape. So, she should give details of how they escaped and



Dismissed Bamban mayor Alice Guo made her first public appearance after arriving in the country at the Royal Star Aviation hangar in Pasay City early September 6, 2024.

who helped them escape,” he added.

“It is impossible that they will just board a boat and reach Malaysia or Indonesia. We are sure that someone helped them,” Gatchalian said.

He said that while they commend law enforcement agencies for raiding POGOs hubs, he questioned why no operator was arrested and charged. Memo vs illegal POGOs

Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos yesterday said that as early as June 2024, he tasked all local government officials and personnel under the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to monitor the operation of illegal POGOS in the country after a lawmaker asked him to close all the remaining 200 illegal gaming operations.

In an interview with The STAR, Abalos cited Memorandum Circular 2024-083 issued on June 18, 2024, directing all city and municipal mayors, barangay captains, concerned government department heads and officials, DILG regional, provincial and city directors to conduct an inventory and monitoring of all local online gaming operations.

“I told them to conduct a house-to-house inspection... they can check as prerequisite for business license, fire for safety, sanitation for health,” Abalos said.

Abalos warned those who are remiss with their duties would be facing possible administrative cases.

Abalos defends picking up Guo

Abalos yesterday defended his decision to personally pick up Guo from Indonesia, saying that country set a deadline for talks with the Philippine government.

“I was in Naga at 10 a.m. when I was told that Indonesia set a 1 p.m. deadline for negotiation or else they will release Alice Guo,” Abalos said.

He added that it was PNP chief Rommel Marbil who called him up to brief him on the situation. “We need to leave as soon as possible and

talk with Indonesia or else they will set free Alice Guo,” Abalos said.

It was then that he decided to get a private jet to meet the deadline set by Indonesian authorities.

“From Naga then Camarines Sur, I proceeded directly to Manila. Then Indonesia, it was delayed for five hours because of the permits. We were at the airport at 6 p.m., but because of a delay, departed at 11 p.m. and arrived in Jakarta at 3 a.m.,” Abalos explained.

“I went to Indonesia to personally talk and convince them to turn over Alice to us,” he added.

Abalos said while still in the Philippines, he had been talking all day to the Indonesian ambassador.

“When we arrived in Jakarta... Marbil and I negotiated for almost one hour to bring Alice back. After one hour, they agreed,” Abalos said.

He said that Guo personally requested for a private meeting and discussed the alleged death threats against her.

Abalos, Marbil and members of the Indonesian police then transferred to a room to record Guo’s testimony, but she refused to make a statement. It was then that Abalos said photos were “taken for documentation” instead.

This became the image of a smiling Guo with both hands flashing the “V” sign, flanked by Abalos and Marbil who were also smiling.

Philstar.com

Pastor Apollo Quiboloy Surrenders to Philippine Military Intelligence After Prolonged Manhunt

From page 1

BY GABRIEL ORTIGOZA

The initial raid, spearheaded by Police Regional Office 11 Director Police Brigadier General Nicolas Deloso Torre III (PNP Class of 1993), faced resistance from KOJC members and led to the issuance of a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) by a Davao City court on August 29, 2024. The TRO temporarily halted the PNP’s operations within the KOJC compound.

However, on September 4, 2024, the Court of Appeals lifted the TRO, allowing the PNP to resume its operations to serve the warrants. The KOJC compound, located near Davao City airport, remained under close surveillance as the standoff between the authorities and the religious sect escalated.

Adding to the tension, KOJC celebrated its 28th anniversary on September 1, 2024, with Vice President Sara Duterte attending as the Guest of Honor. When asked about the ongoing manhunt for Quiboloy, Duterte distanced herself, stating that the pastor was no longer in KOJC compound.



A police officer passes by a PNP truck pasted with a “wanted” poster of televangelist Apollo Quiboloy and four others for child abuse and human trafficking.

On Friday, September 6, 2024, the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs, chaired by Senator Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa, conducted a senate inquiry in Davao City. The committee sought to address the difficulties faced by the PNP in implementing the arrest warrants. During the hearing, Dela Rosa, along with senators Bong Go and Robin Padilla, advised BGen Torre to halt the manhunt to stabilize the situation at the KOJC com-

pound. Brig. Gen. Torre, however, remained resolute, emphasizing that Quiboloy’s surrender was necessary for any normalization. Torre revealed that he had verified information suggesting that the pastor was hiding in a bunker within the KOJC compound and assured that the operation would continue until Quiboloy was apprehended.

The breakthrough came on

Sunday, September 8, 2024, when negotiations between the authorities and KOJC representatives began at 1:30 p.m. Following an ultimatum by the PNP to surrender or face a forced entry into an identified building within the KOJC compound, Quiboloy finally surrendered to ISAFP at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Brig. Gen. Torre confirmed that a Philippine Air Force C-130 cargo plane had landed at the Tactical Operations Group 11 base adjacent to Davao City airport on the same day. He received instructions to allow

a convoy of vehicles to leave the KOJC compound and head towards the airport. Quiboloy, along with four other individuals, was flown to Villamor Air Base in Pasay City and subsequently transported to Camp Crame in Quezon City for booking.

As the legal process unfolds, Pastor Apollo Quiboloy faces significant challenges both in the Philippines and abroad. The coming days will determine the future of the religious leader who once claimed divine status but now faces the full weight of the law.

Philippine Fiesta

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Sama Sama Tayo (2024)
By Dave San Pedro

“Let’s unite to embrace and honor the legacy of our Filipino-American community leaders and work together to turn our community’s dreams into reality. By collaborating and supporting one another, we can achieve great things and build a brighter future for our community.”

The Filipino-American community is the largest Asian population in the Sacramento region and the second largest in California. While the impacts of anti-Asian hate are under-discussed in the Filipino community, **our presence is clear and our voice is strong**. The Laban Group’s Filipino artist campaign aims to uplift our experiences, tell our stories, and amplify our power. If you have experienced or witnessed an incident of anti-Asian hate, bigotry, bias, or discrimination, **report it at [CAVSHATE.ORG](https://www.cavshate.org)** or call **833-8-NO-HATE (833-866-4283)**. **YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**

This ad campaign is brought to you by the Laban Group, Filipino Ethnic Media Collaborative. This group aims to promote awareness in our beloved Filipino American community and the broader public about anti-Asian hate incidents and crimes, reduce stigma surrounding the reporting of hate incidents and hate crimes, enhance understanding of resources for victims and survivors, and, to promote community healing and cross-racial collaboration. This resource is supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the California State Library in partnership with the California Department of Social Services and the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs as part of the Stop the Hate program. To report a hate incident or hate crime and get support, go to <https://www.cavshate.org/>.



What research says about preventing school shootings

BY CORY TURNER

Wednesday's violence at a Georgia high school and the arrest of a 14-year-old suspect follow a familiar pattern of previous school shootings. After every one, there's been a tendency to ask, "How do we prevent the next one?"

