

PHILIPPINE LABOR

MIB
PCHR

ACT-FINDING MISSION REPORT

Agusan Sur/Norte
Surigao Sur/Norte
Misamis Occidental
April 4-13, 1984

*Philippine Conference
for Human Rights*

FOREWORD

This report documents human rights cases in the provinces of Agusan Sur, Agusan Norte, Surigao Sur, Surigao Norte and Misamis Occidental. This is intended not only to put on record PCHR'S findings in the course of the 10-day visit but also to serve as an open and public document for the purpose of calling attention to the data and facts presented here.

We hope that this document can contribute in its own way to the enlightenment of the general public who might still be unaware, or rather insensitive, to the gruesome realities of human rights being suffered by our fellow Filipinos in the countryside. Inside the pages of this humble document are stories which doesn't come out in the government-controlled papers; or if they do come out, they are mostly inaccurate if not completely whitewashed.

We seek not to be partisan, if ever in the final analysis this document tends to question, if not outrightly indict, the military for having been the sole instigator of human rights violations listed here. We believe that human rights is over and above any political or partisan interest. Our point is this: that this is happening and this should be the main concern of the military. It should act on the basis of this considerations, rectify the problem and offer a solution — not charge, as it repeatedly does, that human rights organizations hereabouts are nitpicking only on the military's alleged human rights abuses and never on the same errors by other groups such as the NPA, the MNLF and other armed dissidents. For it has been very discouraging to note that in our observations, military-instigated human rights violations far outweigh whatever alleged abuses (if they can be called such) dissidents do against military personnel. This, considering that the armed forces are here supposedly to protect the lives and rights of civilians whereas armed dissidents are there and embarked on a totally different quest, one of which is understandably to defeat the military, and therefore cannot be expected to serenade soldiers and government agents.

Lastly, we hope that this document could reach the policy makers in the United States government, the biggest

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

*Task Force Detainees of the Philippines
Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace
Justice and Peace Forum*

*Protestant Lawyers League
Philippine Action Support Group (Australia)
Nationalist Alliance for Justice Freedom and Democracy
National Council of Churches of the Philippines - Human Rights Desk
Episcopal Commission on Tribal Filipinos*

United Church of Christ in the Philippines - Human

Rights Desk

KMU INTERNATIONAL DEPT.

supplier of military assistance and war paraphernalia to the Marcos government. We want to put on record, we do not want the American people, who are paying their taxes to help bring the arms and assistance to the Philippines largely to contribute to the trampling on human rights, to be indirectly involved in the oppression of the Filipinos.

(Sgd.) Fr. Arturo R. Balagat
Executive Secretary,
Philippine Conference for Human Rights

Findings and Recommendations

As a whole, the cases heard and documented by the Fact-Finding Mission constitute concrete evidences of human rights violations in the areas visited. We want to stress, though, that this is not exhaustive. In fact, it should even be untruthful to say that the cases presented here are the more significant ones.

We note that the assistance extended to us by local human rights groups for our data gathering consisted only of inviting available sources, those who were willing to testify and those who were accessible. The mission was not intended to concentrate on a situation in a specific area, we did not have to gather all known cases of human rights violations there.

1. The mission was concerned over the fact that there does not exist any effective government machinery whereby complaints from civilians arising from abusive actions of military men can be heard and acted upon. We have observed that aggrieved parties generally tend to report their cases and seek advice and assistance from the church or church-based human rights groups and not from the local government.
2. The mission was also concerned about the fate of Julieta Mahinay, a church worker connected with the Tribal Filipino program of the Diocese of Surigao City, who was reported missing since March 16 this year. Even as there were witnesses who testified that Mahinay was arrested by elements of the 36th IB, PA in a checkpoint outside Surigao City, the Army Commanding Officer, Lt. Manuel Molina, refused to admit having him in their custody when a petition for the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus was heard last April 4. The mission therefore recommends a thorough investigation of this case.
3. The mission was also concerned over the still-unresolved case of the seven missing youths in Tungao, Butuan City. The search for the missing persons yielded to the discovery of a common grave right inside a recently abandoned detachment of the 36th IB in Tungao. In fact, during the first day of the exhumation which the mission members were able to witness, clothes belonging to one of the seven missing persons were found. The mission was concerned over a subsequent development reported in a major newspaper (Bulletin Today, April 16, page 1) which said that a military general has ordered the closure of the detachment while a supposed investigation is being conducted. We feel it is to the interest of the public to know at every turn the results of these investigations. Since the announcement came out in the papers, we have not yet heard of any finding or conclusion from the military who were investigating the case and we would like to express our fear that this case might be whitewashed.
4. The mission was concerned about the still-unresolved case of the killing of five civilians and the mysterious death of a Capt. Sacarias Salamanca in Tago, Adlay, Surigao del Sur.

We found out that there has been no sufficient investigation undertaken by the military which would identify those responsible for shooting the helpless civilians and have them prosecuted. We have also received a tes-

timony from a woman survivor of the massacre which contradicts the statement of the local military saying that Captain Salamanca was accidentally hit by a stray bullet. This survivor said that after the shooting, and while she was lying prostrate on the ground unable to move for fear of being shot, she heard the men arguing, at a short distance from where she was. Then she heard a shot. She added that later, she saw the dead body of Capt. Salamanca in the place where the argumentation took place.

