



# URGENT ACTION

## TFDP-Mindanao

UA - 016  
7/07/89

Case: MASSACRE

Victims: killed:

1. GONZALEZ, Dorcas - 50, widow and farmer, of Sitio Liongan, Barangay Hinandayan, town of Nasipit in the province of Agusan del Norte.

2. CARDONIGA, Rosalinda - 18, married

3. GONZALES, Eleazar - 19, male, single

4. GONZALEZ, Rosabelia - 14, female, single

5. GONZALEZ, Maribel - 12, female, single

6. GONZALEZ, Mirafior - 11, female

7. GONZALEZ, Teresita - 9, female

\* All children of Dorcas

8. A 19-day old baby girl daughter of Rosalinda Cardoniga

wounded:

1. GONZALEZ, Esterlita - 24, daughter-in-law of Dorcas

At about 5:00 o'clock in the morning of 12 JUNE 1989, the house of Mrs. Dorcas Gonzalez, 50, widow, in Sitio Liongan was strafed by several armed men. Seven of the nine occupants who were still asleep were fatally hit and were killed.

Esterlita Gonzalez, who was fortunate enough to be unscathed by the hail of bullets, was awakened by the intense firing and secured herself for cover. When the firing stopped, which seemed to her to last for almost half an hour, Esterlita checked all her companions and found them dead except for the 19-day old babygirl.

At that moment, two of the armed men barged into the house and seeing Esterlita to be still alive, they ordered her to come down for interrogation.

Esterlita then learned that the armed men had suspected the Gonzalezes to be members of the New Peoples Army because they live in such a very remote place. The assailants further searched the whole house (including the dead bodies) for firearms and subversive materials, but found nothing.

With such a futile search, one of the assailants suggested to the leader to kill Esterlita so no one will be able to tell of the crime to the public later.

However, the head of the team gathered his men and they seemed to discuss over the suggestion.

- more -

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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).

At this point, Esterlita was also prompted to go upstairs to comfort the babygirl who was ceaselessly crying. Moments have passed and while she was cuddling and comforting the baby, one of the armed men went upstairs with the will to kill her. Despite her pleadings, the armed man shot her twice. The baby girl was fatally hit in the abdomen and was killed while Esterlita sustained wounds on her abdomen and right arm and fell unconscious. It was already noontime when one of the neighbors of the Gonzalez came over to check and offered some help.

Esterlita was brought to the Provincial Hospital in Libertad, Butuan City.

In a sworn statement executed by Esterlita Gonzales to a lawyer in Butuan City, she further said that she can positively identify only one of the assailants as DIOSDADO PASTEDA who is known to her as a resident of Barangay Manoligao, Carmen, Agusan del Norte. Pasteda is known to be a member of a local vigilante group called the 4 K'S and is in frequent company with the military elements of the 30th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army based in Marcos Park, Carmen, Agusan del Norte.

Recommended Action: Send telegrams and/or letters to press for an urgent and thorough investigation regarding this heinous crime where a member of a local vigilante group is positively involved and allegedly participated by government troops.

SEND YOUR APPEALS TO:

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| 1. President Corazon Aquino<br>Malacañang Palace<br>Manila, Philippines                              | 4. Sen. Wigberto Tañada<br>Committee on Human Rights<br>House of Senate, Manila<br>Philippines                       |
| 2. Secretary Fidel Ramos<br>Department of National Defense<br>Camp Crame, Quezon City<br>Philippines | 5. Lt. Col. Dominador Domingo<br>Provincial Commander<br>PC/INP Headquarters<br>Libertad, Butuan City<br>Philippines |
| 3. Gen. Renato de Villa<br>AFP Chief of Staff<br>Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City<br>Philippines          | 6. Col. Resus<br>402 Brigade Commander<br>402 Head Quarters<br>Bancasi, Butuan City<br>Philippines                   |

UA-016  
7-07-89

# URGENT ACTION MONITOR

Action taken:      No. of appeal      Addressed to:

(please check)

<   > Telegrams: \_\_\_\_\_

<   > Telexes:    \_\_\_\_\_

<   > Letters:      \_\_\_\_\_

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

Sender's name:

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