

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 35/02/96

29 March 1996

Further information on UA 40/96 (ASA 35/01/96, 16 February 1996) - Death Penalty

**PHILIPPINES President Ramos signs lethal injection bill into law**

On 20 March President Fidel Ramos signed into law Republic Act No. 8177 which provides for execution by lethal injection. The new law stipulates that executions are to be carried out no earlier than one year and no later than 18 months following confirmation of a death sentence by the Supreme Court. During the signing ceremony President Ramos is reported to have said: "Let the criminals beware. The state will continue to pursue criminals without let-up and will not hesitate to execute those upon whom the death sentence has been imposed."

There are now reported to be at least 131 convicts on death row, most of whom are believed to be waiting for their appeals to be heard by the Supreme Court.

**THANKYOU TO ALL WHO HAVE SENT APPEALS. FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/ airmail letters in English or in your own language:**

- expressing dismay that President Ramos has recently signed the lethal injection bill into law;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the most fundamental of all human rights - the right to life, and emphasizing that no form of execution can ever be considered humane;
- recognizing the need to combat the high crime rate in the Philippines but emphasizing that studies have concluded that the death penalty has no known deterrent effect in countries where it is imposed;
- urging the authorities to commute all death sentences - however heinous the crimes - and to abolish the death penalty.

**APPEALS TO:**

President Fidel V. Ramos  
Malacañang Palace Compound  
J.P. Laurel Street  
San Miguel, Metro Manila  
Philippines

**Faxes: +63 2 731 1325 (via Press Secretary to the President)**

**Telegrams: President Ramos, Manila, Philippines**

**Salutation: Dear President**

Teofisto T. Guingona  
Secretary of Justice  
Department of Justice  
Padre Faure Street  
Ermita, Metro Manila  
Philippines

**Faxes: +63 2 521 1614**

**Telegrams: Secretary of Justice Guingona, Manila, Philippines**

**Salutation: Dear Secretary Guingona**

Andres R. Narvasa  
Chief Justice  
Supreme Court of the Philippines

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Padre Faure, Manila  
Philippines

**Faxes: +63 2 522 3211**

**Telegrams: Chief Justice Narvasa, Manila, Philippines**

**Salutation: Dear Chief Justice Narvasa**

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 15 May 1996.