

## Appendix A

### THE CASE OF LILIOSA HILAO AND THE HILAO FAMILY

The following is a brief summary of the events leading to the death of Liliosa Hilao and the subsequent arrest, detention and mal-treatment of some five other members of her family. The summary is excerpted from a letter dated 12 November 1974 addressed to the Foreign Relations Committee, Senate of the United States, Washington, D.C.:

#### The Raid on Our Home

1. On 4 April 1973, at 1:00 p.m., a Philippine Constabulary Anti-Narcotics Unit (CANU) raiding team forced their way into our family residence in Quezon City. No mission order, or warrant of any kind, was shown by the team to my family. Only a Philippine Constabulary (PC) identification card was shown by Lt. Arturo Castillo, who claimed to be the team leader, to my mother, Mrs. Celsa Rapi Hilao, who was in bed in a cast because of a broken pelvic bone.

2. During the course of the raid, the team got drunk and became abusive. They molested my sisters Amaryllis, then 20, and Josefina, 18, and manhandled and pistol-whipped them and others present, among them three young men visiting Amaryllis.

3. At about 10:00 p.m. that evening, my sister Liliosa arrived, escorted by my brother-in-law, Capt. Rogelio Roque (Philippine Army Reserve). After Capt. Roque left, Lt. Castillo inflicted serious physical injuries on Liliosa and mashed her. A cousin of mine present in the house, Arnaldo Podolig, was manhandled when he attempted to prevent Castillo from mashing Liliosa.

#### The Arrest and Torture of Liliosa and Josefina

4. At 1:00 a.m. of 5 April, over the strenuous objections of my family, the team handcuffed Liliosa and brought her to the CANU office at Camp Crame for questioning. At 8:00 that morning, Josefina was also taken there. Josefina saw Liliosa but was not permitted to speak to her; however, she did see that Liliosa's eyes were bulging and her face was swollen.

5. On Friday, 6 April, when Capt. Roque delivered some clothes and a pillow to Liosia at CANU, she complained to him that she was being tortured, and deprived of food and sleep since her arrest, and asked him to look at her swollen face as proof of her complaints. But he was unable or unwilling to do anything about it.

#### **The Death of Liosia**

6. On Saturday, 7 April, at 4:30 p.m., Lts. Castillo and Garcia of the raiding team called on another sister, Mrs. Alice Hilao Gualberto, at her residence at 173-B, K-1st St., Kamuning, Quezon City, and summoned her to the Camp Crame Station Hospital where they said Liosia was in serious condition.

7. Alice found Liosia in the emergency room of the Dispensary at Camp Crame, but was allowed to stay less than two minutes inside the room with her. Alice was able to touch Liosia; she noted that her body was stiff and cold; and grayish; her face was disfigured; there was an opening at her throat; she seemed to be making gasping noises; but the dextrose bottle next to her bed was not dripping; so that Alice believes that Liosia was already dead. The room smelled very strongly of formalin. No doctor or nurse was in attendance — only two masked male orderlies who quickly grabbed Alice and brought her outside the room, claiming that the odor in the room might poison her.

8. Alice then went to the CANU office and saw Josefina, who also complained of having been maltreated. A few minutes later, Lt. Castillo told Alice and Josefina that Liosia was dead.

9. Alice and Josefina waited for Col. Felix (CO, CANU), and finally saw him at 8:30 p.m. Col. Felix noted Liosia's courteous behaviour and superior intelligence. He recalled that he had offered Liosia amnesty and graduation expenses but that she refused the offer saying that she had been brought to CANU without charges and that she had done nothing subversive. At 9:00 p.m. Josefina was released. In the course of signing the release papers, Col. Felix asked, and secured, the permission of Alice to have the autopsy on Liosia performed by the PC Crime Laboratory.

Republic of the Philippines  
HEADQUARTERS PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY  
PC CRIME LABORATORY  
Camp Crane, Quezon City

MEDICO-LEGAL BRANCH

23 April 1973  
(Date)

MEDICO-LEGAL NECROPSY REPORT

REQUESTING AUTHORITY: \_\_\_\_\_ CO, CANU \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME: HILDO, Lilirosa R. AGE: 27 SEX: Female STATUS: Single CASE NO: M-432-73  
ADDRESS: 93 Batino St., Project 3, Quezon City  
ALLEGED CASE: Acid poisoning  
OCCUPATION: Student NATIONALITY: Phil. HT: 165 cm. WT: \_\_\_\_\_ RACE: Brown  
REPORTED PLACE OF DEATH: Constabulary Station Hospital, Camp Crane, Quezon City ARMY: \_\_\_\_\_  
REPORTED TIME & DATE OF DEATH: 8/1710H 7 Apr '73 CIVILIAN: X  
NECROPSY HELD AT: PCCL Morgue, Camp Crane, Quezon City  
TIME & DATE OF NECROPSY: 2330H 7 Apr '73  
ANTEMORTEM DIAGNOSIS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTMORTEM FINDINGS:

GENERAL:

Fairly developed and nourished female cadaver in rigor mortis with postmortem lividity over the dependent portions of the body. There are several needle puncture marks over the left arm and forearm. Conjunctivae are pale. Nailbeds are cyanotic. There is corrosion of the mucosa of the upper lip and the skin of the lower jaw. There is a tracheostomy incision at the anterior surface of the neck.

