

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 35/08/97

26 August 1997

Further information on UA 138/97 (ASA 35/04/97, 9 May 1997) -

"Disappearance" / Fear of ill-treatment

PHILIPPINE Romeo Cortez, peasant leader, aged 48

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Peasant leader Romeo Cortez is still missing. He has not been seen since being abducted at around 6.30pm on 1 April 1997 in San Roque, Mexico, Pampanga province.

Members of the UA Network have received at least two replies from the Philippine authorities. The Pampanga Police Provincial Office has written to say they are trying to gather more information about possible suspects and also that they are trying to locate Romeo Cortez. The Philippine Embassy in Canada has replied saying that the Philippine Commission on Human Rights is following up the case.

The International Secretariat is continuing to work on the case of Romeo Cortez, but no further action is required from the UA Network. However, if you receive a reply from the Philippine authorities you may, if you wish, respond thanking them for the reply, continuing to express concern for Romeo Cortez, and asking to be kept informed of any developments in the case.