For years, school safety experts, and even the U.S. Secret Service, have rallied around some very clear answers. Here's what they say.

It's not a good idea to arm teachers

There's broad consensus that arming teachers is not a good policy. That's according to Matthew Mayer, a professor at Rutgers Graduate School of Education. He's been studying school violence since before Columbine, and he's part of a group of researchers who have published several position papers about why school shootings happen.

Law enforcement and first responders respond to Apalachee High School in Winder, Ga., on Wednesday, after a shooting was reported.

Mayer says arming teachers is a bad idea "because it invites numerous disasters and prob-

lems, and the chances of it actually helping are so minuscule."

In 2018, a Gallup poll also found that most teachers do not want to carry guns in school, and overwhelmingly favor gun control measures over security steps meant to "harden" schools. When asked which specific measures would be "most effective" at preventing school shootings, 57% of teachers favored universal background checks, and the same number, 57%, also favored banning the sale of semiautomatic weapons such as the one used in the Parkland attack.

Raise age limits for gun ownership

School safety researchers support tightening age limits for gun ownership, from 18 to 21. They say 18 years old is too young to be able to buy a gun; the teenage brain is just too impulsive. And they point

out that the school shooters in Parkland, Santa Fe, Newtown, Columbine and Uvalde were all under 21.

School safety researchers also support universal background checks and banning assault-style weapons. But it's not just about how shooters legally acquire firearms. A 2019 report from the Secret Service found that in half the school shootings they studied, the gun used was either readily accessible at home or not meaningfully secured.

Of course, schools don't have control over age limits and gun

say schools should actually focus on softening to support the social and emotional needs of students.

"Our first preventative strategy should be to make sure kids are respected, that they feel connected and belong in schools," says Odis Johnson Jr., of Johns Hopkins University's Center for Safe and Healthy Schools.

That means building kids' skills around conflict resolution, stress management and empathy for their fellow classmates — skills that can help reduce all sorts of

storage. But there's a lot they can still do.

Schools can support the social and emotional needs of students

A lot of the conversation around making schools safer has centered on hardening schools by adding police officers and metal detectors.

But experts

unwanted behaviors, including fighting and bullying.

In its report, the Secret Service found most of the school attackers they studied had been bullied.

Jackie Nowicki has led multiple school safety investigations at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. She and her team have identified some of things schools can do to make their classrooms and hallways feel safer, including "anti-bullying training for staff and teachers, adult supervision, things like hall monitors, and mechanisms to anonymously report hostile behaviors."

The Secret Service recommends schools implement what they call a threat assessment model, where trained staff — including an administrator, a school counselor or psychologist, as well as a law enforcement representative — work together to identify and support students in crisis before they hurt others.

Earlier this year, the National Association of Secondary School Principals released new guidance for preventing school violence.

It noted that ensuring that educators, parents and students have access to mental health services is a "critical component" in preventing violence and increasing school safety. And the organization called for congressional action to provide support for those services.



Students and residents mourn those who lost their lives near the scene of the mass shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder, Ga. Peter Zay/Anadolu via Getty Images

East Bay driver who shouted racial slurs at family convicted in road rage incident

BY SHIRA STEIN

A motorist faces up to seven years in prison for a road rage incident in which viral video showed him yelling at a mother and her three children before crashing his car.

An Alameda County jury has convicted a driver of felony assault with a deadly weapon with a hate crime enhancement after video showed him shouting racial slurs at a woman and her three children in a road rage incident last year.



Blackwell responded to by shouting racial slurs at her and her children.

A video of the encounter, posted to social media, showed Blackwell yelling the N-word and other obscenities at the family while on the freeway before turning his steering wheel, nearly colliding with the family's car.

"Not only was this incident dangerous, it was traumatizing because of the racial abuse that was part of the crime," Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price said in a statement about Thursday's conviction. "My office will not countenance any acts of racial hate in our community, especially when there are children involved."

Tracy Robert Blackwell, 62, of Newark faces up to seven years in prison for the May 2023 in-

cident, in which a viral video showed him crashing his car on the southbound Interstate

880 onramp in Oakland. Blackwell cut across multiple lanes of traffic and pulled

in front of a mother, nearly hitting her car. The woman honked her horn, which

shira.stein@sfnchronicle.com;

Suspect robs two Northern California postal workers, USPS offers \$150,000 reward

BY VERONICA CATLIN

Several postal workers in Northern California have been robbed over the last month, and the United States Postal Service is offering another reward of up to \$150,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect or suspects.

Around 4:53 p.m. on Aug. 27, USPS said two postal workers were robbed at 2917 Bonnie

Lane and 3036 Center Street in Stockton. The suspect reportedly fled the scene in a white GMC Yukon. The robberies come nearly one month after another postal worker was robbed in Sacramento, according to USPS.

USPS is offering a \$150,000 reward after two postal workers were robbed in Stockton./USPD

If seen, officials said to "take no action to apprehend these persons yourself."

Anyone with with information

about the incident is advised to call the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 1-877-876-2455 and say "law enforcement."

The reference case number is 4370146-ROBB and USPS said "all information will be kept strictly confidential."



Bicolandia's Celebration of Our Lady of Penafrancia

From page 1

BY DALE ESPERANTE

Thanks to Beth Velasco and Jessa Manzon for their assistance in the completion of this article.

Bicolandia, founded by the late Roger Esplana in 1999, holds an annual celebration to honor Our Lady of Penafrancia. The image of our Lady was generously donated by the late Ramon Belleza, a Bicolano from the Bay Area. We remember and pray for the blessed repose of their souls.

Before his passing, Roger entrusted Beth Velasco with the continuation of the Feast of Our Lady Virgin of Penafrancia, and Beth has been the chairperson ever since.

The Feast Day of Our Lady of Penafrancia is commemorated annually by the Bicolandia Association of Sacramento & Vicinity to honor and spread devotion to Our Lady, lovingly called "INA" by the Bicolanos (which means mother in Tagalog).

This year marks Bicolandia's 25th anniversary celebrating INA. The initial celebrations took place at St. Joseph Church, with a foot procession from the church to Elk Grove Park. In later years, INA was transported on a boat across the park's lake until reaching the celebration area. Unfortunately, when Elk Grove Park prohibited the use of the lake, Bicolandia faced a setback, as the



Photos by Dave San Pedro

fluvial procession for INA had been a main attraction of the feast. For three years, the feast was celebrated with novenas and a fiesta mass at members' homes. When Fr. Brian Atienza returned to St. Joseph Parish, he encouraged the members to resume the fiesta celebration at the church. Fr. Julito Orpilla, the current pastor of St. Joseph Parish, continues to provide

support to Bicolandia.

