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Our government demonstrated forbearance, taking care not to unleash a greater force to minimize civilian casualties even at the cost of more military and police casualties - in what became a slow, punishing, door-to-door, street-by-street fight.

Military operations were carefully calibrated to achieve this aim, consistent with International Humanitarian Law - even if the government lost face by the slow and deliberate progress of its forces.

We pushed for the establishment of a "humanitarian corridor" through the city to allow the

safe passage of trapped civilians and enable vital supplies to reach those unable to leave their protected positions within the battle zone. With regard to the tens of thousands

displaced, the government addressed health and sanitation concerns in the evacuation centers; but most of the displaced quickly found safety and shelter with families and friends. A testament to the strength of the Filipino family system, the Philippine Foreign

manifestations, wherever, by whomever, and against whomsoever committed. We can
only agree with the American president, as we must always make sure that terrorism is

only for losers.

Mr Chairman terrorism is an evil so pure it must be countered with means that

are sure - a global effort against terror on every front by every society worthy to be called
free and not a slave. Terrorism is a global problem no country can tackle alone. President

in cooperation with the UNODC, has been conducting trainings on countering the financing of terrorism.

As Chairman of ASEAN this year, President Duterte engages ASEAN Leaders in

