

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 35/14/99

6 April 1999

Further information on EXTRA 47/99 (ASA 35/13/99, 24 March 1999) - Imminent execution

PHILIPPINES Dante Piandiong, aged 27

Jesus Morallos, aged 32

Archie Bulan, aged 24

---

On 6 April 1999, President Estrada granted a 90 day reprieve to Dante Piandiong, Jesus Morallos and Archie Bulan, who had been scheduled to be executed on 7 April.

The president reportedly said he granted the reprieve "in view of the various issues raised..... (and to allow his offices)... to conduct an exhaustive review of the case".

The men were sentenced to death in November 1994 for killing a police officer during an attempted robbery on a minibus in Manila. In February 1997 the Supreme Court confirmed their death sentences, rejecting their claim that a police line-up had been seriously flawed, and dismissing their defense that they had been elsewhere at the time of the crime.

In an interview with Amnesty International representatives, Dante Piandiong alleged he had been arrested without a warrant on 27 February 1994 and tortured to force him to confess.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/E-mails/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or in your own language:**

- welcoming the 90-day reprieve granted by President Estrada to Dante Piandiong, Jesus Morallos and Archie Bulan;
- calling on the president, nevertheless, to commute their death sentences;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life;
- pointing out that the death penalty is imposed disproportionately on the poorest and most disadvantaged, who cannot afford the best possible lawyers for their defense;
- acknowledging the need to combat serious crime in the Philippines, but emphasizing that studies around the world have failed to find convincing evidence that the death penalty deters criminals more effectively than other punishments;
- expressing concern at reports that Dante Piandiong (previously all three) was tortured during interrogation, a factor which may have prejudiced the fairness of the trial, and calling for a prompt and impartial investigation into these allegations, as required under the UN Convention Against Torture.

**APPEALS TO:**

President Joseph Estrada  
Malaca\_ang Palace  
Manila  
Philippines

**Telegrams: President Estrada, Manila, Philippines**

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

**e-mails: erap@erap.com**

**Salutation:Dear President Estrada**

**COPIES TO:**

Serafin Cuevas  
Secretary of Justice  
Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila  
Philippines  
**E-mails:doj@erap.com**  
**Faxes:+ 63 2 521 1614**

and to diplomatic representatives of the Philippines accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 July 1999.