Traditionally, the fiesta is celebrated on Labor Day weekend. This year, it was moved a week later because the fiesta fell on August 31. The actual celebration in Naga City, Bicol, takes place on the 3rd weekend of September each year. It was decided by Bicolandia that the celebration would also be held in September.

The nightly novena commenced on August 30, with a reception following the rosary and novena prayers for INA and Divino Rostro, sponsored by selected and volunteer members of the community. Eight nightly prayers were scheduled. This was followed by a morning novena and a mass co-celebrated by Fr. Julito Orpilla and Fr. Ronnie Manango

on September 7, 2024, the fiesta day. Fr. Julito is the pastor of St. Joseph, and Fr. Ronnie, a Bicolano from Masbate, hails from the Diocese of Stockton.

After the mass, the traditional foot procession from the church to the St. Joseph social hall commenced, and the fiesta celebration, including food, games, and entertainment, was enjoyed by everyone.



KNIGHTS of RIZAL SACRAMENTO LANDMARK CHAPTER

BY IRVIN ISRAEL I. NOVAL



The knights of Rizal - Sacramento Landmark Chapter conducted a clean up drive last August 3, 2024 at the Elk Grove Community Park. The members picked up trash, fallen branches, empty bottled waters and more they found along the area they were cleaning. The activity was an initiative to raise awareness on the importance of a clean and safe environment for the our community members to enjoy and for the generations to come.

DIOSCORO “CORO” MENDANO VALILA

September 14, 1945 – August 27, 2024

Memories shared by the family to Dale Esperante

My wife Melita has known Pareng Coro and Mareng Linda for more than 50 years, since the 1970s, and my wife is also the godmother of their second oldest son, Gary. Making me a Cumpadre and a friend through my wife. I am deeply touched by this honor bestowed upon me by Mareng Linda and the Valila family, to share some of their memories of a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend.

In 1968, Pareng Coro served as the head chef at the Otis Department Store in Manila. During lunchtime, all the employees used to gather in the store's cafeteria for a delicious meal and some socializing. It was there that he first laid eyes on a captivating young woman who worked in another department of the same store. One day, a compadre mentioned that he knew the lady that caught Coro's eyes. That was how Dioscoro Mendano Valila met Erlinda Palmero Tandoc, through a mutual friend. The introduction to Linda led Coro to develop a greater love for cooking. He made it a frequent occasion to prepare a special dish to send upstairs to Linda's workstation. The introduction also encouraged Coro to try to meet Linda every day after work. The key word is TRY because Linda consistently avoided him, “nagtatago ako dahil inaabangan ako, (I hide because he waits for me).” As time passed, Linda grew to know Coro as “Mabait, kind” and she especially appreciated the special lunches he cooked and had delivered to her at work.

Mareng Linda is originally from Pangasinan while Pareng Coro was from Samar. In 1968, with the family's permission, Coro and Linda traveled together to the town fiesta in Pangasinan chaperoned by Linda's Tiyo and Tiya. Coro met Linda's whole family making a great impression to everyone, except Linda's Lola. Lola could not accept the thought of Coro marrying Linda and taking her away from the family in Pangasinan to his family in Samar in the Visayas.

Coro eventually won Lola's heart because about a year later September 21, 1969, at the Our Lady of Fatima Church in Pangasinan, Coro and Linda married. More than 50 of Linda's family attended the wedding while some from Coro's family were able to make the trip to his wedding in Pangasinan from Manila. Travel from Manila to Pangasinan back in the day must have been a whole day-long adventure. Coro finally married the love of his life on a memorable day attended by his family and his new family from Linda's side. Linda still remembers their wedding day; it was sunny during the day and rainy in the evening. Sunny or inclement weather, the newlyweds now have each other.

According to Mareng Linda, some favorites of Pareng Coro:



Dioscoro “Coro” Valila and wife Linda



Song, “Green Green Grass of Home” by Tom Jones; Favorite Color, Green; their favorite place, Luneta. Coro was Maalalahanin thoughtful, caring, great husband, a disciplinarian (children must be home by 7pm in the Philippines). Though strict, the children adored their dad, Pareng Coro.

For his wife and his children, siblings, and family, he worked tirelessly. When offered a chance to work overseas and make more money, he jumped to the opportunity! Working in a foreign country, away from his wife and children, he firmly asked that everyone be home by 7 PM, Philippine Time, every night so that he can talk to everyone via a long-distance phone call. No Facetime or Messenger back then. He would speak first to Mareng Linda, then to the children: Perry, Gary, Jerry, Jennifer, and Janice.

His work kept him away from his family for approxi-

mately 16 years. If he were in the military, he would have received a chest full of medals for his foreign tours. To Pareng Coro, the love and comfort of his family were all that he cared for.

His OFW assignments were:

1980 – 1983	Iraq
1986 – 1988	Kuwait
1990 – 1991	Kuwait
1994 – 2000	Japan

In Japan, Pareng Coro enjoyed work where he earned the trust and respect of his employer. He saved enough money there to comfortably support his family in the Philippines. In year 2000, Pareng Coro received a notice of a petition approving him and his family to immigrate to the United States. To leave his great job in Japan for a new start in America was a hard decision for Pareng Coro to make. His oldest sibling, Ate Fe, advised Coro, “think

about the future of your family in America, the family and the children will have more opportunities here in America.” Coro agreed with Ate Fe. He arrived in America on October 23, 2001. Now both Coro and Ate Fe are together again, watching over the family from heaven above.

From the bunso (youngest) sibling of Coro, Feli aka Inday: She said, I would always lambing or tease Kuya about my favorite topic— money, money, money. Whenever Inday visited her Kuya at his house, he would offer, “Kain ka muna, (Help Yourself and Eat first)” and she would always answer, “Perahin mo na lang, (Just Show Me the Money)” and they'd laugh together and joke around some more. Even though he knew that Inday was just joking, he would give her what he could afford to give anyway.

Kuya was a joker. If you didn't know him, you would

think that he was serious, but it will quickly dawn on you that he was just joking, and you would end up laughing. Generous to all but since I am the bunso among the siblings, I was Kuya's favorite. In the Philippines he was always working, so we really didn't get a chance nor had the time to bond in the old country. When everyone met up again in America as grown-ups, we finally got to bond and become one big happy family – in America!

As a chef, he shared Filipino cooking secrets to his sister-in-law Ammie. She learned Palabok and many other Filipino delicacies from her Kuya Coro. Eddie (Ammie's late husband) and Coro are together again, probably cooking special dishes in heaven. Chef Eddie preparing American food, and Chef Coro stirring up some Filipino dishes. Boy, we can imagine the angels' singing hymns and praises to the heavenly buffet the Valila brothers can create.

