

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 35/16/99

27 May 1999

Further information on EXTRA 64/99 (ASA 35/15/99, 24 May 1999) - Imminent execution

PHILIPPINES Pablito Andan

The execution of Pablito Andan by lethal execution, which had been scheduled to take place at 12 pm on 28 May 1999, has been postponed until 28 June.

President Estrada granted the stay of execution in order to allow himself "enough time to consider evidence that various quarters have said may prove Andan is innocent or deserving of a lesser penalty."

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

- welcoming the one month reprieve granted by President Estrada to Pablito Andan;
- calling on the president to commute his death sentence;
- 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 defence;
- 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 Pablito Andan was tortured during interrogation, a factor which may have prejudiced the fairness of his trial, and calling for a prompt and impartial investigation into these allegations, as required by 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 28 June 1999.