

PUBLIC

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2 October 2002

Further information on UA 236/02 (ASA 35/005/2002, 25 July 2002) and follow-up (ASA 35/005/2002, 2 August 2002) - Fear of execution

PHILIPPINES

**Alfredo Nardo (m), aged 40**  
**Filemon Serrano (m), former taxi driver**

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President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered all executions to be suspended indefinitely until Congress has debated a bill to abolish the death penalty. Her decision was announced by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, following a meeting with ambassadors from European Union countries on 30 September.

Filemon Serrano, who had been due to be executed on 20 September, had previously been granted a 90-day reprieve by the President. The reprieve also applied to two other men: Rolando Pagdayawon (see EXTRA 63/02, ASA 35/007/2002, 14 August 2002) and Eddie Sernadilla. Alfredo Nardo had been scheduled to be executed on 16 October.

It is not yet known when the abolition debate will take place in Congress. According to the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), almost half the members of the House of Representatives and a majority of Senators have signalled their intention to vote for abolition. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has urged the President to certify the bills as urgent.

**Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action from the network is required at this time, but we will continue to monitor the situation.**