A description of their father from the children: He was a hardworking OFW (Overseas Filipino Worker) who endured lonely years away from his family to support us. A very generous and helpful man. They learned that their father assisted a homeless Filipino in Japan for a long time until that Filipino finally secured a job and settled on his own. When he vacations in the Philippines, he would maximize his visit by making his family happy, being a joker or singing karaoke and asking Janice to sing Madonna songs, or just being there for his loved ones. He was happy making everyone happy, so caring and thoughtful. He worried as a parent when his children were late coming home from school or work. From Jennifer: He was a proud dad, especially of his children's accomplishments. He was always open and approachable to his children, but when he had something to say, they listened. His words were precious because he spoke from his heart, his life and work experiences.

For fun during his retired years, he would attend various schools of thoughts with his classmates like Nilo, Nestor, the men and women of the family and friends. They would venture to pursue the art of patience, perseverance, perspiration, and sometimes even hitting pay dirt, jackpot. Off they would go to the universities of the Hard Rock Café, Red Hawk, Jackson Rancheria, Thunder Valley, or any casino reachable by car or by bus.

The family's wonderful memories of my friend Pareng Coro would make him one of the richest and blessed man that I had ever known. He will always be in the hearts of his devoted wife, children, grandchildren, family, and friends.

I will always remember him in my prayers. Thank you again Mareng Linda, children, grandchildren, and to the whole Valila Family for sharing this wonderful man, Dioscoro “Coro” Mendano Valila, with all of us, in life and in memories.

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DONATION:

\$40

ATTIRE:

Formal Black/White or
Filipiniana

RSVP BY 9/7/24:

Mercy Guerrero
(916) 266-1923

Margie Pasalo
(916) 606-7179

Melit Pangilinan
(916) 690-8291

Maria Bahoric
(916) 521-6641



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Saturday, October 19 , 2024

5:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Jose Rizal Community Center

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Donation: \$60

Attire: Filipiniana

For more info please contact:

Edna Delos Reyes - 916.549.0058

Murray Navarro - 916.230.780

Vince Sales - 415.420.2120

Margie Pasalo - 916.606.7179

Manananggal

BY ALYANNA POE

A Background on the Aswang from the Philippines

Manananggal is the creature from Philippine mythology. It is an evil blood-sucking vampire, witch or man-eating monster. It is a half human and half bat.

You wake up in the middle of the night. A slight breeze comes through your window, along with a long tongue. It pokes around, finally finding your leg. You watch in horror, your eyes trailing the tongue back to its hideous owner. A woman hovers at your window. Her large, bat-like wings flap, keeping her up to your second story window. You look closer, noticing she has no legs. Her intestines dangle, dripping blood. Her tongue probes your body, looking for an opening. You scramble out of bed, startling the manananggal. She retracts her tongue and retreats, seeking easier prey.

Shaky, you close your window and slip into bed. Figuring it may have been a waking dream, you fall asleep once again.

That morning you get your mail from the community mailbox down the street. Your neighbor, Lorna, comes out to get her mail as well. She waves hi from across the street and you feel déjà vu. You remember having a nightmare the night before and wonder if she was part of it.

Manananggals, also called Aswangs (which is also the name of any demon in Filipino folklore), are women that can detach from their legs and sprout bat-like wings. In some forms of the tale, their arms completely change into bat wings.

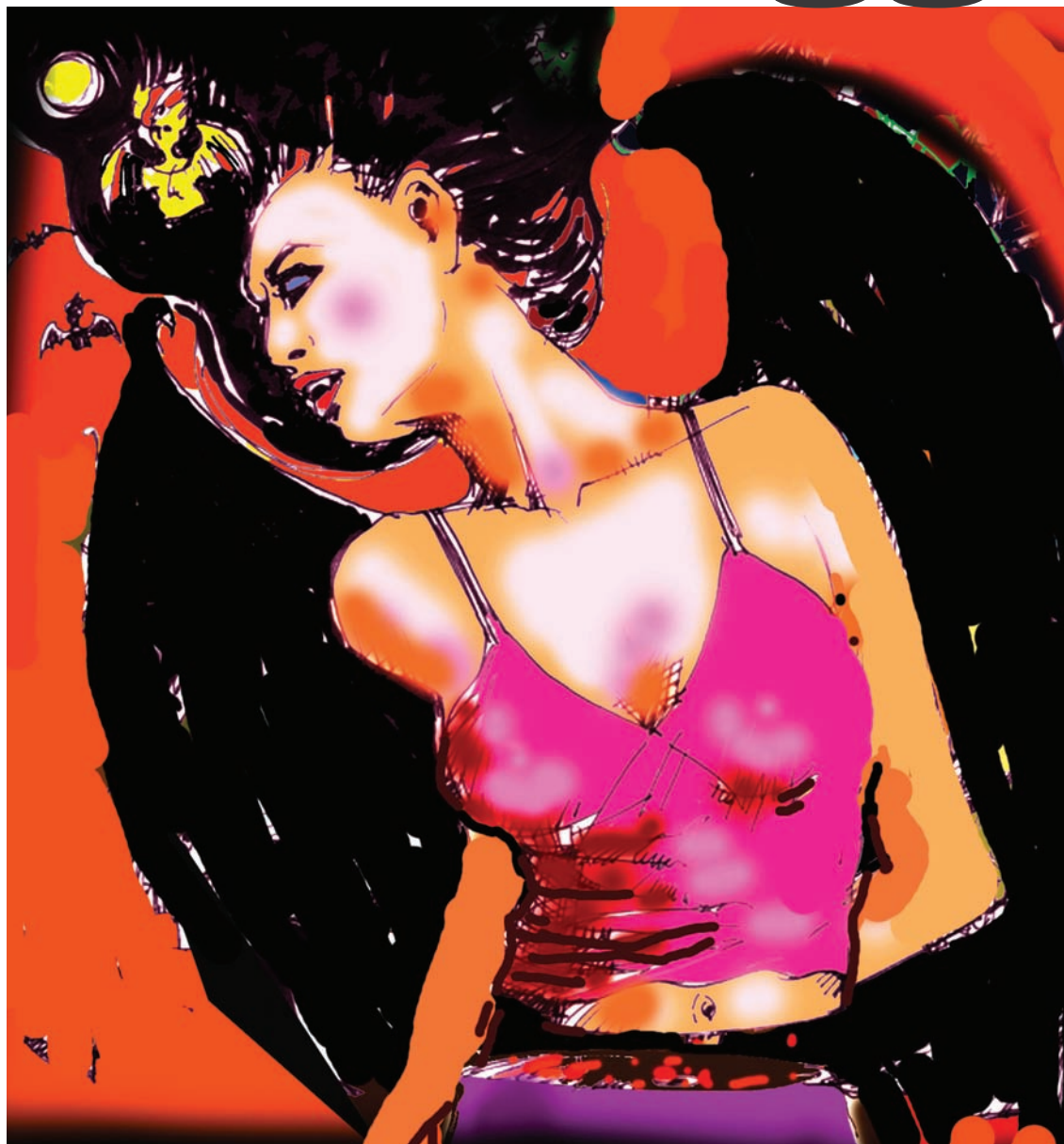


ILLUSTRATION BY DAVE SAN PEDRO

With a long, proboscis-like tongue, Manananggals feast on the stomachs, livers, hearts, and blood of the sleeping, slipping their tongues into any opening available. Although they do enjoy the innards of the unconscious, the hearts of fetuses still within the womb tend to be their favorite meal.

