

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 35/003/2004

20 August 2004

**Further Information on UA 242/04 (ASA 35/008/2004, 06 August 2004) - "Disappearance"/Fear of extrajudicial execution**

**PHILIPPINES**

**Alvin S. Valdez (m), aged 22**

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Acknowledging numerous letters of concern about the 16 July abduction of Alvin Valdez by men believed to have been police officers, the Governor of North Cotabato province issued a public statement on 11 August pledging to bring those responsible to justice. He stated that he would not tolerate "extrajudicial actions or summary executions [by police]". The whereabouts of Alvin Valdez remain unknown, and there are unconfirmed reports that he was killed shortly after he was abducted.

The Governor is reported to have recommended that the Chief of Police of Kidapawan be suspended until inquiries into the abduction are completed. Eyewitnesses have stated in sworn affidavits that the Chief of Police had been present when Alvin Valdez was taken away from his girlfriend's home in Kidapawan, North Cotabato province. However, in a weekly radio program hosted by the Governor, the Chief of Police publicly denied the accusations made against him and the Kidapawan police, and added that separate investigations were being made to establish the truth.

Investigators have reportedly called for the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), or the national Commission on Human Rights (CHR), to join the inquiry. North Cotabato provincial police have submitted a report claiming that inquiries in the neighbourhood where Alvin Valdez lived were hampered by residents' fear of reprisals. Residents reportedly assured police investigators that witnesses would come forward if a full investigation was made by the NBI or CHR.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Alvin Valdez, who was abducted on 16 July in Kidapawan City, Mindanao, whose whereabouts remain unknown.
- welcoming the Governor of North Cotabato province's public statement that he will not tolerate "extrajudicial operations and summary executions";
- welcoming continuing investigations into the abduction of Alvin Valdez, urging that they be full and impartial, and calling for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging that witnesses and others assisting the investigations be given complete and lasting protection against the threat of reprisals, whatever the source of such threats.

**APPEALS TO:**

Hon Emmanuel F. Pinol,  
Governor of North Cotabato Province,  
Capitol Complex, Amas  
Kidapawan City, Philippines

**Fax:** + 63 64 288 1799

**E-mail:** info@cotabatoprov.gov.ph

**Salutation:** Dear Governor Pinol

Hon Edgardo Aglipay  
Director General, Philippine National Police

National Headquarters  
Camp Crame  
EDSA, cor. Santolan Road  
Quezon City, Philippines  
**Fax: +63 2 724-8763**  
**Salutation: Dear Director Aglipay**

General Angelo Tomas Reyes  
Secretary of Interior and Local Government  
Department of the Interior and Local Government  
A. Francisco Gold Condominium II, EDSA cnr. Mapagmahal St  
Diliman 1100  
Quezon City, Philippines  
**Fax: +63 2 925-0332**  
**E-Mail: osec@dilg.gov.ph**  
**Salutation: Dear Secretary Reyes**

**COPIES TO:**

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo  
Malacañang Palace  
J.P. Laurel St  
San Miguel 1005  
Manila, Philippines  
**Fax: + 63 2 733 2107**  
**Salutation: Dear President Macapagal-Arroyo**

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

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 October 2004.