

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 35/02/95
Distr: UA/SC

17 January 1995

Further information on UA 09/95 (ASA 35/01/95, 12 January 1995) - Fear of "disappearance"/ Fear of ill-treatment

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

Julius Marquez was released on 13 January 1995, having been held in incommunicado detention since 6 January.

On 6 January, Julius Marquez was abducted by armed men believed to be members of the Military Intelligence Group (MIG) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Vigan, Ilocos Sur province. On 9 January Philippine human rights workers were informed that he was being held in Pangasinan province, near Ilocos Sur.

Amnesty International has now learned that on the evening of 13 January, MIG elements released Julius Marquez into the custody of Pangasinan Governor Agbayani. The organization is concerned at reports that he was threatened with "disappearance" while in custody, and that threats were made against the safety of his wife, who is also a human rights worker. Julius Marquez was only released to Governor Agbayani after agreeing under duress to sign an application for "amnesty" under the government's surrender program for communist rebels.

Amnesty International understands, however, that he has not been charged with any offence.

No further action by the Urgent Action Network is required on this case. Thank you to all those who sent appeals on Julius Marquez' behalf.