



9/17/89

URGENT ACTION

TFDP-Mindanao

UA-017
8/21/89

CASE: DISAPPEARANCE (with reports of Abduction)

VICTIM: PAULINO BAGUIO, 56, married with nine (9) children, farmer, president of the SAMAHANG NAYON (an association of farmers in the locality), resident of barangay Montol, municipality of Bonifacio, province of Misamis Occidental.

He is a consistent public servant since 1962 up to the present. He served as barangay captain of Montol in 1962-65; as a council member of the municipality of Bonifacio in 1965-69; as a secretary of barangay Montol in 1969-89; and as a duly elected council member of Montol during the March 1989 elections.

DATE OF THE ABDUCTION: 15 JULY 1989

PLACE OF ABDUCTION : Barangay Montol, Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental

PERPETRATORS : Elements of the combined forces of the 44th and 55th Infantry Battalions of the Philippine Army (IB PA) joined by the members of the local Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) of Tangub City.

Government forces, who believed that the rebels who attacked a military detachment in barangay Kimat, Tangub City had retreated into the hinterlands of Bonifacio town, conducted a massive counter-insurgency operation in the area.

In an interview, a witness, who requested anonymity said that at three o'clock in the afternoon of 14 July 1989, the composite team of the 44th, 55th IB PA and CAFGU arrived in barangay Montol (one of the remote barangays of Bonifacio). The team fired indiscriminately hitting some of the houses.

The house of Paulino Baguio was one of those hit. In fact, part of the kitchen was destroyed while his horse nearby was purposely shot at. Paulino and his son-in-law, who were inside the house, scampered for safety and ran towards the slope of thick bushes. The two remained under cover until evening when the firings had ceased. Only Paulino had decided to go back to his house late in the night.

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TFDP-Mindanao, 19 Acacia Street, Matina, Davao City P.O. Box 195 Tel. No. 7-11-79

Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) is a human rights organization established by the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines. TFDP believes in the inviolable dignity of the human person and his/her basic inalienable rights to life; to freedom and to the means necessary and suitable for the proper development of life. TFDP, therefore, strives to live up to the imperative of "action on behalf of justice . . . appear as a constitutive dimensions of the preaching of the Gospel of the Church mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from the very oppressive situation" (1971 Synod of Bishops Statement).

In the morning of 15 July 1989, according to the same witness, Paulino was on his way to attend a community prayer in the barangay chapel when elements of the composite team on operation accosted him. The soldiers forced Paulino to guide them to the nearby sitio of Lantawan (part of Brgy. Buenavista).

Paulino was obliged to go but first asked the soldiers to borrow a pair of rubber shoes from his neighbor. When permitted, he was able to talk and inform of his predicament to the said neighbor.

The team of soldiers and CAGFUs (with Paulino tugged along) thus far, left when residents of Barangay Montol heard gunbursts. Shortly after, a big blaze of fire was seen from where the gunbursts had been heard.

The following day, Paulino Baguio did not show up. Members of the family and relatives who were informed of the last whereabouts of Paulino went to the spot where the burning took place and found in the heap of the charred remains some broken bones and skull. The relatives, dubious whether those were of Paulino's, nevertheless, collected the bones and skull.

Next move the family made was to inquire at the different military detachments in Zamboanga del Sur and Misamis Occidental. However, no information or any trace of sort, whether Paulino Baguio was brought and/or detained in any military detachments they have inquired.

Up to the writing of this report, Paulino Baguio has not showed up and traces of his whereabouts are uncertain. The family and relatives had become even more worried and are inclined to believe strongly that, indeed, the remains they have collected are that of Paulino's. However, local officials they have requested to issue a Death Certificate refused the issuance of one -- not until the remains are duly examined by a medical examiner.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

= urge the local, as well as the national authorities to conduct a speedy investigation into the abduction and the disappearance of Paulino Baguio.

= send letters/telegrams/telexes of appeals to:

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| President Corazon Aquino
Malacañang Palace
Manila, Philippines | Gen. Renato de Villa
AFP Chief of Staff
Camp Aguinaldo
Quezon City, Philippines |
| Secretary Fidel Ramos
Dept. of National Defense
Camp Crame, Quezon City
Philippines | Lt. Col. Rodolfo Abao
Commanding Officer
55th IB PA Headquarters
Katipunan, Sinacaban
Misamis Occidental |
| Atty. Rodolfo Tan
CHR- Region X
Yacapin Ext. corner Roxas St.
Cagayan de Oro City | Hon. William Chiongbian
Provincial Governor
Capitol Building
Oroquieta City |

URGENT ACTION MONITOR

Action taken: No. of appeal Addressed to:

(please check)

< >	Telegrams:	_____	_____
< >	Telexes:	_____	_____
< >	Letters:	_____	_____

Note: If you are sending letters please
furnish us a copy.

Sender's name: _____