

PHIL. MARINES' ABUSES INTENSIFY IN BATAAN

The towns of Orani, Hermosa, Samal, Orion, Morong and Abukay in the province of Bataan were the recent sites of military atrocities. The massive military operations are creating an atmosphere of fear and tension to the people. Waves of arrests have hit all seven towns.

On September 29, 1981, a battalion of the Philippine Marines (PM) was stationed in Samal, Bataan to replace the Philippine Army (PA). Some elements of the US Marines were also deployed. Terror gripped the town when uniformed men started conducting house searches. They also patrol the area every night.

On December 14, 1981, elements of the PM raided a house in Abukay. Two persons were killed and two civilians were arrested. Only the two arrested men were identified. They are Ronilo Dionisio and Exequiel Garcia.

The raid took place after the PM had received an intelligence report saying that subversive elements were hiding in a house in Abukay. Yet, evidences to the claim of the report were absent.

Dionisio and Garcia were detained in a PM detachment center in Kulis, Hermosa where they were heavily tortured. At present, Dionisio is still under detention despite the issuance of his release paper. Also, the military men habitually torture him. Once, he was buried in an upright position with only his head protruding above the ground. Then using his head as a bowling pin, they hit it with stones. He incurred a serious wound in the forehead.

It was also learned that Garcia was subjected to the same torture method ~~method~~. Only, his head was not used as a bowling pin but as a shooting target. Lately, his relatives have been asking his whereabouts because the military has been denying his presence in the detachment center.

On January 4, 1982, three people were arrested by elements of the PM. They are Rodolfo Lasarte, Manoling Cosme and his wife Juling. The couple was released on January 9, 1982. The military threatened them not to give any statement regarding their arrest and detention. Meanwhile, the military said that they will only release Lasarte upon the surrender of his brother Val, an alleged New People's Army (NPA) commander.

Lasarte is still detained at a PM detachment center in Kulis, Hermosa. One time, a drunk soldier slashed off the lower portion of his ear. Until now, he is still suffering from serious physical injuries.

PM soldiers alleged that they procured a list of NPA members and supporters in Samal. They added that they will launch a saturation drive to arrest the people in the list. The people, afraid that their names might be included in the said list, inquired at the office of Mayor Emiliano Forbes. The panic brought about by the intimidation

and harrasment of the PM to the people forced Mayor Forbes to initiate a dialogue between the PM and the people.

On January 13, a dialogue was held at the municipal hall of Samal. Some 100 people attended the said dialogue. Among them were Mayor Forbes, Major Sierrajose, provincial commander of Bataan, two lieutenants, ten barrio captains, councilmen and some townfolks.

Major Sierrajose informed them that 80 per cent of the population of Samal (Samal population as of FY 1976 is 22,000) are categorized as either NPA members or supporters. He said that he is giving the people included in the list two weeks to surrender. For those who will not, he said that he will be forced to order the PM to hunt them. He told the people present in the dialogue that he will hand the list to Mayor Forbes. Mayor Forbes will then ask the people included in the list to surrender.

As of presstime, the said list was not yet disclosed to the townfolks.

UPDATE FACTSHEET
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