

By DAN TORIBIO

Two members of a criminal syndicate were killed while another one was wounded when authorities and lawless elements figured in a firefight along the mountainous area of Curuan bordering Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte last Thursday.

A police report identified the fatalities as Isabelo Tarroza and Alexandro delos Reyes.

Tarroza, the syndicate head, was said to have escaped from the San Ramon Penal Colony where he was incarcerated after being convicted for murder.

Their companion, identified as Naser de Leon, was also wounded in the encounter.

A police report said that a seven-man team composed of police and military personnel together with militiamen launched a law enforcement operation against the group of syndicate leader Isabelo aka Sonny Tarroza.

The team was led by Sr. Insp. Julius Bugne Dao-an, which was assisted by members of SCAA of the 6th Special Forces Battalion headed by Pfc. Richard Domingo

Upon reaching Sitio Gulit, Barangay Lakiki, authorities tried to accost the syndicate members but the latter opted to engage authorities in a firefight.

Authorities recovered an M1 Garand rifle, 2 improvised shotguns, 2 rifle grenades and various kinds of ammunition from the area.

2 killed, one captured as govt forces clash with armed group in Curuan

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The cadaver of Delos Reyes was claimed by his wife while the body of Tarroza was brought to the Quiniput Hospital where De Leon was also treated for his injuries.

Police told DZT that Tarroza was an escapee from San Ramon Penal Colony several years ago. While on hiding, he formed an armed group in Sibuco, and their area of operation includes the barangays under Curuan District. – Dan Toribio