

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 35/10/99

5 February 1999

Further information on Extra 84/98 (ASA 35/11/98, 17 November 1998) and follow-ups (ASA 35/13/98, 17 December 1998, ASA 35/15/98, 30 December 1998, ASA 35/01/99, 4 January 1999, ASA 35/04/99, 20 January 1999, ASA 35/06/99, 22 January 1999 and ASA 35/08/99, 4 February 1999) - Imminent execution

PHILIPPINES Leo Echegaray, aged 38

At 3.19pm Manila time (7.19am GMT) on 5 February 1999, Leo Echegaray was executed by lethal injection.

The Supreme Court rejected a last minute petition by the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) which argued that prison officials had made unauthorized changes to the prison execution manual.

President Estrada said, "Today's execution is proof of the government's determination to maintain law and order...In this administration we will prove that crime does not pay. The crime committed by Mr Echegaray... (was) an act of bestiality, which deserves the stiffest punishment under the law."

Many thanks to all who sent appeals on behalf of Leo Echegaray. Amnesty International continues to campaign for five others due to be scheduled for execution soon, and 914 others currently under sentence of death in the Philippines.

No further action required.