Why these creatures exist may be a mystery, as Spanish conquistadors burned many of the Philippine's indigenous literature, but we can still learn about the theories behind them and what was told through verbal storytelling. In my research, I found no reasoning behind the Manananggal's existence, as folktales like Baba Yaga and La Lloro-

na have had. It may be used to explain things such as miscarriages, but that was all the information I found. Coming from the Tagalog word translating to "to remove/separate" (Tanggal) and also being related to an expression meaning severed torso, it's pretty obvious what the Manananggal is famous for.

The Manananggal walks among the living during the day, acting as a normal human, but at night she feasts. Some say Manananggals were left at the altar and they attack grooms and newlyweds/couples in love. Others say it takes a young woman consuming a black chick that came from the throat of an older, preexisting Manananggal

for the transformation to happen. A common Filipino dish, Balut, is cooked duck embryo, which may explain this tale's strange background. In order to reverse this, the chick must be thrown up before it becomes a full-grown bird, resulting in beatings and the swinging of accused women.

Some people still believe in their existence to this day, pitching their roofs or making their windows hard to perch on. To deter Manananggals, people keep around raw rice, salt, or ash. They've been said to not like the smell of burning rubber as well. Similarly to vampires in Christian mythology, they avoid holy water, spices, vinegar, daggers, and light.

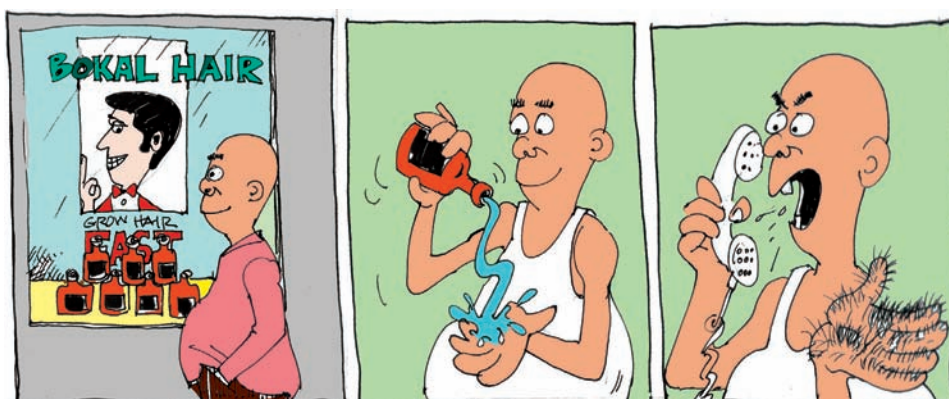
In order to kill these beasts, one must find the Manananggal's legs, which are most likely hidden (commonly in banana groves). Once the legs are found, sprinkling salt, crushed garlic, or ash on the severed waist will prevent the Manananggal from reuniting with her legs. When the sun rises, she will perish in the light. Other things can also kill the Manananggal. A bamboo spear to the back will also do the trick, but who wouldn't that kill?

Philippine mythology has stories about aswang, another shapeshifting type of monsters. A similar creature is Leyak, from Bali folklore, which is a flying head with still attached organs. They feed on the fetus or newborn blood. All these creatures are popularly referred to manananggals.

Stories about Manananggal have been told for every generation and today there are many versions of stories. The myth of the Manananggal is especially popular in the Visayan region of the Philippines. Stories shares some characteristics with the vampire of Balkan folklore. <https://mythology.wiki.org>

Buhay Pinoy

Komiks by Dave San Pedro



Masarap...

Bloody Dinuguan

Pork Dinuguan is a classic Filipino stew made of diced pork, pork blood, and spices. Also known as chocolate meat.

Ingredients:

10 ounces pork blood
1 cup vinegar
1 tablespoon canola oil
1 onion, peeled and chopped
4 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
1 thumb-size ginger, peeled and minced
2 pounds pork belly, cut into ½-inch strips
1 tablespoon fish sauce
1 cup water
1 tablespoon brown sugar
2 finger chilies (siling haba)
salt and pepper to taste



In a bowl, combine pig's blood and about 2 tablespoons of the vinegar. Stir well.
In a pot over medium heat, heat oil. Add onions, garlic, and ginger and cook until softened.
Add pork and cook, stirring occasionally, until lightly browned.
Add fish sauce and cook for about 1 to 2 minutes.
Add vinegar and bring to a boil. Cook, uncovered and without stirring, for about 3 to 5 minutes or until slightly reduced.
Add water and bring to a boil. Lower heat, cover, and continue to cook for about 15 to 20 minutes or until meat is tender.
Add pork blood, stirring to disperse and prevent lumps.
Add brown sugar and stir to dissolve.
Add chili peppers.
Continue to simmer for about 10 minutes or until sauce is thickened.
Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve hot with rice or puto.



KAPWA

IS WHAT CONNECTS ALL OF US



KAPWA IS WHAT CONNECTS US ALL (2024)

By LeRoid David

“Kapwa is a core Filipino concept of togetherness and community. This piece represents our connection of generations, values, and voices. With Kapwa, we can overcome adversities and rise together with better understanding, compassion, and humanity amongst ourselves, our families, our community, and the world.”

The Filipino American community is the largest Asian population in the Sacramento region and the second largest in California. While the impacts of anti-Asian hate are under-discussed in the Filipino community, **our presence is clear and our voice is strong**. The Laban Group’s Filipino artists campaign aims to uplift our experiences, tell our stories, and amplify our power. If you have experienced or witnessed an incident of anti-Asian hate, bigotry, bias, or discrimination, **report it at [STOPHATE.CALCIVILRIGHTS.CA.GOV](https://stophate.calcivilrights.ca.gov) or call 833-8-NO-HATE (833-866-4283). YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**



This ad campaign is brought to you by the Laban Group: Filipino Ethnic Media Collaborative. This group aims to promote awareness in our beloved Filipino American community and the broader public about anti-Asian hate incidents and crimes; reduce stigma surrounding the reporting of hate incidents and hate crimes; enhance understanding of resources for victims and survivors; and, to promote community healing and cross-racial collaboration. We are supported by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the California State Library in partnership with the California Department of Social Services and the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs as part of the Stop the Hate program.