5. The mission was also concerned about the information it received regarding the continued activity of the so-called Lost Command in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur. We found out that many of its members have been integrated into the ICHDF following the appointment recently of Col. Carlos Lademora as the regional ICHDF Commander. Lademora is the alleged leader of the Lost Command, an irregular paramilitary unit notorious for the many cases of the killings and abuses. The mission was aware that the Lost Command was supposed to have been disbanded after the settlement of the controversy in the NDC-Guthrie palm oil plantation where the group was once hired by the company (NGPI) to act as security guards. We observed, however, that although NGPI's security agency had been replaced (by the Luzon Integrated Security, Inc.), the activities of the Lost Command still continue. For one thing, it is common knowledge that the group still monopolizes the gold panning business — a major source of income of poor residents — from Tambis to San Francisco. The mission therefore calls the attention of responsible military authorities to end the existence of this group by disarming its members. We also recommend the withdrawal of the appointment given to Col. Lademora as ICHDF Commander in view of his previous records.
6. The mission was also concerned about the continued activities of religious fanatical groups such as the "Tadtad" in Misamis Occidental and the "White Angels" of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association in Dinagat Island, Surigao del Norte. We have received information that they have been armed by the military ostensibly for counter-insurgency purposes. In Jimenez town, 14 out of 17 members of the ICHDF reportedly are members of the Tadtad. We therefore recommend a complete investigation on this practice on the basis of numerous reports of abuses reportedly committed by this group.
7. The mission was also concerned about the apparent anomaly over the land titles supposedly given to PAGCOR in Prosperidad, Agusan Sur. We have discovered that a significant portion of the corporation's granted concession areas are titled to small land owners and these are being taken away from them by the corporation. (WE thought these land titles given to PAGCOR, owned reportedly by business magnate Eduardo Cojuangco, has connection with the ANCA case in Isabela whereby the ANCA Corporation was promised land concessions in Mindanao in exchange for the settlement of the ANCA land appropriation case two years ago.)

CASE SUMMARIES

I. Seven youths missing in Tungao, Butuan City

The Fact Finding Mission (FFM) witnessed the first day of exhumation of what were believed to be the bodies of some of the seven youths reported missing since March 17 this year. The grave, at least 4 sq meters in size, was located inside a recently-abandoned detachment of the 36th IB, PA in Bo. Tungao, Butuan City. Skeletal remains, scalps, a short pants and a blue shirt were found. The clothes were positively identified by one couple as belonging to one Popeng Jamar, their son, who was one of the seven missing youths. The absence of skulls and other parts of the body indicated that the victims might have been butchered and parts of their bodies buried separately. In fact, other skeletal remains were retrieved from a septic tank also in the same place.

The missing youths were identified as: Popeng Jamar, 18; Ricardo Kipkipan, 26; Eddie Almonte, 18; Pedro Gallanero, 28; Simeon Jagape, Jr., 19; Francisco Balucan, 21 and Cenon Lage, 22.

A petition for the writ of habeas corpus filed in behalf of the missing youths have been heard several times but the military (respondents were Lt. Madison Honorides and Lt. Louie Vinuya of the 36th IB) have always denied having the persons in their custody.

As of this writing, the FFM is aware that Gen. Josephus Ramos, Army Chief, had ordered the military to seal off the area while a supposed investigation is being continued. There are no reports yet as to whether the bodies have been completely retrieved and properly identified. Neither have there been any statement issued by the military as to why were human bodies buried inside that detachment.

II. Case of Julieta Mahinay, 49, missing churchworker

The last time Julieta Mahinay was seen was on March 16 this year at an Army checkpoint manned by elements of the 36th IB, Army in Bacuag, Surigao City. Mahinay, a church worker connected with the Diocese of Surigao was reportedly on his way home to Surigao City from a retreat at the Claver National High School in Claver, Surigao Norte when the passenger jeep he was riding was stopped at the detachment. Eyewitnesses recounted that Mahinay was questioned by the soldiers why he was carrying a map on tribal Filipino settlements in Mindanao. The jeep and all its passengers were allowed to proceed excluding Mahinay, who remained at the checkpoint and was not seen again.

Inquiries done by the relatives and co-workers of Mahinay at all military detachments in the area failed to trace the latter's whereabouts. Lt. Manuel Molina, commanding officer of the 39th IB, PA in Bacuag denied having Mahinay arrested by his men. He reiterated his position during a hearing on a petition for the writ of habeas corpus last April 4.

Fears that Julieta Mahinay had been salvaged prompted the relatives to conduct a search. During the FFM's visit to Bacuag on April 10, we joined the search in the hills and seashores of the town but the body was not found.

III. Killings in Bo. Adlay, Tago, Surigao del Sur

On November 20, 1983, 5 civilians were killed in Adlay when soldiers reportedly led by Capt. Sacarias Salamanca, PC, fired upon a group of residents standing vigil over the body of a woman earlier killed by unidentified armed men.

