

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 263/90

"Disappearances"

26 June 1990

PHILIPPINES: Pedro BULALACAO, leader of an urban poor organization

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Pedro Bulalacao, aged 38, leader of an urban poor Organization KASAMA (Katipunan ng Samahang Makabayan), who has not been seen since he was detained on 17 June 1990 by two men believed to be members of the police.

According to an eyewitness, Pedro Bulalacao was detained by two men in civilian clothing as he crossed Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City, Metro Manila, at about 5:15 pm on 17 June. The men reportedly took him to a group of waiting vehicles, where he was held and punched. The eyewitness said a man who alighted from a light blue Toyota with registration plate number NAW-541, placed handcuffs and a blindfold on Pedro Bulalacao before putting him into a white car.

The white car then drove off, followed by the light blue Toyota, a passenger jeep and a red car. Relatives and colleagues from KASAMA reportedly enquired after his whereabouts at a number of security forces establishments, including the headquarters of the Pasay City police, the Western Police District Headquarters, and Camp Crame, a military camp in the area. Custody of Pedro Bulalacao was denied by all these authorities

Neighbours reported that police officers from Pasay City had been to Pedro Bulalacao's home at about 3 pm the same day, but had not found him because he was at a park in Libertad where he often spent Sunday afternoons teaching karate.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has received information regarding dozens of "disappearances" in the first six months of 1990. Several of the "disappeared" have been found dead, apparently killed by government or government-backed forces. Others have been located after being held incommunicado and without charge for long periods in police or military detention. Many of the victims of "disappearance" have been leaders or members of lawful non-governmental organizations, including associations of urban poor, farmers' organizations, trade unions and church groups, which the authorities have alleged to be fronts for the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA) - allegations denied by these groups. The practice of labelling lawful organizations as fronts for the CPP/NPA has become common in the context of the government's counter-insurgency campaign.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern for the safety of Pedro Bulalacao who has not been seen since he was detained in Pasay City, Metro Manila on 17 June 1990 by men believed to be connected with the Pasay City police force;
- urging that the whereabouts of Pedro Bulalacao 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 protect: his physical safety.

APPEALS TO:

Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Blazon
NCRDC Headquarters
Camp Miguel Ver
Pasig City
Philippines

Telegrams: Brig. Gen. Blazon, NCRDC HQ, Camp Miguel Ver, Pasig City, Philippines

Brig. Gen. Mariano Filart
PC Capital Command Headquarters
Camp Crame
Novaliches
Quezon City
Philippines

Telegrams: Brig. Gen. Filart, PC CAPCOH HQ, Camp Crame, Quezon City, Philippines

General Fidel V. Ramos
Secretary of National Defense
Department of National Defense
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City
Metro Manila, Philippines

Telegrams: Defense Secretary Ramos, Quezon, Philippines
Telexes: 22471 DND PH or 42004 DCSLOG PM

President Corazon Aquino
Malacañang Palace (tilde on first n of Malacañang)
Manila, Philippines

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)

COPIES TO:

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, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 August 1990.