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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
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# ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

CY 1994



Commission on Human Rights



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# Performance Highlights

Consistent with its high standing in the human rights community, the Philippine Commission on Human Rights continued to receive international recognition in the performance of its mandates particularly in the area of human rights promotion.

The CHR has been awarded the UNESCO prize for the Teaching of Human Rights "in recognition of the pertinence of its activities for the promotion of human rights through education, research and information."

On account of the experiences of the CHR as a national institution on human rights, the country will host an International Conference on National Institutions on Human Rights in April 1995.

Other international recognition came in the form of grants-in-aid for the Commission's human rights education programs provided by the New Zealand government, UNICEF, ICRC and the UN.

At the national level, the Commission was at the forefront in the protection of the rights of disadvantaged persons such as prisoners/detainees, children, hostages, among others. This includes the release of prisoners who unjustly languished in jail for more than 20 years under the Martial Law Regime; the negotiated freedom of navy men hostaged by the NPAs in Cagayan; the temporary liberty of persons detained without due process; and the legal protection for abused children.

The Commission investigated a record high of 2,211 cases for the year 1994, 650 of which were filed in courts/administrative agencies for prosecution or administrative action. The filing of charges against police suspects, the top perpetrators of human rights violations, resulted in the dismissal from the service of six (6) policemen and conviction of a cop rapist.

In addition to the free legal services to complainants, financial assistance was awarded to a total of 341 victims. As of December 1994, financial assistance reached P4.12M consisting of survivor's benefits, medical assistance, witness protection, special assistance and incidental and emergency expenses.

Among vulnerable groups, children became a priority concern with the operationalization of the CHR's Child

Rights Center which launched a nationwide regional network of advocacy and child rights protection campaign.

The public information activities were highlighted with the celebration of the CHR human rights week. The Commission initiated several activities to highlight pressing issues and concerns, to include: publication of feature stories of the CHR accomplishments and other issues in major weekly magazines, newspapers and tabloids; discussion of HR issues in various TV programs; hotel fora; and dissemination of HR posters to Metro Manila cinemas and airing through Mediatron of CHR slogan /theme.

Public information and education programs undertaken involved wider participation by the police/military forces and public officials/government employees. Significantly, the student sector was listed as the most active sector in all the activities.

United Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Organization



## THE 1994 UNESCO PRIZE

for the Teaching  
of Human Rights

has been awarded to

The Philippine Commission  
on Human Rights

and

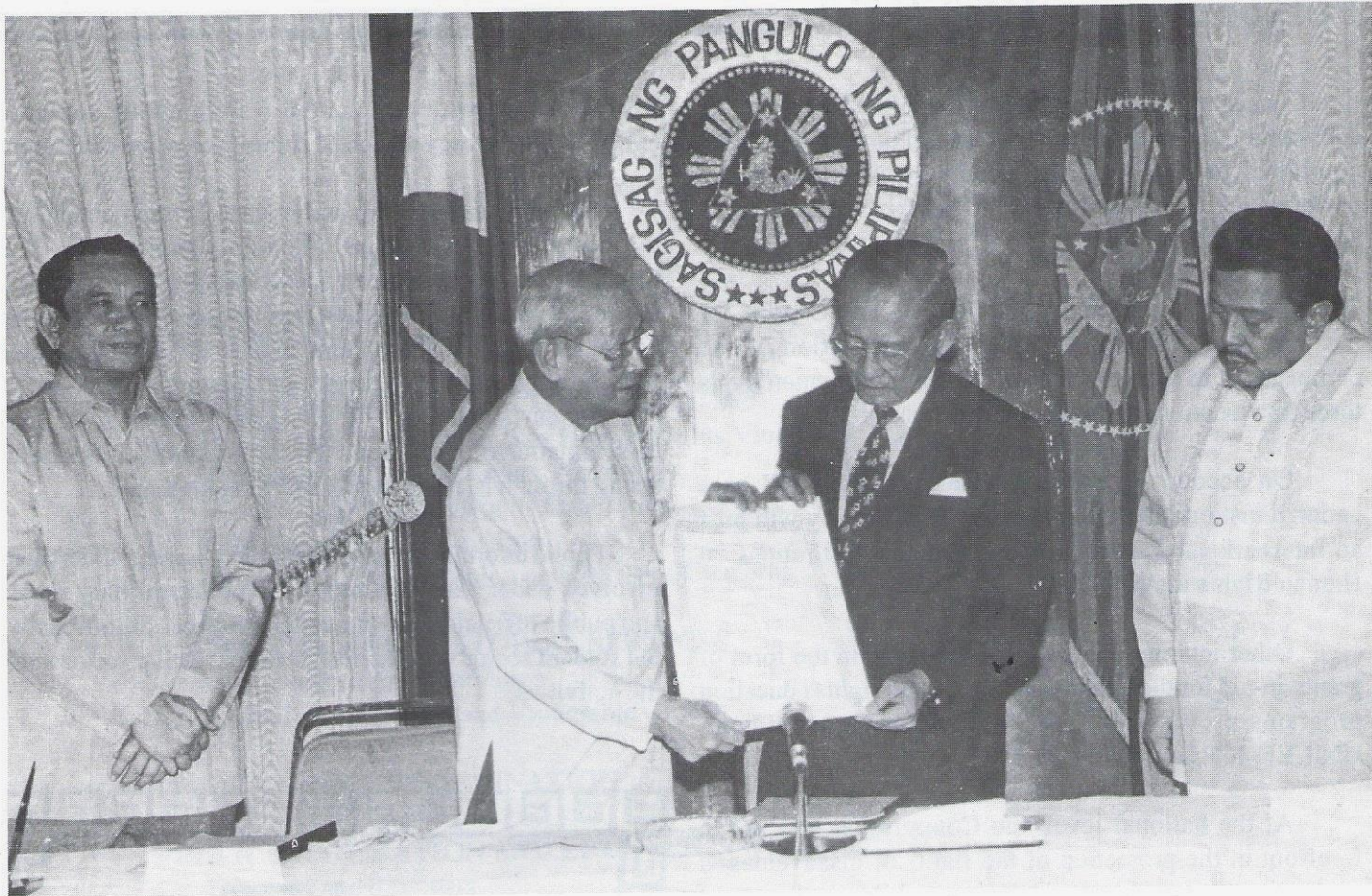
José Zalaquett Daher

in recognition  
of their outstanding contribution  
to the development  
of the teaching of human rights.

