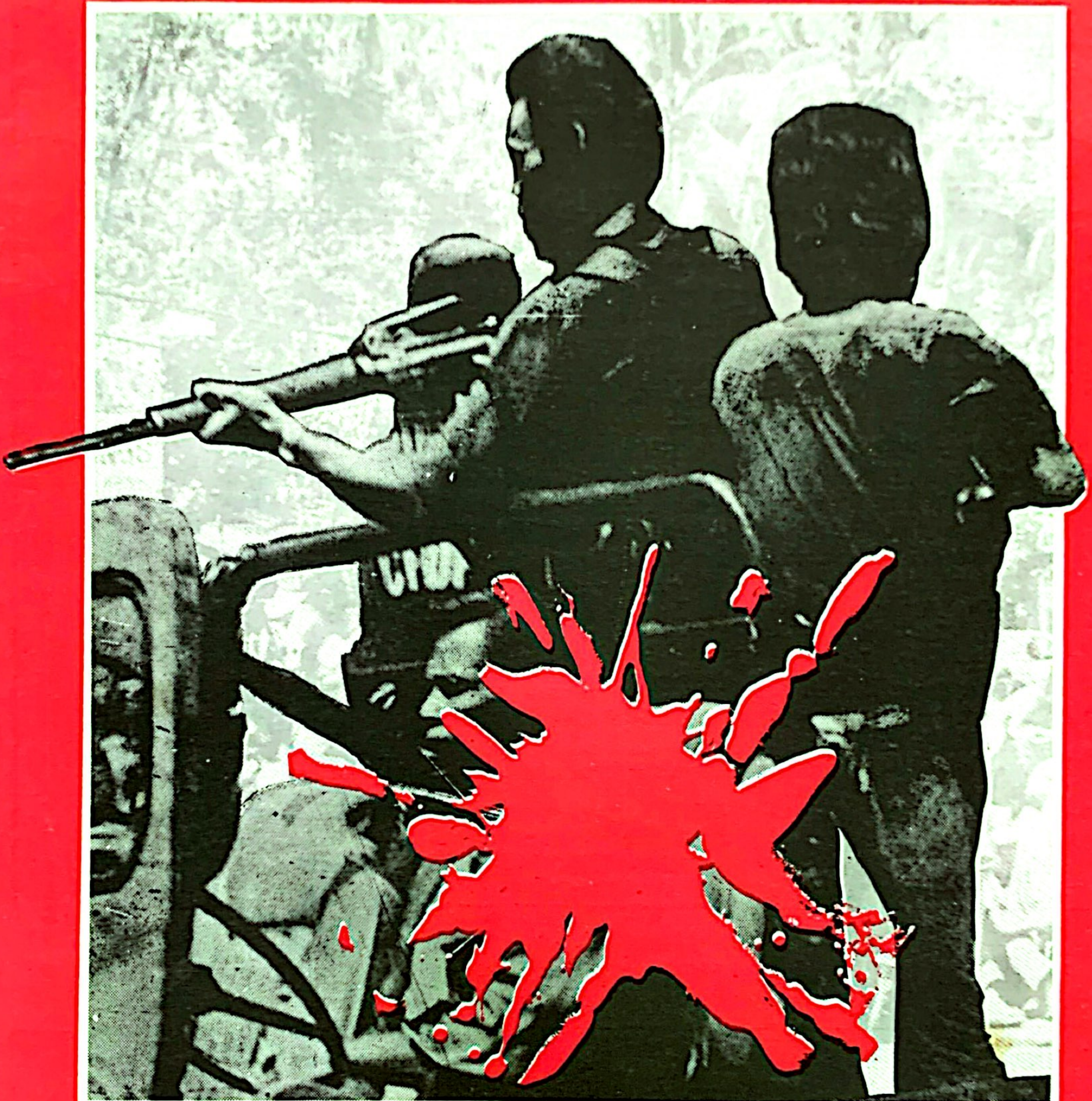


PHILIPPINE TRADE UNION REPORTS: REPRESSION

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*"... call attention to the dignity
and rights of workers and condemn
situations where these are violated."*

**Pope John Paul II
On Human Work**

Upholding Trade Union & Democratic Rights

Repression. This is what aptly describes the current experience of the Filipino workers while advancing their struggle for basic trade union and human rights.

In Philippine experience, such involves the use of brute armed force and coercion against workers in the picketlines demanding wage increases, job security, and the recognition of their union. This also involves the application of laws that tend to prevent workers from exercising their fundamental freedoms and liberties.

Repression is the contribution of the Commission on Trade Union and Human Rights (CTHUR) to the advancing struggle of the Filipino workers. Through this we hope to provide the workers and the people concerned with their struggle of insights on the trends of repression and how it is being faced by the united ranks of the toiling masses.

Along with the belief of the Commission, a non-stock non-profit organization committed to the cause of trade union and human rights, **Repression** will serve as our vehicle to make the people aware of the universality of the workers' struggle, and the degree and magnitude of the suppression of their inviolable individual rights.

It is hoped that through this, we shall be able to establish cooperative endeavors with other concerned groups, individuals and organizations both here in the Philippines and abroad for the cause of workers' human rights and thereby enhance the further advance of their struggles.

For a start, it is also hoped that we be able to foster unity among various groups concerned with human rights on the basis of taking cognizance of the justness of the struggle of the Filipino workers.

These are what **Repression** intends to bring about. And to help fight repression is our firm commitment.

What's inside...

Fact-Finding Mission Report: Davao del Sur	4
Trends	18
News Briefs	21
An Unforgettable Past	23

Editorial Board

Bishop Antonino Nepomuceno, O.M.I.
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Fighting Repression With Solidarity

Repression of workers' rights is as pervasive as the Presidential Decrees and Executive Orders being institutionalized by the present dispensation. Almost every facet of human experience in the Philippines today has been tinged with the blood and tears of its people. Cause: Greed, wealth and power at the sacrifice of workers.

For Filipino workers, demands for wage increases, job security and the recognition of their labor unions are met with armed force and coercion. This is not too uncommon in the picketlines, factories and even the homes of labor leaders who merely seek the recognition of their human and trade union rights.

But the workers do not take such hostile treatment with apathy. They continue their struggles in the form of strikes and other protest actions, standing as one class to defend their rights and interests.

And in the spirit of solidarity to fight state repression, the Commission on Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUR) was conceived. Its purpose is to confront terrorism not with an equally evil force but with an awareness that victory and strength lies in the hands of the people and not in a fascist army. The Commission is committed to the cause of advancing genuine, nationalist and militant trade unionism. It is against all forms of deception and coercion that seeks to derail this cause. The Commission believes that repression can and has taken on different and subtle forms with labor legislation as one of them, and therefore devotes itself to exposing such devious moves by the ruling elite.

No human being can ignore the succeeding tragedies in the labor front. All these tragic experiences, from the death of a working class martyr, labor-leader symbolic of Ka Bert Ollalia to the detention of many oppressed workers and the suppression of the rights of the workers of Foamtex, Artex, Blue Bar and others, become the witness of the struggle of the people against oppression and tyranny.

And in advancing these goals, the Commission hopes to serve as the people's vehicle for uniting and contributing to the advance of workers' rights and interest.

Objectives

CTUHR shall oppose and expose the repression being experienced by the workers in particular and the trade union movement in general in the pursuit of its just demands. It is against the system that perpetrates such repression and oppression and shall unmask the entities responsible for it so that the people may see their true nature.

CTUHR shall establish programs to document and publicize trade union rights violations through its fact-finding teams and massive information campaigns. Its goal shall be to promote the establishment of and strengthen genuine trade unionism in the Philippines.

CTUHR shall offer social and educational services to workers and the victims of trade union repression and provide moral support to the dependents and relatives of disadvantaged workers.

— Bishop Antonino Nepomuceno, O.M.I.

Fact Finding Mission Report: Davao del Sur



I. INTRODUCTION

Davao witnessed lately waves of popular unrest caused by economic and human rights issues with socio-political implications. The present political dispensation is seen by the people as responsible for the economic injustices and deprivation they are experiencing.

As a response to the pressing economic problems and as instrument towards the collective attainment of specific goals, various people's organizations emerged in Davao starting in 1981 — from unions to workers' alliances and from community associations to broad mass organizations. Unions have become exponents of workers' interests and of their struggle for just wages and better working conditions as well as the restoration of their trade union rights. As for the urban populace, mostly poor and underprivileged (the craftsmen, peddlers, fishermen, dockworkers,

stevedores, etc.) they have organized their ranks to resist demolition and insure their right to a decent living.

The increasing participation of broad sectors of the population in concerted protest undertakings until 1983 was met by equally heightened military reaction. The strong force of resistance mustered by the people proved to have effectively repelled military maneuvers and attacks. Nevertheless, military terrorisms continued to hound a peace-loving people as abuses and killings by the armed forces, become a daily occurrence instilling fear and anger.

Against the backdrop of legitimate issues and demands raised by the civilian population, the military has wantonly violated the basic human and constitutional rights of the people under the guise of "counter insurgency". Such has

justified the deployment of huge military forces at the height of mounting people's protests, thus serving further the ends of the political-military operations of the so-called insurgents.

Upon request by various concerned groups in Davao last year, the Commission on Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR), a Manila-based ecumenical human rights organization, initiated an inter-agency Fact Finding Mission to Davao City from February 21 to 23 this year. After taking into account general informations on the question of peace and order in the province, specific cases of reported human rights violations have been investigated. With particular interest to the Mission were the January 10 incident at the strike-bound Franklin Baker Corporation at Bo. Coronon, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur which resulted in the

killing of two strikers and the mysterious operations of a para-military group in Mandug and Tigatto districts known as the People's Liberation Organization (PLO). This group has been tagged as responsible for the cold-blooded murder of ardent human rights advocate, Alexander Orcullo, and the arrests and harrassment of Lapan-day Development Corporation workers last year.

Also of special interest to the Mission were the rash of military operations conducted against the urban poor communities in Davao City particularly the districts of Agdao, Buhangin, Daliao, Matias, Talomo and Punta Dumalag.

During the three-day mission, facts and informations gathered from interviews of victims, their relatives, civilian authorities and the military establishment, news reports and other documented accounts, government reports and statistics, form part and are the bases of the findings of this documentation report.

The findings and conclusions of the Mission are as follows:

II. FINDINGS

Franklin Baker Case

On the night of January 10, 1985, a group of jeep riding armed men fired at the picketline of the striking workers of Franklin Baker Corporation of the Philippines leaving several strikers manning the picketlines wounded. Almost simultaneously, or several seconds later, another burst of gunfire was heard from inside the company compound killing Nestor Macalino, a striker, on the spot. Willy Agustin, also a striker, died while being rushed to a hospital along with wounded others.