(Note: The account of the following incident was told to the FFM by an eyewitness, a woman survivor of the shooting incident)

In the afternoon of November 20, 1983, Leonarda Rodriguez, a resident of Adlay, was shot and killed by unidentified armed men. Results of the inquiries done by the mission as to the motive of the killing suggested that, on the basis of the facts and events prior to her death, Leonarda could have been liquidated by rebels. She had a son who used to be a member of the ICHDF and another who was reputed to be a military informer. Both have died in the hands of unidentified persons, largely suspected to be NPAs. Earlier, Leonarda's house was burned, prompting her to secure temporary residence in a military detachment.

Informants of the mission testified that at about 6:30 p.m. that day, they heard three shots coming from the direction of where Leonarda was at that moment. When they went out to investigate, they found the woman dead. They immediately reported the incident to the local police but they were ordered instead to pass the matter to the PC detachment in Bahao. Arriving in Bahao at about 11 p.m., the commanding officer informed them they will conduct an investigation in the morning, fearing they might be ambushed by rebels if they will leave at that time.

Back in Adlay, the residents decided to move the body of Leonarda into a waiting shed along the road and set up a vigil till morning. There were ten of them in the waiting shed. At about an hour after midnight, they saw groups of armed men approaching them, whom they later found out to be military men which included, or either led by, Capt. Salamanca. All of a sudden, an order was shouted by someone from the armed men: "Shoot house to house!"

The survivor testified that the shooting lasted for about 10 minutes, after which the attackers grouped in a nearby school building. Of the 10 people in the shed, five immediately died: Eutropio Calvario, Marteliano Gallego, Felicola Cahatian, Rito Ringkal and a certain Dino. Three were able to crawl away to safety while a woman and a child were left on the ground, pretending to be dead and unable to move because of shock.

The woman survivor interviewed by the FFM said that after the shooting, and when the attackers were already near the school building, she heard what she thought was a heated argument among the men, then a single shot. Later she and other residents discovered that Capt. Salamanca was dead.

In the succeeding events, the men ordered the occupants of the surrounding houses to go out. Five men folk were manhandled and a carabao-driven sled was taken to carry the body of Salamanca.

After the incident, some 36 families in Adlay evacuated to the poblacion. Residents say that their barrio has now been declared "free-fire zone", meaning, anyone can be shot on sight by soldiers.

(Note: The FFM was unable to hear the military's version of the incident, although were informed by local residents that the military had

explained it by saying that Salamanca was hit by a stray bullet during the crossfire. We thought we could have confronted Col. Jesus Hermosa, Deputy Regional Commander for Operations, who was Salamanca's immediate superior, with the testimony of our witnesses but logistical limitations prevented us from doing so.)

IV. Drunk soldiers kills three in San Agustin, Surigao Sur

On April 3, 1984, Rizalino Capila, a member of the 28th IB, PA shot and killed three civilians without any provocation. Victims were: Nilo Corvera, Melchor Lamina, and Rinfredo Lamila, all residents of Baybay, San Agustin.

Inquiries conducted by the mission a day after the incident revealed that Rizalino Capila, who was drunk at that time, shot without warning Nilo Corvera who was sitting near the door of the Lamila residence. Immediately after gunning down Corvera, the soldier fired at the house, killing Melchor and Rinfredo and wounding two others.

The FFM was told by local groups that Capila was immediately placed into a military stockade the next day. No complaint has yet been filed by the relatives of the victims, nor have they been indemnified by the military.

V. Military crackdown against the religious sector

In July last year, Col. Hermosa ordered the arrest and detention of Fr. Francisco Olviz, parish priest of Hinatuan, Surigao Sur, and Fr. Francisco Navarro. Three other religious (Fr. Donald Aloy, Sr. Fenicanda Lagore, MSM and Sr. Elinda Balington, MSM) were issued arrest warrants but they were alerted by the residents and were therefore able to move out before they can be arrested.

Fr. Olviz and Fr. Navarro were released on Sept. 12 last year, after undergoing 52 days in detention. They had been charged of inciting to rebellion. Evidences put up against them included church publications and copies of human rights documentations prepared by the Diocesan Center in Tandag. (The documentation included the case of a certain Villaba who reportedly died of severe military torture. Col. Hermosa was reportedly implicated of the case.)

In the testimony given by Fr. Olviz to the FFM, he recounted the cases of two of his former churchworkers who had been tortured and forced, although unsuccessfully, to sign affidavits implicating the priest for illegal activities.

"They have issued 20 warrants of arrest for farmers, mostly my parish workers", said Fr. Olviz. The priest had just arrived at his parish in Hinatuan after spending a long vacation in the Visayas immediately after his release. They will continue on harassing us," said Fr. Olviz, "but I will have to stay here and be with my flock."

VI. Paramilitary and armed religious groups

The FFM was able to confirm, at the least, the reported integration of the infamous "Tadtad" group, so called for their known practice of butchering the bodies of their victims. Tadtad is a religious fanatical group based in Misamis Occidental. They are usually identified by their red amulets

and coconut oil they carry with them supposedly to protect them from physical harm.

The mission gathered information about the Tadtad through interviews conducted in Jimenez town. Mayor Apao of Jimenez categorically admitted that 14 of the 17 CHDF members in his town belong to the Tadtad. Previous documentations made by local human rights groups have established that the Tadtad, armed and sanctioned by the military, have been responsible for a lot of indiscriminate killings of suspected rebel sympathizers in the area.