Paris, 26 January 1995

Federico Mayor  
Director-General





*President Fidel V. Ramos presenting the UNESCO AWARD for the teaching of human rights to CHR Chairman Sedfrey A. Ordonez. With them are Vice President Joseph Estrada and Executive Secretary Teofisto Guingona.*

## **A. INVESTIGATION AND LEGAL OPERATIONS**

### **\* Investigation of Complaints of Human Rights Violations**

In 1994, CHR intensified its investigation of old and new cases of human rights violations, thereby disposing a total of 2,211 cases which is 15.70% higher than in 1993. Of this number, 650 cases were filed/referred to courts/agencies for prosecution or administrative action. The rest were closed/terminated or archived. The regional breakdown of investigated cases is shown on the next page.



*CHR investigators in one of their "on-site operations"*



# **INVESTIGATED CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS** **By Classification and By Region**

**January - December 1994**

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER OF INVESTIGATED CASES													
	NCR	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VI	VIII	IX	X	XI	XI	TOTAL
1. Filed/Referred to Prosecutor's Office/Courts	27	48	36	91	21	37	79	44	93	61	5	60	48	<b>650</b>
2. Closed/Terminated	209	26	73	127	48	59	42	74	103	40	102	76	74	<b>1053</b>
3. Archived	13	30	143	55	20	64	30	23	23	13	48	15	31	<b>508</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>2211</b>

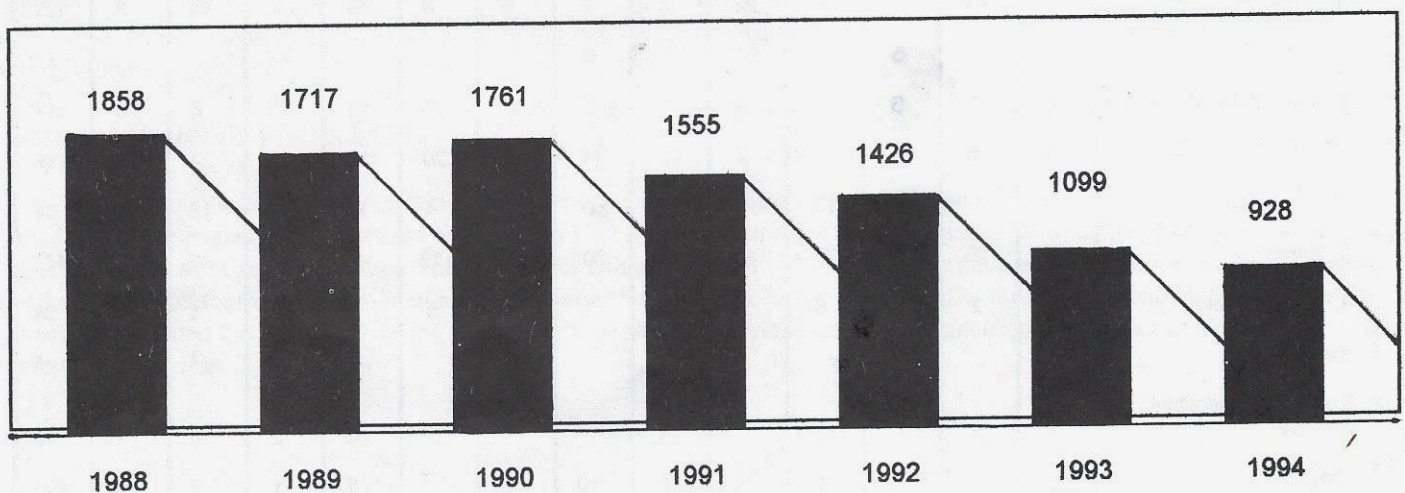
## **\* Prosecution of Human Rights Violations**

Criminal and administrative charges were filed against the alleged suspects, more than half of whom are from the police ranks. As a result of the filing of charges against the police, several were dismissed from the service this year such as: four (4) policemen in Cagayan de Oro Police Command for grave misconduct and two (2) cops in the Fasteller case in Tacloban City. Moreover, a cop rapist also in Tacloban City was convicted.

## **\* Monitoring of Human Rights Conditions**

Based on reported complaints received by the central and regional field offices, the Commission has made regular reports on the country's human rights situation. CHR records from 1988 - 1994 show a generally declining trend since 1990 as shown in Figure 1.

**Fig. 1**  
**INCIDENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**  
**1988 - 1994**  
**Total : 10,344**





# 1994 HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONER

## Regional Trends

Based on the regional distribution of the number of incidents, NCR and Region VIII have the highest incidence rate while Regions I and X have the least complaints.

