

TFD - NEGROS

**RDIP - BACOLOD UNIT
TEL. NO. 2 19 21**

**RESIDENTS GRIEVE AS MILITARY OPERATIONS INTENSIFY
IN CENTRAL NEGROS**

Residents from Barangays Yubo and Sag-ang have expressed grief over what they called a "contemptuous" and "unreasonable" abuse of power as soldiers from 11th & 6th Infantry Battallions set up intensified military operations in their areas.

More than 2,000 residents were herded at the Yubo Elementary School in La Carlota City and Sag-ang Elementary School in La Castellana since April 14, 1987. Military soldiers tightly cordoned the two schools regulating the activities of the people.

The hamleting stemmed from an ambush against the military troops on April 14, 1987. Soldiers on board a weapon carrier truck providing security to 11th IB Commanding Officer, Col. Julius Javier were ambushed by NPA guerillas which killed four military troopers and wounded seven others at Hda. Canlaon III in La Castellana. Javier was scheduled to attend a "pulong-pulong" at La Carlota City.

At around 7:30 A.M. of the same day more than 100 members of the Small Farmers Association of Negros (SFAN) gathered at Bgy. Yubo La Carlota City and waited for the truck which would take them to a dialogue with the military officials concerning the arrest of several SFAN organizers. However heavy exchange of fires were heard minutes later which prompted the people gathered to scuttle for safety back to their houses. In the afternoon of the same day, fully armed military soldiers arrived at Bgy. Yubo and ordered the residents to evacuate in Yubo Elementary School. The soldiers reasoned they will conduct operations to flush out NPA lairs in the area. At around 5:00 P.M., mortars were fired at the upper reaches of the city where the NPA's who allegedly ambushed the soldiers took shelter.

On April 15, 1987, military soldiers arrived at Sitio Labinsawan, Bgy. Yubo where they conducted a "house-to-house" search operations and ordered the residents to evacuate in Yubo Elementary School because intensified battle against the rebels is on the way. On the same day five persons from Sitio Batakan, Bgy. Yubo namely: Joseph Mondia, 21; Samuel Fuentes, 27; Roberto Bacurna, 22; Danilo Bacurna, 28; and Ruperto Mondia, 55 were harrassed and manhandled.

On April 16, 1987 at around 9:00 A.M., SFAN District Organizer, Delia Ibanez and Melanie Salayan were nabbed by the 11th IB soldiers while passing the Sag-ang Detachment on their way home to Sitio Kabungbungang, Bgy. Sag-ang La Catellana. On the same day, military men continue to order the residents of Sitio Yubo to evacuate. Some military men were overheard saying they will shoot anybody seen roaming around the place.

On April 18, 1987, Ibanez and Salayan were released from the Sag-ang Detachment after series of investigation. The following day April 19, 1987, Salapa reported their arrest to the SFAN office in Bacolod City. At around 4:00 P.M., two planes were seen dropping bombs in the nearby mountains.

On April 20, 1987, the same planes continue to bomb the mountains while two helicopters were simultaneously seen hovering around strafing the land areas with machine gun bullets. Families from Sitio Batakon, Bgy. Yubo continue to evacuate in Yubo Elementary School.

On April 22, 1987, military men herded members of SFAN in Sitio Kabungbungan, Bgy. Sag-ang, La Castellana for investigation regarding their alleged relations with the NPA. Delia Ibanez was summoned by Joel Galimba, 11th IB Officer including other people mostly SFAN members. They were billeted at the Sag-ang Elementary School in Hda. Pacita, Bgy. Sag-ang, La Castellana and were implicated as the group responsible for the April 14 ambush against the military soldiers.

Concerned groups and individuals including La Carlota City Mayor Edgardo Canlas have facilitated the entry of food aid and medicines in the two hamlet areas. However, the food aid could not suffice the consumption needs of the victims. Children are reportedly getting sick of fever because of poor living condition. Victims who were able to slip out of the heavily guarded schools expressed deep concern and anxiety over their relatives' and the other victims' condition. They said the victims are terribly worried of their sad plight, their crops and shelters back home.

On related developments, a cadaver was found at Sitio Mansalangaw, La Castellana in an advance state of decomposition. The identity of the victim and the cause of his death could not be established as of press time. On the other hand, the Aglipayan Bible Service have become stagnant due to military suspicions of the former's connections with the insurgents.

TASK FORCE DETAINEES OF THE PHILIPPINES
RDIP-BACOLOD UNIT
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