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LIBERATION

PUBLISHED BY THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT

Volume V ★ No. 10

August 15, 1977



VICTIMS OF FASCIST REPRESSION, SYMBOLS OF PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE

AT NO OTHER TIME has the issue of political prisoners been as much a haunting problem internally and a source of embarrassment internationally for the Philippine government as it is today.

And the Marcos fascist regime has no one but itself to blame. It gave rise to the spectre of political prisoners on Sept. 21, 1972 and has been haunted by it ever since.

Indeed, the political prisoners in some 80 military detention centers all over the country are living proof of the regime's fascist repression. But such were so are they undeniable evidence of the continuing struggle of the Filipino people against the fascist dictatorship.

POLITICAL DETENTION, or the imprisonment of those who resist and oppose an unjust rule, is a common measure used by dictatorships to control or suppress the threats to their power. Other measures are massacre, kidnaping, forcible evacuation of entire villages in the countryside or whole communities in the urban slums, intimidation and threats, even rape and plunder.

Torture and other forms of harassment invariably follow political detention.

In the Philippines, under martial rule, all these measures are employed. But the Filipino people have not been cowed. On the contrary, their resistance and opposition to the regime are intensifying.

Thus, the number of political prisoners and ex-political prisoners is growing. More and more militant workers, peasants, urban poor settlers, students, intellectuals and professionals are arrested periodically -- even as a few of those previously arrested and detained are temporarily released, also periodically.

It is significant to note that more Filipinos are subjected to political imprisonment as more foreign monopoly capitalists come to the country in hordes. These capitalists are welcomed by a smiling Ferdinand E. Marcos and regaled with assurances of a growing package of investment incentives. They set up business, often pushing off hitherto profitable Filipino-owned enterprises.

Truly, there is a direct correlation between political detention and the growing puppetry of the Marcos regime to U.S. imperialism and its multinationals. The first is a direct consequence of opposition to the latter. Under martial law, political detention is imperative if imperialism were to continue holding sway over the economy and thus shift the burden of its crisis to the Filipino people.

Who are the Political Prisoners?

A CURSORY REVIEW of the profiles of political prisoners in our country will indicate a common thread -- anti-imperialism, anti-feudalism and anti-fascism.

From the youth mass activists, university professors, intellectuals,

professionals, labor leaders arrested and detained at the onset of martial rule, to the union leaders and labor activists, urban poor leaders and community residents, workers, peasants, national minorities, and youth and students being arrested today -- all commonly protest and actively oppose the collusion of the Marcos clique with foreign monopoly interests to keep our economy backward and our people poor.

There are the factory workers oppressed by foreign capitalists and their local cohorts through starvation wages and repressive working conditions.

There are the poor peasants who desire to own the land they will and instead are driven off to make way for corporate farms, cattle ranches and industrial plants controlled by the multinationals.

There are the slum community leaders and residents -- some entire families -- of Tatalon, Tondo and Navotas who oppose demolition of their homes in the name of land development schemes benefitting foreign investors and tourists.

There are the plantation workers in foreign-operated agri-business corporations who seek just compensation, and national minorities of the Montañosa who seek to protect their ancestral lands and way of life.

And there are the militants from various sectors of Philippine society who have joined cause with the workers and peasants in both peaceful and armed struggle for national democracy and genuine freedom.

These are the political prisoners whom the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship hates and fears.

Erasing the Term "Political Prisoners"

YES, HATES AND FEARS. Because political prisoners are exposing the regime's fascist character and isolating it from the Filipino people and the freedom-loving peoples of the world.

Thus the regime attempts - in vain - to erase them out of existence by barefacedly declaring that "there are no political prisoners in the Philippines."

The dictator therefore re-defined the term "political prisoners" to mean



"those who have been detained without prior criminal cases filed against them. .", invoking the alleged "original connotation of the word in international law."

Then, to explain away the thousands in its detention camps, the regime coined the term "security detainees". Lately, however, it has come up with a more pejorative label - "public order violators", or POVs.

An authority on international law, Sen. Jovito R. Salonga, debunked the Marcos definition as "untenable" and "nowhere to be found in any reputable book on international law."

In a speech before the Makati Rotary Club last June 28, Salonga pointed out, "The term should include all those who have committed political offenses and engaged in political activities against the existing government including such offenses as rebellion, subversion and illegal possession of firearms connected with such activities."

In his attempts to appear as a champion of human rights, the dictator is tripping on his own words. He is becoming mired in contradictions.

On Jan. 7, 1977, before the UP Alumni Association, Marcos redefined "political prisoners" out of existence. At the same time, however, he ordered the immediate release of all "those detained by the military or civil government against whom there are no charges as of today."

On June 3, 1977, before the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, Marcos reiterated his Jan. 7 order. In effect, he was saying there are political prisoners who must be released.

On June 27, 1977, the Department of

National Defense announced through the controlled media the release of 500 detainees. This was followed a week or so later by the announcement of the release of another 500 detainees. The Malacañang-orchestrated press stories stated that the releases were "in line with the President's directive last June 3 for immediate release from military camps of all those without charges."

The fact, however, is that very few political prisoners were set free on or after the dates of announcement. The press release was made deliberately hazy to misrepresent the truth. It did not say how many political prisoners and how many common criminal offenders were ordered released, such that certain columnists and media commentators hailed the release of 1,000 political prisoners.

Actually, several names included in the two lists published were those of political prisoners released a long time ago.

Torture and Killings are Rampant

THE U.S.-MARCOS REGIME has really to try all possible deception to escape international censure. For the facts made known so far to the world press form a stark picture of inhuman, degrading treatment of political prisoners by the regime.

The documented reports of the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines (AMRSP), published one year apart on March 31, 1976 and 1977, and those of Amnesty International (the first in May 1976 and the second early this year) point to one concrete fact: the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship has been using, in a systematic manner, torture and other forms of maltreatment on political prisoners.