### 1994 INCIDENTS OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

By Case Type and By Region

January - December 1994

CASE TYPE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS													
	NCR	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	TOTAL
1. Murder/Homicide/Execution	7	11	11	11	16	12	20	6	11	13	1	26	14	169
2. Torture	3			3					1					7
3. Disappearance	3			3				1	1					8
4. Arrest/Detention	24	4		13	1	14	5	5	21	6	3	9	9	114
5. Other Complaints	92	25	21	63	31	31	49	39	110	65	14	51	49	640
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>928</b>

## Perpetrators

The number one suspects in the 1994 incidents of human rights violations in all regions were the police with 565 alleged perpetrators. The overall total ranked the local officials/employees as the second ranking perpetrators with 144 suspects. The military was ranked third with 133 suspects.

### ALLEGED PERPETRATORS OF 1994 INCIDENTS

By Category and By Region

January - December 1994

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF SUSPECTS													
	NCR	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	TOTAL
1. Civilian		3		36	22	4	7	6	8	14		14	8	122
2. CPP/NPA			5	1	14	7	6			2		2		37
3. Local Official/Employee	11	5	5	44	8	7	8	3	25	12	5	6	5	144
4. Military	7	6	2	11	2	12	11	5	20	19	3	22	13	133
5. Paramilitary			2	13		12	9	2	4	10		13	3	68
6. Police	51	25	22	76	11	31	39	51	112	41	13	42	51	565
7. Professional	1	2		5	4	2	1	3	5	1		1	3	28
8. Rebel Group										4		1		5
9. Rural/Urban/Industrial Worker	1	5		12		4		1		6	2	3	1	36
10. Others	143			11	8	6	10	6	6	5	1	2	10	208
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>1345</b>



## Victims

With a total of 354 reported victims, the civilian populace was the most hit by human rights violations during the year. This is specially true in Regions VIII, IX and VII which reported 88, 55 and 46 civilian victims, respectively. Rural/urban/industrial workers were also among those severely hit, with a total of 276 victims.

### **VICTIMS OF 1994 INCIDENTS**

**By Category and By Region**

**January - December 1994**

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF VICTIMS													
	NCR	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	TOTAL
1. Child/Minor/Woman/Student	I	15	6	25	10	22	19	5	12	24	2	15	4	160
2. Civilian		19		16	29	21	25	46	88	55	8	9	38	354
3. CPP/NPA						2			2		1	4		9
4. Detainee/Prisoner		1		3		5	1		4			1	2	17
5. Local Official/Employee		1		3	2	2	4		4			3		19
6. Military/Police		1	1	1	5	1	2			2			4	17
7. Paramilitary			1			1	1			2			2	7
8. Religious		1	1	1						2			1	6
9. Rural/Urban/Industrial Worker	1	5	22	70	5	13	23	5	28	10	6	64	24	276
10. Others	152		2	23	13	3	8	1	22	3	1	6	3	237
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1102</b>

### **\* Developing Public Opinion on Human Rights Issues/Concerns**

This year, the Commission issued its stand/opinion on the following national issues and concerns affecting the enjoyment of human rights

#### **Comment on House Bill No. 8429**

The Commission strongly endorsed and supported the enactment into law House Bill 8429, otherwise known as "An Act Providing for the Rights of the Accused and Persons Under Investigation for the Commission of a Crime, Providing for Civil and Criminal Penalties in Case of Violation Thereof and for Other Purposes." This Bill further enhances the rights of accused or persons under investigation for the commission of a crime. In a nutshell, House Bill No. 8429, codifies the constitutional rights and substantial guarantees accorded the individual facing charges as ruled by the Supreme Court in its decisions, the Rules of Court and the laws enacted by Congress.



## B. ASSISTANCE AND VISITORIAL SERVICES

### \* Monitoring of Jail Conditions

During the period, the Commission through its Regional Field Units conducted 1,157 jail visitations and covered 19,276 prisoners/detainees. Region VIII registered 202 jail visitations, the highest as compared to other regions. Ranking second was Region I with 155 jail visitations. Region V which had 149, ranked third.

### \* Assistance to Victims and Vulnerable Groups

#### Human Rights Victims

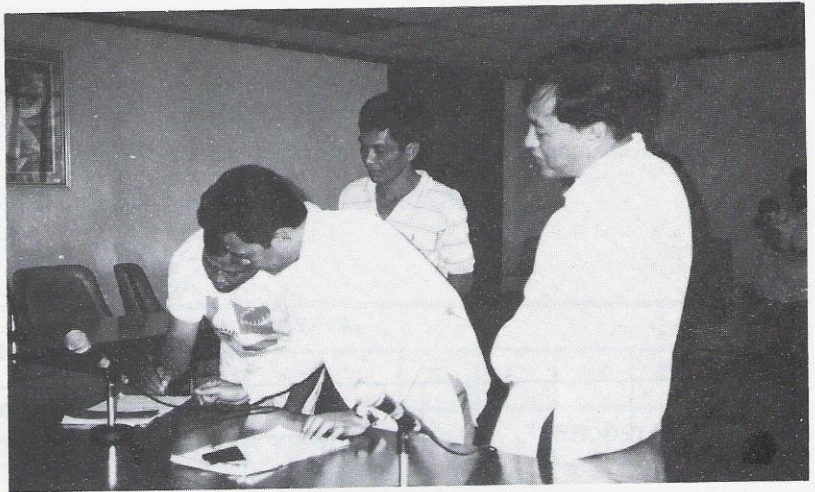
For the year 1994, a total of P4.12M was extended as financial assistance to human rights victims and/or their beneficiaries/heirs. Of the amount, P3,415,000.00 went to 344 victims/beneficiaries. Eighty-one victims were recipients of the medical assistance totaling P405,000.00. An amount of P6,000.00 was also released for the benefit of 2 vital witnesses. Special assistance was also extended to 91 families in Marag Valley amounting to P273,000 and P 5,000 to the beneficiary of a victim of disappearance. A total of P21,210.00 was disbursed to cover incidental and emergency expenses of 71 indigent victims/beneficiaries.

