

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

6 February 2015

PHILIPPINES:

Edmundo CARIAS (aged 22)

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Edmundo Carias, who was taken from his house in Davao City on 8 August 1990 at 12:50am and detained without warrant by members of the Intelligence Security Operations Group (ISSOG).

According to Edmundo's mother, Vicenta Carias, (aged 60), they were both awakened after midnight on 8 August by the barking of dogs and the sound of thudding on the doors of their home. Then three armed men burst into their bedroom and ordered Edmundo to hold his hands up. The men, who allegedly told Vicenta that they were "the authorities", handcuffed Edmundo and dragged him out of the house. When his mother tried to accompany him she was pushed away. Vicenta says other military units were also involved in the arrest but she could not identify them.

Some hours later, Vicenta went to look for her son at the ISSOG office but was told he was not there. On 10 August Vicenta was informed by the ISSOG's commanding officer, that Edmundo was alive but under investigation. Some soldiers at the office reportedly warned a woman who had accompanied Vicenta that she would "also" be considered an NPA member if she continued to accompany Vicenta. There was no formal acknowledgement of the arrest.

On 14 August, Vicenta filed a writ of habeas corpus before the 11th Regional Trial Court (Branch 15). The petition was heard on 17 August before Judge Jesus Quitain. The respondents denied having arrested or detained Edmundo Carias.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to reports, Edmundo's detention was apparently part of a hunt for the killers of a high-ranking officer of the Philippines Constabulary/Integrated National Police, who was believed to have been killed by members of the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines. Edmundo's "disappearance" is the latest in a series of detentions without warrant and "disappearances" in Davao. In some cases the "disappeared" have been found to be in incommunicado police or military detention, and in others they have been found dead, sometimes bearing signs of torture and ill-treatment.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern for the physical safety of Edmundo Carias who was taken from his home on 8 August by members of the Intelligence Special Security Operations Group;

- noting that Edmundo Carias' mother was allegedly informed by the ISSOG commanding officer, that Edmundo was alive and under investigation -- but that when a petition for habeas corpus was heard on 17 August the military respondents, denied having arrested and detained Edmundo Carias;
- urging that the whereabouts of Edmundo Carias be made known immediately and that he be promptly released from custody or charged with a recognizable criminal offence;
- urging that all measures be taken to ensure the safety of Edmundo Carias and to prevent harassment of his mother and her companion.

APPEALS TO:

President Corazon Aquino	Telexes: 40414 MALCOM PN; 45618 RMC PN;
Office of the President	Faxes: +63 2 8323793 (via Ministry of
Malacanang	Foreign Affairs)
Manila	Telegrams: President Aquino, Manila,
The Philippines	Philippines

General Fidel. V. Ramos	Telexes: 22471 DND PH;
Secretary of National Defense	42004 DCSLOG PM;
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo	Faxes: +63 2 8323793 (via
1110 Quezon City	Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
The Philippines	Telegrams: Defense Secretary
	Ramos, Quezon, Philippines

Gen. Lamberto Saavedra	Brig. Gen. Mariano Baccay
AFP Civil Relations Officer	Regional Military Commander
Camp Aguinaldo	Camp Catitipan
1110 Quezon City	Davao City, Mindanao
The Philippines	The Philippines

Telegrams: Brig Gen Saavedra,	Telegrams: Brig Gen Baccay,
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City,	Camp Catitipan, Mindanao,
Philippines	Philippines

COPIES TO:

Mary Concepcion Bautista	Lt. Col. Franco Galida
Commission on Human Rights	Metrodiscom Commander
IBP Bldg Complex	Camp Domingo E. Leonor
Dona Julia Vargas Avenue	8000 Davao City
Pasig, Metro Manila	The Philippines
The 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 19 October 1990.