

European Communities

---

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1982-1983

---

15 OCTOBER 1982

DOCUMENT 1-738/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr CAPANNA

to be entered in the register

pursuant to Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure

on the fate of Father EDICIO DE LA TORRE

PE 80.994



The European Parliament,

- A - having been informed of the pastoral work with the Philippine religious communities of Father EDICIO DE LA TORRE, who was ordained priest of the order of the Society of the Divine Word in 1967, and especially of his work as chaplain of the Federation of Free Farmers (CHIRO);
- B - having been informed that:
- in 1974 Father Edicio De La Torre was arrested for 'subversive activities and connections with the N.D.F.',
  - the charge was never brought officially and he was never tried,
  - he was released after five years of imprisonment on the basis of an agreement between the Marcos Government and his Father Superiors who undertook to send him to Rome for theological studies,
  - Father De La Torre worked in Rome from April 1980 on a thesis on 'New forms of ecclesiastical organization in the Third World' on his arrival there after his release,
  - he submitted the thesis to the Faculty of Religious Sociology of the University of Louvain-la-Neuve and received a grant to continue his work from the Maryknoll Fathers of New York (Fathers of the Order of the Four Slaughtered Sisters in El Salvador),
  - in June 1981 he returned to his native land to collect investigative data for the thesis on which he is working,
  - on 22 April 1982 he was arrested during a police operation in which HORACIO MORALES, a former member of the Philippine Government and, as Marcos' adviser, former executive vice-president of the Philippine Academy for Development, was also arrested, having been dismissed from his office in December 1977 for protesting against the government's economic policy,
  - having been informed that the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (T.F.D.P.), a body of the Philippine churches, reported his arrest, whilst the government denied for two weeks that it had arrested him until it released two of those arrested and one of them stated that he had seen Father Edicio De La Torre in the same place where he had been detained, BAGONG BANTAY,

- whereas Bagong Bantay (in Quezon City, Manila) is not on the list of prisons of the Marcos Government but is known to be a torture centre and Edicio De La Torre was only moved from Bagong Bantay to an unspecified army camp following pressure by the T.F.D.P.,
  - whereas there is no information as to the reasons for the arrest, or as to the charges brought against him (Father Edicio De La Torre was carrying on his work for the thesis with the questionnaire prepared for that purpose at the moment of his arrest) or as to his state of health (see annexes);
1. Is deeply shocked by the arrest of Father Edicio De La Torre and by the information as to the acts of torture performed on prisoners of the Marcos regime as well as the 'extrajudicial executions' (according to Amnesty International's definition);
  2. Requests information as to the state of health and place of imprisonment of Father Edicio De La Torre, Horacio Morales and the other persons arrested;
  3. Requests the Marcos Government to inform the members of the families of those arrested and the T.F.D.P. of any charges and if appropriate the date of the public trial, which should be held immediately;
  4. In the absence of such guarantees hitherto, requests the immediate release of Father EDICIO DE LA TORRE;
  5. Requests its President to forward this resolution to President Marcos and to the Council meeting in political cooperation.

PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR  
Society of the Divine Word  
Manila, Philippines  
P.O. Box 4145

May 12, 1982

His Excellency,  
President Ferdinand E. Marcos  
Malacanang Palace  
Manila

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the SVD, I would like to direct this appeal to you concerning Fr. Ed. dela Torre.

Fr. Ed dela Torre was arrested by the military last April 22 in the course of a military operation that was not directly aimed at him. His arrest was not acknowledged till later. He was allowed visitors on April 30 and the following days.

In the course of interrogations, Fr. dela Torre admitted that his research work (in sociology of religion) brought him into contact with the NDF and that he is ready to face the consequences of such connection. However he stressed that his principal concern during his stay here was the field research he was conducting on church participation in social change.

It is for this reason that I am writing this appeal. I hope you will consider allowing Fr. dela Torre to finish his research and continue his studies. I hope you will consider releasing him to the custody of his superiors or at least place him under house arrest. He is also due to return to Europe this year for the rest of his studies.

The SVD and his family will be grateful for any favorable action you will take in response to this appeal.

Sincerely yours,

Fr. Ewald Dinter, SVD  
Provincial Superior

May 14, 1982

His Excellency President Ferdinand E. Marcos  
President of the Philippines  
Malacanang Palace  
Manila

Dear Mr. President,

We wish to express our support to the appeals of Fr. Ewald Dinter, SVD Provincial, and of Mrs. Romualda de la Torre to your Excellency for the release of Fr. Edicio de la Torre, SVD, to the custody of his superiors or to place him under house arrest.

Fr. de la Torre is on temporary stay in the Philippines for field research study in Church participation in social change. He is due to return to Europe this year to finish his research studies.

Confident of a favorable response from your Excellency, we wish to remain,

Truly Yours,

ASSOCIATION OF MAJOR RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS  
IN THE PHILIPPINES

Sr. Carmela Carpio, M.M.  
AMRSWP Executive Secretary

Fr. Pedro C. Arguillas, M.S.C.  
AMRSMP Executive Secretary

cc. Fr. Ewald Dinter, SVD (SVD Provincial)  
Mrs. Romualda de la Torre (mother of Fr. de la Torre)

PE 80.994