#### Prisoners/Detainees

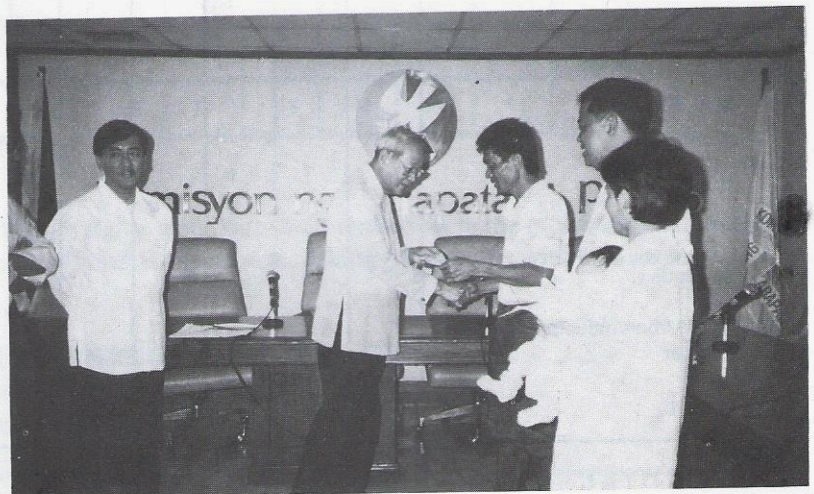
The Commission has successfully caused the release of two prisoners convicted under R.A. 1700 (Anti-Subversion Act): - Jesus Cabangunay and Leonardo Paquinto - from the National Penitentiary where they languished for more than twenty years, through a petition for habeas corpus filed before the Supreme Court.

Subsequently, another habeas corpus petition in behalf of Oscar de Guzman, who was sentenced by the lower court to suffer a life sentence for violation of R.A. 6425, otherwise known as Dangerous Drugs Law, is still pending with the Supreme Court.

All in all, prisoners/detainees provided with legal assistance during the year totaled 508. This free legal aid to prisoners/detainees played a vital role in the release of 22 prisoners/detainees, most of whom were from NCR. Other regions that contributed to this figure are Regions V, VIII, X and XI.



*Commissioner Hesiquio R. Mallillin with COMSEC Secretary Atty. Homero Rusiana during the awarding of financial assistance to Messrs. Jesus Cabangunay and Leonardo Paquinto.*



*Chairman Sedfrey A. Ordonez meets Messrs. Cabangunay and Paquinto at the CHR conference room as Commissioner Hesiquio R. Mallillin looks on.*



*A CHR investigator chats with an inmate during a jail visitation.*



## C. INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION

From January to December 1994, the Commission conducted 638 inter-agency meetings, dialogues and referrals/representations covering various human rights issues and concerns. Meetings and dialogues on peace and order, children, and on various activities peculiar to each region, were among the top activities in terms of inter-agency coordination and networking. The Commission was also quite active in its coordinative work with the media.

As a result of its inter-agency networking, various program measures and collaborative undertakings were instituted as follows:

### 1. Establishment of Barangay Human Rights Action Centers (BHRACS) Nationwide

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed on Nov. 16, 1994 between the Commission on Human Rights and Department of the Interior and Local Government, through the Local Government Academy (LGA) and Liga ng mga Barangay (LIGA), whereby the parties agreed to jointly formulate and implement a continuing National Human Rights Advocacy Program for Local Government Units (LGUs), especially for the Punong Barangays (or Village Chiefs).

### 2. Commitment to the Child Rights Center (CRC)

A pledge of Commitment to the Rights of Filipino Children was signed on April 18, 1994 by the Commission on Human Rights, Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, the Department of Justice, the Department of Interior and Local Government, Council for the Welfare of Children and the community of Non-Government Organizations.

### 3. Guidelines for the Outreach Program for Streetchildren

Due to the indiscriminate round-up of streetchildren in Metro Manila on April-May, 1994 and questioning the manner and objective of the round-up of streetchildren under "Oplan Sagip Yagit" launched by the Narcotics Command, the Commission conducted an inquiry and called for a dialogue with the following agencies: Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Philippine National Police (PNP) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) involved in child welfare.



*MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT signing by CHR, DILG and LIGA NG MGA BARANGAY*

The dialogue cleared some issues and misconceptions brought about by exaggerated reports of maltreatment and as a result, the agencies involved agreed to formulate guidelines to implement the "Outreach Program for Streetchildren". The CHR convened the Inter-Agency Committee to prepare said guidelines. These agencies include DOJ, DSWD, DILG, and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), PNP, Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and NGOs.

In July 1994, CHR released the guidelines for the Outreach Program for Streetchildren.

A total of 53,553 representatives from other government agencies/entities, non-government organizations and other sectoral groups participated in the inter-agency activities. Among the various activities conducted, monitoring of human rights incidents was the most heavily attended with a high record of 14,602 participants during the one-year period. The regions most active in inter-agency networking were: Region XI with 149 activities and 3,437 participants and Region I with 102 activities and 31,194 participants.



As part of its information drive, the Commission also distributes human rights information materials in its inter-agency activities. For the year 1994, a total of 29,182 information materials consisting of HR posters, flyers, primers, CHR kits and other information materials were distributed.

