

Smith no longer in RP —US government

by PIA LEE-BRAGO
Philstar.com



Anti-riot policemen look at a portrait of US marine Lance Corporal Daniel Smith displayed by protesters during a rally outside the US embassy in Manila April 24, 2009 to condemn the acquittal of Smith.



Protesters carry anti-government placards and portraits of US marine Lance Corporal Daniel Smith, while marching towards the US embassy in Manila April 24, 2009 to protest the acquittal of Smith.

MANILA—US Marine Lance Corporal Daniel Smith left the country last April 24 after the Court of Appeals (CA) acquitted him of the crime of rape and ordered his immediate release from detention, the US Embassy said.

However, sources at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) said that Smith is booked on the early morning flight of Narita, Japan-bound Northwest Airlines April on 26. Bureau of Immigration spokesman Floro Balato Jr. said records at the NAIA and the Diosdado Macapagal Airport in Clark Field, Pampanga were checked and Smith's

name did not appear on any flight manifest. Air Force spokesman Maj. Gen. Gerardo Zamudio said there was no US aircraft that took off from Subic or Villamor Air Base. The embassy said Smith's release from US custody and his

► PAGE A3

OFFICIAL SAYS Smith may still face US court martial

by ABIGAIL KWOK & VERONICA UY
Inquirer.net

MANILA—The US Marine acquitted on appeal in a high-profile rape case has left the Philippines, but he could face court martial in the US, officials said.

"Following the decision of the Philippine Court of Appeals, Daniel Smith departed the Philippines under the authority of United States military officials," the US embassy said in a statement.

Calling the rape case "long and difficult," the US embassy said Smith was detained for more than three years in its premises in compliance with the Visiting Forces Agreement, which governs the conduct of US troops in the Philippines.

The mission served as Smith's custodian while the case went on appeal.

The appellate court on Thursday, April 25, found Lance Corporal Daniel Smith not guilty of raping a Filipina in the Subic Bay Freeport in November 2005, overturning

a sentence of life imprisonment handed down by a lower court in December 2006.

"This has been a difficult and emotional case for all involved, especially their families and loved ones. We hope that the parties can now move on with their lives," the embassy said.

In a statement, DILG Undersecretary Marius Corpus said Smith could still face court martial just like his three co-accused, who were all subsequently acquitted by the Makati regional trial court.

"Smith may soon be a free man, but his legal ordeal may not be over yet since he may still have to deal with the court martial," Corpus said.

US Marine Staff Sergeant Chad Carpentier, who like Smith belonged to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Force, was dishonorably discharged, while Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis were less

► PAGE A2

DATELINE USA

FROM THE AJPRESS NEWS TEAM ACROSS AMERICA

Nike commemorates Pacquiao

LOS ANGELES—Just as they did last year, Nike has created exclusive commemorative Manny Pacquiao merchandise as the pound-4-pound boxer prepares for his battle against Ricky Hatton on May 2.

The limited custom Pacquiao products will be available at The Montalban Theatre in Los Angeles and Fatlace in San Francisco starting this weekend. Nike made a similar exclusive Pacquiao t-shirt when he faced The Golden Boy Oscar De La Hoya last December.

Both locations will feature a Pacquiao photo gallery with autographed prints by photographer Ray Potes, free giveaways, music, Pacquiao's gear on display and video highlights of the legendary Filipino boxer, according to Nike representatives.

In addition, The Montalban Theatre and Fatlace will feature exclusive Manny Pacquiao t-shirts for sale.

A portion of the shirt proceeds will benefit SI-PA's (Search to involve Filipino Americans) Temple Gateway Youth Sports League in Los Angeles and the Filipino Community Center's sports program in San Francisco.

The t-shirts will be available at The Montalban Theatre as of Saturday, April 25 and at Fatlace on Monday, April 27.

The Montalban Theatre will be the official Manny Pacquiao "Fan Headquarters" as fight night approaches.

The Montalban is located at 1615 Vine Street in Hollywood. (Joseph Pimentel)

LA settles May Day clash lawsuits

\$13 million will benefit Filipino participants



PWC press conference

LOS ANGELES—In a press conference in LA, Multi-ethnic Immigrant Workers Organizing Network and Pilipino Workers Center announced that a \$13M settlement has been won in their lawsuit against the Los Angeles City government for the inhumane police actions of the LAPD against the MIWON march and rally on international workers day two years ago. All of the peaceful demonstrators that suffered from the wrongful police actions on May 1st 2007 at the MIWON march and rally will be eligible to receive compensation for the violation. Filipino participants of the said rally are enjoined to contact PWC to fill out claim forms to avail of the settlement.

The march had a multi-ethnic mix of participants, including a significant contingent from the Filipino-American community. When the police began to disperse the crowd, the Filipinos there were also forced to flee, which violated their rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of speech.

► PAGE A4

United Nations Committee cites RP as model for best practices in migration policy

THE United Nations committee on migrant workers commended the Philippines for its reputation as an international model for best practices in migration policy.

Abdelhamid El Jamri of Morocco, chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW), called the

Philippines a source of inspiration for other countries because of its wealth of experience and dynamism in migration management and development.

El Jamri made this statement at the start of the consideration of the Philippines' initial report on its compliance to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their

Families (ICRMW) at the 10th Session of the CMW held in Geneva, Switzerland.

He commended the Philippines for its clear commitment to the ICRMW, even as other members of the committee cited the Philippines for pursuing a rights-based approach to migration, for not treating workers as commodities, and for taking broad approaches

► PAGE A6

No limit to the Filipino spirit

by TED RAÑOSA, CONTRIBUTOR

MEEET Joy Rojas, ultra-runner extraordinaire.

This magazine editor and freelance writer by profession gained distinction in 2005 by becoming the first Filipina to cross the Philippines from Davao to Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte. She covered an approximate 2000 kilometers in just 46 days. This monumental feat was dubbed *Hakbang Pangarap* after Joy's dream of running across the country.

Not yet convinced of how tough she is? Try doing all these after overcoming tuberculosis. That's what Joy did, championing the belief that there is indeed "no limit to the Filipino spirit."

"When I ran across the Phil-



INSPIRING. Joy Rojas talks to the audience about her struggles and triumphs as an ultra runner.

ippines," Joy recalled, "people asked me 'what is your goal?' And I said, 'I just want to reach Pagudpud running, that's all.' I didn't want to walk or to ride or to crawl. I want to reach Pagudpud running and, by some amazing miracle, I actually did after 2000 kilometers."

Dream Run

Upon achieving her goal, Joy thought of another, one that would top the last. So on May 11, on her 44th birthday, she plans to be the first Southeast Asian woman to cross the United States.

This Trans-USA run, known as *Tabkang Pangarap (Dream Run)*, will begin in Eagle Rock, California and continue through to Nevada, Utah, Colorado,

► PAGE A5

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