

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: ASA 35/005/2004**

**20 February 2004**

**Further Information on UA 14/04 (ASA 35/002/2004, 20 February 2004) and follow-up (ASA 35/004/2004, 28 January 2004) - Imminent execution**

**PHILIPPINES**

**Roberto Lara (m)  
Roderick Licayan (m)**

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The Supreme Court suspended the executions of Roberto Lara and Roderick Licayan on 19 February, and granted the men a retrial. The Supreme Court had granted them a 30-day stay of execution on 28 January, so that it could study claims of new evidence.

Supreme Court spokesman Ismael Khan declared that the lower court which had previously examined their cases would be in charge of hearing "newly-discovered evidence that allegedly exonerates both".

Roberto Lara and Roderick Licayan were due to be the first prisoners to be executed since President Arroyo lifted a moratorium on executions in December 2003. The European Union launched a protest in the form of a "démarche" before the Department of Foreign Affairs at the beginning of February, to stop further executions. The head of the European Commission delegation, Jan de Kok, declared: "We in the European Union have always been staunch proponents of the abolition of the death penalty. This abolition should be a matter of policy for the Philippines, not politics".

**Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action is requested from the Urgent Action network at this time. Amnesty International will continue to monitor the situation.**