#### **D. Public Information and Education Operations**

##### **\* Trainings and Seminars**

From January - December 1994, a total of 1,666 public information and education activities were conducted by the Commission. These activities included 451 seminars/trainings; 312 lectures/talks; and 903 information dissemination thru radio programs, press/news releases/articles, press conferences and barangay assemblies.

Majority of the seminars/trainings and lectures/talks conducted were geared towards increasing human rights awareness in the student sector, police force and among public officials/government employees. The student sector showed an impressive attendance of 14,220 participants. Other sectors heavily represented were the police with 12,138 participants and public officials/government employees with 5,901 participants.



*Maj. Valentin Hizon during the HR- IHL Advocacy Course held in Calumpit, Bulacan*



**PARTICIPANTS IN SEMINARS/TRAINING CONDUCTED  
By Priority Sector and By Region**

**January - December 1994**

PRIORITY SECTOR	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS													
	NCR	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	TOTAL
1. Police	358	825	58	210	1224	643	2116	375	597	1005	1364	412	464	9651
2. Military	500	20	58		152	200	276		311	85	76	382		2060
3. Professionals										70				70
4. Public Officials/Gov't. Employees	126	834	200	905		250	360	228	806		104	35		3848
5. Teachers			188			435	90		4		88			805
6. Students		3049	200			1640	25	45	2053	75	155			7242
7. General Public				300	92	860	560	155				670		2637
8. Prisoners/Detainees			118			140								258
9. Media	30													30
10. Paramilitary									172	228		240	181	821
11. Urban Poor						70								70
12. Religious Sector		53									60			113
13. Rural/Urban/Industrial Workers		30					160							190
14. Cause-Oriented Groups	17	30	96	210	55		93		35				40	576
15. Youth		98							26	150	30			304
16. Other Sectors	499	6194	949	795	526	263	744	1918	376	5020	474	463		18221
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1530</b>	<b>11321</b>	<b>1679</b>	<b>2420</b>	<b>2049</b>	<b>4501</b>	<b>4264</b>	<b>2881</b>	<b>4450</b>	<b>6563</b>	<b>2351</b>	<b>2202</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>46896</b>

**\* Human Rights Materials**

As part of its information dissemination campaign, the CHR also distributes information materials to the public. From January to December 1994, materials distribution included 36,378 posters; 24,683 human rights flyers; 17,875 human rights primers and 123,818 other human rights materials or a total of 202,754.

The regional breakdown of human rights information and education activities showed Region VIII with the highest number at 287. Region I came in second with 172 and NCR ranked third with 143. Other regions' performance in this area are as follows (in order of ranking): Region VI, 141; Region III, 137; Region V, 132; Region XI, 131; Region X, 121; Region IX, 105; Region II, 97; Region IV 95; Region VII, 77 and Region XII, 28.



**\* CHR HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK CELEBRATION**  
**(December 3 - 10, 1994)**

The Commission celebrated its Annual Human Rights week with the theme: "Karapatang Pantao, Sandigan ng Pilipino". In its effort to intensify the public's awareness and understanding of their basic rights and what they can do about it, the Commission initiated several activities answering pressing issues and concerns on human rights, to wit:

**Mass Media Exposure on Human Rights**

Media coverage of issues and concerns on human rights was initiated by the Commission using different modes of communication particularly print and broadcast. The media blitz was aimed at increasing the public's awareness and understanding of their basic rights as well as disseminating to the general public necessary information on the services the Commission provides.

Feature stories of the CHR's accomplishments and other pressing issues on Child Abuse and Rights of Indigenous Cultural Communities were published in major weekly magazines, newspapers and tabloids.

The Commission also discussed on TV programs such as Public Forum, Kape at Balita, Action 9, Serbisong Bayan and Baby and Bert issues about the Jail System, Police Brutality, and Human Rights in General. Hotel fora were also included in the Human Rights Week activities wherein officials of the Commission tackled issues on Political Rights at the Kapihan sa Manila Hotel and Jail System at the Breakfast Forum, Manila Pavillon.



*Chairman Sedfrey A. Ordonez listens intently as Sen. Raul Roco discusses a point with Channel 7's Jessica Soho.*

Other activities undertaken were: dissemination of HR Posters to Metro Manila cinemas/moviehouses and airing through Mediatron of CHR slogan/theme located at South Superhighway.

**HR Commitment Rites**

On December 5, officers and employees of the Commission, once again, pledged their commitment in upholding at all times the supreme and inalienable rights of every man, woman and child as mandated in the Philippine Constitution and other laws, as well as the common values of the Filipino people. Through the initiative of the Commission on Human Rights Employees Association (CHREA), the occasion was highlighted by the symbolic pinning of CHR pin and community singing of the CHR jingle.

**Symposium on Re-inventing Government**

At the Symposium on Reinventing Government held on December 6, 1994 attended by the officers and employees of the Commission, Ms. Carmencita Abella, Behavioral Scientist and President of the Development Academy of the Philippines, discussed the ways and means of how the agency can improve and be successful. This forum was designed as a response of the Commission to the challenge of transforming its organization under a new value orientation. Topics discussed were Radical Changes on Government, Paradoxes, How Paradox and Paradigm Changes and How to Begin to Re-invent.



## **Consultative Workshop on the National Agenda for the Decade of Human Rights Education**

Consistent with the Commission's aim of broadening and strengthening its human rights information and education, a Multisectoral Consultative Workshop on the National Agenda for the Decade of Human Rights Education was held on December 7, 1994 at the Development Academy of the Philippines. With the theme "Building the Community of Partners on Human Rights Education", the workshop was participated in by representatives from government organizations (GOs), civic groups, non-government organizations (NGOs) and people's organizations (POs). The workshop was formed as the Commission's response to the United Nation's request for proposals on human rights education that will be integrated into the action plan for the UN decade of Human Rights Education (1995 -2004).