STRONGEST



TOGETHER

KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE. If you have experienced or witnessed an incident of anti-Asian hate, bigotry, bias, or discrimination, report at [STOPHATE.CALCIVILRIGHTS.CA.GOV](https://stophate.calcivilrights.ca.gov) or call **833-8-NO-HATE (833-866-4283)**. **YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**



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- Best Male Costume - \$50
- Best Female Costume - \$50
- Best Couple Costume - \$100
- Best Group Costume - \$200

Friday, October 18, 2024
 5:30PM – Social (No Host Bar)
 6:00PM – Dinner
 \$50 per person
 \$20 – Children 8-12 years old
 Children 7 years and under are free.

The proceeds of this event will go towards the club's Signature Project - Soles for Humanity Shoe Drive and Medical, Vision & Dental Missions to the Philippines.

For more information, call...
 Lion Julie (916) 397-1071 or Lion Evelyn (916) 502-4418 or Lion Eddie (916) 690-5324

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Gaza war in its 12th month with truce hopes slim

Agence France-Presse

The war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza entered its 12th month Saturday with little sign of respite for the Palestinian territory or hope for Israeli hostages still held there.

The chances of a truce that would swap Palestinian prisoners jailed by Israel for hostages held by Hamas appeared slim, with both sides sticking doggedly to their positions.

Hamas, whose October 7 attack on Israel sparked the war, is demanding a complete Israeli withdrawal, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insists troops must remain along the Gaza-Egypt border.

The United States, Qatar and Egypt have all been mediating in an effort to bring about a ceasefire in the war, which authorities in Hamas-run Gaza say has killed at least 40,939 people.

According to the United Nations human rights office, most of the dead are women and children.

Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel resulted in the deaths of 1,205 people, mostly civilians including some hostages killed in captivity, according to official Israeli figures.

Of the 251 hostages seized by Palestinian militants during the attack, 97 remain in Gaza, including 33 the Israeli military says are dead.

Scores were released during a one-week truce in November.

Israel's announcement last Sunday that the bodies of six hostages including a US-Israeli citizen had been recovered shortly after being killed sparked grief and anger in Israel.

Thousands of demonstrators rallied on Saturday evening in



Demonstrators set a fire during an anti-government protest calling for action to secure the release of Israeli hostages held captive since the October 7 attacks by Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip, in front of the Israeli Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv on September 7, 2024, amid the ongoing war between Israel and the militant Hamas group. AFP / Jack Guez

Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities, demanding the government secure the release of hostages.

They carried banners that read "The blood is on your hands" and "Who's next".

American activist killed

International pressure to end the war was further underlined by Friday's fatal shooting in the occupied West Bank of Turkish-American activist Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, who was demonstrating against Israeli settlements in the territory.

Eygi's family demanded an independent investigation into her death, saying her life "was taken needlessly, unlawfully, and violently by the Israeli military".

The UN rights office said Israeli forces killed Eygi, 26, with a "shot in the head".

Turkey said she was killed by

"Israeli occupation soldiers", while the United States called her death "tragic" and pressed Israel to investigate.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan denounced Israel as a "barbaric" state and urged Muslim nations to forge an "alliance" against Israel, saying: "It is an Islamic duty for us to stand against Israel's state terror. It is a religious duty."

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz responded by saying that Erdogan "continues to throw the Turkish people into the fire of hatred and violence for the sake of his Hamas friends".

Around 490,000 people live in Israeli settlements -- illegal under international law -- in the West Bank, which Israel occupied in 1967.

Since Hamas's October 7 at-

tack, Israeli troops or settlers have killed more than 690 Palestinians in the West Bank, according to the Palestinian health ministry.

Israel says at least 23 Israelis, including members of the security forces, were killed during the same period in Palestinian attacks.

Eygi's killing came on the day Israeli forces withdrew from a deadly 10-day raid in the West Bank city of Jenin, where AFP journalists reported residents returning home to widespread destruction.

The pullout came with Israel at loggerheads with the United States over talks to forge a truce in the Gaza war.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said "90 percent is agreed" and urged Israel and Hamas to finalise a deal. Netanyahu denied this, telling

Fox News: "It's not close."

Hamas is demanding Israel's complete withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, saying the group agreed months ago to a proposal outlined by US President Joe Biden.

Fresh violence

AFP reporters said air strikes and shelling rocked Gaza on Saturday, killing at least 17 people according to civil defence officials, the Palestinian Red Crescent and witnesses.

Among those who died were a woman and a child in an air strike north of Gaza City, while four people were killed in another strike targeting a flat in Bureij camp.

In the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood of Gaza City, the civil defence said an Israeli strike on a school-turned-shelter for displaced people killed at least three people and wounded more than 20.

Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, a Hamas ally, also exchanged fire.

Hezbollah had announced a string of attacks on Israeli troops and positions near the border on Saturday, while Israel's military said it had intercepted missiles detected crossing from Lebanon and struck a Hezbollah launch site in the country's south.

Lebanon's health ministry said three emergency personnel were killed and two others wounded in an Israeli attack on a civil defence team putting out fires in south Lebanon.

Hezbollah later announced retaliatory rocket fire targeting a town in northern Israel "in response to the enemy attacks... and particularly the attack" that killed the emergency workers.

KARAPATAN

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Photo by Dave San Pedro

Harris rattles Trump in combative debate

From page 1

“The people that came in, they’re eating the cats! They’re eating the pets of the people that live there.”

“Talk about extreme,” Harris replied.

With eight weeks to go before the election, and days until early voting starts in some states, the debate - the only one scheduled - offered a rare opportunity for both candidates to make their case for a television audience of tens of millions of voters.

The candidates clashed over immigration, foreign policy and healthcare, but the debate was light on specific policy details.

Instead, Harris’ forceful approach succeeded in putting the focus on Trump, leaving her allies jubilant and some Republicans acknowledging Trump’s struggles.

Trump repeated his false claim that his 2020 election defeat was due to fraud, called Harris a “Marxist” and asserted falsely that migrants have caused a violent crime spree.

“Trump missed an opportunity to stay focused prosecuting the case against Biden-Harris on the economy and border, and instead took her bait and chased down rabbit holes on election denialism and immigrants eating our pets,” said Marc Short, who served as chief of staff for Trump’s former Vice President Mike Pence.

In a boost to the Harris campaign, pop megastar Taylor Swift told her 283 million followers on Instagram immediately following the debate that she would back Vice President Harris and her running mate Tim Walz in the Nov. 5 election.

