

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 70/99 (ASA 35/18/99, 11 June 1999) and follow-ups (ASA 35/19/99, 15 June 1999, ASA 35/32/99, 6 August 1999, ASA 35/34/99, 13 August 1999 and ASA 35/38/99, 22 September 1999) - Imminent execution

PHILIPPINES Jurry Andal, farmer
Ricardo Andal, farmer
Edwin Mendoza, labourer

On 14 October 1999 President Estrada commuted the death sentences of brothers Jurry and Ricardo Andal and their cousin Edwin Mendoza to life imprisonment. President Estrada decided to grant clemency following the recommendation of the recently created "conscience committee".

Jurry Andal, Ricardo Andal and Edwin Mendoza were convicted in 1994 of the rape and murder of a 22-year-old schoolteacher. The three men had been scheduled to be executed in June 1999 but were granted temporary reprieves in June and August 1999. Amnesty International is concerned that they were convicted on the basis of a statement allegedly made under torture by the main prosecution witness. The three men continue to maintain their innocence. According to a report in the *Philippine Star*, the authorities have not completed DNA tests intended to establish whether the men were involved in the crime. The "conscience committee" is said to have taken the men's willingness to be DNA tested into account in recommending commutation of their death sentences.

This is the second time that President Estrada has granted clemency on the advice of the "conscience committee". The previous day he commuted the death sentence passed on Josefina Esparas, the first woman scheduled to be executed in the Philippines. However, Amnesty International fears that executions will resume imminently, following the "conscience committee's" rejection of Pablito Andan's appeal for clemency.

No further action is required from the network. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.