Topics deliberated upon were: Transcendent Human Rights Spirit in the Military-Police and Civilian Convergence; Developing Political Will in Government for Human Rights Advocacy; NGOs-POs — The Moving Partners in Human Rights Advocacy; Emerging Role of Mass Media in Human Rights Education; Environmental Signs of the Times: Phenomenon in Human Rights Advocacy; Integration of Arts and Culture in Realizing Individual and Community Rights and Freedoms; and Awareness of the Filipino Youth to His/Her Life Purpose through Music.

## **National Human Rights Advocacy Program for Barangays**

In a move to foster human rights advocacy program in the Local Government Units (LGUs), the Commission, together with DILG and Liga ng mga Barangay, signed a Memorandum of Agreement for the establishment of Human Rights Action Centers on November 16, 1994. The Centers shall be tasked to receive complaints of human rights violations and subsequently refer them to the CHR regional field offices for action. The MOA paved the way for a pilot training program entitled "National Human Rights Advocacy Program for Barangays", held at the Local Government Academy, Los Banos, Laguna on December 8 - 10, 1994.

The major component of discussion was "Promoting and Protecting Human Rights in the Barangay", which in turn was subdivided into different topics, namely: Human Rights in General: HR Defined; Fundamentals of Human Rights; What are Human Rights Violations, Common Crimes and Common Barangay Disputes; and Redress Mechanisms and Avenues for Redress.

## **Creative Dance Workshop**

As a means of exploring children's creativity and to give them a chance to relate to the environment and other people, the Child Rights Center (CRC) conducted a half-day dance workshop for children, nieces and nephews of CHR employees. There were 23 participants aging from 3 to 12. The introductory module entitled "Creative Dance Workshop for Children", was conceived to facilitate their experience of dance as a medium of discovery and offering themselves to the full realization of their rights.

## **F. SPECIAL PROJECTS**

### **\* Locally Funded Projects Under the Medium Term Philippine Investment Plan**

In 1993, the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) requested different government agencies to identify priority activities in their respective Medium Term Development Plan for possible funding. The CHR submitted three proposals identified from its Medium Term Plan which are: Establishment of the Human Rights Center; Conduct of Sectoral Trainings; and Conduct of Impact Evaluation of CHR Programs and Services. These are five-year projects which will start in 1994 and will terminate in 1998.

Consistent with the thrusts of these programs, these locally funded projects are intended to be capital-forming both in equipment and human development capital which are envisioned to be a capacity building effort for the government. An initial funding of P2.836 million was released in 1994.

### **Establishment of Human Rights Center**

For the Establishment of the Human Rights Center, the Commission initially funded the activation of the Child Rights Center intended for the advancement of the rights of children in the Philippines through this project component. Through this funding, the Center was able to acquire equipment consisting of micro computers and printers to print information materials on child rights. It likewise established a networking system with other government organizations (GOs) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) concerned with the protection and upliftment of the general welfare of children.



As part of the upgrading of CHR Library into a National Human Rights Reference Library, the Commission has made arrangements for the procurement of international human rights books and other reference materials.

### **Conduct of Sectoral Training**

The project is envisioned to expand the sectoral coverage of the public information and education program of the Commission to cover all priority sectors and different human rights concerns.

One of the growing concerns of the CHR is the increasing incidence of human rights violations against children. Reported child abuses at an alarming rate prompted the CHR to address this issue by coordinating with the Department of Justice through the operationalization of a national network of special prosecutors and para-legal volunteers who will serve the legal needs of child victims.

A total of 22 lawyers from the CHR Central Office and 42 from the Regional Offices were designated by the Commission as Special Prosecutors to assist all State/Provincial/City Prosecutors throughout the country in the prosecution of offenses involving all forms of child abuse and violation of child protection laws particularly Republic Act No. 7610, otherwise known as the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act..

For this purpose, the Commission has lined up several training courses in order to equip these lawyers with additional knowledge on prosecution. Likewise, training programs for para-legal volunteers have already been set and its operationalization in the regions will be done in due time.

### **Conduct of Impact Evaluation of CHR Programs and Services**

In order to have an objective evaluation and determine the impact of CHR programs and services, the Commission, through the locally funded projects under MTPIP has developed/implemented projects such as: "Study on CHR Catalytic Role on GO-NGO Collaboration". The study consists of a survey among GOs and NGOs, documents analysis, stakeholder's analysis, and third party evaluation workshop.

Another project tie-up has already been finalized with the Development Academy of the Philippines. This is a "Study of Human Rights Monitoring and Documentation System and Procedure" and "Preliminary Impact Assessment on CHR Training Programs". A Memorandum of Agreement has already been forged with the DAP and the project is set to commence.

#### **\* Foreign Assisted Projects**

The promotion of human rights in the country is widely supported by the international community. This year, the CHR received substantial amount to accommodate projects/programs concerning human rights from the following institutions:

- \* UNICEF - agreed/committed itself to provide funding assistance for staff support for the Child Rights Center (CRC) for one year.
- \* UNICEF - a program has been developed for implementation in the next succeeding year that would cover the consultancy fee of an expert for the Regional Training Seminars for Para-Legal Volunteers nationwide.
- \* NEW ZEALAND FUND - the New Zealand Mission fund extended financial support for the Commission's Education and Training Programs. The funds were expected to benefit women, youth, students, NGOs and rural communities.



