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Further information on UA 331/90 (ASA 35/22/90, 14 August 1990) -
"Disappearance"

PHILIPPINES:Helen TREMBEVILLA (f)

Amnesty International has received further information about 23-year-old Helen Trembevilla, who "disappeared" on 24 July 1990. This information confirms that she was held in military custody during July and August. Amnesty International had received reports that Helen Trembevilla was abducted by unidentified men believed to be members of the 66th Infantry Battalion (IB) in Bacolod, Negros Occidental province. Military authorities in the locality subsequently denied that she was held in custody.

Members of Amnesty International's UA network, appealing on behalf of Helen Trembevilla, have received details of her release from military custody.

Information sent to Amnesty International members consisted of a letter and copies of the "Custodial Release Paper" issued by the Negros Island Command in Bacolod City. According to the information received, Helen Trembevilla was released from the custody of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Kabankalan, Negros Occidental on 17 August 1990.

Helen Trembevilla had been injured when soldiers opened fire at her house on 7 July 1990, believing it to be a "safe house" of the New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the banned Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Helen Trembevilla is the girlfriend of a former political detainee who was released in 1989 following the dismissal of charges against him.

Amnesty International has received confirmation of Helen Trembevilla's release from non-military sources. According to reports, no charges have yet been filed against her.

No further action is required. Thank you to all who sent appeals on her behalf, and in particular, to those who sent copies of the replies they received to the International Secretariat.