Torture is often applied upon arrest

and for some time thereafter. In many cases, torture was continually used over a period of several months, mostly in "safehouses" where prisoners are brought upon arrest and where they are kept incommunicado for extended periods while the military denies their whereabouts to inquiring relatives and friends.

Political prisoners who survive torture in "safehouses" - which are virtual torture chambers - may be deemed lucky. For many were those brought to such places and never seen or heard of again.

As of June 23, 1977, the AMRSP still listed 14 "missing persons" who either had been arrested by the military or disappeared mysteriously at various times between June 30, 1976 and May 11, 1977. Outside of these 14, several others have been confirmed dead - "salvaged" in military parlance. Others have surfaced much later in some detention centers, or under the custody of intelligence units. (See list on page 14.)

Perhaps to avoid the problem of keeping political prisoners, some military officers have resorted to outright killing or rub-out of captured or arrested political suspects.

The 2nd PC Zone (Southern Luzon and Bicol regions), under Brig. Gen. Alfredo Montoya, leads in this practice. Prisoners are taken to isolated spots after interrogation and torture, and are shot in cold blood. Then, they are reported as having been killed in armed encounters or worse, are buried without their kin being informed. Examples of such executions are those of Ma. Lorena Barros, Francisco Portem and Nick Lansang.

So pervasive is the use of torture that at the showcase detention center, the Bicutan Rehabilitation Center in Taguig, Rizal, documentation at various times (based on the periodic turnover of detainees) showed that between 60 to 80% of the political prisoners there have been tortured. A report from the Lahug detention center in Cebu City last February 1977 showed torture was used on 17 out of 24 political detainees. Individual reports of torture are also recorded in the AMRSP report for 1977 from Bacolod City, Davao City and Cagayan de Oro City.

Indefinite Detention Without Charges

BESIDES TORTURE, another major violation of human rights of political prisoners is prolonged detention without charges.

Up to the first quarter of 1977, many detainees languished in prison for as long as one year to four years, without charges having been filed against them in any civil court or military tribunal. For instance, at the BRC, 51 out of 65 political prisoners - or 78% - were uncharged as of end February 1977.

Only when the political prisoners challenged the military authorities and Marcos himself to implement his directive of Jan. 7 (to set free all the uncharged detainees) was a small number released. The others have since then been called either in groups or individually to answer charges or to undergo summary preliminary investigation (SPI).

It has become a no-win game for political prisoners: stay silent and you remain in prison without charges for a long, indefinite time; complain about such a situation and they trump up a charge against you.

Deplorable Prison Conditions

DEPLORABLE - and this is putting it mildly - describes prison conditions in most military detention centers. Congestion in small prison cells or makeshift quarters with no restrooms or running water is common at detention centers in the Visayas and Mindanao, and even in Metro Manila, for instance, at the Recad VI and HPC Stockade in Camp Crame.

It is not uncommon for political prisoners to be mixed with common criminal offenders (including recidivists) and detained military personnel. Politicals are exposed to constant physical danger or harassment because of the abusive and bullying acts of the criminals. In most instances, however, political prisoners manage to rise above the situation and gain the respect of the criminal elements and even the military offenders.

Denial of fresh air and sunshine for prolonged periods, ranging from a number of weeks to over one year, has been a common method of trying to bend



the will of unyielding political prisoners, or punishing those who protest or resist the military's impositions. Notorious for this practice is the 5th CSU and other PC intelligence units.

The food served political prisoners is hardly palatable and of dubious nutritive value. It invariably consists of chopped cheap vegetables or stale fish and the cheapest quality of rice, in Luzon, and in the Visayas, corn and miswa (noodles).

The daily food budget in Metro Manila has been pegged at P4.00 since 1972, notwithstanding the high rate of inflation. At detention centers in the provinces, it is much worse -- P2.50. And in both instances, the military mess officers or the hired caterers pocket a good part of this budget.

Medical and dental care is substandard in the best-managed of the detention centers; it is virtually non-existent in most other places.

Detainees complaining of illnesses or pains are perfunctorily given pain-relieving tablets without so much as a medical or physical check-up. In many instances, ailing detainees are made to wait for days before they are given medical attention. In a detention center in the South, the custodial forces would shout at those seeking medical aid, "Susandal na lang kayo sa pader!" (Go lean on the wall!) or "Mga detainees lang kayo!" (You're just detainees!).

Investigation and Trial

DUE PROCESS of law is hardly observed.

After prolonged detention without a charge, a political prisoner would one day be summoned to the Judge Advocate General's Office (JAGO) and be told that he was being charged with either rebellion or subversion or a like offense. If he had been forced to sign a statement through torture or duress some time ago, that would be counted against him. He would be asked to either confirm that or make another affidavit. Thus would end the summary preliminary investigation or SPI. He would then be considered charged.

In one case where the respondents were many, a simple rollcall was made and those present were noted. Then, the SPI was ended. The trial would begin two years later.

Political prisoners' cases are handled by military tribunals appointed by Marcos. Observers of the proceedings conducted by these tribunals call them a mockery of justice. Most military officers sitting on the panel of judges are ignorant of procedures, much more of the law. Civilian defense counsels, or even the state prosecutors, are often exasperated by the stupidities of tribunal members.

Since the tribunal members are all military officers, they continue to behave as soldiers rigidly trained to follow the command of their superiors. Thus, every case brought before such tribunals would be handled according to how the higher authorities so instruct them. Prejudgment of guilt, therefore, in subversion or rebellion cases is a virtual certainty.

Struggles and Victories

THE MORE THAN four-year history of political prisoners under martial rule has been, for the most part, one of struggle with certain tactical victories. From a strategic view, this struggle is destined to succeed, as the overall struggle of the people is destined to succeed.

The initial shocks of harsh imprisonment do not take long to wear off on the political prisoners. They readily raise their perception of the realities in prison, sum up their experiences, encourage those who seem to be flagging and collectively decide to act in the best tradition of revolutionary militance.

