

Philippine National Police Chief Director General Raul Bacalzo said that the PNP and the military have formed a joint task force to address and combat kidnappings, terrorism and other lawlessness in the country.

Bacalzo, who was in Zamboanga City last Wednesday, however did not divulge the details about the task force.

The PNP chief met with Mayor Celso Lobregat and other officials to discuss solutions to the latest kidnapping in Zamboanga City involving a mother and his son, who are both US citizens.

Officials who attended the meeting with Bacalzo were Police Regional Office-9 Director Chief Supt. Elpidio Z. De Asis Jr., Western Mindanao Command Chief Lt. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, City Police Director Sr. Supt. Edwin Deocampo, Task Force Zamboanga Col. Buenaventura Pascual and other senior police and military officers.

US citizens Gerfa Yeatts Lunsman, 42, and her son Kevin Eric, 14, and cousin Romnick Jakaria were seized by gunmen at her beach house in Tictabon island last Monday.

Meanwhile, Sr. Supt. Deocampo told De Asis that there is no beach resort in Sacol group of Islands or small beach resort in Tictabon island where the two US citizens with their cousin were kidnapped.

Lunsmann and her son were believed to have been taken by the kidnapers in Basilan.

However there has been no word yet from their captors.

Aside from Lunsmann and her son, a business couple was also snatched by kidnapers in Jolo last Wednesday..

Jun and Jocelyn Patronal who were engaged in appliance selling and money lending were seized at their rented house. — Allen Abastillas