

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 35/12/92

Distr: UA/SC

UA 143/92

Fear of "Disappearance"

7 May 1992

PHILIPPINES: Marcos Domanog, farmer
Julius Bagsaway, farmer
Mikhael Bagsaway, farmer
Samuel Cabebe, farmer
Cesar Dogas, farmer

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of five farmers from the *barangay* (administrative unit) Tanulong, Mountain Province. Marcos Domanog, Julius Bagsaway, Mikhael Bagsaway, Samuel Cabebe and Cesar Dogas were all reportedly abducted by members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on 17 April 1992. There has been no news of the five since the abduction and their whereabouts continue to be unknown.

According to relatives of the victims all the male residents of the *barangay*, including the five farmers, were rounded up by members of the AFP at around 6am on 17 April 1992. They were initially taken to the *dap-ay* (a local community building). Marcos Domanog, Julius Bagsaway, Mikhael Bagsaway, Samuel Cabebe and Cesar Dogas were then singled out and taken to another building nearby. Witnesses reportedly heard cries coming from the building where the five men were held and it is believed that they may have been tortured.

All the detainees except for the five farmers were released at 9pm on the same day. The soldiers left the *barangay* on 18 April. According to unofficial reports the five had been seen getting into a vehicle with some soldiers which then drove away. Their relatives made further inquiries on 19 April at the office of the Philippine National Police (PNP) provincial superintendent in Bontoc, Mountain Province but no further information was provided.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Amnesty International has recorded nine cases of "disappearance" or incommunicado detention in the first four months of 1992. During the previous year at least 25 cases were recorded. Of these, at least six were believed to have been killed in custody. In 1990 more than 50 people were reported to have "disappeared" in the Philippines. Of these, at least five are believed to have died or to have been killed while in custody and some appeared to have been tortured. During the last two years at least 18 whose detention was denied by security forces subsequently reappeared after a period of police or military custody. The fate and whereabouts of the majority were unknown in March 1992.

"Disappearance" and incommunicado detention in the Philippines have occurred against a background of armed conflict between government and government-backed forces and the NPA, the armed wing of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

The majority of those held in unacknowledged or incommunicado detention have been members of lawful non-governmental organizations publicly labelled by the security forces as fronts for the NPA or CPP, or individuals suspected of NPA or CPP membership. In the overwhelming majority of the cases in which there is clear and substantive evidence, the perpetrators have been members of government or government backed forces.

Page 2 of UA 143/92

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern for the safety of Marcos Domanog, Julius Bagsaway, Mikhael Bagsaway, Samuel Cabebe and Cesar Dogas and urging the authorities to act immediately to clarify their fate and whereabouts;
- seeking assurances that, if in detention, their physical and mental integrity will be protected;
- calling for immediate and impartial investigations into these cases and asking to be informed of the progress of any such investigations.

APPEALS TO

1) President Corazon Aquino
Malacañang Palace
Manila, Philippines

Salutation: Your Excellency

Telegrams: President Aquino, Manila, Philippines

**Telexes: 40414 MALCOM PN, 45618 RMC PM
63370 PRES PN or 82361 PU**

**Faxes: + 63 2 832 7793 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
+ 63 2 731 1325 (via Press Secretary to the President)**

2) Honourable Roy Pilando
Governor, Mountain Province
Provincial Capital, Bontoc
Mountain Province, Philippines

Salutation: Dear Governor

Telegrams: Governor of Mountain Province, Bontoc, Philippines

3) Brigadier General Rene Dado
Brigade Commander, 702nd BDE, PA
Northern Luzon (NOLCOM)
Manaoag, Pangasinan
Philippines

Salutation: Dear Brig. Gen. Dado

Telegrams: Commander 702nd BDE, Manaoag, Pangasinan, Philippines

4) Honourable Ignacio Dao-as
Mayor, Municipality of Sagada
Municipal Hall, Sagada, Mountain Province
Philippines

Salutation: Dear Mayor Dao-as

Telegrams: Mayor Dao-as, Sagada, Mountain Province, Philippines

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) Mary Concepcion Bautista (Chairman) OR
- 2) Paulynn Paredes Sicam (Commissioner) OR
- 3) Narciso Monteiro (Commissioner)

Commission on Human Rights

IBP Building Complex

Dona Julia Vargas Avenue

Pasig Metro Manila, Philippines

Faxes: + 63 2 631 6449

- 4) Senator Wigberto Tanada

Chairman, Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Padre Faura, Manila, Philippines

Faxes: + 63 2 50 07 72

and to diplomatic representatives of the Philippines in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 June 1992.