

**Bayan Muna member serving as RTC sheriff shot dead in Balangiga,
Eastern Samar**
UA No: 2010-08-01

UA Date : **28 August 2010 (Initial Data)**

UA Case : **Assassination**

Victim/s : **Casiano Abing**

- **56 years old, male, married with 5 children**
- **A resident of Brgy. 5, Poblacion, Balangiga Eastern Samar**
- **Sheriff, Regional Trial Court (RTC) Balangiga**
- **Member, Bayan Muna**

Place of Incident : **Brgy. 5, Poblacion, Balangiga, Eastern Samar**

Date of Incident : **25 August at around 7:00 in the evening**

Alleged Perpetrator(s): **a lone gunman believed to be a state agent**

Account of the Incident:

At around 7:00 in the evening of 25 August 2010, Casiano Abing was already upstairs together with his family when someone knocked at the door. Their house help went down to check. She opened the door to find a man who was looking for her employer. She called out to Casiano to inform him that a man was looking for him. Casiano went down to check. Then the whole family heard gunshots. They all rushed down to find him sprawled and wounded but alive. He was still able to tell his family that he saw his assailant but he did not look familiar to him. The assailant immediately fled after the shooting.

He was rushed to the Alvino M.Duran Memorial Hospital. But the hospital lacked the facilities to treat him so he was transferred to St. Paul's Hospital in Tacloban City, which is about an hour and a half away from Balangiga. He arrived there at around 10:00 PM where he was pronounced dead upon arrival.

As per the death certificate, the victim suffered five gunshot wounds, one of which hit his liver.

It was later learned that his colleagues at the RTC Balangiga reported to the Trial Court Judge of suspicious looking men asking the victim's whereabouts prior to the incident.

Casiano actively campaigned for Bayan Muna in the last May elections.

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 the assassination of Casiano Abing;
2. The arrest and prosecution of the perpetrator of the crime;
3. 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."

4. The Philippine Government to withdraw its counterinsurgency program Oplan Bantay Laya (Operation Freedom Watch).

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:

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