

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE OF JONAS JOSEPH BURGOS

The Commission, in conducting the inquiry, had two primordial objectives: first, to locate Joseph Jonas Burgos, and second, to call out all the concerned agencies of the Government to help the Commission on Human Rights in this undertaking. In this regard, the Commission issued a subpoena duces tecum and ad testificandum, dated 31 May 2007, to Major Gen. Delfin R. Bangit, Chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP), ordering him to appear and testify before the Commission on 05 June 2007, 9:00 AM; and to bring all the necessary documents including reports on the action taken by his office in connection with the alleged disappearance. The ISAFP, one of the principal intelligence networks of the Government, has all the intelligence capability and resources to locate Jonas Burgos.

Gen. Bangit failed to appear on the date abovementioned. However, on 08 June 2007, he came to the Commission for a courtesy call, and apologized for his absence in the June 05 hearing; and confirmed his presence for the next hearing. To give the Burgos family the opportunity to observe the proceedings and participate therein, the Commission, thru Commissioner Dominador N. Calamba II, sent a letter, dated June 13, 2007, to Mrs. Editha Burgos. In the same letter, the Commission invited her for a meeting with the Commissioners on June 15, 2007, the date of the inquiry.

On 15 June 2007, Gen. Bangit and Mrs. Burgos appeared before the Commission for the scheduled inquiry, but the latter refused to testify. During the inquiry, Atty. Ricardo Fernandez, counsel of Mrs. Burgos, asserted that her client would testify only after the military officers shall have given their testimonies. Consequently, Mrs. Burgos did not take the witness stand. On the other hand, Gen. Bangit requested a meeting with Mrs. Burgos, but the latter refused.

The Commission wants the public and the Burgos family to know that the closure of the public inquiry does not necessarily mean the closure of its

investigation to locate Jonas. It is only the proceedings to locate Jonas Burgos (public inquiry) that is terminated. It is in this respect that we call, once again, the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to locate Jonas Burgos, despite Mrs. Editha Burgos' non-cooperation.

WHEREFORE, in view of the foregoing, the Commission resolves, as it is hereby RESOLVED, that the proceedings in the Commission be temporarily closed.

Issued this 11 th day of September 2007, Quezon City, Philippines.