Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Edmundo Carias, who was taken from his house in Davao City on 8 August 1990 at 12:50am and detained without warrant by members of the Intelligence Security Operations Group (ISSOG).

According to Edmundo's mother, Vicenta Carias, (aged 60), they were both awakened after midnight on 8 August by the barking of dogs and the sound of thudding on the doors of their home. Then three armed men burst into their bedroom and ordered Edmundo to hold his hands up. The men, who allegedly told Vicenta that they were "the authorities", handcuffed Edmundo and dragged him out of the house. When his mother tried to accompany him she was pushed away. Vicenta says other military units were also involved in the arrest but she could not identify them.

Some hours later, Vicenta went to look for her son at the ISSOG office but was told he was not there. On 10 August Vicenta was informed by the ISSOG's commanding officer, that Edmundo was alive but under investigation. Some soldiers at the office reportedly warned a woman who had accompanied Vicenta that she would "also" be considered an NPA member if she continued to accompany Vicenta. There was no formal acknowledgement of the arrest.

On 14 August, Vicenta filed a writ of habeas corpus before the 11th Regional Trial Court (Branch 15). The petition was heard on 17 August before Judge Jesus Quitain. The respondents denied having arrested or detained Edmundo Carias.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to reports, Edmundo's detention was apparently part of a hunt for the killers of a high-ranking officer of the Philippines Constabulary/Integrated National Police, who was believed to have been killed by members of the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines. Edmundo's "disappearance" is the latest in a series of detentions without warrant and "disappearances" in Davao. In some cases the "disappeared" have been found to be in incommunicado police or military detention, and in others they have been found dead, sometimes bearing signs of torture and ill-treatment.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:
- expressing concern for the physical safety of Edmundo Carias who was taken from his home on 8 August by members of the Intelligence Special Security Operations Group;
noting that Edmundo Carias’ mother was allegedly informed by the ISSOG commanding officer, that Edmundo was alive and under investigation -- but that when a petition for habeas corpus was heard on 17 August the military respondents, denied having arrested and detained Edmundo Carias;

- urging that the whereabouts of Edmundo Carias be made known immediately and that he be promptly released from custody or charged with a recognizable criminal offence;

- urging that all measures be taken to ensure the safety of Edmundo Carias and to prevent harassment of his mother and her companion.

APPEALS TO:

President Corazon Aquino  Telexes: 40414 MALCOM PN; 45618 RMC PN;
Office of the President  Faxes: +63 2 8323793 (via Ministry of
Malacanang  Foreign Affairs)
Manila  Telegrams: President Aquino, Manila,
The Philippines

General Fidel. V. Ramos  Telexes: 22471 DND PH;
Secretary of National Defense  42004 DCSLOG PM;
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo  Faxes: +63 2 8323793 (via
1110 Quezon City  Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
The Philippines  Telegrams: Defense Secretary
Telexes: 40414 MALCOM PN; 45618 RMC PN;
Secretary of National Defense  42004 DCSLOG PM;
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo  Faxes: +63 2 8323793 (via
1110 Quezon City  Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
The Philippines  Telegrams: Defense Secretary
Ramos, Quezon, Philippines

Gen. Lamberto Saavedra  Brig. Gen. Mariano Baccay
AFP Civil Relations Officer  Regional Military Commander
Camp Aguinaldo  Camp Catitipan
1110 Quezon City  Davao City, Mindanao
The Philippines  The Philippines

Telexes: 40414 MALCOM PN; 45618 RMC PN;
Secretary of National Defense  42004 DCSLOG PM;
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo  Faxes: +63 2 8323793 (via
1110 Quezon City  Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
The Philippines  Telegrams: Defense Secretary
Ramos, Quezon, Philippines

COPIES TO:

Mary Concepcion Bautista  Lt. Col. Franco Galida
Commission on Human Rights  Metrodiscom Commander
IBP Bldg Complex  Camp Domingo E. Leonor
Dona Julia Vargas Avenue  8000 Davao City
Pasig, Metro Manila  The Philippines
The Philippines

and to diplomatic representatives of the Philippines in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International
Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 19 October
1990.