PHILIPPINE RESEARCH/RESOURCE FILE

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political detainees update (philippines)

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NEW ARRESTS

Name	Date of Arrest	Comment
Conrado Navarro	Jan 12, 1978	DAP. At Camp Vicente Lim
Manny Ceres	"	DAP. Cmp. Vicente Lim
Ida Ichoco	early January	earlier reported missing (Update, Jan 12) Already released.
Domingo Portes	early January	frm Sorsogon. At CSU
Florentino Manalo	"	frm Porec, Pampanga. Stockade 4

Approximately 40 people were reportedly arrested from Bahbah, Agusan del Sur before Christmas. No further details have been received.

CORRECTION

Josephine Dongail (Update, Jan 12) [redacted]. Josephine, a UP graduate, worked at DAP. She was first detained at MISG but has been transferred to BRC.

RELEASES

Name	Date of Arrest	Date of Release	Det. Center
Filipe Elbabuena	?	recently	Neg. Prov. Jail

Seven releases have been reported from Kaunlaran Hq., Butuan City. No names were given.

DISAPPEARANCE

The following six detainees from Bangued Detention Center, Abra (Tinggians) were removed last December 1977 and the military refuses to disclose their whereabouts. The families are very anxious. Their names are: Pinong Ban-ong, Malicnag, Pablo, Baras, Sidong, Wacnang Calwat.

PLEASE MAKE INTERCESSION ON THEIR BEHALF.

A FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON BAGGAO, CAGAYAN

Pdp Update for November 12, 1977, gave a detailed report of events in Bo, Pallagao, Baggao, Cagayan where three young men, Jun Bulay (age 18), Benjamin Bulay (age 15) and Renato Diasan (approx 20) were arrested last October 24, 1977. Later that same day, Renato's body was recovered from the military camp at St. Margarita, Baggao.

Due to the amount of pressure locally and internationally, the military was forced to investigate this case. Last Friday, January 12th, a hearing was scheduled on the death of Renato Diasan in Baggao. Some thirty religious were in attendance. Two 6 X 6 trucks full of military and a number of policemen were also there. Since then, lawyers of the two boys (who had themselves complained of maltreatment at the hands of the military and who were detained) were not notified of the hearing, a postponement was requested and granted by Judge Donato.

A certain Capt. Abundo was sent by the Judge Advocate General's Office (JAGO) in the capacity of Amicus Curise, "to see that justice will be done". He reportedly boasted of being a cursilista and an ex-seminarian. It was subsequently learned, however, that Capt. Abundo had spoken to the boys and asked them to recant their statement and they would be released. He also allegedly directed them to implicate the parish priest of San Jose, Father Constancio Floria. The boys were allegedly asked to say that Fr. Floria had instructed them to make the complain of maltreatment against the military. (Incidentally, Fr. Floria's parish is some 200 kms. from NORESCOM, Echauge where the boys were detained and where they executed their statement in the presence of Col. Lopez and about 10 religious.). As a result of Capt. Abundo's efforts, Jun Bulay recanted and both boys were released.

The next hearing was proposed as February 3, 1978, but this is not yet confirmed.

The presence of the religious and some 15 people from Pallagao (some 60 kms. away) gave strength to the boys and in the presence of the fiscal the boys recanted the recantation and seem prepared to fight for justice with regard to the tragic death of Renato Diasan.

A SUMMARY FROM SAMAR

In 1972 the political detainees were mostly students, professors, intellectuals who were either released or transferred to other detention centers like Cebu or Manila. In the latter part of 1974, there was a new wave of arrests and political detainees started pouring in the stockade in E. and W. Samar. This time they were peasants, laborers and fishermen. This wave was the direct result of themassive military campaign to control the suspected build-up of armed groups among the countryside population. The detainees were arrested as suspected members, collaborators or sympathizers of the dissident movement. From 1975 to the present, arrests have increased considerably and far exceed the releases.