Philippines joins search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH730

Malaysia Airlines has confirmed through an official statement earlier today that it lost contact with flight MH370, which took off from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia at 12:41 AM today, March 8, 2014 and was scheduled to land in Beijing, China at 6:30 AM the same day. The flight was carrying 239 passengers and crew, comprised of 227 passengers (including 2 infants) and 12 crew members.

This morning, in the spirit of unity and humanitarianism, Secretary of National Defense Voltaire T. Gazmin ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to join in the rescue and rescue operations for the missing Malaysia Airlines aircraft under the possibility and assumption that the said flight may have inadvertently veered off its path and entered Philippine territory.

The AFP Western Command (WESCOM), under the direction of the Chief of Staff, AFP, has dispatched air assets to conduct a search in the Southwestern area of Palawan and its surrounding waters in the West Philippine Sea. Likewise, naval vessels have been tasked to join the search.

We are praying for the safety of all those onboard Malaysia Airlines MH370, and that the aircraft and its occupants may be found at the soonest possible time.

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