The Fact-Finding Mission was able to gather pertinent informations related to the incident and conducted an ocular visit to the site at Barangay Coronon, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, some 40 kilometers south of Davao City.

Circumstances of the Incident

On or about 7:55 in the evening of January 10, 1985, the striking workers of Franklin Baker Corporation of the Philippines, numbering around 40, manning the picketline in front of the main gate facing the Davao-Digos national highway, heard two shots believed to be from men aboard an owner jeep running north towards the direction of Davao City. Seconds after the first shot, lights in the main gate of the company went off. The vehicle slowed down as it passed the picketline and when the jeep was already less than 50 meters away, a burst of automatic gunfire coming from armed men aboard the jeep was heard. The workers dropped and covered after about several seconds. At least 10 persons, four of whom are women, including a seven year old daughter of Marcos Boyongan, a striker, were wounded.

Immediately after the strafing, Nestor Macalino, married, with three children and a resident of Toril, Davao City, shouted "libre ko bay" (I am safe) implying he was not hit and stood up to assist one of the wounded. Another burst of automatic gunfire was then heard, this time coming from behind the steel gates of the company. Afterwards Macalino was already fallen, his back on the

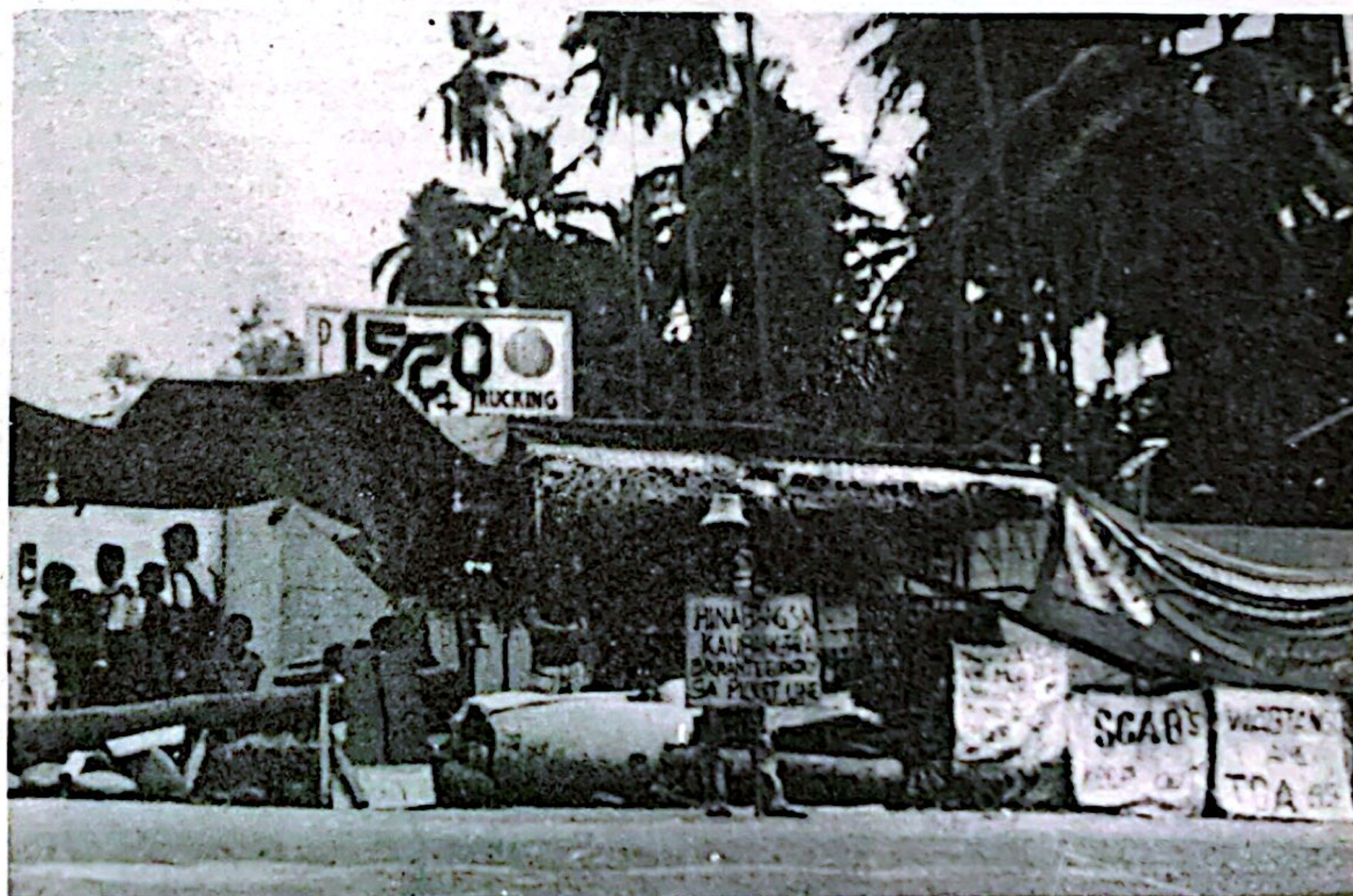
bamboo flooring of the strikers' makeshift camp. He was hit in the upper portion of his head, his nape blown off killing him on the spot.

Another worker, Willy Agustin, 28, married, of Inawayan, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur who died on the way to a hospital in Digos, Davao del Sur, was hit by a bullet on the thigh cruising to his stomach.

A local daily newspaper, the Peoples Daily Forum, reported two days after the incident, that while some of the workers were already asleep in the picketline at about 8:00 in the evening of January 10, "(they) were rained simultaneously with bullets coming from a slow moving group of jeep riding men. . heading towards Davao City. . ." The names of those wounded were also reported in the same newspaper.

The morning following the incident, several empty shells of carbine and ArmaLite M-16 rifle bullets were recovered by the workers inside the steel gates, thus affirming their claim that guns were fired from the inside.

Mr. Felipe Saruelas, Franklin Baker plant supervisor, who was inside the company at the time of the incident, denied there was shooting from inside the compound. He alleged that after the burst of gunfire, stoning of the company by



Franklin Baker Corp. picketline (opposite page) military containment of Welgang Bayan participants: people's resistance and "justified deployment of military forces"



A picketline wake for Agustin and Macalino: a hands-off policy for the police and the military.

the strikers ensued destroying the lights at the company gate.

Police Captain Domingo V. Rodriguez, commander of the Sta. Cruz police station, said he and his men proceeded immediately to the scene almost two hours after. Capt. Rodriguez further said nobody was at the picketline when he and his men entered the compound after the incident. He added that while inside, shots were heard outside compelling his men to fire their guns in the air as a show of "retaliation"

Based on an investigation report submitted by Capt. Rodriguez to the PC Provincial Commander dated January 14, 1985, it states that an investigation of the case started January 11 when an investigator "repaired" to the scene of the shooting. In the same report it is also stated that "All members of this unit are directed to be on the lookout and apprehend, jeep bearing plate number 247" which the workers said, was the vehicle they saw carrying the gunmen after it passed by them heading towards Digos shortly after the incident.

The vehicle owner however, whom Capt. Rodriguez said was his neighbor from Digos, has not been apprehended for questioning since the Capt. also said "I know the owner very well."

On the first day of the strike, seven military and police elements led by a certain Sgt. Mariano Capoy of the Sta. Cruz Police and another Sgt. Virgilio Amoria had ordered the dismantling of the workers' picket, then manned by over 800 strikers, on grounds that the strike was illegal. At gunpoint, the group also searched and ransacked the strikers' makeshift camp leaving their personal properties in disarray. The same group has likewise facilitated the entry of scabs into the compound.

Second Day of Strike

As the strike entered its second day, Member of Parliament Douglas Gagus and lawyers Leonardo Suarior and Dominador Calamba II held talks with the military in the picketline and invoked the legitimacy of the strike. After the dialogue, the military elements entered and camped in at the company compound. From January 2 to January 7, soldiers had reportedly poured into the company in small groups including at least nine composite elements of the Regional Unified Command XI (RUC XI).

January 5: Management Files "Illegal Strike" Against Union:

The labor dispute was certified for

compulsory arbitration and a return to work order was issued on January 7 enjoining the Franklin management to accept "all workers" under the same terms and condition before the strike.

January 7 - Harassment

On January 7, 80 security guards armed with shields, truncheons, pitstols led by Felipe Saruelas escorted the entry of a Ford Fiera loaded with coconuts, but was blocked by the human barricade of the workers and the Ford Fiera driver conceded to the striking workers' plea to desist from entering the compound.

In the afternoon of January 8, seven trucks of raw coconuts were escorted by soldiers into the company through the side gate manned mostly by women strikers. The women had their bodies on the ground to prevent the entry of the trucks but around 60 armed guards and military men forcibly dispersed the striking workers with truncheons. At least three were reported hurt while the wife of one of the strikers, Remedios Pulgrenas, who was three months on the family way had a miscarriage when her left arm and fingers were twisted and when she was beaten on the hips.

On the night of the same day, Reynaldo Salamat, the personnel manager of the company was gunned down near his residence in Toril, Davao City by still unknown gunmen.

Following this incident, the workers were informed by the company guard, Juanito Carmona, reportedly the assistant chief security officer, that management had a plan purportedly to avenge the death of Salamat so the picket should be dismantled. At about 6:00 p.m. of January 9, the workers voluntarily dismantled the picket at the side gate of the company and only the one at the main gate was manned by the strikers until the shooting incident of January 10 happened.

Brief Background of the Labor Dispute:

The workers under the Nagkahi-usang Mamumuo sa Franklin Baker (NAMAFA) first went on strike on September 14, 1982 which lasted for

36 days. Three of their 13-point demands were granted by management: the recognition of their union, mutual aid benefit plan and the grant of SSS loan to 80 workers.

In August last year, the workers staged a production slowdown demanding the implementation of wage orders 4, 5 and 6. On August 16, FBCP had shutdown operations and locked out rank and file employees including casuals and probationaries. On the same day, the workers picketed the company premises denouncing the lockout as illegal and demanded the resumption of normal operations so that the workers may return to work.

