

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 273/90 (ASA 35/20/90, 2 July 1990) - "Disappearance"

PHILIPPINES: Amelia TENA (f), aged 22, member of youth organization

Amnesty International has learned that, in spite of repeated inquiries, relatives of Amelia Tena have been unable to discover her whereabouts. Amelia Tena was abducted on 26 May 1990 by armed men believed to be members of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP). Amnesty International reported that after the arrest a witness was able to identify two of the men by name; however the witness subsequently went into hiding for fear of reprisals by the military forces. Since the abduction, military authorities in the area of Laguna province - where Amelia Tena was originally detained - have consistently denied that she is being held in custody.

On 7 June 1990, a relative reported that Amelia Tena was believed to be held at the 224th Company of the Philippines Constabulary (PC) in Camp Eldridge, Los Banos, Laguna. Members of the governmental Philippines Commission on Human Rights (PCHR) immediately visited the camp but were unable to find Amelia Tena there.

On 28 September, another relative reported having received two letters. The first, apparently from an ISAFP officer, invited her to meet him at a designated time and place. The relative did not go to the meeting for fear of herself becoming a victim of abduction, particularly as the letter instructed her to attend alone. The second letter was apparently from Amelia Tena herself. It instructed the relative to attend a court hearing of the case of eight political prisoners who, the letter said, would have news of Amelia Tena's whereabouts and the conditions of her detention. The relative attended the hearing but the defendants said they knew nothing of the "disappeared" person.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern for the safety of Amelia Tena who has now been "disappeared" for nearly seven months;
- urging the authorities to take immediate and effective measures to protect the physical safety of all those held in military or police custody and to end the practice of holding prisoners in unacknowledged detention;
- urging the government to conduct an immediate inquiry into Amelia Tena's case, to ensure that witnesses are protected from harassment or intimidation by the authorities, and that the results of the investigation are made public;
- calling on the government to ensure that all those found to be responsible for human rights abuses are brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

President Corazon Aquino
 Malacañang Palace
 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)
 + 63 2 731 1325 (via Press Secretary to the President)

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
 Faxes: + 63 2 721 3988

Captain Felipe Buena
 224th PC
 Camp Eldridge
 Los Banos, Laguna
 Philippines

Telegrams: Capt. Buena, 224 PC, Camp Eldridge, Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines

Commander
 Laguna Constabulary Command
 Sta Cruz, Laguna
 Philippines

Telegrams: Cdr, Laguna Constab. Command, Sta Cruz, Laguna, Philippines

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 29 January 1991.