

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: ASA 35/32/91**

**Distr: UA/SC**

**8 November 1991**

**Further information on UA 317/91 (ASA 35/29/91, 27 September 1991) - Possible "Disappearance"**

**PHILIPPINES: Renato Tabasa Zabate**

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Amnesty International has learned that Renato Tabasa Zabate, who was reported to have "disappeared" on 8 September 1991, was found dead on 13 September 1991, five days after being abducted by unidentified armed men in Canduman, Mandaue City, Cebu. He was believed to have been taken to Cebu Metropolitan District Command Headquarters of the Philippine National Police at Camp Sotero in Cebu City, but officials denied that he was being held in custody.

The body of Renato Tabasa Zabate was found on 13 September by schoolchildren in Sogod, some 62 kilometres north of Cebu City. Renato Tabasa Zabate had been bound with electrical wire and gagged with his own towel. An autopsy revealed 31 abrasions, contusions and wounds on different parts of the body of the victim. Strangulation was stated to have been the probable cause of death.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams\faxes\express and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern that Renato Tabasa Zabate may have been killed while held in the custody of the Philippine National Police in Cebu;
- noting with concern that the body of Renato Tabasa Zabate bore signs of torture;
- urging the authorities to conduct an immediate and impartial investigation into this case and for the results of the investigation to be made public; asking to be kept informed of the progress of the investigation;
- calling on the government to ensure that all those believed responsible for human rights violations are brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

1.

General Renato S. de Villa  
Secretary of National Defense  
Department of National Defense  
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo  
Quezon City  
Metro Manila, Philippines

**Dear General**

**Telegrams: Defense Secretary de Villa, Quezon, Philippines**

**Telexes: 22471 DND PH or 42004 DCSLOG PM**

**Faxes: + 63 2 721 3988**

2.

General Cesar P Nazareno  
Director General  
Philippine National Police  
Headquarters of the Philippines Constabulary  
Camp Crame, Novaliches  
Metro Manila, Philippines

**Dear General**

**Telegrams: Police Director General Nazareno, Metro Manila, Philippines**

3.

President Corazon Aquino  
Malacañang Palace  
Manila, Philippines

**Your Excellency**

**Telegrams: President Aquino, Manila, Philippines**

**Telexes: 40414 MALCOM PN, 45618 RMC PM,  
63370 PRES PN or 82361 PRES PU**

**Faxes: + 63 2 832 3793 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)  
+ 63 2 731 1325 (via Press Secretary to the President)**

**COPIES TO:**

Silvestre H. Bello III  
Secretary of Justice  
Department of Justice  
Padre Faura Street  
Ermita, Manila  
Philippines

Mary Concepcion Bautista

Chairman  
Commission on Human Rights  
IBP Building Complex  
Dona Julia Vargas Avenue  
Pasig Metro Manila, Philippines

and to diplomatic representatives of the Philippines in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY** Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 12 December 1991.