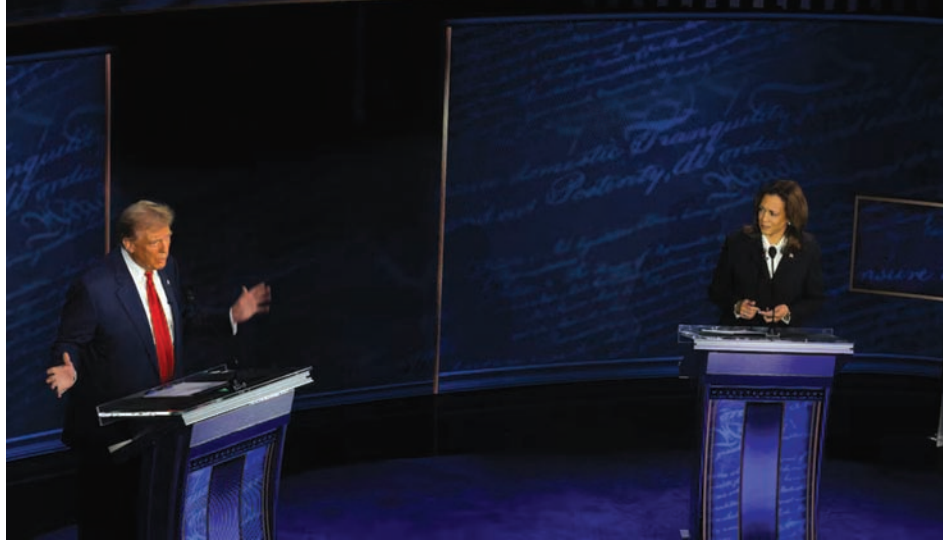
She signed it “childless cat lady,” a reference to controversial remarks made by Vance.

Online prediction market PredictIt’s 2024 presidential general election market showed Trump’s likelihood of victory declining during the debate, to 47% from 52%.

Harris’ odds improved to 55% from 53%.

In a sign of confidence in the debate’s outcome, Harris’ campaign challenged Trump to a second round in October.

Trump afterwards took the rare step of going into the nearby “spin room,” a job usually left to supporters, where he told reporters, “This was my best debate.”



Republican presidential nominee, former U.S. President Donald Trump speaks as Democratic presidential nominee, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris listens as they attend a presidential debate hosted by ABC in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S., Sept. 10, 2024.

Asked about the Harris campaign seeking a second debate, Trump told Fox News: “She wants it because she lost.”

“I have to think about it, but if you won the debate, I sort of think maybe I shouldn’t do it. Why should I do another debate?” he said.

A SURPRISE HANDSHAKE

Trump, who has spent weeks launching personal attacks on Harris including racist and sexist insults, largely avoided that pattern during the debate’s early moments but quickly became agitated under Harris’ offensive.

Trump was asked by the moderators about one of those attacks, when he told an event with Black journalists in July that Harris had recently “become a Black person.”

“I couldn’t care less,” he said. “Whatever she wants to be is OK with me.” Harris, who has both Black and South Asian heritage, responded, “I think it’s a tragedy that we have someone who wants to be president who has consistently over the course of his career attempted to use race to divide the American people.”

She criticized Trump over his criminal conviction for covering up hush money payments to a porn star as well as his other indictments and a civil judgment finding him liable for sexual assault. Trump has denied wrongdoing and again accused Harris and the Democrats of orchestrating all of the cases without evidence.

The debate got under way at 9 p.m. ET (0100 GMT on Wednesday) with a surprise handshake between the two opponents, who had never met before. Harris approached Trump at his lectern, introducing herself by name, in what was the first handshake at a presidential debate since 2016.

The encounter was particularly important for Harris, with opinion polls showing that more than a quarter of likely voters feel they do not know enough about her. Harris entered the race only seven weeks ago after President Joe Biden’s exit.

Harris delivered a lengthy attack on abortion limits, speaking passionately about women denied emergency care and victims of incest unable to terminate their pregnancies due to statewide bans that have proliferated since the U.S. Supreme Court eliminated a nationwide right in 2022. Three Trump appointees were in the majority of that ruling.

She also claimed Trump would support a national ban. Trump called that assertion untrue but declined to say explicitly that he would veto such a law.

Trump, who has sometimes struggled with messaging on abortion, said falsely that Harris and Democrats support infanticide, which - as ABC News moderator Linsey Davis noted - is illegal in every state.

Harris also sought to tie Trump to Project 2025, a conservative policy blueprint that proposes expanding executive pow-

er, eliminating environmental regulations and making it illegal to ship abortion pills across state lines, among other right-wing goals.

Trump retorted that he has “nothing to do” with Project 2025, though some of his advisers were involved in its creation.

Ron Bonjean, a Republican strategist, said Trump “didn’t do himself any favors” but added that it remains unclear whether Harris’ performance will change the race’s dynamics. Polls show a vast majority of Americans have made up their minds, leaving a small sliver of undecided voters up for grabs.

CLASHES ON ECONOMY, FOREIGN POLICY

The candidates opened the debate by focusing on the economy, an issue that opinion polls show favors Trump.

Harris attacked Trump’s intention to impose high tariffs on foreign goods - a proposal she has likened to a sales tax on the middle class - while touting her plan to offer tax benefits to families and small businesses.

Trump criticized Harris for the persistent inflation during the Biden administration’s term, though he overstated the level of price increases. Inflation, he said, “has been a disaster for people, for the middle class, for every class.”

The candidates also exchanged barbs over the Israel-Gaza war and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, though neither offered specifics on how they would seek to end each conflict.

Harris accused Trump of being willing to abandon U.S. support for Ukraine to curry favor with Russian President Vladimir Putin, calling Trump a “disgrace,” while Trump claimed Harris “hates” Israel - an assertion she rejected.

Presidential debates do not necessarily change voters’ minds, but they can be deeply consequential. Biden’s poor performance against Trump in June led him to abandon his campaign on July 21.

In a contest that could again come down to tens of thousands of votes in a handful of states, even a small shift in public opinion could alter the outcome. The two candidates are effectively tied in the seven battleground states likely to decide the election, according to polling averages compiled by the New York Times.

Taylor Swift endorses Kamala Harris in Instagram post after the debate

BY ELENA MOORE

In her Instagram post, Taylor Swift said she was voting for Kamala Harris because “she fights for the rights and causes I believe need a warrior to champion them.”

Taylor Swift is entering her 2024 election era.

The mega pop star has thrown her support behind Vice President Harris, just under two months out from the election.

“I think she is a steady-handed, gifted leader and I believe we can accomplish so much more in this country if we are led by calm and not chaos,” she wrote in a post to her more than 280 million followers on Instagram.

JD Vance went viral for ‘cat lady’ comments. The centuries-old trope has a long tail

Swift said she was alarmed by Trump posting recent AI pictures on social media, falsely showing her endorsing him, and wanted to combat misinformation with the truth.

The pop star began publicly weighing in on politics ahead of the 2018 midterms, has a record of boosting civic participation by discussing politics online. Her past endorsements and statements, though infrequent, have prompted tens of thousands of people to register to vote.

Impact of endorsement

It’s unclear how big of an impact Swift’s support this year could have on Harris. But with the presidential race expected to be extremely close, an endorsement from Swift could boost enthusiasm from Democrats, especially as Harris’ campaign works to gain back support among young Americans.

