

**EXTERNAL**

**AI Index: ASA 35/07/95**

**7 August 1995**

**Further information on UA 49/93 (ASA 35/02/95, 26 February 1993) - Extrajudicial Execution**

**PHILIPPINES Chris Batan, aged 26, human rights activist**

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Amnesty International welcomes the news that one of Chris Batan's killers has finally been brought to justice.

Agustin Agpawan was sentenced by the Regional Trial Court judge on 10 July 1995 to life imprisonment for the killing of Chris Batan. He was also ordered to pay the victim's family £1,250.00 (Sterling) in compensation.

Agpawan was the only suspect arrested, while five of his co-accused are still at large. One of them, Bonifacio Chumacog, was reportedly seen in Sadanga, Mt. Province, in the company of members of the military and The Philippine National Police (PNP).

Chris Batan's brother, Cirilo, has expressed satisfaction with the verdict saying, "This verdict is the victory of the human rights struggle," but denounced the PNP and the military authorities in Bontoc for lack of cooperation in helping to bring the other killers to justice.

Whilst Amnesty International welcomes the sentencing of one of Chris Batan's killers, the organization urges the authorities to bring the other men responsible for his murder to justice.

Amnesty International is also calling for the immediate dismantling of the Citizen Armed Geographical Unit (CAFGU).

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Chris Batan was a worker with Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, a national human rights organization. He was shot dead on 23 February 1993 in *barangay* (local administration unit) Betwagan, Sadanga, Mountain Province while on his way to investigate and document human rights violations committed under the regime of former president, Ferdinand Marcos. Chris and two companions were set upon by members of the CAFGU, a government military group, who opened fire, killing Chris Batan instantly.

It is widely believed that Chris Batan's efforts to protect the human rights of local residents was the motive for the killing. The case of Chris Batan was featured in Amnesty International's 1993-94 campaign on "disappearances and political killings - "The Lives Behind the Lies".

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send letters in English or in your own language:**

- welcoming the news that one of the men responsible for killing Chris Batan has been brought to justice;
- expressing concern that the other killers are still at large and calling for them to be brought promptly to justice;
- reiterating calls by Amnesty International for the government to take immediate steps to dismantle the CAFGU.

**APPEALS TO one or more of the following:**

President Fidel V. Ramos  
Malacanang Palace  
Manila  
Philippines

**Salutation: Dear President Ramos**

Secretary of Justice  
Hon. Teofisto Guingona  
Secretary of Justice  
Department of Justice  
PADRE FAURA, ERMITA 1000  
Manila, Philippines

**Salutation: Dear Secretary**

General Recaredo Sarmiento  
Director General  
Philippine National Police  
Camp Crame, Quezon City, Philippines

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

Supt. Digman Cenon  
Provincial Director  
PNP Mountain Province  
PNP Provincial Barracks  
Bontoc, Mountain Province, Philippines

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Sedfrey A Oroñez  
Chairman, Commission on Human Rights  
Integrated Bar of the Philippines Blg  
Doña Julia Vargas Avenue  
Pasig 1600, Manila  
Philippines

and to diplomatic representatives of the Philippines accredited to your country.