By the middle of 1973, political prisoners started waging protest act-

ions against inhuman treatment, restrictions and related issues. At first, the protests took the form of small collective acts, such as chanting and clanking of iron bars and mess kits. Then these grew into mess boycotts and hunger strikes running for several days or weeks.

(See chronology of prison struggles, on page 7.)

Besides such open protest actions, political prisoners since late 1974 have started exposing the widespread use of torture and maltreatment by military intelligence units.

The courage and militance of the political prisoners earned the support of the AMRSP and some progressive bishops. The AMRSP picked up the prisoners' struggle by documenting the torture complaints and publishing them in "Signs of the Times", which was later closed down by the military. The AMRSP published the collated documentation in a pamphlet aptly referred to as the "Black Book".

Amnesty International, the prestigious international human rights organization based in London, also took up the cudgels for the political prisoners.

AI sent an investigating team to the Philippines in late 1975 and interviewed more than 70 political prisoners, most of whom gave detailed accounts of their torture. AI subsequently published its report along with a 15-point recommendation to the Philippine government.

Among others, AI recommended that those who had been tortured be immediately released and that full and open investigation be made into their complaints; that political prisoners should be tried by civilian courts and not by military tribunals; that the writ of habeas corpus suspended under martial law be restored without delay; and that all prisoners held for more than one year without charge or trial be granted presidential amnesty.

On none of these substantial recommendations of the AI has the martial law regime taken action.

In fact, the U.S.-Marcos dictator-

ship's initial reaction was to deny the AI report (Marcos had sanctimoniously declared that "no one but no one has been tortured"). It had, however, to backtrack later when it could not stem the tide of factual exposés and the pressures from both local and international organizations.

Up to now, however, the practice of torture continues. But so much more intensified has been the exposure of torture by political prisoners and their supporters both here and abroad.

The pressure on Marcos has been such as to force him to order the release of Tondo civic leader Trining Herrera and the court martial of her military torturers last May. Marcos has also to repeatedly declare his commitments to human rights in every major speech he makes.

Although initially reacting with dramatized indignation to a report by the U.S. State Department which confirmed the AI findings, Marcos relented later and bowed to his master in Washington, D.C. In a speech on "Fil-American Day" last July 4, the U.S. puppet acknowledged the "leadership" of the U.S. government under Carter in the "moral revolution of our times."

No doubt Marcos' latest posture is as empty and spurious as all his previous postures on human rights, on nationalism and on "democratic revolution". Political prisoners have seen through this posturing and are unrelenting in their struggle to fully expose the fascist nature of the state.

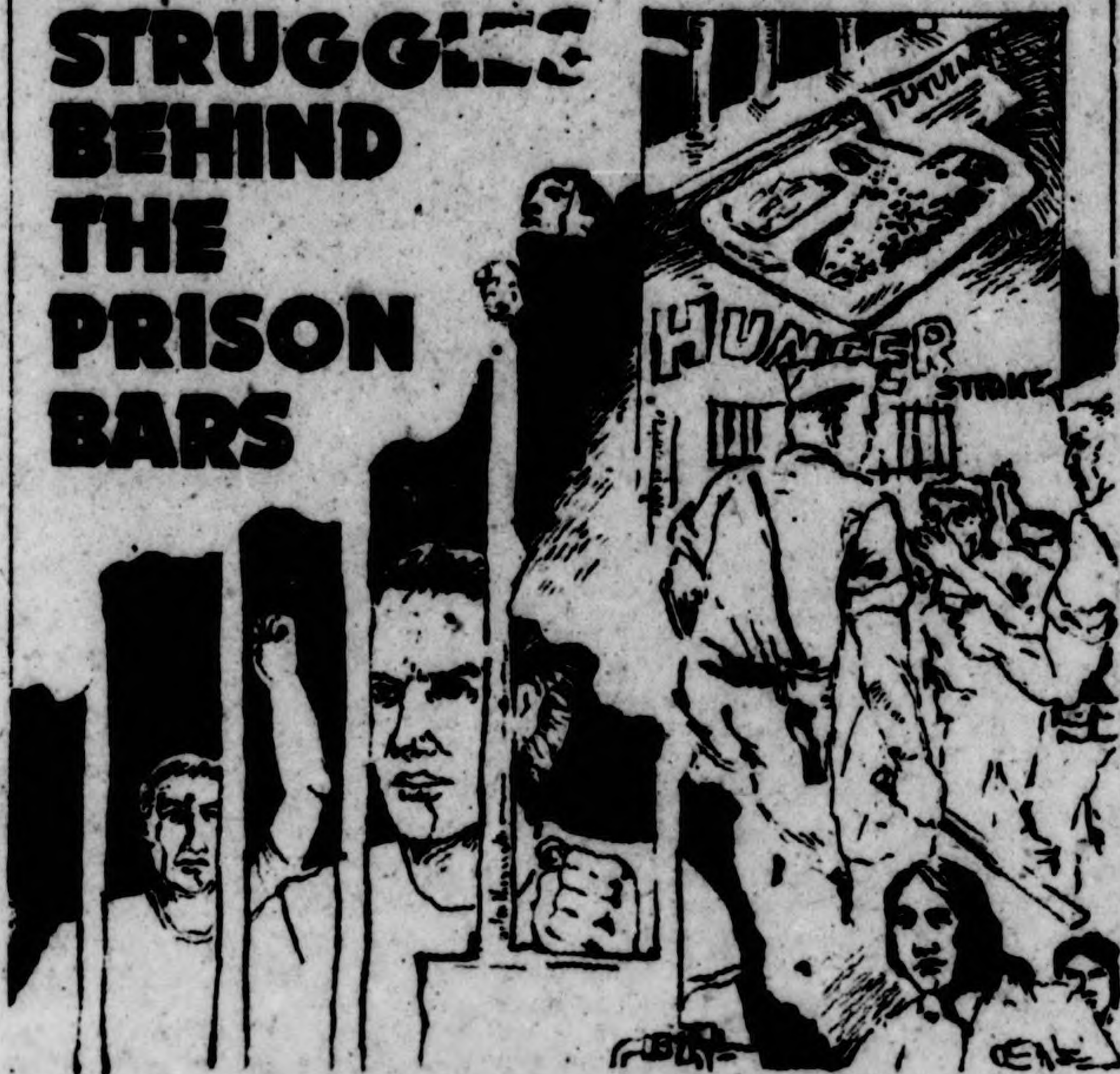
A number of them have even set a higher example of struggle against the U.S.-Marcos regime. From various detention centers, groups or individual political prisoners have taken the initiative to free themselves and rejoin their comrades and the Filipino people in the bigger, more intense struggle for national democracy and genuine freedom.