## **G. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

### **\* Reports and Information Submitted to the United Nations and Other International Bodies in Compliance with Treaty Obligations on Human Rights**

*Comment of the Commission on Human Rights to Resolution 1994/47 Subtitled "Human Rights and Unilateral Coercive Measures"*

The Commission on Human Rights strongly believes that unilateral coercive measures are contrary to the doctrine of self-determination enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is in consonance with the definition of "Human Rights as the supreme, inherent and inalienable right to life, to dignity and to self-development".

*Comment on the invitation of the Embassy of Switzerland to submit concrete suggestion to translate the recommendation on the promotion for full respect for and compliance with International Humanitarian Law.*

The Commission cites among other projects/measures particularly in the area of dissemination as follows:

- a. Integration of International Humanitarian Law in human rights courses for the Police and Military
- b. Advisory services to State Parties should be provided in the form of technical services and project funding to national human rights institutions of the state in support of existing International Humanitarian Law promotion programme
- c. Direct project assistance for advocacy programs for local government officials
- d. Existing structures and organizations of the government bureaucracy should be tapped in the creation of national committees to advise on and assist in national implementation and dissemination measures
- e. Provision on technical and funding assistance to national institutions

*Comment/View on UN Commission on Human Rights Resolution 1993/84 of 10 March 1993, entitled "Conscientious Objection to Military Service".*

While the Commission on Human Rights finds laudable the subject UN Resolution requesting governments to enact legislation recognizing the right of conscientious objectors against military service, it must always take into consideration the existence of constitutional and legal provisions against its strict and improper implementation, specifically the constitutional provision on compulsory military service and the National Defense Act.

*Comments on UN - CHR Resolution No. 1994/18 of February 1994 entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief."*

The Commission strongly believes that the provisions of the declaration find support in the present human rights conditions in the country. This is based on the constitutional policy on the separation of the church and state being inviolable, the mature outlook of the Filipinos in spirituality and as per records, the Commission, since its creation, has not formally received complaints for Intolerance and Discrimination on Religion or Belief or for such acts related thereto.

### **\* Information on Status of Cases of International Interest**

The Commission continuously responded to the queries of various human rights advocates all over the world on victims of human rights violations. For the year, the Commission received a total of 3,824 inquiries as to the status of twenty five (25) cases considered of international interest. Updated reports were sent to the following international organizations/ offices:

1. Australia - Asia Worker Links, Australia
2. Asia - Pacific Workers Solidarity Links, New Zealand
3. Asian Center for the Progress of People, Hongkong
4. Canadian Labor Congress, Canada
5. Columbian Fathers Justice and Peace Office, Washington, D.C.
6. Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, Uganda
7. Finance Sector Union of Australia
8. Informed Sector Service Center, Nepal



9. The International People's College, Denmark
10. Commission for Social Development, China
11. Catholic Charities, Oklahoma City
12. Board of Mission and Social Responsibility, England
13. Philippine Solidarity Group Stuttgart, 7 Stuttgart, Germany
14. Yale Law School, New Haven, Connecticut
15. Swedish Association of Health Officers, Sweden
16. Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance (WGEID)
17. Philippine Trade Union Solidarity Committee, Wellington, New Zealand
18. Hervormonde Gemeente - Gereformeerde Kerk Te School, Groet En Camp, The Netherlands
19. Christens Dans Le Monde Rural, Orontegeros
20. Scarborough Foreign Mission Society, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada

#### **\* International Cooperation**

The Philippine Commission on Human Rights during the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention entitled "Indigenous and Tribal People's Convention", recommended the endorsement by and ratification of the Philippine Government of the Indigenous and Tribal People's Convention of 1989 in accordance with the adopted policy provided in the constitution declaring that "the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights".

Moreover, the Commission, as part of its international commitments to the International Human Rights community, actively participated in the following fora regarding human rights protection:

##### **1. *50th Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights***

The convention was held from February 15 to March 12, 1994 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Commission on Human Rights was represented by Commissioner Narciso C. Monteiro who delivered a paper on national institutions. During the session, the delegates approved the Vienna Declaration emphasizing there in the establishment of national institutions, women and child's rights and the universality and indivisibility of human rights. The existence of different peculiarities in each country which might affect the implementation of the first, second and third generation of human rights was given due recognition.

##### **2. *Advanced International Program on Human Rights in Lund, Sweden***

The conference was held from April 5 to May 11, 1994. It was attended by representatives of all members of the UN Commission on Human Rights. They recognized the importance of establishing national institutions of human rights. However, other countries like Singapore and Brunei, insisted that in the protection and implementation of human rights mechanism, the peculiarities existing in the different countries must be taken into consideration. A representative from Singapore gave the impression that economic prosperity and development should be given priority to attain substantial achievement in the field of universal human rights.

##### **3. *Voluntary Visitor Program Sponsored by the US Information Agency in the U.S.A.***

The Voluntary Visitor program was held in the United States of America through the sponsorship of US Information from June 18 to July 1, 1994. It was participated in by several international NGOs and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The NGOs were very much impressed with the continuous improvement of human rights situation in the Philippines. Commissioner Narciso C. Monteiro requested the Federal Bureau of Investigation for possible technical assistance for the CHR investigators to undergo training particularly on Forensic Services.

##### **4. *International Humanitarian Law Training Course in Geneva, Switzerland***

A senior lawyer was sent by the Commission on Human Rights for International Humanitarian Law Training Course held in Geneva, Switzerland on April 11 to 29, 1994. The training course consists of one-on-one interview with the jurists and members of the Legal Division of the ICRC and research/study on the celebrated case of Nicaragua vs. United States of America involving the customary nature of the general principles of humanitarian law, fundamental principles on IHL, distinction between Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law,



Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions and Protocol 2. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, its historical background and structure, the ICRC, its structure, nature and functions and activities were also discussed.

