

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 35/05/97

2 June 1997

Further information on UA 44/97 (ASA 35/01/97, 7 February 1997) and follow-up (ASA 35/03/97, 18 March) - Threats / Fear for safety

PHILIPPINES Senator Raul Roco

Justice Francis Garchitorena		
Justice Jose Balajadia		
Jose Manuel Diokno	)	
Efren Moncupa	)	
Arno Sanidad	)	
Alexander Padilla	)	human rights
Theodore Te	)	lawyers
Lorenzo Tanada	)	
Wigberto Tanada	)	
Francis Pangilinan	)	

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A reply has been received from the Philippine Ambassador to the Netherlands.

He states that "the threats against the physical safety of those involved in the prosecution of the case are natural consequences of their dedication to duty. Nevertheless, we are not taking these threats lightly. On the contrary, we have taken steps to ensure that their physical well-being is taken care of and that there shall be no obstacles to the performance of their mandated tasks."

Amnesty International remains concerned at the apparent lack of investigation into the death threats or attempt to bring those responsible to justice. The organization fears that the death threats could be repeated while a climate of impunity prevails, allowing those responsible to believe that they are beyond the law and need not fear prosecution.

No further action by the UA Network is requested at present. Many thanks to all who sent appeals on this case.