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National artist home cased by AFP intelligence units

UA No: 2009-09-03

- UA Date** : 17 September 2009
- UA Case** : **Threat/Harassment/Intimidation**
- Victim/s** : Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera
- 77 years old
 - Married to Shane Lumbera, with children
 - Resident of Mapayapa Village, Quezon City
 - National Artist for Literature
 - Founding member and chairperson of ACT Teachers Partylist, former chairperson of Alliance of Concerned Teachers, national council member of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan
- Place of Incident** : The Lumbera residence at Mapayapa Village which is also registered as the National Headquarters of ACT Teachers Partylist
- Date of Incident** : 17 September 2009
- Alleged Perpetrator(s)**: 3 men believed to be members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. One of them was identified as Navy Corporal Hannival Mondido Guerrero

Accounts of the Incident:

Initial reports reveal that at around 6:00 am of September 17, 2006, three men were seen taking photos of the home of National Artist Bienvenido Lumbera in Mapayapa Village, Quezon City. The Lumberas' house helpers noticed the men taking photos of the house at all angles.

Alarmed, the Lumberas immediately called the Village security personnel who quickly responded to the residence. The security was only able to apprehend one of the men, identified by his Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ID as Corporal Hannival Mondido Guerrero. Guerrero's companions quickly escaped when the village security arrived.

Guerrero' was questioned by village security why he was casing the Lumbera home. Guerrero insisted that he was only interested in the vacant lot beside the Lumbera home.

The village security turned over custody of Guerrero to the local police. The PNP released Mondido shortly after questioning and after Prof. Lumbera filed a complaint.

The Philippine Navy confirmed that Guerrero is indeed a member of the Philippine Marines and that he's undergoing "surveillance training" under the military's Naval Intelligence Security Force.

Recommended Action:

Send letters, emails or fax messages calling for:

1. The immediate formation of an independent fact-finding and investigation team composed of representatives from human rights groups, the Church, local government, and the Commission on Human Rights that will look into surveillance and harassment of Bienvenido Lumbera.
2. The military to stop the labeling and targeting of human rights defenders as "members of front organizations of the communists" and "enemies of the state."
3. The Philippine Government to be reminded that it is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and that it is also a party to all the major Human Rights instruments, thus it is bound to observe all of these instruments' provisions.

You may send your communications to:

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Please send us a copy of your email/mail/fax to the above-named government officials, to our address below.

URGENT ACTION Prepared by:

KARAPATAN (Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights)

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