Last September 14, 1984, plant operations in the company was back to normal. FBCP management, however, refused to accept 206 returning workers whom management claimed were "dismissed for cause". Three days later, the workers union filed a notice of strike on grounds of unfair labor practices. On September 27 or shortly before the strike could commence, Labor Minister Blas Ople certified the case for compulsory arbitration. Management who received the order October 2 again refused to take the terminated workers back.

Hearings on the case were held in Manila from October 18 to 30 but the workers had not received positive results as the more than 200 workers continued to be out of their jobs.

The strike was called.

The Naghiusang Mamumuo sa Franklin Baker has a total membership of 968 workers of the total 1,200 rank-and-file employees of the company.

The company has a total workforce of 1,700, including casual and probationary workers.

Present Status:

1. Macalino and Agustin Case.

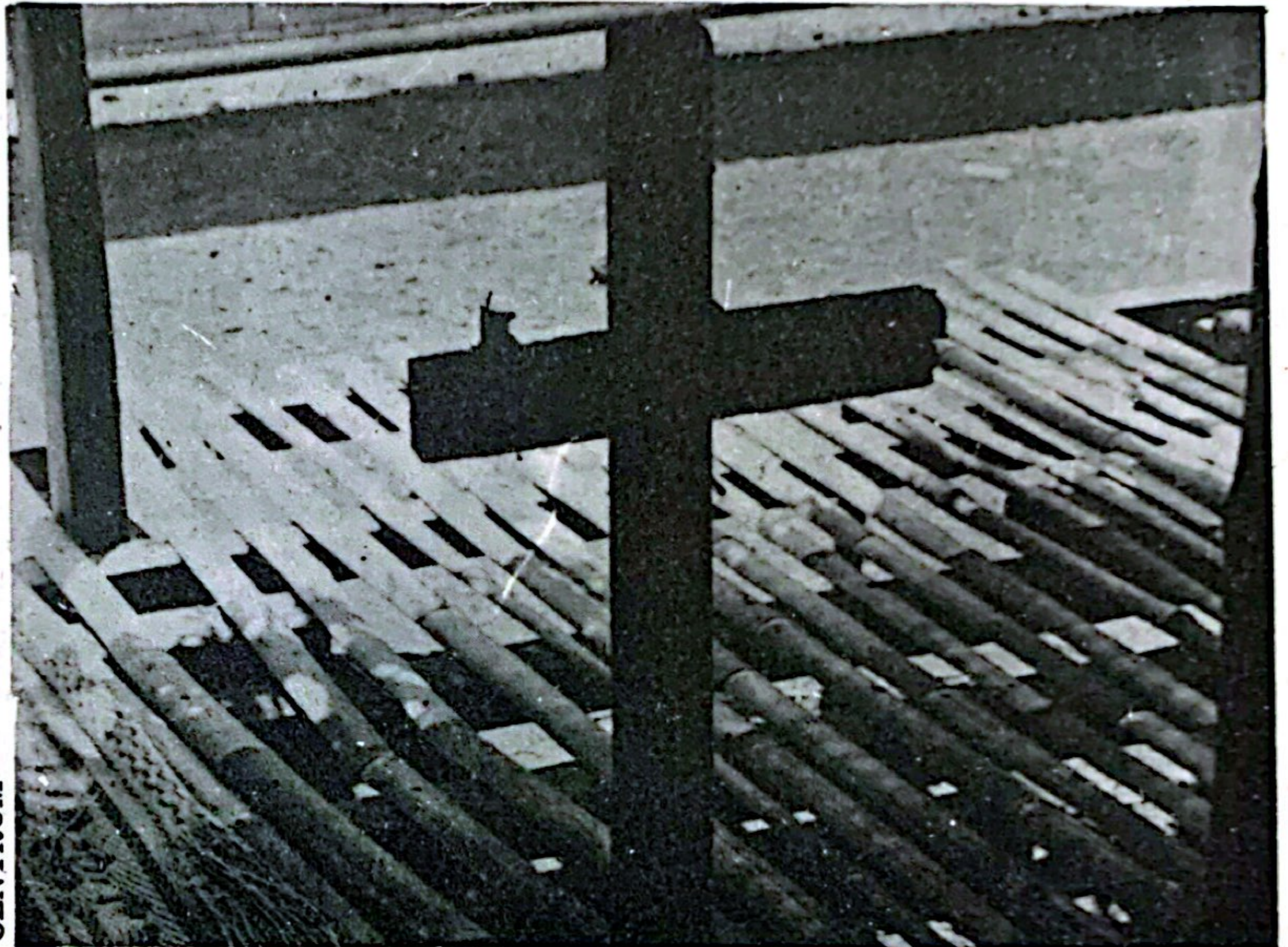
After the investigation report of the local police was submitted to the provincial command of the Integrated National Police of Davao del Sur, the Mission found out that no significant development in the investigation of the shooting was done. There are several leads that could have been pursued in order to establish the circumstances sur-

rounding the killing or determine where the fatal shots that felled the two workers really 'came from. The workers of Franklin Baker and the residents of Coronon, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, strongly believe that the bullet that killed Macalino and Agustin came from inside the company compound yet the local police has not conducted powder tests and other examination of the guards, police and other military elements inside the company compound at the time of the shooting. Neither has the investigation

by Minister Ople on January 7 this year.

Meanwhile, an affidavit reportedly signed by at least 1,000 workers signifying their non-participation and absence of support to the strike, and the workers' willingness to return to work was the management's excuse in resuming operations last February 20. Management claimed about 800 workers are already reporting for normal production operations.

The workers, on the other hand, claim that the petition was a management ploy,



Spot where Macalino died: high probability of military involvement

pursued on the vehicle's clue that may lead to the identification of the gunmen, nor the autopsy report made by local doctors on the bodies of Macalino and Agustin. High military authorities in the regional command have apparently taken a hands off policy on the case even as the police "recommended" that other agencies step into the inquiry.

2. The Certified Labor Case.

Hearings on the case continued up to the time of the Mission. A legal question is pending with the National Labor Relations Commission involving interpretation of the return-to work order issued

and that individual signatures are paid up to P800, and that scabs, probationary and casual workers are inside the firm manning the operations.

Since the incident of January 10, strikers at the picketline continue to decline, as workers fear that similar incidents could happen again. The strikers themselves have expressed willingness to return to their work, the company being their bread and butter, if only those earlier terminated shall be accepted back by the Franklin management.

Another thing that the workers are sorry about is the role of the regional office of the labor ministry here, according to lawyers, its being a witting instru-

ment of the transnational desiccating firm. The Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) regional office failed to enforce Minister Ople's order of January 7 for management to accept all workers, which implies including those terminated for cause last September 14, and for the workers to return to work under the same terms and condition before the strike.

Military elements, who were earlier "detailed" even before the incident, continue to be visible inside the company compound even as the firm has resumed operations whose presence in the words of Capt. Rodriguez, upon management's request, is "to protect company properties only for the duration until it resumes operations."

Lapanday Agricultural and Development Corporation (LADECO) Mandug, Tigatto Area

The Fact-Finding Mission found out that within a three-month period (August to November 1984), increasing militarization in barangays Mandug and Tigatto, some 15 and 8 kilometers from Davao City respectively had jeopardized the lives and welfare of the residents and had resulted in serious violations of their basic human rights.

The violations of the people's basic rights were the result of so-called counter insurgency campaigns of the armed forces of the known People's Liberation Organization (PLO). The PLO is allegedly led by a certain Abubakar Karsolo y Bautista, alias Kapitan Inngo, a Moslem rebel returnee who is reportedly after members and supporters of the New People's Army (NPA).

Although the military brass in the region denies ties with the PLO, there is persistent and widespread belief that the military and the PLO are working hand in hand in so-called counter-insurgency operations against the NPA. These operations, however, have a combined effect of terrorizing the workers of the LADECO banana plantation and the peaceful residents of Mandug and Tigatto. Raids, forced meetings, arrests and killings perpetrated by the PLO during the three month period spread fear among the residents. The

arrests of trade union leaders in Mandug and the raid on the LADECO union office and the company's personnel file by military operatives during the same period aggravated the tension already obtaining in the area.

Although relative peace returned in the area after November due to the people's widespread condemnation of the PLO, the military seems reluctant to apprehend any of the PLO members, as the latter continue to roam freely in the area. Only a week after the Mission concluded its work, the PLO is once more putting up check points in barangays Mandug and Tigatto, which are both within the LADECO banana plantation.

The PLO Rears Its Head: Raids, Arrests, Forced Meetings

Residents of the Mandug and Tigatto areas claimed that the PLO made its presence felt on August 2 when it disarmed 18 members of the local Civil Home Defense Forces (CHDF). On August 3, two hundred heavily armed men swooped down on sitios Uyon Uno and Uyon Dos, two farming communities within the banana plantation and told residents they had an understanding with the military about controlling the place.

The armed men identified themselves as members of the Bansa Moro Army (BMA) of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Residents of Uyon Uno said that the PLO raided their place on August 7 at around 5:30 in the morning. The group, all heavily armed and wearing jungle and fatigue military uniforms, was allegedly looking for suspected NPAs. Two farmers, Pablo Pajal and Efren Bendigo, were taken by the group supposedly as "guides". The two turned up five days later detained at the police station in barangay Tugbok. Pajal was released on August 12 and Bendigo was set free on August 18 after follow ups by human rights groups in Davao.

The following day, August 8, the armed men returned and herded six families. Karsolo, the alleged leader of the group, reported that they were only after the NPAs in the area and then named Mandug barangay captain Alex Orcullo, one Rudy and a certain Efren Boktot.

He asked the people to shift their support to them and promised to protect their interests. Karsolo allegedly warned that anyone suspected of supporting the NPAs would be shot and those who harbor NPAs in their houses would be



Indignation rally for FBCP deaths: mounting people's movement

strafed.

The residents reported the incidents and the forced meetings to the LADECO management but the latter said it could not do anything much about the group. Fearing for their lives, residents of Uyon Uno and Uyon Dos crossed the Davao-Agusan River and evacuated to the DDF Village and the LADECO compound on August 11.

The management, in turn, arranged a dialogue with local military officials. In the dialogue between the evacuees and

mitted they were BMAs and proceeded to search the house. They tried to force Quebral to admit that he had contacts with the NPAs by shooting the ground around Quebral's feet. Failing to get any information from Quebral the armed men let go of him.

The PLO Intensified Operations – Arrests, Killings

On October 13, five LADECO workers

The three union officers who agreed to meet with Karsolo were taken to a place between Magtuod and Waan, sitios where a large Moslem community lives. During the meeting Karsolo explained the presence of his group in the area. He said they were only after the NPAs. He threatened to kill all LADECO union officers if he found out that they are members and sympathizers of the NPAs. He then allowed the union officers to leave safely.