In Agusan del Sur, the mission gathered that Col. Carlos Lademora, acknowledged leader of the Lost Command, an irregular paramilitary unit composed of Army convicts and goons mobilized reportedly for counterinsurgency operations, had been designated as the regional commander of the Civilian Home Defense Forces.

We have received reports that former members of the Lost Command were consequently drawn into ICHDF units. Local sources claim that the LC still maintain its control of lucrative businesses in many parts of the province, specially the gold panning in the areas of Tambis down to San Francisco town.

In Surigao Norte, another armed religious sect, the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA) is reportedly operating in Dinagat Islands, this province. Local residents call the armed elements of the PBMS "White Angels". They are reportedly led by Mayor Ramon Ecleo of Dinagat who is also the leader of the PBMA.

VII. Killings of Roque Casinas in Pangí, Tandag

The incident occurred in the morning of March 17 this year. A member of the ICHDF, Julianito Ellico, with two others, came to the house of Casinas in Bo. Pangí, Tandag. Ellico said that a Capt. Fuentes (reportedly the right-hand man of Col. Hermosa, Army Chief of Operations) wanted to question him regarding the killing in January of his brother, Roberto Ellico, also an ICHDF member, reportedly by the NPAs.

Casinas obliged to go. But as he was putting his clothes on, Ellico reportedly shot him. Wounded, Casinas tried to escape by jumping out of the window but Ellico fired his armalite, killing him instantly.

There were several witnesses to the incident whom the FFM interviewed and they all believed that Ellico killed Casinas in revenge for his (Ellico's) brother's death. Ellico allegedly threatened to harm anybody who would testify against him. No complaint have been filed by the relatives of Roque Casinas.

Related to this case was the arrest of one Gaudencio Muman, 17, on March 18, the day following the killing of Roque Casinas. The arrest was done, without warrant, by Ellico. Muman was reportedly boxed several times in the stomach at Camp Vicente Pimentel in Tandag where he is presently detained. No charge has been filed against him by the military.

VIII. Killing of three civilians in Bagong Lunsod, Tandag

A drunken member of the Airborne in Tandag shot and killed three persons near a military checkpoint. The victims, all residents of Tandag, were: Daniel Abendan, 24; Mario Abendan, 21 and Juliato Onor, 28.

Sources interviewed by the FFM said that the Airborne suspect, Danilo Velasco, waved at the three men, who were then riding a motorcycle, to stop. But the motorbike's faulty brakes halted them only at distance several meters past the soldier. Angered, Velasco immediately fired his gun, killing Daniel and Juliato on the spot. Mario, who was not hit tried to run but he too was gunned down.

Residents said that Velasco was ordered detained in a military stockade. They added though that the military has yet to ask for eyewitnesses to testify against the soldier.

IX. The PAGCOR project in Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur

The FFM also interviewed small landowners residing in the barrios of Prosperidad. We were informed that a new agri-business venture is being implemented in the area — the Philippine Agricultural Corporation or PAGCOR, reportedly owned by businessman Eduardo Cojuangco.

PAGCOR came to the province in December 1983 to set up nursery farms and plantation projects. Reportedly, the company was granted at least 7 land titles covering some 5,210 has. in Prosperidad. We found out however, that considerably large portions of these areas are already titled to small landowners, although some had already sold their lands to PAGCOR at prices ranging from P2,000 to P4,000 per hectare. Most others have no titles to their lands but have been living there for decades and are now facing possible eviction.

In the barrios of San Martin (pop. 1,500), 50% of the farmer-tillers have no titles to rightfully claim their lands. Yet after some recent killings, people had evacuated to other areas.

X. Strafing at Brgy. Quezon, Surigao City

The FFM heard the testimony of a woman resident of Sitio Pangaboon, Barangay Quezon, Surigao City, regarding the strafing of their house by unidentified soldiers on February 17. One Jose Garcia, a resident of the place, died while one named Alfonso Gloria was wounded. One soldier was reportedly hit by a stray bullet and died.

After the soldiers had left, neighbors of the Gloria household rushed the wounded to the Surigao Provincial Hospital. While Alfonso was under confinement, however, a certain Capt. Casin of the Philippine Constabulary came to interrogate him, charging that he was a member of the NPA. The captain reportedly hit Alfonso in the head and pulled him down from his bed.

Later, the relatives of Alfonso was surprised to discover that the records of the patient in the hospital where he was confined for six days were missing.

XI. Arrest and Torture of Mansueto Lingatong, 47, resident of Bo. Pungtod, Bacuag, Surigao Norte

Lingatong was picked up by elements of the 36th IB, PA while he was attending a graduation ceremony at the Pungtod Elementary School on

March 28 this year. The soldiers were led by a Sgt. Ben Parillos of the 36th IB.

Lingatong testified that he was interrogated and tortured by Lt. Manuel Molina, Commanding Officer of the local army detachment. His hands and feet were tied to a chair and afterwards he was made fun of by the soldiers. At one point he was ordered to masturbate but he refused saying he would rather they kill him. Lingatong was released only after several hours of interrogation.