As a favorite prison song says, "Kung ako ay isang ibon, lilipad sa kalawakan/ lilipad patungo sa mga kasama sa pakikibakang sandatahan." (If I were a bird, I'd soar into the sky/ I'd fly forthwith to join the comrades in the armed struggle.) ●

"Talastas kong ako'y hindi nagiiisa sa ganitong hirap, talastas kong ako'y hindi magiisa sa pagkawakawak; pupuong libo, laksa, yuta't angaw ang kaisampalad na tagapagmana ng masayang Bukas..."

-- Amado V. Hernandez

STRUGGLES BEHIND THE PRISON BARS



SINC: 1973, political prisoners have waged many struggles against harsh prison conditions and violations of their basic human rights. In all these struggles, they gained important victories, among them, the improvement of their general welfare and the release of a number of their fellow detainees.

The following is a chronicle of these struggles.

July 1973

First hunger strike at Ipil Reception Center (IRC) in Fort Bonifacio. The political prisoners demanded the release of two pregnant detainees; the right to prepare and cook their own food; the liberalization of restrictions on visiting rights; adequate medical and dental attention; whole-day visits during Sundays and official holidays; ample sports and recreation facilities; and lesser restrictions on their self-help projects. All the demands were won.

This hunger strike, although shortlived and suppressed by the military, set the stage for political prisoners in other detention centers to wage their own struggles against harsh prison conditions and unjust military impositions.

Dec. 1973

Hunger strike at Camp Lapu-lapu in Cebu City. This pressured military authorities to improve the quality and quantity of food in the detention camp; provide adequate accommodations and promise the investigation of certain military personnel who abused and harassed political prisoners. The last, however, was not implemented until all the detainees were transferred to Lahug Detention Center in 1974.

- Dec. 24, 1973 Fr. Edicio de la Torre went on a hunger strike to protest the torture of his fellow political prisoners in Camp Olivas, Pampanga.
- Sympathy hunger strikes were called by other political prisoners. These were harshly suppressed by the military. Many prisoners were placed in isolation cells afterwards. However, as a result of this political action, torture cases were exposed for the first time to the Filipino people.
- Feb. 1975 Second hunger strike at the IRC. The issues were the same as those raised during the July 1973 strike. After protracted negotiations, the military officials gave in and promised to implement the 1973 agreement.
- July 1975 Hunger strike at the Youth Rehabilitation Center (YRC) in Fort Bonifacio. The prisoners won on the following demands: freedom of movement of visitors inside the detention area; whole-day visits on Sundays and holidays; relaxation of restrictions on handicraft production; preparation and cooking of the prisoners' meals by themselves; adjustment of padlock time from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and extension of recreation time; and free entry of legal (i.e., openly available) reading materials.
- Aug. 5-11, 1975 Hunger strike at HPC Stockade 4, Camp Crame. The political prisoners raised and were granted the following demands: the right to prepare their own menu; regular medical and dental attention; regular sports activities; adequate supply of running water; regular supply of cleaning materials; whole-day visits on Sundays and official holidays; non-interference by the military custodial forces in the detainees' internal affairs.
- Dec. 1975 First hunger strike of political prisoners at the 5th CSU, an intelligence unit notorious for its brutality. The strike was brutally suppressed. Eight detainees were beaten up.
- Although the demands of the prisoners were not granted, the hunger strike gave rise to another determined political action which ended in victory for them.
- Dec. 8-10, 1975 Second hunger strike at YRC. This had more political significance because it exposed the plight of prisoners at the 5th CSU detention cells. It was in support of the hunger strike being waged by the detainees there.
- Dec. 1975 Second hunger strike at HPC Stockade 4. This time, in support of the 5th CSU action.
- Jan. 3, 1976 Camp Olivas political prisoners went on a fast which lasted more than 70 days.
- The major issues raised were: the release of two nursing mothers; the transfer of 16 political prisoners to another detention center in Metro Manila; and the right to bail of accused detainees.
- Only the first and second demands were granted.
- Feb. 1976 Second hunger strike at the 5th CSU. The political prisoners demanded that administration over them be transferred to the HPC Stockade in order to remove the restrictions being imposed by the 5th CSU command. This demand was won.
- June 14, 1976 One hundred and eighteen political prisoners at the newly-opened Bicutan Rehabilitation Center (BRC) went on hunger strike. They demanded the release of two nursing mothers; the right to cook their own food; additional sports facilities; liberalization

of restrictions on visiting rights; a ban on the entry of Doberman dogs inside the detention compound; and other improvements in their general welfare

The hunger strike lasted 15 days. All the demands were granted, although some took long to be implemented.

Brutal military suppression followed, however. This was met with active resistance by the political prisoners.

On July 8, 1976, all the political prisoners took direct action in resisting the forcible transfer of two of them to an isolation cell. The two were suspected as leaders of the hunger strike. In this mass action, scores of political prisoners were injured.

On July 11, 1976, another batch of six prisoners were dragged out of their cells by truncheon-wielding Metrocom strike forces. They were transferred to other detention centers or into isolation cells of the HPC Stockade and Metrocom South Sector.

