



# URGENT ACTION

TFDP-Mindanao

UA-021  
02-15-90

**Case: Food and Economic Blockades\***

**Areas affected:** Sitio Hagonoy of barangay Diatagon; sitio Huwangan of barangay St. Christine; and, sitios Kiwagan, Kiampis, Oregon and Matanog all of barangay San Isidro, municipality of Lianga, Surigao del Sur.

**CIRCUMSTANCES:**

The above mentioned sitios (small villages) have been tagged by the military as heavily influenced by communist guerrillas since the Marcos era. As such, these places have been targets of massive operations launched by the 28th and 58th Infantry Battalions of the Army's 4th Infantry Division.

Beginning September 1989 there seemed to be a lull in combat operations. Yet for the residents there was no cause for rejoice as the 28th IB has imposed food and transportation blockades starting that same month.

In an interview conducted by TFDP-Tandag Unit, sources who requested anonymity said that each family, irrespective of the size, is being allowed only five kilos of rice per week. Other basic goods such as dried fish, laundry soap, medicines and kerosene (LPG) are also restricted. Goods coming in are being checked at the 28th IB checkpoint based in Diatagon under Lt. Maestail.

Simultaneous with the imposition of the food blockade was the "transportation blockade". All passenger jeepneys have been barred from entering the affected areas as the military accused the residents of transporting supplies to the rebel New People's Army (NPA). Left with no other means, the farmers are forced to hike twenty kilometers in going to Diatagon proper in order to sell their produce.

The blockades have made the situation of the sick children and the elderly miserable. Subsisting only on bananas and rootcrops, many children have suffered from diarrhea, flu, malnutrition, and even lack of food. Most of them died untreated.

- \* Food Blockade - an activity conducted by government agents to restrict the entry into and exit from communities of food supplies.
- \* Economic Blockade - an activity conducted by government agents to restrict the production, distribution and consumption of goods in a community.

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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).

Generally, the economic situation of the people have been severely affected by the transportation blockade.

The victims, with the help of sitio and barangay leaders, has called the attention of the municipal mayor and provincial governor. They demanded the immediate stop of the twin blockades. But as of present the impositions have not been lifted.

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**Recommended Action:** Send Telegrams, express or airmail letters:

- expressing concern about the affected residents.
- asking the authorities that the said blockades be totally stopped and that military personnel involved be investigated impartially.

**Send Appeals to:**

1. President Corazon C. Aquino  
Malacañang Palace  
Manila, Philippines
2. Secretary Fidel Ramos  
Department of National Defense  
Camp Crame, Quezon City  
Philippines
3. Gen. Renato de Villa  
NAFP Chief of Staff  
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City  
Philippines
4. Brig. Gen. Guillermo Flores  
South Command Chief  
Upper Calarian, Zamboanga City  
Philippines
5. Brig. Gen. Mariano Baccay Jr.  
RECOM XI Commander  
Camp Catitipan  
Davao City, Philippines
6. Governor Salvacion Cejoco  
Province of Surigao del Sur  
Capitol Hill, Tandag,  
Surigao del Sur  
Philippines

**URGENT ACTION MONITOR**

Action taken:      No. of appeal      Addressed to:

(please check)

<   > Telegrams: \_\_\_\_\_

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<   > Telexes:      \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

<   > Letters:        \_\_\_\_\_

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

Sender's name:

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