Case Documentations Misamis Occidental

CASE I

Dionisio Vina, 31 yrs old, married 3 children, Motorcycle Driver killed July 21, 1983; 7:00 pm by ICHDF, (allegedly Duhay Lungsod) at Nailon, Tudela.

Background

Dionisio was an active paralegal assisting in human rights cases. Because of this, the local military taunted him often as being a subversive, saying he carried NPAs on his motorcycle. Although he changed his livelihood from motorcycle driver to fish vender, he was still harassed.

Event

On July 21st, while Dionisio was returning home to Nailon, Tudela from the marker around 7:00 pm, a certain Nonoy Duhay Lungsod a member of the ICHDF, forcefully grabbed his arm. Dionisio wrenched himself away and hurried home. There later, he was playing with his game fowl when a man move behind the cock's cage. A neighbor then saw the man shoot Dionisio with a Garand rifle. A bullet entered his left side, his intestines spilled out and he died. A second shot was fired as three men ran away from the house.

Neighbors came to assist and the local police came with six soldiers. The military and police did not however inspect the body, in fact they kicked it.

The relatives were told that a case has been filed with the NBI in Dipolog, but there was no proof. NBI officials and the governor went to the site of the killing, but the relatives have not heard of any action on the case in nine months.

CASE II

Tedny Lagat, 25 yrs old, single, Motorcycle driver killed February 26, 1984: 11:30 pm by unidentified gunman believed to be military at Duangikan, Tudela.

Background

Several days before the incident, on two separate occasions, Joe Daabay, (INP) and Nonoy Duhay Lungsod (ICHDF) had asked Tedny for a ride at night. Tedny refused, saying it was too late, but he let Daabay take his motorcycle and return it later.

The Association of Motorcycle Drivers was summoned by the police and accused of discrimination in choosing passengers and of transporting rebels.

Event

On Sunday evening, February 26, 1984: Tedny and his three companions attended a boxing match in town. Towards the end of the match,

Tedny was shot in the back of the head. A commotion ensued, and policeman Joe Daabay told the people who had nothing to do with the body to stay away.

Tedny's companions saw that he was still alive so they wanted to get him to the hospital. But the policemen didn't help. In fact, they even told the companions to wait until they could make an inquiry. Tedny died after thirty minutes while a companion was looking for a car to take him to the hospital. There were several police and military on the scene, but none of them made any attempt to apprehend the killer.

CASE III

Orlando Viernes, 38 years old, married, 4 children, farmer, Ronaldo Viernes, 8 year old son and Marietta Viernes, 6 year old daughter were all killed and Purificacion Viernes, the wife and mother and an active lay church worker was wounded on March 31, 1984, about 9:00 pm by more than 10 men believed to be ICHDF in Carmen, Jimenez.

Background

Purificacion was an active church leader and health worker. In her work she could not avoid meeting many types of people and having meeting in her home. Her family was thus suspected of being NPA sympathizers. She had been stopped for questioning and harassed by the military before.

Event

At 9:00 pm on March 31, 1984; the Viernes family was asleep when someone shouted from outside. Orlando ran to the kitchen to check. A burst of gunfire ensued. The men outside shouted for the family to come out, but Orlando went back to the room. He went to the window, and a second burst of gunfire ensued. Orlando was hit in the neck and died. Ronaldo and Marietta were both hit in the head and fell, their blood and brains splattered all over the room. Purificacion took the bloodied blanket from the two dead children to cover herself and Cecilia, her 14 year old daughter who had not been hit. As someone climbed to the window, she and her daughter pretended to be dead. A masked figure blew out the small kerosene light in the room and shouted that whoever was alive should say so. The man burned the feet of Purificacion to see if she was dead, but she did not move. The man fired one shot, hitting her in the leg; then left, thinking everyone was dead.

The injured Purificacion instructed unhurt daughter, Cecilia, to get help. She went across the creek to a neighbor. It was only when she returned at dawn with relatives and neighbors that she discovered that her sister and father had been killed. Relatives and neighbors helped bring Purificacion to the hospital.

CASE IV

Alejandro Tactacon, 67 yrs. old, married, Barangay Captain Salvador Tactacon, 42 years old, married, farmer killed August 13, 1983, 3:00 pm by unidentified men believed to be military at Casilac, San Agustin, Tudela.

Background

On September 30, 1982, armed men and women arrived at the residence of the Tactacons and asked for a place to sleep. Early the next morning members of the military also showed up. The ones who had stayed the night at the Tactacon residence were NPAs. An encounter ensued between the military and the NPA. The Tactacon's were able to escape. Alejandro was branded by the military as an NPA commander, and his home as an NPA headquarters.

Events

In August 1983, Alejandro received a letter of invitation to a veteran's meeting to be attended by Major Naranjo. August 13, Alejandro left for Clarin to attend the funeral of his cousin. There he met his son, Salvador and Salvador's wife Virginia. The three left together for home at about 3 pm. on Alejandro's motorbike. Nearing the barrio of Dolores, they were ambushed by masked men who shot at them. Alejandro and Salvador were killed. Virginia was unhurt but pretended to be dead. The masked men then took the motorbike of Alejandro and left.

Virginia was able to convince a cargo truck to bring the bodies home. At 6 pm, a truck load of military men came to the house, examined the bodies, and then left.