Their fellow detainees set up a human barricade before the entrance to their cells. This was broken up with force by the Metrocom troops and many detainees were hurt.

On July 18, 1976, another 20 -- the biggest and last batch -- were forcibly transferred to the HPC Stockade 4-B (an enlarged "bartolina") at Camp Crame.

The struggle of the political prisoners is not limited to simple welfare issues. Many boldly dared to free themselves from prison and rejoin their comrades in the larger struggles outside against the Marcos fascist dictatorship and its local and foreign supporters.

In July 1973, the first political prisoner to escape from Camp Olivas, Pampanga, made his way through tall grass, ricefields and rough terrain to rejoin his comrades in the armed struggle.

In late 1973, five sprang out of Camp Vicente Lim Detention Center in Canlubang, Laguna. Another two slipped from their guards not much later.

In October 1974, five escaped from Ipil Reception Center. One of them recently died fighting the fascist troops in the countryside.

Also in 1974, six bolted from Camp Olivas, Pampanga, taking with them one Armalite rifle and one .45 cal. pistol confiscated from their guards.

On May 13, 1976, two escaped from Canlubang Detention Center in Camp Vicente Lim, Laguna.

In November 1976, two BRC detainees slipped from their military escorts and joined the armed resistance in the countryside.

This year, six escaped from the Negros Occidental PC Detention Center in Bacolod City.

Also this year, two managed to escape from the BRC.

In all prison camps for political prisoners, the spirit of daring to struggle and daring to win prevails.

Prison bars can only confine flesh-and-blood, never the prisoners' desire for freedom, nor their dreams for a democratic and independent society.

Their desires and dreams burn bright in thousands of others who are carrying forward the struggle against U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism.

Hall Of Infamy

THE MOST NOTORIOUS TORTURERS

BASED ON the accounts of scores of torture victims, a number of military intelligence units, officers and operatives stand out as among the most ruthless and most inhuman torturers of all.

The "Hall of Infamy" below includes those in the military intelligence who have inflicted extremely brutal torture on a considerable number of political prisoners.

I. MOST NOTORIOUS INTELLIGENCE UNITS

1. 5th Constabulary Security Unit (5th CSU), Camp Crane, Q.C.
2. National Intelligence and Security Authority (NISA), Davao City
3. Metrocom Intelligence Division ((M-2)/ Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group (MISG), Camp Crane, Q.C.
4. First PC Zone Intelligence Division (Z-2), Camp Olivas, Panganga
5. First Constabulary Security Unit (1st CSU), Camp Olivas, Panganga
6. 5th Military Intelligence Group, Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (5th MIG, ISAFP), Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

II. MOST NOTORIOUS TORTURERS

1. Lt. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, 5th CSU
2. Sgt. Eduardo Cafe, NISA, Davao
3. Lt. Eduardo S. Matillano, MISG
4. Maj. Arsenio Eguerra, 5th MIG
5. Lt. Victor Batao, 5th CSU
6. Capt. Cecilio Penilla, 5th CSU
7. Lt. Billy Bibit, 5th CSU
8. Capt. Jesus Pebleto, 9th CSU
9. Lt. Robert Delfin, 5th CSU
10. Lt. Melencio Manlala, 5th CSU
11. Sgt. J. Doble, 1st CSU
12. Sgt. Felicite Ricardo, 5th CSU



The pictures above are those of Sgt. Bibit (top photo) and Lt. Aguinaldo of the 5th CSU. If you see them in your neighborhood, alert any underground group at once and keep a close watch on their movements.

13. Sgt. _____ Manlapan, 5th CSU
14. Capt. _____ Malilay, 223rd PC Company
15. Lt. Arthur Castillo, CANU
16. Sgt. Lino Malabanan, 1st MIG
17. Capt. Amado Espino Jr., S-2
18. Capt. Arturo Lumbao, S-2
19. Lt. Clifford Moveras, S-2
20. Maj. Benjamin Liharnao, S-2
21. Capt. Renato Dolina, 1st CSU

22. CIC Paterno Ordoña, MISG
23. Atty. Lazaro Castillo, NISA
24. Sgt. Orlando Flores, NISA
25. Lt. Briz, III PC Zone Provost Marshall's Office
26. Lt. Manabganag, MSU, Cebu

By far the most ruthless intelligence unit is the 5th CSU. No less than an Amnesty International Mission which visited the Philippines in November-December 1975 found "compelling evidence that a high percentage of both present and former prisoners at 5th CSU had been subjected to systematic and severe torture."

AI enumerated the gruesome methods of torture that the 5th CSU goons used: "prolonged beatings with fists, kicks, and karate blows, beatings with a variety of contusive instruments -- including rifle butts, heavy wooden clubs and family-sized soft drink bottles -- the pounding of heads against walls and furniture (such as the edge of a filing cabinet), the burning of genitals and pubic hair with the flame of a cigarette lighter, falanga (beating of the soles of the feet) and the so-called 'lying-on-air' torture."

Until now, the 5th CSU keeps up its relentless abuse of political prisoners. It has become so notorious that it has been compared with the infamous DINA, Chile's dreaded intelligence agency.

Among the individual tormentors of political prisoners, 5th CSU Lt. Aguinaldo is reputed to be the worst of the lot. AI reports that "among the most persistent and systematic torturers at 5th CSU was Lt. R.A., who appeared to have treated prisoners with outrageous cruelty."

Lt. Aguinaldo was formerly the head of the Special Mission Group, a sort of "lost command" military unit that went on a rampage in the early days of martial rule, indiscriminately arresting and torturing anyone whom they considered "subversive". (Z-2's Sgt. Doble also used to belong to the SMG).

In Davao City, the NISA, in coordination with paramilitary forces, institutes a reign of terror, kidnapping youth activists and sympathizers, and torturing them in safehouses.