Voters under 30 were a powerful voting bloc for President Biden in 2020, siding with him by a 24-point margin. But over the past year, they’ve soured on the outgoing president. Harris’ candidacy has prompted a renewed interest in voting among Gen Z and younger millennial voters, according to the latest NPR/PBS News/Marist poll, but Harris has yet to mirror 2020 numbers.

An attendee wears a backpack with a Taylor Swift sign during the third day of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Swifties for Kamala, a grassroots group not affiliated either with Swift or the Harris campaign, raised more than \$140,000 for the Democratic presidential nominee after a call Tuesday night.

Politics

‘Swifties for Kamala’ think Harris is the 1 to beat Trump. And they want to help

This target generation has known the country-turned-pop star for most of their lives. Her debut album, from fall 2006, is nearly the same age as an 18-year-old eligible voter today.

Few celebrity endorsements have made

noticeable impacts in modern campaigns — with the potential exception of Oprah Winfrey’s endorsement of former President Barack Obama during the 2008 presidential primary. Political experts have argued that celebrities can rally existing supporters but have minimal impact on persuading new voters. Winfrey endorsed Harris at the Democratic National Convention this year, but it’s unclear what impact her support will have on the general election.

Sponsor Message

Swift first weighed in on elections in 2018. The singer has since called out former President Donald Trump during his presidency and endorsed Biden in 2020.

Voter registrations

Swift’s political statements often accompany exhortations to vote. She again repeated her plea to supporters in her Harris endorsement on Tuesday: “Remember that in order to vote, you have to be registered!”



Taylor Swift

The voter group Vote.org reported 65,000 new voter registrations in 24 hours in 2018, when Swift endorsed two Democratic congressional candidates in her home state of Tennessee. That’s almost twice as many as the group saw on national voter registration day last year.

Despite that bump in registrations, both Tennessee candidates lost their races in the Republican state.

Some polling indicates a Swift endorsement could help people make up their minds. In a poll reported by Newsweek in May, a third of voters under 25 said they would be more likely to vote for a candidate Swift has endorsed.

Even before Swift made her endorsement, factions of her fanbase latched on to Republican vice presidential nominee Sen. J.D. Vance’s comments about “childless cat ladies,” rebranding them as a celebration of Swift, who is known for her love of cats.

Swift leaned into that perception by signing Tuesday’s Instagram post, “Childless Cat Lady.”

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Photograph by Andri Tambunan



ILAW NG LIPUNAN

AAPI HATE AND VIOLENCE DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTS FILIPINA WOMEN AS THEY ACCOUNT FOR 55% (247) OF THE REPORTS IN CALIFORNIA.* But that darkness cannot dim our light. Proudly burn bright to lead our community. If you have experienced or witnessed an incident of anti-Asian hate, bigotry, bias, or discrimination, report it at **STOPHATE.CALCIVILRIGHTS.CA.GOV** or **CALL 833-8-NO-HATE (833-866-4283)**.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.



The following ad campaign is brought to you by the Laban Group: Filipino Ethnic Media Collaborative. This group aims to promote awareness in our beloved Filipino American community and the broader public about anti-Asian hate incidents and crimes; reduce stigma surrounding the reporting of hate incidents and hate crimes; enhance understanding of resources for victims and survivors; and, to promote community healing and cross-racial collaboration. This collaborative is funded by the "Stop The Hate" campaign from the California State Library in partnership with the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs. Learn more at linktr.ee/labangroup.

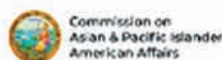
**Data pulled from the Bulosan Center's report on California Filipinos which gathered data from Stop AAPI Hate*



Ilaw ng Tahanan (2024)
By Franceska Gamez

“I know that my ancestor’s hopes and dreams still live in me, they’re passed down through the nurturing of my mother, and her mother before her. When I listen closely, my ancestors are here, holding me as I follow my own dreams.”

The Filipino-American community is the largest Asian population in the Sacramento region and the second largest in California. While the impacts of anti-Asian hate are under-discussed in the Filipino community, **our presence is clear and our voice is strong**. The Laban Group’s Filipino artist campaign aims to uplift our experiences, tell our stories, and amplify our power. If you have experienced or witnessed an incident of anti-Asian hate, bigotry, bias, or discrimination, **report it at CAVSHATE.ORG** or call **833-8-NO-HATE (833-866-4283)**. **YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**



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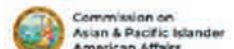

Dave San Pedro

SAMA SAMA TAYO (2024)


By Dave San Pedro

“Tayo ay mag-kaisa na yumakap at igalang ang walang-hanggan na mana mula sa ating mga Filipino-American na pinuno ng kumunidad, at magtrabaho tayong lahat para ang mga pangarap ng ating kumunidad ay mag-katotoo. Sa pagtutulongan at suporta ng bawat isa sa atin, tayo ay magtatagumpay sa mga bagay na higit pa at gumawa ng maganda at maliwanag na kinabukasan.”

Ang kapuloan Fil-Am ay isa sa pinakamalawak na samahan sa rehiyon ng Sacramento at pumapangalawa sa pinakamalaki sa buong California. Hindi man gaanong nabibigyang pansin at napag-uusapan ang mga karahasan na nagaganap sa mga kapwa nating Pilipino, **ang ating pagkatao ay malinaw ang ating tinig ay umaalingawngaw.** Ang Laban Group's Pilipino dalubhasang manlilikha ay naglalayon na itaguyod ang ating mga karanasan, ilahad ang ating kwento at palawakin ang ating kakayahan. Kung ikaw ay nakaranas ng pangraapi o naging saksi na pagmamalupit o karahasan, di pantay na pagingin dahil sa iyong kulay at paniniwala at paninindigan, pagbigay alam mo sa **CAVSHATE.ORG** o tumawag ka sa **833-8-NO-HATE (833-866-4283)**. **HINDI KA NAG-LISA.**

Ang mga sumusunod na patalastas at paghahayag ay inihahandog sa inyong Laban Group: Filipino Ethnic Media Collaborative. Ang kapulungang naganais na pukawin ang damdamin ng ating mga mahal na kababayang Pilipino-Amerikano at sa buong madla ulol sa nakakabahalang pagkamuhi at karahasan dinaranas ng mga Asyano; bawasan ang bala ng pangamba at pagwawalang bahala na udyok ng marubdob na galit sa karahasang natamo bagkus marapat na ipaalam; at pagtingin ang ating pangunawa na may nakalaang tulong sa sinomang naging biktima nakaligtas man o pumanaw sa krimen; pagibayuhin ang pagbibigay lunas ng komunidad sa pamamagitan ng pagtutulongan ng magkakaiba pang pang lahi. **Ang lahat ng tulong pangamatagi ay hinataguyod ng State of California, pinangangasiwaan ng California State Library at sa pagtutulongan ng California Department of Social Services at ang California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs na kabahagi ng Stop the Hate program. Ipaalam ang pangyayari sa <https://www.cavshate.org/>.**





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