CASE V

Emilio Quinimon, 31 yrs. old, married, 1 child, farmer, killed October 25, 1983: 10:00 pm by unidentified men believed to be military, Casilac, San Agustin, Tudela.

Background

Sagrado Quinimon, the brother of Emilio, has been suspected of being an NPA supporter. He was at the house of Emilio when he was shot.

Event

October 25, 1983 was the birthday of Mrs. Quinimon, and there was a small gathering at the house. At about 10:00, most of the guests had left, and Emilio and Sagrado were talking in the yard when a dog started barking. Sagrado claimed that he saw a man. Apprehensive, Mrs. Quinimon told them to come up, to which her husband answered that they were safe since it was their own house. The dogs began barking again and gunshots were heard. As

the shooting started, all the lights were put off in the house.

When the shooting stopped, Sagrado came up in the house. Mrs. Quinimon asked about her husband but Sagrado told her to be quiet, as he was afraid the killers might still be out there. About 2 a.m., Emilio's parents-in-law, who had heard the shooting, called from a distance. Then the people inside went out and found Emilio dead. He had been shot between the eyes.

At around 6:00 am, when the body had been brought inside the house, some ten uniformed military men arrived. They said they thought it was Sagrado when they saw the body. When they saw Sagrado, they asked him why he ran inside the house and not away from it.

CASE VI

Julian Bonane, 47 yrs old, married, 3 children, Farmer Marcelina Bonane, 38 yrs old, married, 3 children, Housewife Henrieta Bonane, 20 yrs old, single (daughter) high school student Daniel Bonane, 17 yrs old, single (son) high school student (Charlito Bonane, 15 yrs old, single (son) high school student killed March 17, 1984 around 6:00 a.m. by 5 armed men, ICHDF and PC, at Lopez, Jaena.

The family members were active church members and leaders. Julian was the secretary of the Kapulungan sa Iglesia and an active participant in barangay assemblies.

Event

At about 6:00 am on March 17, 1984; 5 armed men entered the house of the Bonane family, while they were preparing to go to work. Suspecting that something was wrong, barrio folks informed the PC and then split into four groups to search for the family. At about 10:00, the bodies were discovered near a creek about 2 kilometers from their house. The dead bodies had many stab wounds; Julian 10, Marcelina, 6, Henrieta, 21, Daniel 6 and Charlito 6. The bodies were tied with nylon rope and the mouths were gagged. Four of the victims were lying prostrate while Julian was lying flat on his stomach.

The military men identified as the killers were Joel Untalan, Samuel Pohaness, Paterno Burog, and Alberto Maghinaro of the ICHDF; and PC member Fernandez.

CASE VII

Cosme Engoc, 46 yrs old, married, 3 children, Barangay Captain Leonides Engoc, 45 yrs old, married, 3 children, Housewife Emerita Amores, 32 yrs old, married, 6 children, Housewife Raquel Aracadio, 18 yrs old, single, Cooperative salesgirl Perla (Fely) Duhaylungsod, 17 yrs old, Helper also killed. Rogelio Magusura killed March 2, 1984; around 11:30 pm by armed men believed to be ICHDF, Burgos, Sulipat, Calamaba.

Background

Cosme Engoc managed the barangay cooperative, which has been the object of suspicion by the military, as it is the only flourishing cooperative in the area. According to the military, this is due to the fact that it supports the needs of the NPA. At the time of the massacre, a loan of P100,000 was about to be released by Samahang Nayon which would tremendously increase its capital.

Also, as barangay captain, Cosme had occasion to facilitate the release of relatives and constituents from military custody, offering to take them into his own custody. In November 1983, he was negotiating the release of his cousin when the investigating officer in the PC headquarters remembered that he had been responsible for the early release of his brother, Sebastian Engoc, sometime in 1981. The investigating officer threatened Engoc that "You captain, will soon be salvaged."

Event

At around 11:30 pm on March 2, 1984, the Engoc family was awakened by the sound of breaking glass and their front door being forced open. A few minutes later, the front door was set on fire, so Cosme got a pail of water from the kitchen and poured it on the fire.

Then armed men entered the house by forcing open the back door with a rice pestle. One of them wore a fatigue uniform with a red band around his head and a red band around the barrel of his armalite. The others wore fatigue shirts and denim pants. Two had armalites with red bands around the barrels, and one had a garand. Three of the men accosted Cosme, accused him of accommodating rebels, and then manhandled him. At this time, the other members of the household tried to escape. Emerita took one of the children and jumped through the window jalousie of the bedroom facing the kitchen and landed on the floor. One of the armed men stabbed her in the left breast, killing her. Edgar Tatad (one of the three survivors) jumped from a bedroom window and ran. An armed man fired at him, but he escaped unhurt.

Meanwhile, the armed men outside the house set the cooperative store on fire. Then Rogelio Magusara, heeding Cosme's cry for help, and seeing the store on fire, went to Cosme's house with his son. But before he could reach it, he was stabbed to death some five meters from the house.

The following day, Cosme, Leonides, Emerita, Raquel, Rogelio, were all found dead, with several stab wounds on their bodies. Fely Duhaylungsod was still alive, but died in the hospital three days later, March 5, at 9:00 p.m.

