

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 35/013/2002

2 October 2002

Further information on EXTRA 63/02 (ASA 35/007/2002, 14 August 2002) and follow-up (ASA 35/009/2002, 28 August 2002 - Imminent execution)

**PHILIPPINES**

**Rolando Pagdayawon (m), former police officer**

---

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.

Rolando Pagdayawon, who was scheduled to be executed by lethal injection on 30 August, had previously been granted a 90-day reprieve by the President. The reprieve also applied to two other men: Filemon Serrano (see follow-up to UA 236/02, ASA 35/006/2002, 2 August 2002) and Eddie Sernadilla.

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 of the death penalty. The Catholic Bishops=Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has urged the President to certify the bills as urgent.

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