

Newspaper	The Sun
Date	12/3/2013

Body of terrorist 'general' identified

The Sun - 12/3/2013

> Haji Musa killed along with 31 other gunmen in clash on Thursday

BY CHARLES RAMENDRAN
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

LAHAD DATU: The body of a dead gunman, whom police believe was a high-ranking figure of the Sulu terrorist group, was identified as that of "General" Haji Musa yesterday.

Haji Musa, who was tasked to lead the so-called "Royal Army" of Sulu chieftain Jamalul Kiram III - who claims to be a sultan with hereditary rights over Sabah - was killed along with 31 other gunmen at Kampung Tanjung Batu in a battle with Malaysian security forces on Thursday.

On Sunday evening, police and army personnel in the process of recovering the bodies of 45 gunmen from the village and at Kampung Tanduo, sent 16 remains of the terrorists to the Lahad Datu Hospital (HLD) mortuary.

Federal police forensics assistant director (disaster victim identification) chief ACP Hussein Omar Khan said yesterday that although the bodies were highly decomposed and beyond recognition, police believe Musa's body was among those brought in for a post-mortem.

The remains of the gunmen were stacked in a two-tiered shelf in the mortuary cold room.

"There are a total of 18 bodies here. Two were brought in days earlier while the rest were sent here on Sunday.

"A team of pathologists led by Datuk Dr Zahari Noor of the Penang General Hospital will conduct the post-mortems," said Hussein, who is heading the police forensics team for *Ops Daulat*.

He said if the bodies are not claimed after the post-mortem, they will be placed in a temporary burial ground.

He said more bodies are being



SYED AZAHAR SYED OSMAN/THESUN

GRIM TASK ... Federal forensics head of operations (Ops Daulat) ACP Hussein Omar Khan examining body bags of the slain terrorists.

recovered by security forces which will be sent to hospitals here and in nearby towns.

Hussein said there are 87 forensics personnel who will assist in recording details of the bodies and gathering clues.

On March 7, following a fierce gunfight between security forces and the Sulu terrorists at Kampung Tanjung Batu, 31 of the terrorists were killed. Police had revealed that they had also shot dead a "general" based on the insignia on the military fatigues he was in.

It was initially suspected that the gunman was Jamalul's younger brother Agbimuddin Kiram.

Agbimuddin is the head honcho of the group while Haji Musa was the "ground commander" in charge of planning the attack on Malaysian security forces.

Agbimuddin's whereabouts remain unknown though there are speculations that he may have sneaked out of Kampung Tanduo and fled to a neighbouring island.