By this time the situation had so worsened that Mandug Barangay captain Orcullo asked protection for the workers from the military. Since he was also reportedly on the hit list of the PLO, Orcullo had temporarily left Mandug in August. On his return on October 19, the PLO killed him in cold blood. He was on his way home in a car with his wife and son when they were stopped by at least ten heavily armed men in Tigatto. He was summarily executed right then and there in front of his wife and son.

There followed a spate of killings after the still unsolved Orcullo slaying. On October 21 an ice cream vendor was shot to death in DDF Village, Mandug. On October 25, Verano Gumba, a LADECO plantation worker was found afloat the Davao-Agusan River with several gunshot wounds.

On October 31, Apolinar Jacosalem, a LADECO truck driver was killed in sitio Coog, also within the plantation. On November 4 Amado Balanghitao, a high school student from Tigat Tigatto, was shot to death by three armed men. On November 5, Eduardo Banaidos, a LADECO union board member was executed by four PLO men.

The PLO claimed responsibility for the death of Orcullo and Baniados in a letter circulated on November 7. It claimed that Orcullo was a ranking NPA officer. It blamed Baniados for the death of Gumba and Jacosalem. Union officers interviewed by the Mission stated that all three LADECO workers were active unionists.

On November 14 five armed men who claimed to be PLO members burned a DDF shuttle bus in Buhaing, confiscated the conductor's collection and threatened to kill all those connected with any of Orcullo's projects.



Zoning aftermath: "We are only after the NPAs."

the military, then Metrodiscom Chief. Col. Geronimo Valderrama categorically denied any military involvement with Karsolo's group. He urged the evacuees to return home. Subsequent dialogues with the military also dealt on the same theme "no military involvement, return home for the military had secured the place." The evacuees were not convinced.

On August 18, Jun Quebral's house in Batalyon was raided by 15 armed men who identified themselves first as NPAs looking for their companions. When Quebral denied any knowledge of the NPA in the vicinity, the armed men ad-

and two peasants were "arrested" by Karsolo's group at Uyon Dos, namely: Gusino Baniados, Julieta Alavarado, Luceno Magadan, Agustin Ceballos, Fruto Cagas, David Quebral, and Jose Gemalawen. Karsoko relased the seven on the same day. The release order that Karsolo signed as Kapitan Inngo was his first public admission of the existence of the PLO.

Karsolo then arranged for a meeting with the LADECO union officers the following day. It was alleged by those interviewed by the Mission that the union officers were already in the PLO's wanted lists as early as August.

CENTRUM



The AFP: protector or oppressor?

Fear and Deprivation Continue to Haunt Mandug and Tigatto Residents.

Despite the drop in PLO activities since the last week of November, the residents of Mandug and Tigatto continue to live in constant fear of the PLO while many evacuees suffer deprivation.

There were reports that Karsolo had temporarily left the area after the entry of the Marines. Many LADECO workers, however, reported that some PLO men are still moving freely in the area carrying small firearms, remaining untouched by the military. The workers who were interviewed by the Mission said that Usman Sali, Karsolo's right hand man and others who were suspected to have left in November are now returning to the area.

Many of the residents of the affected areas, rather than return to their homes opted to transfer residence to other places within the LADECO plantation. Most of them had sold their houses to Moslem buyers who took out all the lumber and other construction materials they could still use. Others who have not sold their houses yet are often visited by Moslems who try to convince them to sell their houses.

During the ocular inspection of Uyon

Uno and Uyon Dos, the Mission saw a number of houses which were torn down by their Moslem buyers. The Moslems, however, never moved in to occupy the land of the evacuees.

The Mission also took note of the terrible living conditions of some of the evacuees. Eight families of about 75 people, including children, were packed in one rectangular structure which used to house LADECO's fertilizers. The inside of the structure were divided into small cubicles to accommodate each family. The dividers were usually old sacks of rice, banana cartons and other perishable materials. One family head is hopeful that the management would give them a place of their own in the plantation where they could build their homes.

Military Operations — Arrests, Raids

While tension in Mandug and Tigatto continued to mount during the whole month of August due to the activities of the PLO, the military staged its own operations against the workers. Labor organizers living in Mandug were arrested, the LADECO union office was raided and the files of the LADECO's personnel department were searched by military

operatives.

Arrest of Labor Leaders. At 4:45 in the morning of September 26 a team of the 431st PC company led by Lt. Ferdinand Yozon raided two houses in Phase V, DDF Village, Mandug and arrested without warrant Joel Maglungod, assistant director for education and research of the United Lumber and General Workers of the Philippines (ULGWP) and officer-in-charge of the Nagkahiusang Mamumuo sa Habagatang Mindanao (NAMA-MIN), Dominador Montera, NAMA-MIN staffer, Arlene Maglungod, Joel's wife, Ma. Clara Montera, Dominador's wife, Wilfredo Lemin, Joel's visitor, Celestino Lagronia, Manolo Fernando and Catalino Pantinople, all construction workers at DDF Village.

The wives of the NAMA-MIN officers were released immediately. Maglungod and Montera are currently serving the last month of a six-month sentence for tumult and disturbances. They were originally charged with subversion, but this was later reduced upon agreement between the fiscal and the workers' lawyers.

Raid of the LADECO Union Office In the afternoon of September 26, the LADECO union office was broken into by a military raiding team of the 431st PC company. A Mission informant said the military team led by a certain Sgt. Leyba hauled off two typewriters, a bundle of T-shirts, union manuals and P15,000 in union and cooperative funds.

In a September 27 dialogue with human rights lawyers and union officers the military denied that there was such a raid. It was only later that the military admitted the fact.

Search of the LADECO Personnel Department Files. On November 6, 1 military team headed by a Lt. Jentilles searched the files of the LADECO personnel department while a dialogue among the management, the union and the military regarding the killing of three LADECO workers was going on.

The military documented the employment papers of 58 workers who were identified by one Antonio Lazaga, a civilian military informer. Lazaga was also the one who implicated Maglungod and Montera.

Alleged Military & PLO Link

The simultaneous military attacks against trade union leaders and PLO operations in Mandug and Tigatto did not escape the notice of the people of Mandug and Tigatto. This, and other incidents, had led the people to believe that the military and the PLO were actually working hand-in-hand.

1. During the August 7 PLO raid in Uyon Uno, a Lt. Villaroiz of the Tugbok Police Station was seen with the PLO raiders, there was also report during our interview in Uyon Dos made by the owner of the store where the Mission stayed in one of Kapitan Inggo's mass meetings with them, a group of military men (police) were with the PLO.
2. Pajal and Bendigo who were picked up by the PLO turned up later detained at the Tugbok Police Station;
3. Lt. Vitor of the local Civil Relation Services (CRS) reportedly admitted before Orcullo that Karsolo and his men were "military assets." On October 10, Lt. Vitor was reportedly seen by LADECO workers with Karsolo's men in a check point at Tigatto Diyes.
4. In an August 14 letter, Orcullo said that in one dialogue he was told by Davao City Secretary Cesar Nunez that the armed men were admitted by then Metrodiscom head Col. Valderama as "military assets."

The fact that the military had not apprehended any member of the PLO had led the people to believe in a military-PLO complicity. The inability of the military to curb the activities of the PLO during the three-month period remains suspect in the eyes of the residents of the affected areas.

Confronted with these questions, Major Angelito Moreno of the Judge Advocate General Office XI (JAGO II) could only reply with the words "We are still investigating the case," a stock reply among military officials who do not want to address questions directly.

Mass Evacuations:

The seriousness of the situation left the residents of the affected areas with no alternatives but to leave the place and move elsewhere. They charged that the military men assigned in the area were ineffective in protecting them from the PLO. They even believe there is complicity between the military and the PLO.

On November 16, thirty families from Tigatto evacuated to the Redemptorist Convent in Pajada, Davao City. On November 17 and 18 thousands more from Tigatto and Mandug sought refuge in the

deployed in the affected areas. Leaders of the evacuees had warned that should anything happen to them the blame would be laid squarely on the military.

Davao City Urban Poor Communities Zoning Operators

1. The Mission took note that military zoning operations in the communities of Agdao, Buhangin and Panacan in the northern district Daliao (Toril), Talomo, Matina and Punta



Empty community: the people have sought refuge elsewhere

City. Some 400 families set up their camps right inside and in front of the city legislative building. The evacuees came mainly from sitios Uyon Uno, Uyon Dos, Coog, Lapanday, Laguy and DDF Village in barangay Mandug sitios Batalyon and Kaan in barangay Tugbok; and from communities in barangay Callawa and Tigatto.

A dialogue between the evacuees and local officials failed to produce any agreement. The evacuees were demanding the arrest and prosecution of Karsolo and his men, the dismantling of the PLO and the withdrawal of military units from Tigatto and Mandug. They started to return to their homes last November 24 only after a unit of the Philippine Marines was

Dumalag in the southern district occur almost everyday. Military authorities have even told the residents of these communities that they will continue doing so until the alleged subversive terrorists are arrested.

2. The Mission also took note of the complaint shared by many residents of communities that have been affected by zoning operations. The Mission was told that military elements participating in the operations do not wear name tags. Some even wore masks. This fact has made it impossible for civilians to take their names and report them to proper authorities if they commit abuses, a fact which, accord-

ing to the civilians, they always do.

3. Because of numerous complaints against military abuses during zoning operations local military authorities and the city chapter of the Intergrated Bar of the Philippines have as early as July 27, 1983, passed a ten point statement of undertaking designed to protect the rights of the civilians during military zoning and dragnet operations, including other types of military operations. The Mission has however, received various accounts from local residents of affected communities to the effect that zoning operations are still being conducted contrary to guidelines contained in the statement of undertaking. Col. Laudermer Kahulugan, Davao Metropolitan District Command (Metrodiscom) Commander, even admitted that his men changed uniforms and used denim pants and jackets, rubber slippers and shoes allegedly as part of his techniques" but which is a clear violation of the Ten Point Statement of Undertaking and the verbal directive of Gen. Fidel Ramos, AFP Chief of Staff, that when the military conducts operations, they should wear complete military uniforms.
4. The communities generally affected by zoning and dragnet operations are densely populated areas, where small dwellings are clustered closely and where health conditions and sanitation are poor. Military officials have claimed that these places are haven of the New Peoples Army sparrow units, basing, as they have said from claims that liquidation teams of the NPA retreat into these areas after allegedly killing policemen and members of the military. These have apparently become the reasons for conducting the zoning operations.
5. The Mission has taken note that many arrests have been made against civilians during zoning and dragnet operations. Those arrests have been without warrant and premised on mere suspicion.