NISA has the financial backing of an ultra-rightist millionaire logger, Francisco Yap, whose son was reportedly killed by the New People's Army in

1975 for being an informer. Desiring revenge, Yap offers P9,000 to P5,000 for every suspect in the slaying of his son.

Thugs and goons have been recruited by Yap and NISA in their anti-NPA drive. NISA's Sgt. Cafe, himself an ex-convict, directs the torture of captured "subversives" and has been pinpointed as being extremely brutal. Another Yapson, a CIS agent, has also been identified as among the torturers.

The MISG (under M-2), and Lt. Matillano in particular, have recently achieved notoriety for subjecting Trining Herrera, the well-known community leader, to electric shock treatment and various indignities. But Mrs. Herrera is not the only victim of MISG.

Many newly-arrived political prisoners have experienced much harsher corporal punishment at the hands of Lt. Matillano and other MISG men.

Twenty-four political prisoners accused some 20 Z-2 and 1st CSU personnel, including five lieutenants, plus Col. Aure of the 5th CSU, of subjecting them to torture. Several female political prisoners complained of sexual indignities done to them.

Despite the wide publicity generated by the case, only Lt. Noveras and two enlisted men were found guilty by a military court -- and for the torture of only two political prisoners.

Z-2 and 1st CSU goons figured prominently in the first major exposé of torture cases in late 1974, involving Fr. Edicio de la Torre and others.

In general, torturers, including those listed above, have taken pains to hide their names and even their faces through the use of aliases or by blindfolding their victims during torture sessions.

They have nevertheless been discovered. This has been achieved through the courageous and concerted efforts of their victims and of religious supporters and other human rights groups.

There are many more tormentors, some even more merciless than those already listed, who have managed to conceal their identities. But they will in due time be similarly exposed.

And all torturers will ultimately be meted the people's justice. ●

IKAW ANG BILANGGONG PULITIKAL

CRISANTA PARNASO



Ikaw ang bilanggong pulitikal.

Mababakas pa marahil ang naitin na pilat
Na iniwan sa iyo ng di-mabilang na sugat,
Tatak sa katawan mong tumanggap
Ng pagkahahapding parusa
Sa kareel ng mga pasista.

Mapawi na nga marahil, ang kirot at mga
Ng mga latay sa likod, sa paa mo't sukha
Di na lamang nakatkat ay ang gunita:
Ang mga suntok at haplit
Ng mga dimonyong malupiti!

Ikaw
Ang bilanggong pulitikal
At isa kang
Maggagawang
Binusabas ng kapital.

Naaba ang buhay mo: kaya ikaw ay nagwelga.
Hiniling ang dapat, alang-alang sa pamilya.
Kaunting biyaya lamang sa pabrika
Na lalo pang ipinagdanot...
At ikaw raw ay nananakot!

Wala ka na bang laya na itindig ang buhay?
Habang panahon bang sa dalita'y nakaratay?
Sa lakas-paggawa mo nakasalalay:
Labo't ginhawa ng sayaman
Pahunan nila't pakinabang!

Ikaw
Ang bilanggong pulitikal
At isa kang
Magsasakang
Ang buhay ay pagbubungkal.

At ano na lamang bigaya ang nakuha mo sa lay?
Anong tulong at anong ligaya ang iyong napal?
Dantaon kang siklot ng pagsasasantala!
Sunog ka sa sa apoy ng araw
Aliping higit pa sa kalabaw!

At sapagka't ipinagkait sa iyo ang kataranga
Tinuntan mo'y ang landas patungong katubusan
At ngayo'y rebelde pa ang paratang
Sa taong suklas nang pasakal
Sa taong naghangad ng dangal!

Ikaw,
Ay bilanggong pulitikal
At isang muralitang
Tagalunsod,
Ikwater na sabi'y ugat ng kriminal!

Pano nangyaring ikwateer ka sa iyong bayan?
Ikaw pa na sakararami, at dugo na ng lipunan
Habang palasyo at mansyon
Ang tirahan ng mga ulupong?

Hinubdan ka ng bubong, ng lupang kakapiraso
Sa basak na tinitirha'y pinalayas ng tirano.
Tumutol ka: tinuwag kang subersibo...
At dito, sa luksang bisbinan
Laya mo'y lalong binabusalan!

Ikaw
Ay bilanggong pulitikal
At taong mulat
Na nabansagang intelektuwal.

Ikaw ay di na kuwagong nasa toreng garing
Na sa kaunting dunong ay nahuhumaling.
Tinalikdan mo na ang aklat, sining,
Na lipos pa ng lumot at agiw
At sa iyo ay hungkag na aliw.

Noon, noon pa ay iyong namalas at nadama
Ang buktot na pahirap sa malawak na masa
Umigpaw sa sarili't nagsalita ka!
At ikaw na mulat ay bilanggo
Isa na sa masang di mapayuko!

Ikaw:
Manggagawa, magsasaka
Meralitang tagalunsod
At intelektuwal,
Na bahagi ng masa at sambayanan...
Ay bilanggong pulitikal.

AT IKAW MAN NGAYON AY BILANGGONG PULITIKAL
MATATAG KA PANG LALO, MAY REHAS MANG BAKALI!



THEY SIMPLY DISAPPEARED...

AN ALARMING TREND has surfaced in the treatment of political suspects who are captured or arrested by military intelligence units. More and more of them are no longer brought to the regular detention camps after "tactical interrogation" or torture. They simply disappear.

Some of these "disappeareds" turn up later on in some detention centers, while others have been spotted in safehouses. A considerable number, however, are still missing, their fates unknown. It is likely that some of them have been "salvaged" -- the military term for a rubout.