CASE VIII

Adelino Pausal, 39 yrs old, married, 5 children, Farmer killed Lolita Pausal, housewife, wounded February 3, 1984 around midnight by military men including a barangay captain, Imo Langgam, of San Isidro; at San Isidro, Calamba.

Background

Prior to the incident, the couple had been harassed by the military. On September 28, 1983, 30 armed men raided their house for suspicion that they were keeping subversive documents in their house. None were found. Last December, 1983, about ten military operatives came to their house on the suspicion that they were hiding NPA members. On January 27, the same armed men went to the house and searched for ballot boxes, which the military men claimed were confiscated by the NPA during the last plebiscite. Again, no ballot box was found in the house.

Event

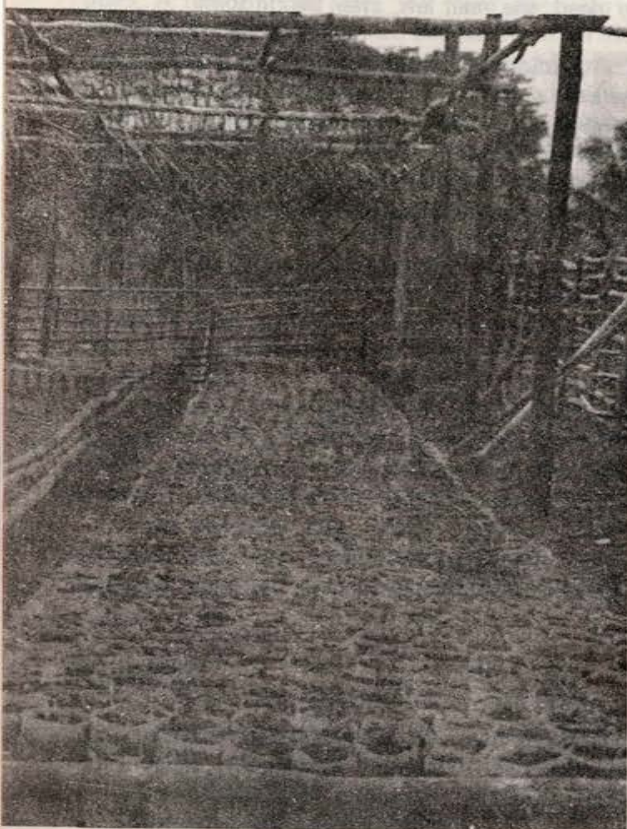
Around midnight of February 3, 1984; government troops, including San Isidro barangay captain, Imo Langgam, surrounded the Pausal house and ordered occupants to come out. Some of the men then started gathering coconut leaves around the house. The military men set fire to the hay, so the family had to come out. While the couple was pleading for the lives of their children, Adelino was stabbed in the abdomen and left chest. He died on the spot. Likewise, Lolita was stabbed in the arm, lateral side and back. Thinking that the couple was already dead, the men left, after taking some chickens.

After the men left, Lolita told one of her children to seek help from their neighbor, who declined because of fear of reprisal. The following day, Lolita was brought to the Provincial Hospital in Oroquieta City. Adelino, on the other hand was buried on February 5.

No investigation has been made regarding the murder of Adelino. At present, Lolita and her five children have vacated the house and are in hiding for fear of further intimidation.



Farmers affected by PAGCOR incursion.



*A PAGCOR nursery in
Agusan Sur*



GOLD PANNING : *Under Lost Command Control*



NGPI in Rosario, Agusan del Sur

Mother of missing Julieta Mahinay



Mansueto Lingatong; Hog-tied and tortured by members of the 36th IB,PA



(Below) Parents of the seven missing persons from Tungao, Butuan City being interviewed by the FFM



FFM climbing a hill in Bacuag, Surigao Norte: in search of the missing churchworker





