

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Harassment/Fear of Extrajudicial Execution

10 June 1992

PHILIPPINES: Clovis Nazareno, poet and journalist

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Clovis Nazareno, who has survived a shooting attack by a number of men, at least one of whom is believed to be from the military. The shooting, which took place at *barangay* (local administrative unit) Catagbacan in Bohol province on 10 May 1992, follows other serious threats to Clovis Nazareno from members of the military. A request made by Clovis Nazareno for protection from the military authorities has been turned down.

Clovis Nazareno is a poet and newspaper columnist whose articles are frequently critical of government policies. He is also a founder member of a local farmers group called Friends of Farmers (FOF). On the evening of 10 May he, together with eight friends, was visiting the various *barangays* of Loon by motorcycle to check the location of voting facilities for the national elections the following day. At *barangay* Catagbacan their path was blocked by a van carrying unidentified men. Clovis Nazareno and his colleagues immediately turned and headed towards the neighbouring town of Antequero. However, their path was blocked again, this time by armed, masked men on motorcycles. Despite the masks Clovis Nazareno and his companions recognized one of the attackers and are convinced that another was a military intelligence officer. As Clovis Nazareno and his colleagues tried to escape they were fired at twice by the masked men. Both shots missed.

Clovis Nazareno immediately reported the incident at Loon Municipal Hall. He then went to Camp Dagohoy in Tagbilaran City to ask for military protection, but his request was ignored.

On 28 May, Clovis Nazareno filed charges against the attackers. According to Clovis Nazareno, however, only three of the eight friends who witnessed the attack are willing to testify for fear of reprisals. On the same day that the charges were filed one of the eight companions was assaulted in the presence of policemen. Clovis Nazareno believes this may have been a further attempt to harass him.

The 10 May attack followed earlier threats from the military to Clovis Nazareno. In December 1991 military authorities reportedly accused him of involvement with the New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). Amnesty International believes that the attempted murder and harassment of Clovis Nazareno may be connected to his lawful political activities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Bohol province is one of a number of regions in the Philippines where the military is engaged in armed conflict with the New People's Army (NPA). The military's "total approach" to counter-insurgency has involved the killing and harassment of individuals

and members of civilian organizations. Individuals and members of lawful organizations are frequently accused of membership of, or support for, the NPA. Once labelled as communist supporters, such people become particularly vulnerable to human rights violations including arbitrary arrest and detention, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern for the safety of Clovis Nazareno, following his harassment and a shooting attack against him on 10 May 1992 by a group of men, at least one of whom is suspected of being a military intelligence officer;
- asking the authorities to take appropriate measures to guarantee his safety;
- urging the government to conduct an immediate investigation into the attempted killing and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

APPEALS TO

1) Superintendent Lawrence Cadungog
Director, Bohol PNP Command
Camp Dagohoy, Tagbilaran City
Bohol, Philippines

Salutation: Dear Supt. Cadungog

Telegrams: Director, Bohol PNP Command, Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Philippines

2) The Provincial Governor
Bohol Provincial Capital
Tagbilaran City, Bohol
Philippines

Salutation: Dear Governor

Telegrams: The Provincial Governor, Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Philippines

3) Honourable Alfredo Caresosa
Municipal Mayor
Loon, Bohol
Philippines

Salutation: Dear Mayor Caresosa

Telegram: Municipal Mayor, Loon, Bohol

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Mary Concepcion Bautista (Chairman) AND
2) Paulynn Paredes Sicam (Commissioner) OR
3) Hesiquio Mallillin (Commissioner)
Commission on Human Rights
IBP Building
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 22 July 1992.