The "missing persons" are:

1. Nenita Evangelista-Luneta - arrested with her three-year-old daughter last June 30, 1975 in Cabanatuan City.

2. Johannes Barrozo - a student arrested with Nenita on the same day.

3. Juan Andres Buenaventura - arrested with Barrozo on the same day.

4. Leticia Pascual-Ladlad - 4th year BS Chemistry scholar at UP Los Baños, disappeared on Nov. 28, 1975.

5. Manuel Ontong - UST fine arts student picked up near PGH on Nov. 22, 1975.

6. Emmanuel Alvarez - former UP student who disappeared on Jan. 6, 1976.

7. Emmanuel Yap - UP graduate student of economics, arrested near Channel 7, Q.C., on Feb. 14, 1976.

8. Rex Edralin - arrested along Baguio-Benguet road on March 16, 1976.

9. Margarito Alvarez - disappeared on June 12, 1976.

10. Melanio Bartolome - disappeared on July 23, 1976 in Metro Manila.

11. Carlos Tayag - a Benedictine deacon who disappeared on Aug. 17, 1976.

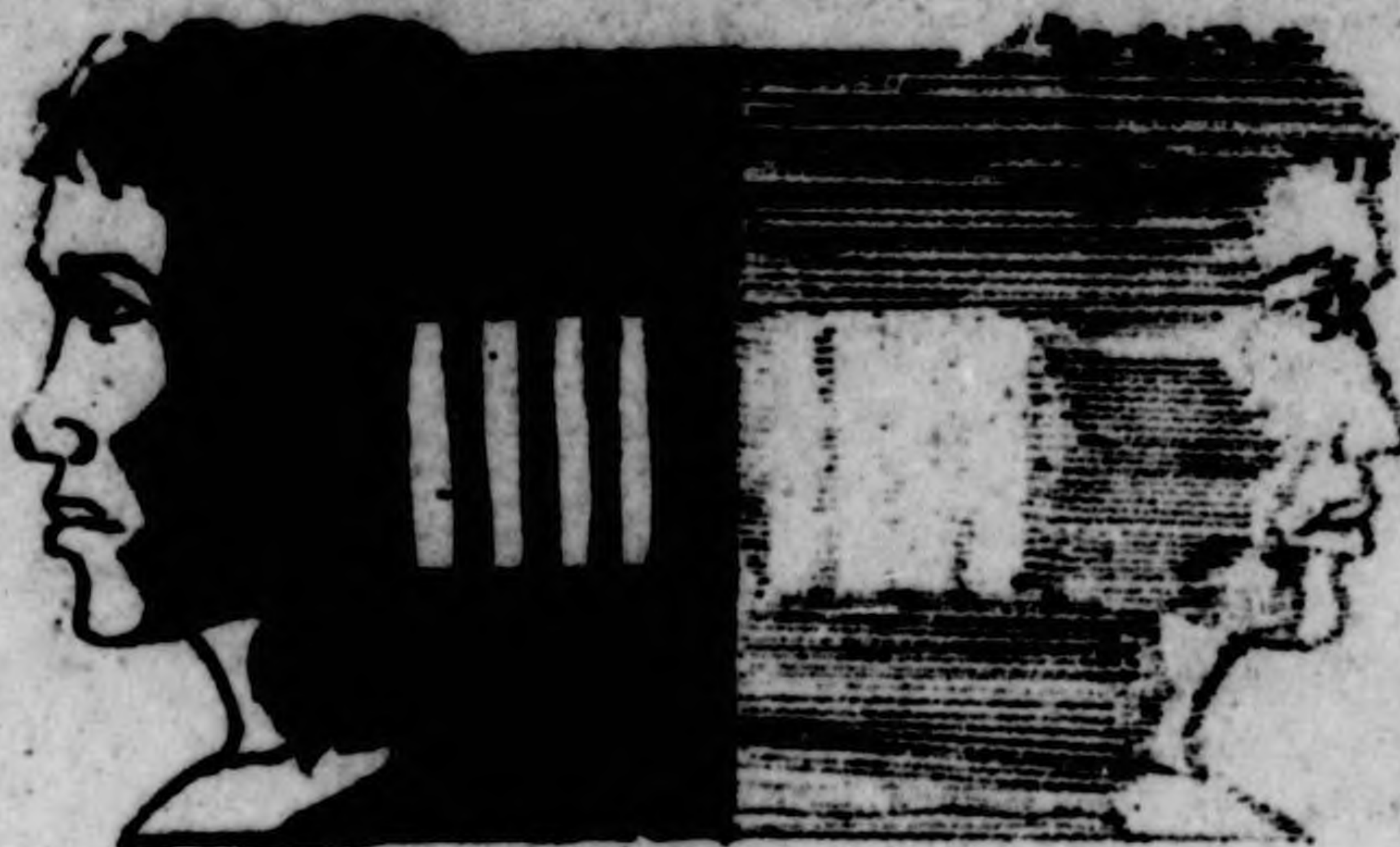
12. Henry Romero - Bulletin Today correspondent arrested in Central Luzon in October 1976.

13. Atty. Hermon Lagman - labor lawyer who disappeared on the early morning of May 11, 1977 on his way from his home to a meeting.

14. Victor Reyes - disappeared along with Lagman on May 11, 1977.

Human rights groups must exert all efforts to stop such a trend before it becomes "standard operating procedure" for military units desperate to crush the growing opposition to the Marcos fascist dictatorship. ●

COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY



SEVERAL HIGH-RANKING officials take part in the torture of political prisoners. The following have either supervised or ordered torture sessions, or actually executed torture themselves.

