

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of "disappearance"

2 June 1994

PHILIPPINES

Adelberto Pardines
Romulo Reginan
June

Amnesty International is urgently concerned for the safety of the three people named above. They were arrested in San Pablo city, Laguna province at 8pm on 29 May 1994, reportedly by members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and officers from the military intelligence group of the Philippine Army (PA).

On 30 May, relatives and members of local human rights organizations went to the police station in San Pablo City. There they were informed by the police captain that the three were suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). He said they had been transferred to Camp Eldrid in Los Baños, Laguna, where they were being detained by military intelligence.

On 1 June relatives and human rights workers visited Camp Eldrid, but military officials denied holding the three people in custody.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Human rights violations in the Philippines have occurred within a context of protracted armed conflict between government and government-backed forces and the NPA. The security forces' "total approach" to counter-insurgency has involved the portrayal of certain civilian organizations as legitimate targets within the counter-insurgency campaign. These have included human rights, religious, community and legal rights organizations. Members of these lawful organizations are frequently publicly accused of being members of, or sympathizers with, the NPA. Once labelled in this way, they are vulnerable to human rights abuses, including arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and ill-treatment, "disappearance" and extrajudicial killing.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams and express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language

- expressing urgent concern at the possible "disappearance" of Adelberto Pardines, Romulo Reginan and June, arrested by police and military intelligence officials in San Pablo City on 29 May 1994;
- calling upon the authorities to act immediately to locate the three detainees and to guarantee their safety;
- calling upon the government to act immediately to stop "disappearances" and to bring those responsible for these human rights violations promptly to justice before a civilian court.

APPEALS TO

Commanding Officer
Military Intelligence Group
Camp Eldrid
Los Baños
Laguna
Philippines

Telegrams: Commander, MIG, Camp Eldrid, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines

Salutation: Dear Commander

Lt Gen Arturo T. Enrile
Commanding General
Philippine Army
Fort Andres Bonifacio
1202 Makati, Manila
Philippines

Telegrams: Lt Gen Enrile, PA HQ, Fort Bonifacio, Manila, Philippines

Salutation: Dear Lt Gen Enrile

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Sedfrey Ordoñez
Commission on Human Rights
IPB Building
Doña Julia Vargas Avenue
Pasig, Manila
Philippines

Faxes: +63 2 631 6449

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 14 July 1994