



## **INTELLIGENCE DESK – TAPA SERVICE CENTER PHILIPPINES 15 JUNE 2017**

### **THE RESORT WORLD MANILA POST-INCIDENT INVESTIGATION UPDATE**

As opened up during Philippine congressional hearings that have yet to be concluded, the following facts confirmed how the tragic incident transpired on the early hours of June 2, 2017:

The summary of the events so far are as follows;

- On June 2, 2017, dozens of people at the Resorts World Manila entertainment complex in Pasay, Metro Manila, Philippines were killed or injured when a gunman caused a stampede and set fire to casino tables and slot machine chairs around midnight. During the event, the gunman set casino tables on fire producing thick black smoke, which was the primary cause of the death of 36 staff and customers.
- While initial suspicions strongly pointed towards a terrorist attack, Philippine National Police said a few hours after the assault that the motive was likely robbery. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), through the Amaq News Agency, claimed responsibility for the attack, which the Filipino police have rejected. Emerging evidence eventually confirmed that the attack was financially motivated and committed by Jessie Javier Carlos, a debt-riddled former civil servant.
- It was alleged during the enquiry that points of security lapse and inadequate emergency preparedness have been cited against the management of the hotels and casino and partly to government agencies/responders that contributed the collective response failures resulting the untimely loss of innocent lives. The Government will produce an action plan to address the issues.
- The embassies of Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States issued travel advisories to their citizens, informing them to avoid the area and to follow the advice of local authorities. Currently, there is no travel restrictions and the Philippines authorities have identified this as a criminal act.

### **Conclusion**

While ISIS on its web-site immediately claimed responsibility owning-up the lone attacker as one of their loyal warriors, there was no evidence of terrorism found during the investigation. The CCTV images of the attack showed that the perpetrator avoided conflict with hotel staff and fired into the air rather than into the crowd. Hence, it can be concluded that the event was a robbery that went tragically wrong. There are no current travel security restrictions for Manila.

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