5. *Second International Conference on New Restored Democracies*

This conference was held from July 4 to 7, 1994. It was attended by 13 foreign ministers from different countries and other respected non-government organizations (NGOs). The Commission on Human Rights was represented by Chairman Sedfrey A. Ordonez. Chairman Ordonez stated that Nicaragua and Philippines have a common hispanic and cultural heritage to which has been added the satisfaction of succeeding in ousting repressive dictatorships. All of the participating countries concertedly drew up their commitment to human rights and further stressed that education is the true way to the realization of universal human rights.

6. *Third Asia-Pacific Workshop on Human Rights Issues*

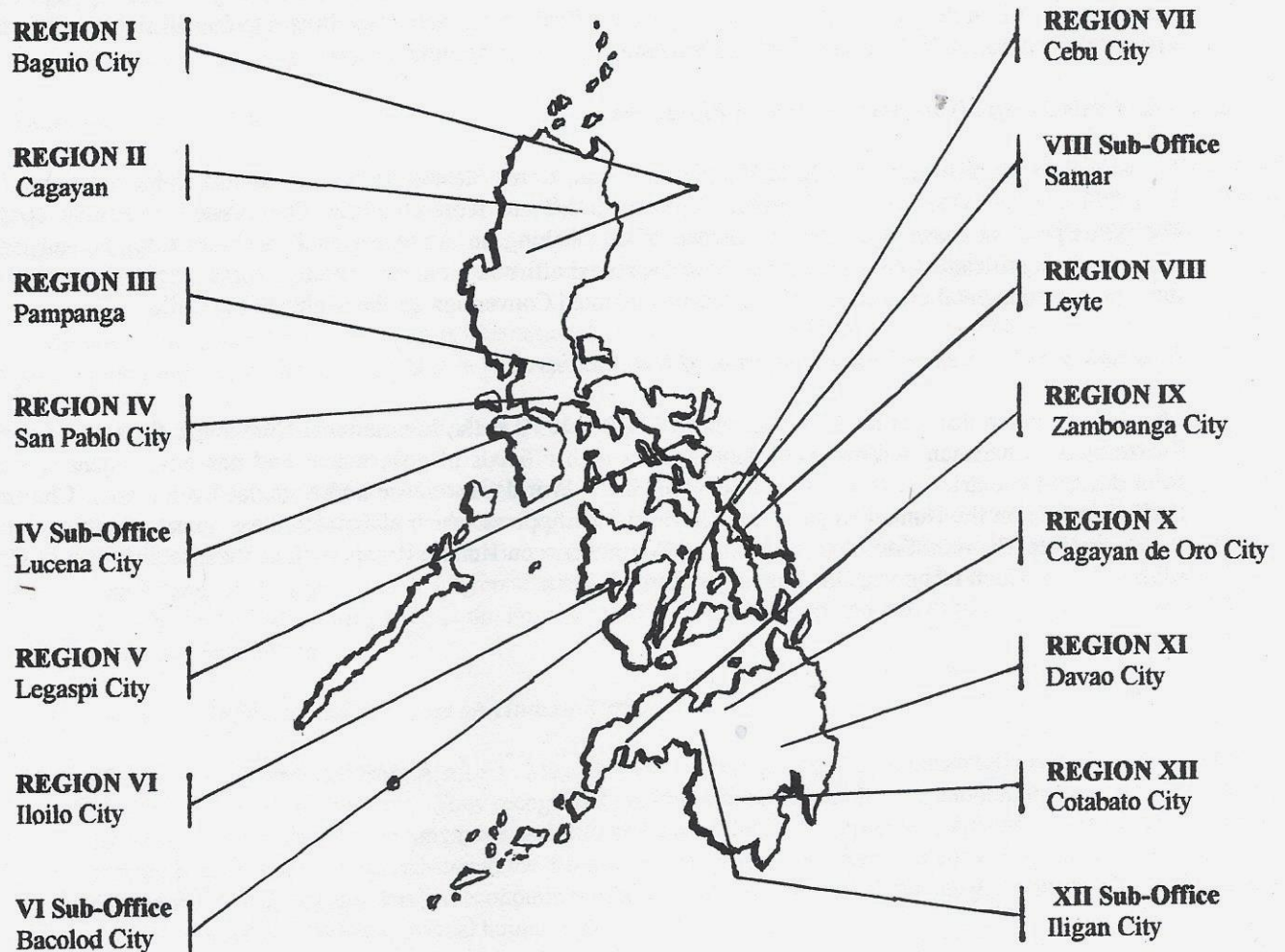
The workshop was held from July 18 to 20, 1994 in Seoul, Korea. It was attended by human rights representatives from different Asian countries. Chairman Sedfrey A. Ordonez represented the Commission on Human Rights. The participants acknowledged the importance of establishing an Asian regional mechanism for human rights protection. Significantly, Asian countries have expressed affirmation as an aspect of human rights protection are those on environmental protection and the recently adopted Convention on the Rights of the Child.

7. *International Conference for the Protection of War Victims*

The World Conference was held on December 26 to 28, 1994 at the International Conference Center of Geneva, Switzerland. Chairman Sedfrey A. Ordonez, along with officials of government and non-government agencies from different countries, attended all the sessions of the World Conference and National Institutions. Chairman Ordonez spoke on the Human Rights Advocacy in the Philippines which elaborated the human rights situation in the Philippines, the recent developments on the Commission on Human Rights such as the establishment of Child Rights Center which recognizes the human rights of children.



The Commission on Human Rights has established twelve (12) regional offices and four (4) sub-offices nationwide to expedite investigations and provide human rights victims easy access to the Commission.





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