INTERNAL ORGANS:

GASTRO-INTESTINAL TRACT:

The oral cavity and the esophagus reveals erosion of the mucosa. The stomach is perforated at the greater curvature with widespread corrosion of the mucosa of the stomach and duodenum. The left lobe of the liver, head of the pancreas and small portion of the spleen appears pale, dull and firm in consistency.

LARYNX, TRACHEA AND BRONCHI:

The epiglottis and first portion of the trachea are eroded. The bronchi are filled with frothy fluid.

LUNGS:

Both lungs are purplish-red, valvular and subcrepitant. The cut surface exudes a great amount of sero-sanguinous frothy material.

The rest of the internal organs are grossly unremarkable.

REMARKS:

Cause of death is cardio-respiratory arrest due to shock with pulmonary edema as a result of widespread corrosion of the intestinal tract, epiglottis and trachea with perforations of the greater curvature of the stomach.

APPROVED:

s/t RANON L. PASCUAL  
Lt Colonel MC (PC)  
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s/t FEDERICO M. MORALES  
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Medico-Legal Officer

NOTED:

s/CRISPIN B. GARCIA  
t/GREGORIO C. MARASAN  
Colonel MC PC (SSC)  
Officer-in-Charge  
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CRISPIN B. GARCIA  
20 Jul 73/54459

CRISPIN B. GARCIA  
Colonel MC PC  
Administrative Officer

10. The sum of P2,200.00 was given to the family by the Constabulary, supposedly to help defray the expenses of Liliosa's burial. If the military felt no sense of guilt for Liliosa's horrible death, why this "generosity"? The family has not touched a single centavo of this money. However, when some of Liliosa's belongings were eventually returned, we noticed that there were blood stains on her undershirt and on the pillow Capt. Roque had brought to her. However, her panties, shorts and pants have never been returned to us despite our repeated requests.

#### Fruitless Attempts to Seek Justice

11. Since her death, we have repeatedly written to officials from President Marcos down seeking justice but in vain. On 5 July 1973, for example, Secretary of National Defense Enrile wrote us declaring the case closed. But we cannot agree to his decision because:

a. If the military personnel involved were questioned at all, it was done in our absence;

b. We have not been given copies of the necropsy report of the NBI;

c. The PC Crime Laboratory Necropsy report is silent as to the claim that Liliosa had been sexually abused; or as to the presence of contusions; or the cause of the punctures on her body;

d. As to the motive, if the military had no motive to kill Liliosa – although both a desire to prevent her from talking about the way they had tortured her and plain sadism come to mind – then what motive did Liliosa have for taking such a painful death – poisoning by muriatic acid? What did the military do or threaten to do that might have prompted her to act as the military claims she acted – assuming that she did take poison?

12. On 13 August 1973, Gen. Ramos, Chief of Constabulary, also ruled that the case was closed. His findings are likewise vague and unsatisfactory for the following reasons:

a. The raiding team did not have warrants at the time of the arrests. Subsequently, on 8 May 1973, after our repeated queries, a xerox copy of the supposed warrants were briefly flashed in front of us, and we noticed that the warrants contained erasures;

b. It is not true that the raiding party gave us notice of their mission and authority. Furthermore, the members of the raiding team have pending cases against them before the Judge Advocate General's Office dating to pre-martial law days, including, among others, charges of murder;

c. It is absurd that the Narcotics Unit would be assigned to cases of subversion;

d. All three witnesses to the raid were detained and it will be noticed that in spite of this, only one witness has a statement denying the alleged maltreatment, which was taken while he was under detention, and therefore under conditions of duress. The armed forces has not been able to produce similar statements from the other witnesses.

### **The Re-Arrest of Josefina**

13. Because of what happened to Lilia and to them, my sisters Amaryllis and Josefina left home. Winifredo himself went into hiding to avoid arrest and torture.

14. However, on 12 May 1974, Josefina was re-arrested in Pangasinan Province by the 5th Constabulary Security Unit (CSU). It was not until ten days later, on 22 May, that we were told of her arrest. She remained in Camp Crame until 18 September, and then was transferred to Ipil Detention Camp, Fort-Bonifacio, where she is now held. She has complained to us of mental torture (e.g., being awakened at midnight for interrogation, being made to sign papers without having read the contents), and has revealed that her companions had been physically tortured (e.g., boiling water poured over the feet of one girl, others being beaten repeatedly, the use of electric shock on the genital organs of the male, water torture). Up

to this date, Josefina had not been informed of any charges against her.

#### The Arrest and Torture of Winifredo and Amaryllis

15. On 7 October 1974, in Angeles City, my brother Winifredo, a civil engineer, and Amaryllis our sister, a 3rd year student at the University of the Philippines, were arrested at 10:00 p.m. and were taken to the 173rd PC Company where they were detained for the next three days and where they were tortured; all were deprived of sleep and food, Winifredo was beaten with empty Coke bottles and lost consciousness twice. He was also subjected to electric shock and threatened with a gun.

16. On 10 October 1974, they were transferred to Camp Olivas. During the next eight days, they were again tortured and deprived of food for periods as long as three days. Winifredo collapsed twice. On 18 October 1974, they were transferred again to the 5th MIG (ISAFP), Camp Aguinaldo, where they were held incommunicado until 21 October. On that day, I saw Winifredo and Amaryllis and they told me the torture they had undergone in Angeles and Camp Olivas. On this date also, I demanded a medical examination of my brother and sister. Among the findings of the Army medical officer was that Winifredo had lost much blood and had severe anemia. I also requested an X-ray, but to date I have not received a copy of the findings.



Liliosa Hilao (right) and sister Rizalina