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End invasion, Jamalul urged

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Muslim groups want self-proclaimed sultan to withdraw his men from Sabah

PETALING JAYA: Several Muslim groups from the Philippines have urged the self-proclaimed Sultan of Sulu to order the return of his followers from Sabah.

According to the GMA online news portal, the grand imam of the Golden Mosque Sheik Padel Hassan and Moro Islamic Liberation Front member Aldrin Amenulla were among those who called on the self-styled Sultan Jamalul Kiram III and his militants to stop fighting the Malaysian forces in Sabah.

Aldrin, who is also the director of research and development of Zamboanga Peninsula, said reclaiming Sabah was not timely.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Armed Forces chief General Tan Sri Zulkifeli Mohd Zin said the borders of Sabah were sealed and members of the security forces were well prepared to take on thousands of terrorists allegedly sailing to Sabah from Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

"We doubt they are coming. They can make all sorts of claims. Even if they really come, we are ready to stop them," he said, adding that ground operations to stem the invaders in Sabah were ongoing.

He said this in response to media reports claiming that thousands of Tausug from the



Philippine islands had sailed to Sabah to reinforce a group of armed men claiming to be members of the so-called royal army of the sultanate of Sulu and had been fighting Malaysian security forces in the east coast of Sabah.

Philippine Daily Inquirer quoted Moro National Liberation Front's Islamic Council Committee chair Habib Hashim as saying that at least 10,000 Tausug from Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga had rallied on Monday to join those holed up in Lahad Datu.

"We can no longer prevent our people. We are hurt and many of our people, even the non-combatants, are going to Sabah to help the sultanate," Habib was quoted as saying by the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*.

He said the reinforcements "sailed in small numbers" to avoid detection.