Massacre;

1. The Mission has looked into the killing of four persons in Sto. Nino, Rafael Castillo St., Agdao, during a raid in the area last December 2, 1984 by armed men whom the residents claim were members of the military. The killing was witnessed by many residents, two of whom have been interviewed by the Mission.
2. Killed during the massacre were Joel Narbay, 14, Grade 6 student at the Porras Elementary School; Reynaldo Narbaja, 17, vendor; Simplicio Taclan, 21, vendor; and Martin Ceniza, 17, 4th year student at the Holy Cross of Agdao. The four were reportedly members of a "ronda"

team which the residents have organized in the face of what they fear were attempts to burn their communities.

3. The four were said to have been shot in front of a small chapel near the entrance of the community. The Mission noted that no spot investigation was made by police authorities until the morning when the residents decided to touch the bodies.
4. The Mission also took note that aside from the four fatalities, six other residents were seriously wounded namely: Bartola Osing, 50 and her eleven year-old daughter Christina, Mercedita Bero, 17 Jeanette Juntilla, 15; Laling Cano, 46 and her son



CENTRUM

Leonard, 17.

5. The Mission was made aware by local residents that it was highly probable that members of the military, the police and para-military perpetrated the act. This, and local residents concluded on the basis of a threat of retaliation reportedly made by Agdao Barangay Captain Wilfredo "Baby" Aquino against the residents of Sto. Nino following the killing of two Civilian Home Defense Force (CHDF) volunteers and the serious wounding of Aquino's brother, a policeman, on November 29 and November 16 respectively reportedly by elements of the NPA sparrow unit.
6. The Mission noted that there has not been any successful effort of the local military command to solve the case and apprehend the perpetrators. Major Angelito Moreno of the JAGO promised to look into the case during a conference with the Mission on February 22, 1985.
7. The Mission noted that on January 11, 1985, a composite team of Metrodiscom soldiers policemen and the CHDFs conducted a zoning operation in Nangcaan, Sunrise Village, Matina. The raiding teams numbering around 15 fully armed military men and guided by a hooded informer, rounded up nine persons. The said persons were arrested and eventually detained at the Metrodiscom barracks. Two of the arrested are reportedly still languishing in jail without charges filed against them.
8. The Mission also noted that the raiding team came back the following day and reportedly arrested another group of seven persons of the area and subjected them to manhandling while undergoing interrogation in front of the community residents. The seven persons were reported to have been hit with pieces of wood measuring 2"x2".
9. The Mission noted that on February 16, 1985, in the same Sunrise Village, a procession honoring the patron saint

of the community (St. Paul) was harassed by military men. Three persons were arrested during the surprise raid of the military on the procession column.

10. The Mission noted that in Punta Dunalag, fishermen and lumber sawmill workers are deprived of earning extra income due to constant military zoning operations despite the presence of regular military elements stationed in a detachment near the community. The residents complained on the manner of military operation conducted by military men that prevented most of the sawmill workers



to do overtime jobs and the fishermen to leave early for fishing. The military elements conducting operations are reportedly not in proper uniforms and most of the time under the influence of alcohol.

Strafing:

1. The Mission noted that a number of strafing incidents in the communities of Talomo and Daliao. On January 21, 1985, the residence of Maximo Omopio of Talomo was strafed by a composite team of CHDFs, PC and

Marines. Residents of the area claimed that military men ordered the occupants of the residences in the community to assemble outside their houses for questioning. Residents claimed that aside from the strafing incident, the raiding team also took several of their household materials. The Mission noted also that an unidentified man was hit during the strafing incident.

2. The Mission has noted that the first strafing incident in Talomo was on November 22, 1984 where the residence of the Blanco family was riddled with bullets fired by heavily armed men in military uniform. The strafing incident seriously wounded the Blanco's children namely: Melvin Blanco, 13 and Rizza Blanco, 12. Witnesses claimed the armed men arbitrarily sprayed the house when everybody was already asleep.
3. The Mission also noted that despite the presence of a police detachment in a distance of only more than a kilometer, no spot investigations and follow up investigations had been made by the local police.
4. In Daliao, Toril, eight persons were seriously wounded when armed men reportedly members of the local CHDF unit strafed a group of persons gathered in a birthday party. Wounded were Francisco Escovillo; 24, Eldefonso Torion, 24; Julian Villarta, 24; Ruben Doctolero, 22; Jerry Adiawan, 20; Pio Valdez, 25; Avelino Cabunas, 36 and Rebecca Cesar. The victims were celebrating the birthday of the injured persons when armed men in denim uniforms fired at them. One of the victims claimed the leader of the armed men is under the command of the CHDF unit headed by Ben Maglangit, Barangay Captain of Lizada, a place near Dallao.
5. In a dialogue among residents and Col. Laudemer Kahulugan at the Metrodiscom, the latter forced the residents of Daliao to pinpoint the alleged perpetrators for investigation. The residents,



however, remained silent because of the reported threat made by the CHDFs after the incident. Although, Col. Kahulugan reportedly disarmed the CHDFs involved during the strafing, residents claimed the alleged perpetrators are now assigned in other areas and continue to carry their arms.

Abuses Against Civilians:

1. Residents of the urban poor community in sitio Sto. Nino in Agdao complained to the Mission that during the latest zoning operation conducted reportedly by elements of 431st PC Company, some of them were ordered to tear down a portion of the fence they had constructed in the entrance of the community. At gunpoint, residents had to obey the order. The military denied that they had ordered the civilians to destroy the fence claiming instead that the residents voluntarily did it.
2. Mrs. Milagros Norillo, resident of Soliman, Agdao, complained that during a zoning operating in their area on January 21, 1985, one of the soldiers strafed her house when she was about to open the door. She was wounded on the hip and had to be hospitalized.

3. When the Mission visited Gotanico, Agdao on February 21 in the afternoon, two jeepload of soldiers had just left the place following a zoning operation. The Mission gathered that a resident, Danilo David (not his real name), was forced by the the soldiers to dig the ground on the suspicion that he was hiding a gun. He was struck several times with a rifle butt.

Other Cases of Killings:

1. Felimon Petilla was shot and killed by elements of the marines, the Civilian Information Services (CIS) and the 431st PC soldiers inside the Metrodiscom headquarters in Davao City allegedly while the former was trying to escape. The Mission, however, gathered the testimony of Domeciano Paral Jr. who was detained with Petilla on February 15 after they were arrested in Agdao by elements of, Phil. Marines after they were suspected as the persons responsible for the death of two Marine soldiers in Bo. Obrero. Paral testified that Petilla had been shot just at the back of the cell where they were held and then brought near the highway and dumped there to make it look like he was in the act of escaping when he was shot. Sources

inside the barracks claimed Petilla was shot near the main gate (beside the guard house cell) while still handcuffed, his mouth gagged.

2. Candido Bolico, 49, a lumber dealer, died of internal hemorrhage due to severe beatings he received after he was arrested with two others during a zoning operation in Gotamco on January 17, 1985. The zoning operation was reportedly conducted by elements of the 431st PC Company. Arrested together with Bolico were his brother Carlos, 39, and Jimmy Granada who was also a resident of Gotamco. Carlos Bolico informed the Mission that before their release, they were made to execute an extra-judicial statement stating that they were released in good physical condition.
3. Faustino Cabase, farmer and a resident of Malabog, Paquibato was killed by elements of Philippine Marines on February 2, 1985. Cabase was with a group of about 20 persons who carried a sick woman to the health center of Malabog when they were spotted upon by the Marines doing a patrol. Cabase was reportedly pointed by a certain "Manny" a 12 year old guide of the Marines, as an NPA member. He was brought to the nearby Davao Gulf Lumber compound where he was tortured. Cabase reportedly ran towards his companions for help when he was gunned down. His body showed marks of severe beatings.
4. Mario Canillo, 25, and Antonio Villano, 26, were arrested by CHDFs in Toril on December 7, 1984. Eleven days after their dead bodies were found separately dumped in secluded areas in Davao City. Canillo's body, headless, was found at diversion road in Bunawan, Davao City while Villano's body was found in Tibungco, Davao City. The two were divested of their cash and wristwatches. Canillo, a resident of Punta Dumalag and a worker of Davao Gulf Lumber, was reportedly buying piglets in Daliao, Toril when he and Villano were

arrested by CHDFs. Canillo's cash money amounting to P8,000 was taken by his captors during their arrest.

ARSON:

1. Residents of Agdao claimed before the Mission that the fire which destroyed about 43 houses in Sto. Nino, Dalisay, on December 5, 1984 started from the stagnant waters underneath the houses where gasoline was apparently poured and lit. The residents also said that while the fire was just starting, they saw three men trying to start another fire and were pouring gasoline into the water. The men ran when they were seen and threatened that they would be back.
2. The residents have expressed apprehension that attempts from certain sectors to force them to evacuate is being forced on them by burning their houses. Many residents believe that attempts to burn their community were in retaliation to the killings of policemen and soldiers within Davao City by unidentified men.

III. CONCLUSIONS

The Mission believes no amount of military solution can end the "alarming insurgency threat" in Davao. Much less further militarization which tends to sow fear and terror among the civilian population and which is almost synonymous to abuses against civilians, only serve to isolate further the military whose credibility among the people has eroded considerably. Unless the problem is addressed correctly, the military and the government for that matter, has no chance left of restoring the faith, confidence and trust of the people.

What we have established as a wave of labor repression and militarization in Davao now only forms part of the numerous cases of violations of human rights already documented and properly reported throughout the country.

The facts and evidences gathered by

the Mission prove of intense violations of human rights in Davao perpetrated by the police and the military not excluding other anonymous armed groups.

There appears to be no indication yet that the killings and complaints against police, and military elements would be minimized. The Mission has noted that incidents of military abuses remain unchecked to the frequent attacks by unidentified elements against members of the police and the military in general.



Typical street in Mindanao: Zoning and dragnet operation results

Zoning operations, which the military prefers to call dragnet operations or raids against civilians are transgressions on the right, against illegal search and seizure and the right to privacy of the homes.

The rampant killings and the inability of the police and the military to respond to the complaints to the satisfaction of the local civilian population has brought about fear on the population. Popular opinion that certain military men are responsible for a lot of atrocities against civilians and even suspected dissidents has been the cause of the decline of military credibility.

The suspected links of the Pespole's Liberation Organization (PLO) with the military, a view shared by majority of the population has further degraded military credibility. The issue on the so-called PLO and its alleged links with the military forebodes of a scandal similar to the infamous Lost Command which had been condemned locally and internationally by human rights groups for perpetrating heinous abuses on human rights. The Mission believes that involved here is the issue of the military using irregular

armed groups such as the PLO as a covert counterinsurgency force. The military officially denies categorically that there is such a link; but it has yet to provide satisfactory answers to the questions which make people believe that they do have connections. The Mission has taken note that despite the open presence of the followers of Kapitan Inggo, the purported leader of the PLO, in the areas surrounding Mandug, and despite the fact that a contingent of the marines is conveniently deployed near the banks of the river, there has not been any member of the PLO arrested or questioned by the military considering this these group has

long ago claimed responsibility over the murder of opposition leader and human rights advocate Alexander Orcullo.

The Mission concludes that there are cases of documented and undocumented violations of human rights by the military against civilians and even against the so-called suspected members of the insurgent New People's Army; that the inability of the military to apprehend Kapitan Inggo prove no other than military support and knowledge of his operations; and that there is complicity in the killing of the two Franklin Baker workers involving the multinational desiccating firm and elements of the military command.

The Mission would like to commend the LADECO management for the help it extended to its workers during the period August to November 1984. From interviews with the LADECO workers, the Mission learned that the management had been fair in its relations with the workers.

IV. MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusions of the fact-finding mission, the Mission

strongly recommends the relief of top military officials and of the entire PC and military command on Region XI as a fundamental requisite for the restoration of peace and order in Davao province and Davao City.

This will enable the authorities to regain the civilian population's trust on the government and the military. The replacement of the entire PC and military command by a new one will pave the way for the start of a new military-civilian relationship founded on mutual respect, justice, trust and cooperation.

On specific cases of human rights violations and various crimes against civilians, the Mission recommends the following:

On the Franklin Baker Case

1. Assign a special state prosecutor to conduct a speedy investigation of the January 10 shooting incident;
2. Indemnify the families of the slain workers, Nestor Macalino and Willy Agustin and assist in the rehabilitation of the others wounded in the incident.
3. Pull out all military and police

elements from the Franklin Baker Company.

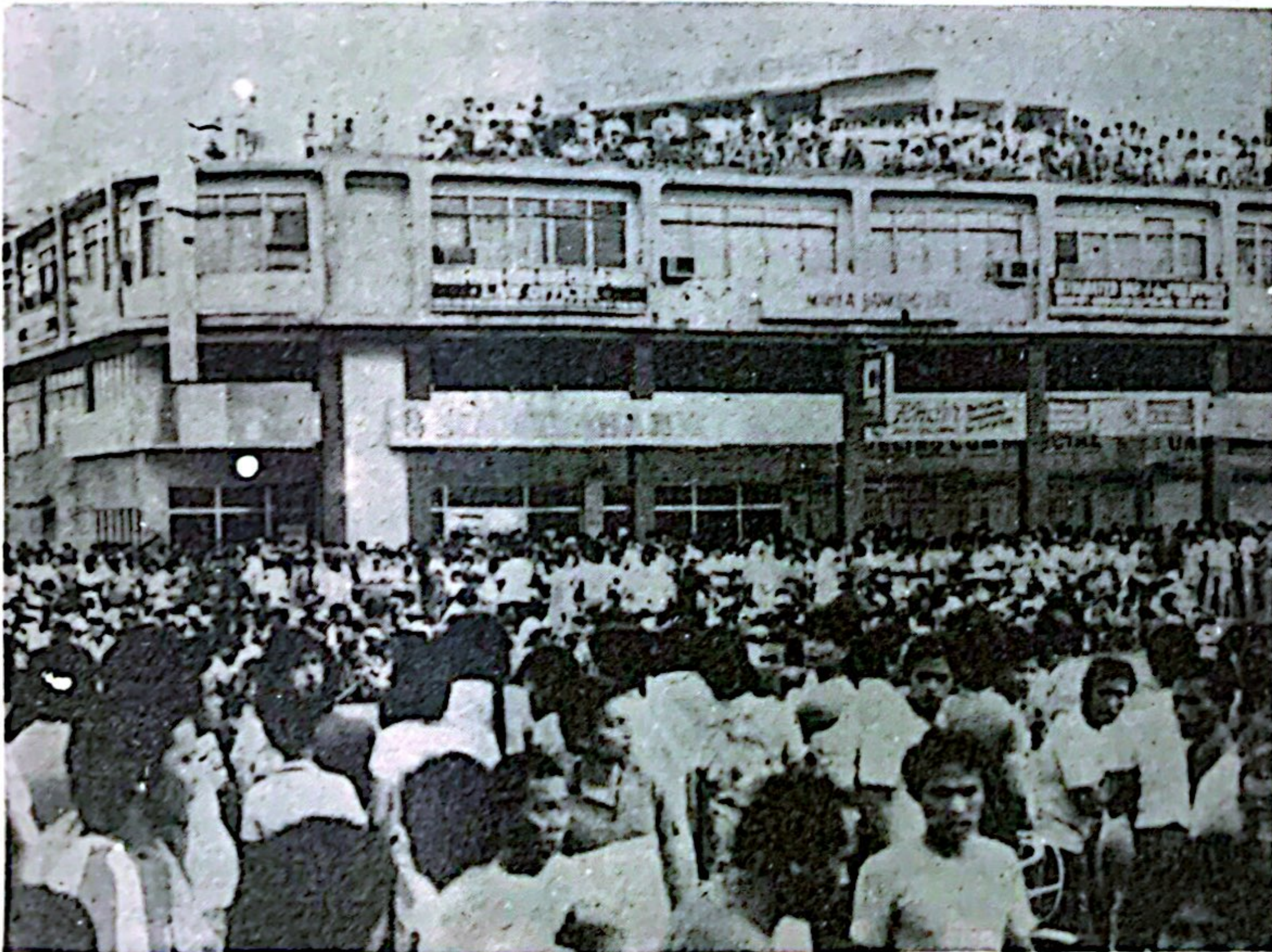
4. Compel the Franklin Baker Company to take back the 205 dismissed workers; and,
5. Resolve at once all the legal issues pending with the NLRC for the immediate settlement of the labor dispute.

On the LADECO Case

1. Immediately arrest Abubakar Kar-solo, alias Kapitan Inggo, and his men and dismantle the PLO;
2. Desist from using or tolerating paramilitary groups in counter-insurgency drives;
3. Stop the harassment of LADECO workers and other trade unionist; and,
4. Free Joel Maglungsod and Dominador Montera and the four others arrested with them.

On the Urban Poor Communities

1. Assign a special state prosecutor to conduct an investigation of the bases of human rights violations in the communities of Davao for the purpose of listing charges against those responsible for the violations.
2. Observe all legal procedures — search warrants, court warrants, etc. and the use of proper military and police uniform particularly the display of namecloths which include serial number and outfit in conducting zoning dragnet operations.
3. Stop zoning and dragnet operations.
4. Relieve the barangay captain of Agdao.
5. Relieve all abusive CHDF members and other paramilitary groups.



Different sectors unite during Mindanao Welgang Bayan rally

6. Stop the use of "Makapili type" military interrogation and witch-hunting.

Spearheading Organizations

COMMISSION ON TRADE UNION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Members:

Task Force Detainees – National Ecumenical Institute for Labor, Education and Research
 Philippine Union for Human Rights
 Institute for Labor Research and Documentation
 Kilusang Mayo Uno



Participating Organizations

Manila: Philippine Conference on Human Rights
 Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace
 Kilusang Mayo Uno
 Institute for Labor Research and Documentation
 Ecumenical Partnership for International Concern
 United Church of Christ in the Philippines–Human Rights Desk
 Philippine Union for Human Rights

Davao City:

Citizens Council for Justice and Peace
 Task Force Detainees of the Philippines – Mindanao
 Lihug Hugpong Alang sa Katungod
 Nationalist Alliance for Justice, Freedom and Democracy
 Nagkahiusang Mamumuo sa Habagatang Mindanao
 Center of Nationalist Trade Unions in Mindanao
 Integrated Bar of the Philippines – Davao City Chapter
 Legal Aid and Human Rights Institute in Mindanao



Witnesses of popular unrest in Davao: military and zoning operators, civilian evacuations and Welgang Bayan protests

– March 29, 1985 –

TRENDS

Human rights violations directed at the trade union movement has increasingly characterised the economic state and political sentiments of the present regime. Typical of these violations, immediately attuned to the use of brute force and violence, suppress the workers' struggle for higher wages, better working conditions and other trade union demands.

The extent of violations of human and trade union rights is all pervasive, subtle and alarming. A subtle approach to violating trade union rights and at the same time maintain the legitimacy of the state is through labor legislation and the numerous Presidential Decrees and Letters of Instructions. *Batas Pambansa Bilang* 130 and 227 are but a few of the samples to encourage the formation of a passive and uncritical labor force willing to work at minimum cost. Even the various wage orders merely serve the purpose of keeping wages down. And whatever wage orders are supposed to be implemented are not followed by the large multinational corporations which deny the workers their right to a decent wage.

Direct human rights atrocities have also intensified. Statistics coming from the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines note that there are already some 50 worker-detainees in the country as of July 1985. Workers are at present the second largest number of detainees in the Philippines next to peasants.

For the period 1975-1984 strike-related killings numbered 8, roughly one tragic death every year. For the first part of 1985 alone, however, that number increased by 7 or an average of one murder *every month*. Even more threatening are the arbitrary arrests, kidnappings, tortures and executions of workers - 21 in 1985.

Such frightening statistics can be a sign of the intensified struggle against a social structure molded to represent the dominant class interest of foreign monopoly capitalists in the country, their local partners and the state. And to fully comprehend the real meaning of this struggle and its implications one would have to look over several instances of violations of trade union and human rights.

Trade Union Repression, Some Case Studies

Blue Bar Coconut, Philippines, Inc.

On 27 February 1985 the workers' picketline in this American-owned coconut desiccating company in Bo. Lusacan, Tiaong, Quezon province was assaulted by a combined force of Philippine Constabulary elements and company guards. When the foray ended Lope Natividad, 20, lay dead after sustaining four gunshot wounds in the head and body. Fifteen other strikers suffered various types of injuries.

Natividad, who remained a casual employee after working for two years with the firm, had joined two others who were massacred earlier in January by jeep-riding armed men at the picketline of the strike-bound Franklin Baker Corporation, also an American firm, in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur.

