

5124/89



URGENT ACTION

TFDP-Mindanao

UA - 015
5/02/89

CASE : DISAPPEARANCE

VICTIM : CARLOS VIÑA, 59 years old, married with six children and a resident of centro Hulpa, municipality of Tudela, province of Misamis Occidental.

He was a former municipal councilor of Tudela. In 1987 he was a chairman of the Partido ng Bayan Chapter in Tudela. He was also chosen as vice-president of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Misamis Occidental (BAYAN-MO) a provincial chapter of a known national cause-oriented Nationalist Alliance Movement or BAYAN.

Masked armed men barged into the residence of the Viña family and compelled Carlos Viña to go with them threatening the lives of his love ones if he will not cooperate. The immediate relatives were worried of the fate of the victim as his whereabouts remain uncertain up to this date despite the searches they have made and the action from the military authorities who assured them to investigate the case.

Members of Viña family related that it was about 8:00 in the evening on the 13 April, 1989, while they were gathered in their living room, when somebody knocked at their door. Carlos' daughter Evelyn, asked who was it, and the man outside identified himself as "Rudy Bala". Alarmed of the situation, Carlos' son, Noel quickly demanded to put off the lights. But the man outside yelled and said they have some matters to talk with their father. Evelyn cordially asked the man to come back the next day for they are already going to retire and besides they no longer accept visitor that time of the evening.

On the other hand, Noel peeped through the hole near the window and found that there were several armed men in their yard and five others were at the door. Sensing the danger, he then told his father to hide. Later, they heard the men outside threatening them that they will be massacred if they are not going to open the door. Frightened by the said intimidation, the family begged for mercy but the men outside started counting while cocking their rifles.

Afraid that the armed men would really do what they mean, Noel put on the lights and open the door. At gunpoint, the occupants of the house were ordered to lie prostrate on the floor. The armed men searched thoroughly for Carlos Viña who at that time hid in the ceiling. Annoyed of the empty search, the armed men threatened to kill the son of Carlos. The old man because of fear that his son would be killed got out from hiding. He was then told to lie on the floor and was ordered to crawl towards the porch. Carlos accordingly pleaded not to go with the armed

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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).

men and asked to settle whatever they wanted to resolve with him. But the armed men insisted that he be brought along. Carlos was forcibly taken despite the pleading of the wife who was pushed aside with a rifle butt as she tried to intercede.

A witness (name withheld for security reason) in an executed affidavit identified one of the armed men as a rebel returnee who associates regularly with the 55th Infantry Battalion Philippine Army (IB PA) based in Katipunan, Sinacaban, Misamis Occidental.

The following day, the relatives of the victim made a follow up to the places where they believed Carlos was brought by his abductors but they failed to find him. They inform the police authorities regarding the incident and have it entered in the police blotter. They even inform the Commanding Officer of the 55th IB PA, Lt. Col. Rodolfo Abao who promised to help the relatives in locating the victim.

The relative further related that Capt. Augusto Nazareth, the Commanding Officer of the 466th Philippine Constabulary (PC) who conducted investigations told them that Carlos Vina is a "judge" in the "kangaroo court" of the CPP/NPA based on the report he has been receiving. The family members denied such allegation.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Send telegrams/express letters/airmail letters

= expressing concern about the safety of Carlos Vina who was abducted by armed men of which one was identified by the witness as a rebel returnee who associates regularly with the 55th IB PA based at Katipunan, Sinacaban, Misamis Occidental.

= urging the authorities to conduct an immediate and thorough investigation into the "disappearance" and if the victim is kept in detention, to guarantee his physical safety.

Send appeals to:

Pres. Corazon Aquino
Malacañang Palace, Manila
Philippines

Gen. Renato de Villa
AFP Chief of Staff
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

Secretary Fidel Ramos
Department of National Defense
Camp Crame, Quezon City

Lt. Col. Rodolfo Abao
Commanding Officer
55th Infantry Battalion
Katipuna, Sinacaban
Misamis Occidental

Copies to:

Sen. Wigberto Tañada
Chairman
Justice & Human Rights Committee
5th Flr. Phil. Veterans Bank Bldg.
Roxas Boulevard, Manila
Philippines

Mary Concepcion Bautista
Chairman
Commission on Human Rights
IBP Bldg., J. Vargas Ave.
Pasig, Metro Manila
Philippines

Hon. William Chiongbian
Povincial Governor
Capitol Bldg. Oroquieta City
Misamis Occidental

Hon. Hilarion Ramiro Jr.
Congressman
House of Congress
Manila, Philippines

UA-015
5-02-89

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:
