

## Troops seize 8 high-powered firearms in Basilan raid

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Elite government forces have arrested one person and seized eight high-powered firearms when they raided early Saturday a house owned by an Abu Sayyaf bandit in the hinterlands of Basilan, a military official said.

Col. Alexander Macario, commander of the Special Operations Task Force-Basilan (SOTF-B), said the raid was carried out around 6:35 a.m. in Barangay Camamburingan, Ungkaya Pukan municipality.

Macario said the raid was carried out following receipt of reliable information pointing to the house of an Abu Sayyaf bandit and follower of bandit leader Nurhassan Jamiri.

However, Macario said only a caretaker was around who surrendered to the raiding team “without putting up a fight” and pinpointed where the firearms were being hidden.

Macario did not release the name of the caretaker, who was placed under investigation. Appropriate charges would be filed against the caretaker, Macario said.

He said the troops recovered eight high-powered firearms that included an M653 armalite rifle, two M-16 armalite rifles, a Caliber .30 M1 Carbine, one Belgian-made FN Fal G1, one US-made M1 Garand and two 12-gauge shotgun as well as several assorted ammunition.

The troops from the SOTF-B are continuously scouring the hinterlands of Basilan in search for the kidnapped Filipino-Chinese businessman Largio Tam Delos Santos.

Jamiri's group kidnapped Delos Santos last Dec. 16 from his resort in Barangay Lanote, Isabela City, the capital of Basilan province.