ERA Industries

Workers of ERA Industries in San Jose, Bulacan struck

last September 3, 1984 after management refused to reinstate 36 of its workers illegally terminated and to implement Wage Order No. 5 granting a P5.00 per day wage increase.

Last February 1985 six trucks entered the factory compound to load roof tiles and bricks produced by scabs housed inside. Some 20 security guards broke into—the picketline to allow the trucks to leave the factory even as a platoon of policemen watched passively. A truck rammed through the workers' human barricade killing Arnel Dy, 21, on the spot, his

The Labor Movement and the

Strike-related killings, 1985:

1. Nestor Macalino, 27, Franklin Baker, Davao del Sur Jan. 10
2. Willy Agustin, 30 Franklin Baker, Davao del Sur Jan. 10
3. Arnel Dy, 21, ERA Industries, Bulacan Feb. 25
4. Rodrigo Garcia, 23, ERA Industries, Bulacan Feb. 25
5. Lope Natividad, 20, Blue Bar Dessicated, Tiaong, Quezon Feb. 27
6. Ernesto del Pilar, Pilipinas Plastics, Malabon April 10
7. Jenoschick Paul, 36, Silicon Inc., Pasay City May 6
8. Anacleto Dalida, 35, Sanitary Steam Laundry, Bagong Bayan, July 22

Salvagings, 1985

1. Alfred Sumalpong, Red V Dessicated, Lanao del Norte Jan. 23
2. Epifanio Selada, President, Surigao Dev. Corp. Feb. 6
3. Atty. Romaflo Taojo, legal counsel, Solidarity of Workers in Davao (Oriental/Norte), Tagum Davao del Norte April 2
4. Danny Salcedo, Davao Chemical, Davao City April 15
5. Joseph Herbolingo, 19, Davao Central Chemical April 15
6. Renato Tumali, 45, Davao Central Chemical April 15
7. Marlon Latina, Batangas Laguna Tayabas Bus Co. April 15
8. Simeon Tanduyan, Bunawan Plywood, Davao City May 19
9. Roberto Moreno, 30, Mabuhay Textile Mills, Valenzuela May 26

head crushed. Another active union member, Rodrigo Garcia, 23, died of hemorrhage several hours after the incident.

Filipinas Plastics Incorporated

A sympathiser of the striking workers was shot dead, 10 April 1985, after violence erupted when owners of the firm tried to break the human barricade formed by the workers.

Ernesto del Pilar, a 23-year old community organizer in Malabon where the company is located, sustained a bullet wound in the head from the gun drawn by one of the owners

of the firm. Following the incident, Roldan Derla, a striker of the same company was reportedly abducted by armed men believed to be military elements. Nothing has been heard of him since.

The Latina and Moreno Cases

Only a few weeks after a successful strike was held in one of the largest south-bound bus lines, the Batangas Laguna Tayabas Bus Company, Marlon Latina, an active union member in the firm was murdered in cold blood in a remote town in Laguna Province. He was felled by armalite bullets of jeep-riding uniformed men 9 May 1985. No reports have yet been received on the investigation of the case. Barely a week later, 16 May, a former worker and active union member of the Mabuhay Textile Mills in Valenzuela suffered the same fate. Roberto Moreno, 36, married and a father of two, was murdered in his own house while asleep with his family. He was shot six times in the head and body.

Roberto was an organizer of the Alyansa ng Manggagawa sa Valenzuela (AMVA) and was terminated from his job for his union activities.

Silicon Industries

On 6 May, Jenoschick Paul, a worker of the strikebound semiconductor exporting firm in Pasay City was killed by a lone gunman, identified only as Boy Galope, reportedly the company owner's bodyguard in the presence of armed Metrocom and local police elements.

The incident occurred after several violent assaults by the military forces failed to break the workers' picketline. The workers struck to demand an increase in daily pay and management's non-compliance with safety and work standards.

Salvaging Cases in the Visayas and Mindanao

A 23-year old sugar worker and union organizer was found dead in a remote barrio of Northern Negros last 7 June. The victim, Geronimo Troberos, was employed at Hacienda Joefred in Sagay, Northern Negros. His body bore multiple wounds and signs of torture.

Such was also the case of the celebrated Langoni Nine of last year, when nine sugar workers were found dead in Bo. Inayawan, Cayayan, Negros Occidental on 15 May 1984. The victims were first arrested in the afternoon of 14 May by constabulary elements in Sitio Tambo of the same town and were made to walk to the PC detachment in Inayawan while their hands were tied.

Aside from bullet wounds all their bodies showed signs of torture.

Meanwhile, at least 14 cases of salvagings (of workers, trade unionists and labor leaders) were reported to have occurred in Mindanao Province since January to June of this year.

These included six workers, all male, from the Angtioco Logging Company in San Luis, Agusan del Sur, believed salvaged between 6-24 June; two union leaders of the Buanawan Plywood in Davao City, killed in separate incidents last 19 May and 5 June; a worker from the Red V coconut dессicating

Philippines' Human Rights Record

10. Diosdado Bacolod, 39, Buanawan Plywood, Davao City
..... June 5
11. Jalandoni Calderon, 23, single, Angtioco Logging Co.,
San Luis, Agusan del Sur June 6-24
12. Jaime Ceniza, married with 7 children, Angtioco Logging
Co., San Luis, Agusan del Sur June 6-24
13. William Curato, married, Angtioco Logging Co.
..... June 6-24
14. Willy Eboc, 40, married, Angtioco Logging Co.
..... June 6-24
15. Rudy Gonzales, married, Angtioco Logging Co.
..... June 6-24
16. Roquelo Pequiroso, single, Angtioco Logging Co.
16. Roquilo Pequerosa, single, Angtioco Logging Co.
..... June 6-24
17. Geronimo Troberos, 23, single, Hacienda Joefred, Sagay,
Northern Negros June 7
18. Rogelio Noble, 38, father of 7, NDC-Guthrie Plantation,
Agusan del Sur (7 M-16 bullet wounds) July 2
19. Ruben Olar, 29, NDC-Guthrie Plantation, Agusan del
Sur (27 bullet wounds) July 5
21. Nicolas San Juan Jr., 33, General Rubber, Malabon
..... July 10

Disappearances, 1985

- | | Last seen |
|--|-----------|
| 1. John Seva, NFSW organizer, Negros | March 29 |
| 2. Emilio Togonon, NFSW organizer, Negros ... | March 29 |
| 3. Roldan Derla, Filipinas Plastics, Malabon | April 11 |
| 4. Allan Paruco, Surigao-Agusan Workers Solidarity
(SAWS) | April 16 |
| 5. Wilfredo Alaban, Officer-in-charge, Nagkahiusang Mamu-
muo sa Misamis Oriental (NAMMO) | April 21 |
| 6. Hilario Tagudin, Kapatiran ng Manggagawa sa Bulacan
..... | April 28 |



company in Lanao del Norte last 23 January, three workers from the Davao Central Chemical on 15 April; the union president of the Surigao Development Corporation last 6 February; and the cold-blooded slaying of labor leader and lawyer Romaflo Taojo in Tagum, Davao del Norte 2 April.

Taojo is also legal counsel for the Solidarity of Workers in Davao, a regional alliance of workers' organizations covering Davao Oriental and Davao del Norte.

Organized workers in Mindanao under the umbrella of the Center of Nationalist Trade Unions in Mindanao (CENTRUM) point the responsibility to the military for the perpetration of the killings and the practice of salvaging of militant workers, unionists and labor leaders even as more have been reported in the death list of the military or its paramilitary groups.

Conclusion: A Grand Design

Labor repression in the country, indeed, has been so structured and has become institutionalized. It is directed mainly at suppressing the workers' right to strike and to self-organization. The pattern that emerges is that of the preservation of the status quo, the workers, powerless and cheap while the multinational corporations and their local partners including those close to the regime benefit from such powerlessness and cheapness.

The use of the Marcos government is evident in defending and preserving the interests of the monopoly capitalists and stifling the growing people's and workers' movement.

So as to keep up with the regime's promise of imposing wage restraint last year to the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in exchange for new loans, violence and force had to be resorted to ensure the implementation of such vicious policies on workers. Repression is the state's alternative to maintain the subjection of the country's economy to IMF-WB and multinational control.

The institutionalization of state-sponsored violence has merely heightened the workers' struggle in asserting their democratic and trade union rights and interests.

This struggle against trade union repression is yet intrinsically linked with the workers' struggle for higher wages and other trade union demands. Workers have consistently defended the picketline against these attacks and continue to persevere in advancing the cause of the Filipino working class.

But as these attacks against labor continue to intensify inevitably workers will have to resort to higher forms of struggle as their ranks steadily gain strength, a strength that will have to shake the foundations of exploitation, subservience and oppression in the country.



Funeral march for fallen workers: human rights violations directed at the trade union movement

BRIEFS

Four Killed, 14 hurt as "Welga" hits Mindanao

At least four persons were killed, four others arrested and 14 injured during the first day of the general strike, dubbed "Welgang Bayan" that hit at least seven major cities in Mindanao, 14 May 1985.

In Davao City, five protesters were hurt when a military amphibian tank tried to ram through their, 3,000-strong human barricade. (Malaya 5 May 1985)



Labor Leader Missing

A labor leader of the Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines (PICOP) Workers Solidarity — United Lumber and General Workers of the Philippines is still missing since his arrest by a PICOP Security Officer last March 5.

Jaime Jamero, 30, married with four children and a resident of Mangagoy, Bislig, Surigao del Sur was an active leader of the PWS-ULGWP and helped organize the labor sector participation during the Human Rights Day march rally last year.

According to his wife, Alice, Jaime was picked up by a certain Mr. Peburhot, a PICOP Security Officer at his workplace while in line of duty allegedly to investigate him concerning a lost company chainsaw and his being a member of the NPA Sparrow Unit. He was then brought to the 416th PC Detachment. However, when his wife made a follow-up at the

military detachment, she was politely told that her husband had already left for home. Up to now, Jaime's whereabouts are still unknown and attempts to seek the assistance of military and police authorities have come in vain.

Detained Peasant Organizer Released

After more than three years in jail, political prisoner Edwin Lopez was released from the Camp Bagong Diwa Rehabilitation Center in Bicutan.

Lopez, a former peasant and worker organizer before his arrest in February 26, 1982, was charged with subversion but was only lately acquitted, in April of this year.