*A resident of San Agustin,
Tandag during an inter-
view.*

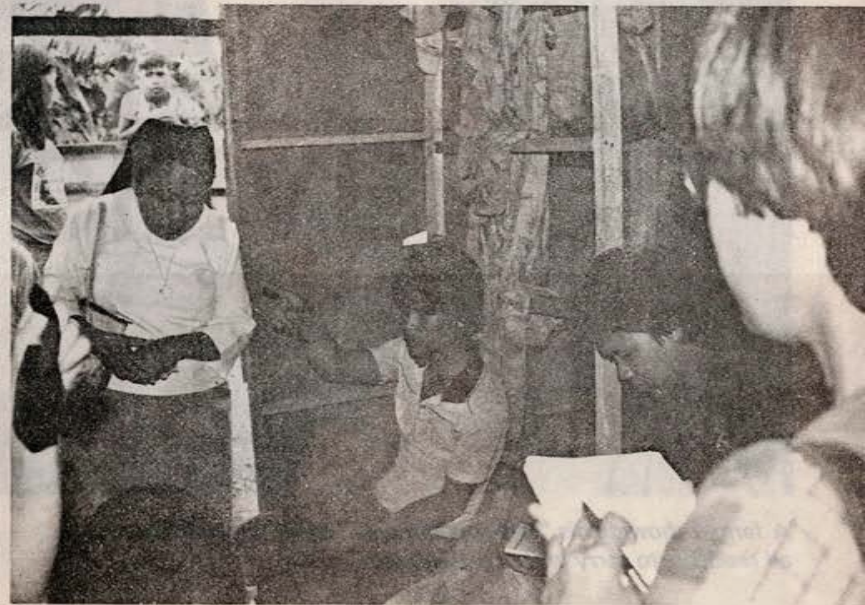


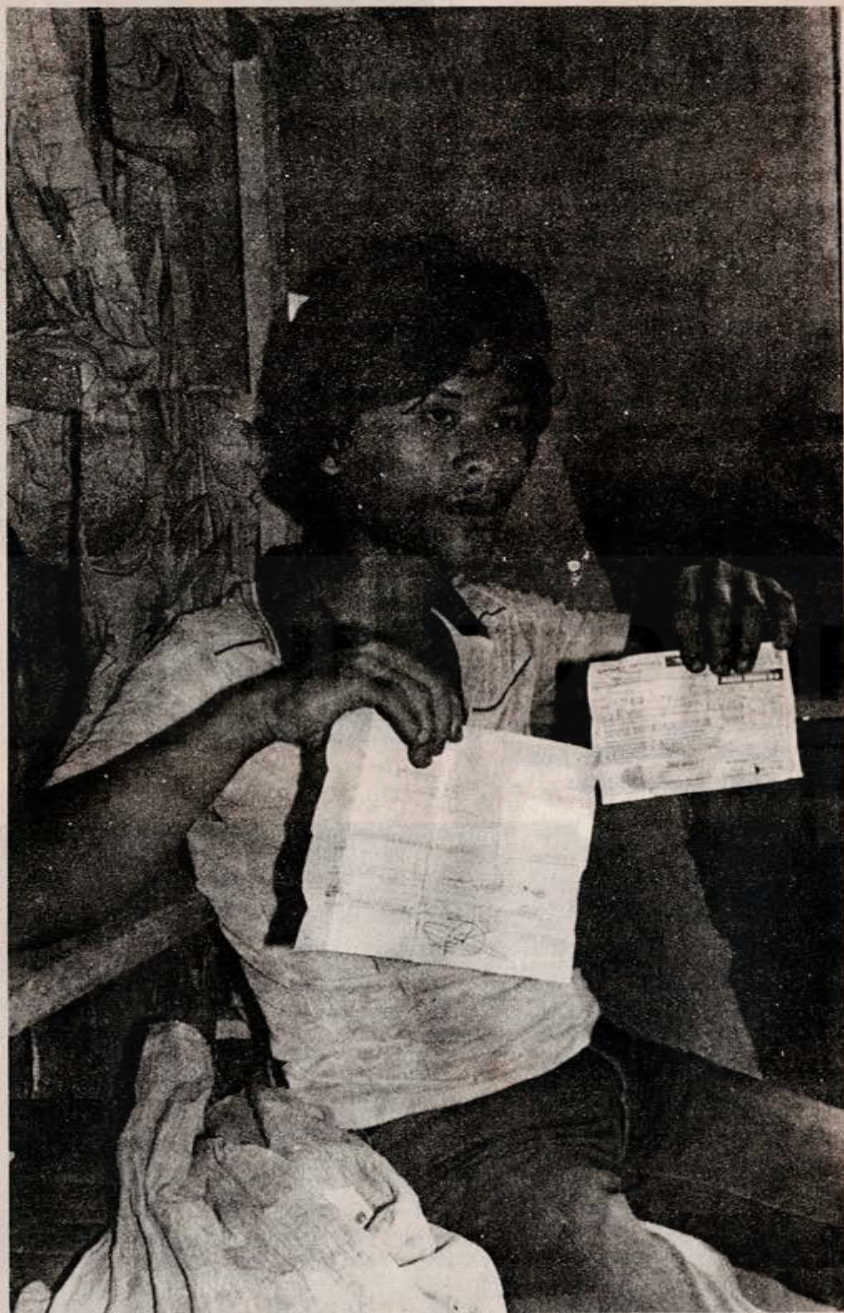
*Below: Place where the
killing of 3 civilians by
airborne took place.*

*Fr. Francisco Olviz of
Hinatuan, Surigao Sur; de-
tained for 52 days*



*Below: an evacuee from
Nasipit Agusan Norte*





A farmer showing his "safe conduct pass" which the military require all residents to carry with them always.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to acknowledge the precious assistance extended to us by HUGPONG, the regional alliance of human rights organizations in Surigao and Agusan, in the preparations and the conduct of the fact-finding. Special thanks to Atty. Mamerto Alciso and Atty. Fred Asis for making us feel safe in the areas we visited. Same goes too to the nuns of the Missionary Sisters of Mary (MSM) in Butuan City for providing us a home away from home and attending to our needs. Also to the inexhaustible members of the local human rights organizations (whom we suppose would not like to be identified here for obvious reasons) for keeping us company throughout the visit.

And most important, we offer our heartfelt gratitude to every single individual whom we interviewed in the course of our data gathering. At their own great risk, they obliged to go out of their way to meet us in relatively safer places to tell their stories and their sufferings. Forever, we will be indebted to them and may this humble report contribute to the alleviation of their sad plight.

*Members of the Fact-Finding Team
May 4, 1984*