1. COL. MIGUEL AURE, 5th CSU commanding officer. He not only directs, but himself applies torture, according to a number of political prisoners. Col. Aure has also been implicated in the murder by strangulation of a political prisoner, Purificacion Pedro, last Feb. 1977.
2. COL. GREG R. PEREZ, a NISA director. He himself conducts tactical interrogation of suspected "high-ranking subversives" and virtually dictates when torture is to start, stop or resume. He frequents military and civilian intelligence safehouses such as those of the 5th MIG, 5th CSU and NISA/CISA. For his cover, Col. Perez works as an executive of Carmasters and as a columnist (Personalities in the Auto Business, Bulletin Today).
3. COL. JOSE AQUINO (RET.), Civil Intelligence and Security Agency (CISA) director. He also frequents safehouses, often in the company of Col. Perez. Together, they supervise tactical interrogation and torture of political prisoners.
4. BRIG. GEN. TOMAS DIAZ, former commander of the 1st PC Zone, now deputy PC chief. Torture was conducted in his very own backyard in Quezon City.
5. BRIG. GEN. PROSPERO OLIVAS, commanding general of the Metropolitan Command (Metrocom).
6. LT. COL. LAUREL VALDEZ, former commanding officer of Metrocom Intelligence (M-2).
7. BRIG. GEN. ALFREDO R. MONTOYA, former Metrocom commander, now commander of the 2nd PC Zone.
8. LT. COL. JOSEPH PATALINGHUG, former chief of Z-2 of the 1st PC Zone.
9. LT. COL. ROLANDO ABADILLA, commanding officer of M-2.
10. LT. COL. ROLANDO DE GUZMAN, former deputy commander of 5th MIG and present commander of 4th MIG.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS

LIKE ANY OTHER oppressed group, political prisoners and their families are principally responsible for their own liberation.

But like all oppressed groups, they also need the help of other concerned people in their struggle. If you want to lend a hand, here are some guidelines for action.

1. MAKE OTHERS AWARE OF THE POLITICAL PRISONERS' ISSUE.

Mention what facts you know in conversations or in letters. Pass this paper on to others and distribute other publications on political prisoners. Do not underestimate the value of your individual efforts, especially now that the martial law regime is very sensitive about the issue of political prisoners and outrightly denies their existence. Spread the stories on torture, "safehouses" and "salvage", but stress the prisoners' courage, dignity and determined resistance in the face of such repression.

2. ORGANIZE A GROUP.

From those you talk to, write to or pass literature to, some are bound to show enough interest and willingness to act. Together you can contact existing organizations that are already active in helping out political prisoners. You can initially help out in their existing projects and later develop more formal and distinct organizations, especially in schools, communities, parishes and civic circles.

3. CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS.

Of the more than 80 detention centers officially acknowledged by the military, only very few have been reported on. Find out if there is a detention place in your province or city. Get hold of the following basic data: number and classification of detainees, military authorities in charge, prison policies and conditions. Later, you can inquire into torture incidents and official charges against the prisoners, the socio-economic condition of the prisoners' families, missing persons, if any, etc. Also be alert to the presence of "safehouses" in your neighborhood. Report them at once to human rights groups.

4. START PROJECTS BASED ON THE PRISONERS' NEEDS.

You can launch these projects either on your own or as part of an existing legal program. The usual needs of prisoners are: (a) welfare: food supplements, medicine, reading and recreational materials, production materials and marketing assistance; (b) legal aid: lawyers' groups can be tapped for this; (c) assistance to prisoners' families like transportation money for visits, follow-up of papers, jobs, especially if the prisoner is the breadwinner; (d) supportive campaigns for legal release like symposia followed by signature gathering for petitions, etc.

As your group becomes more exposed to the problems of political prisoners and more active in projects involving them, your insight into the issue will deepen. Beyond the immediate issues of due process and humane treatment, beyond the question of torture and indefinite detention, you will encounter the very question of martial rule itself, and the basic evils it is meant to perpetuate. Furthermore, in asking why these fellow Filipinos have been imprisoned, you will discover the problems they sought to solve and the people they sought to serve.

As your awareness and commitment deepens, your group can develop to a more advance level: a cell of the national democratic front within the legal organizations you work with. A cell comprehensively carries out social investigation, propaganda and organizational work to advance the people's democratic revolution.

TOUR d'FORCE WITH MR. DIETATOR

OUR MARTIAL LAW IS A SMILING MARTIAL LAW. SEE HOW MY PEOPLE GAIN, THEY JUST LOVE MILITARY RULE -- MARCOS STYLE, OF COURSE!



POVERTY? BAN, WE HAVE ABOLISHED IT IN THE PHILIPPINES! JUST LOOK AT OUR NEW HOTELS, CASINOS, ROADS... AREN'T THESE THE SIGN OF PROGRESS?



OUR STATE PROMOTES SOCIAL JUSTICE TO ENSURE PEOPLE'S DIGNITY AND WELFARE. CIVILIAN AUTHORITY REIGNS SUPREME OVER THE MILITARY. WE PROMOTE THE FREEDOMS OF PRESS, SPEECH AND ASSEMBLY. WE ASSURE THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS TO EMPLOYMENT AND JOB SECURITY.

BUT... SOMETIMES THINGS GET TOO BIG FOR ME AND I CALL MY BUDDIES IN THE ARMED FORCES TO HELP ME GUARANTEE THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT. BUT STILL, NO ONE BUT NO ONE HAS BEEN TORTURED!



AS FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS, BUSINESSMEN AND TOURISTS, WE BEND OVER BACKWARDS TO MAKE THEM STAY HERE COMFORTABLE. THEY WANT TO JACK UP OIL PRICES, LET THE OIC DO IT FOR THEM. THEY WANT TO HIRE YOUNG WORKERS, LET THE PCSPE CARRY OUT THE TASK. THEY WANT TO BED WITH OUR WOMEN, LET THE DOT ACT THE PIMP FOR THEM. FOR OUR FOREIGN FRIENDS, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE!



WE ARE ALL HAPPY UNDER MARTIAL LAW. THE NEWSPAPERS PRINT ONLY WHAT WILL MAKE THE PEOPLE BRIGHT AND GAY. WALANG CRIME AND VIOLENCE. PEACE AND ORDER NOW PREVAILS.



AND WITH THE CAPTURE OF COMMANDER DANTE AND VICTOR CORPUZ, THE REVOLUTIONARY MASS MOVEMENT IS...



...STILL GROWING!