Lopez was arrested during a raid conducted by the Military Intelligence Security Group 15 at Cubao, Quezon City. (Malaya, 8 June 1985)



A worker being led away by the military: a part of the country's social landscape -

ACTO Strike Harrassed by Military

Last January some 80 students and workers were arrested and detained under the Preventive Detention Action (PDA) during a strike led by the Alliance of Concerned Transport Organizations.

ACTO called the strike to demand the rollback of gasoline prices to its October 1984 level and called for government subsidy for transport machine parts and the lowering of the license fees of public transport drivers.

As the strikers set up barricades, hundred of anti-riot squads and military were used to disperse and break up the demonstrators composed of student sympathisers and workers. (Labor Information Center Bulletin, 1-10 February 1985)

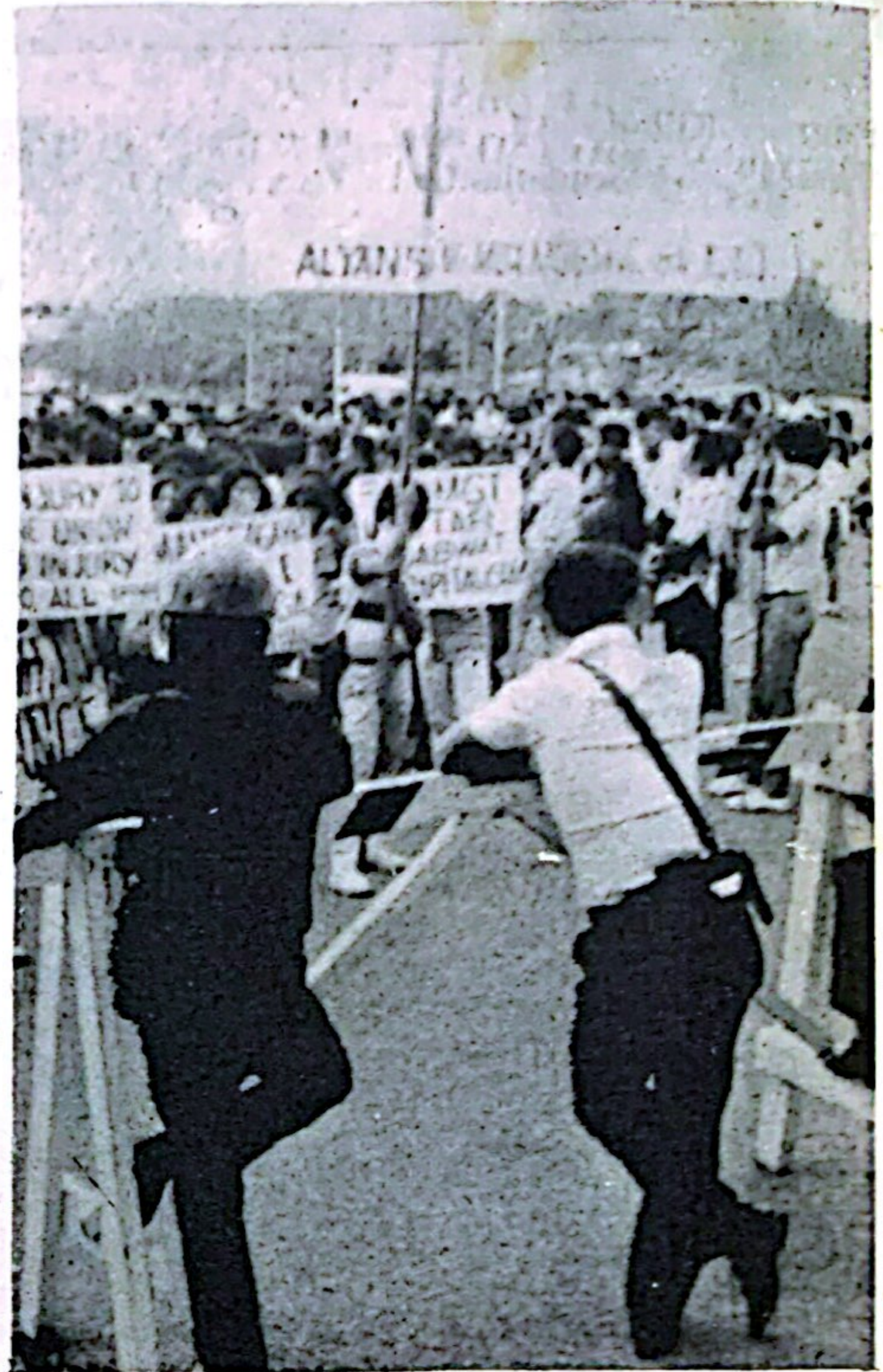
LOI 1458 Opposed

The militant Kilusang Mayo Uno has branded as repressive and anti-labor Letter of Instructions No. 1458 issued by President Marcos last May 1.

Ka Leto Villar and Nick Elman said that the issuance of LOI 1458 clearly add more teeth to the already repressive laws issued by the regime like BP 130 and 227.

LOI 1458 grants license for the military to interfere in strikes and other forms of workers' actions whenever the President and the Minister of Labor deem it necessary in the interest of "National and economic security". The labor movement led by KMU hopes to gather the support of other sectors of society and the workers who are most affected to call for the repeal of said LOI.

(LIC Bulletin, 21-31. May 1985)



(Above) Company guards keep close watch as goons (below) taunt protesters.

1 Killed in STI Strikes Violence

A Moslem worker of Silicon Technology Incorporated was fatally shot by a management goon last May 6 during the strike called by the Kaisahan ng mga Manggagawa wa Silicon — Alliance of Democratic Labor Organization (STI-ADLO).

The killing came amidst the numerous picketline violence and harassments coming from both the military, the police and management.

(LIC Bulletin, 11-20 May 1985)

An Unforgettable Past

(Tribute to the workers arrested and jailed during the August-September 1982 crackdown)

In this here small cell
My Heart and mind mourn over the past.
Happy moments now gone.

I can still remember how you have been incarcerated,
Accused "the nation's enemy"
But side by side now
I rest knowing you as a Comrade of the People.

Everyone understands why I am here
Like the other who refuse to be enslaved
By Capital and by Greed
For this cold cell I will endure

Do not despair, you are not alone
In your struggle you have made many friends
Even when the green fields become red
As the chains that bind this country are broken.

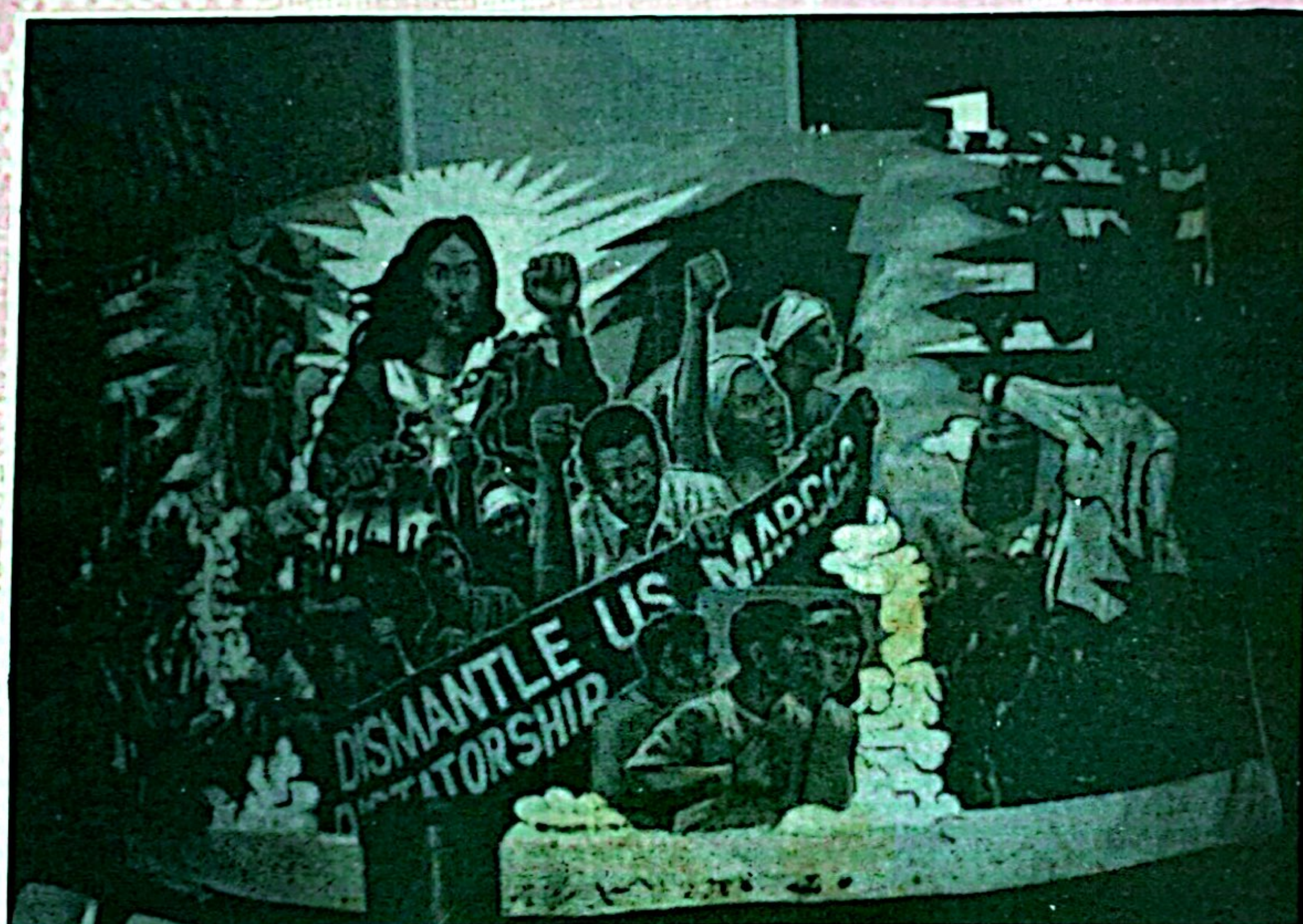
In your fight against the Oppressors
You hold the important key.
So accept these congratulations
On your victory, the people are with you.

And as you leave this dark cell
I hope you continue your avowed quest,
For now the fields beckon you forward.

You must reach the hills
And there listen to the winds, the creeks,
Where you will see the freedom
Tomorrow has in store for us all.

Carlos Yari
Worker-detainee at the PC Stockade in Camp Crame

(A translation of "Ang Nakaraang Hindi malilimutan" by Carlos Yari)



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