

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 09/95 Fear of "disappearance" / Fear of ill-treatment 12 January 1995

PHILIPPINES Julius Z. Marquez, aged 27, human rights worker, married

Amnesty International is urgently concerned for the safety of human rights worker Julius Marquez, who was abducted on 6 January 1995 in Vigan, Ilocos Sur province, by armed men believed to be members of the Military Intelligence Group (MIG) of the Philippine armed forces. Julius, who is a volunteer with the human rights organization, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP), was waiting for a bus to take him home when, according to an eyewitness report, he was set upon by four armed men in civilian clothing and forced into a vehicle without a number plate.

On 9 January TFDP workers were informed by a senior police officer from the Ilocos Sur command that Julius Marquez was being held in Pangasinan, a province adjacent to Ilocos Sur. No formal charges are known to have been filed against him. Amnesty International is particularly concerned that his family have not yet been informed of his exact whereabouts, nor have they been allowed to communicate with him.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Human rights violations in the Philippines have occurred within a context of protracted armed conflict between government and government-backed forces and the New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines. The security forces' "total approach" to counter-insurgency has involved the portrayal of certain civilian organizations as legitimate targets within the counter-insurgency campaign. These have included human rights, religious community and legal rights organizations. Members of these lawful organizations are frequently publicly accused of being members or sympathizers of the NPA. Once labelled in this way, they are vulnerable to human rights violations, including arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and ill-treatment, "disappearance" and extrajudicial killing.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:

- expressing grave concern at the incommunicado detention of Julius Marquez, abducted in Ilocos Sur on 6 January 1995;
- stating your concern that Julius Marquez may have been detained solely because of his lawful and non-violent activities and urging the authorities to release him immediately, or charge him promptly with a recognizable offence under existing laws;
- calling on the authorities to act immediately to guarantee his safety and well-being and to ensure that he is allowed access to his family and a lawyer of his choice;
- calling upon the authorities to cease the practice of arbitrary and incommunicado detention and to bring those responsible for these violations to justice before a civilian court.

APPEALS TO

- 1) General Arturo Enrile
Chief of Staff
Armed Forces of the Philippines and Head of Military Intelligence Group
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

Philippines

Faxes: +63 2 832 3793

Telexes: 22471 DND PH or 42002 DCSLOG PM

Telegrams: Chief of Staff Enrile, Quezon City, Philippines

Salutation: Dear General

2) Ranjit Shahani

Vice Governor of Pangasinan Province

Pangasinan

Philippines

Telegrams: Vice Governor Shahani, Pangasinan, Philippines

Salutation: Dear Vice Governor

3) Senior Superintendent Foronda (police)

Ilocos Sur PNP Provincial Command

Vigan, Ilocos Sur

Philippines

Telegrams: PNP Superintendent Foronda, Ilocos Sur, Philippines

Salutation: Dear Senior Superintendent

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) President Fidel V. Ramos

Malacañang Palace

Manila

Philippines

Faxes: +63 2 833 7793 (via Department of Foreign Affairs)

+63 2 731 1325 (via Press Secretary to the President)

2) Sedrey Ordoñez

Chairperson, Commission on Human Rights

IBP Building, Doña Julia Vargas Avenue

Pasig, Manila

Philippines

Faxes: +63 2 631 6449

and to diplomatic representatives of Philippines accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 February 1995.