



P N P News Release

Authority : PCSUPT CRESCENCIO L MARALIT PNP
Public Information Office
Camp Crame, Quezon City
Tel: +6327253179 Fax: +6327255115
Date : 01 August 2001

KFR GANG BOSS ARRESTED; MEDRAÑO KFR GROUP NEUTRALIZED

"The Joel Medraño KFR Group has been neutralized with the arrest of its leader JERRY RODRIGUEZ y MADRONIO alias JOEL MEDRAÑO," announced Police Director General Leandro R Mendoza.

The identified leader of the Joel Medraño Kidnap-for-Ransom Group, JERRY RODRIGUEZ y MADRONIO, 24 years old, single, native of Bgry. Vigaflor, Lopez, Quezon was arrested last 24 July 2001 at the back of the municipal Hall in Candelaria, Quezon during follow-up operations in relation to several KFR cases, namely:

Miguel Siscar on June 5, 2001 in Plaridel, Bulacan;
Josielyn Tan Cabrera on May 11, 2001 in Guiguinto, Bulacan;
Benedict Leong (Singaporean) and Judy Chan (HongKong National) on April 26, 2001 in Juan Luna, Tondo, Manila; and
Marco Sia on March 14, 2001 in Sta. Maria, Bulacan

Rodriguez was the subject of a Warrant of Arrest issued by the Municipal Trial Court of Plaridel, Bulacan.

Said group is also identified with other criminal activities, specifically:

1. Robbery at the residence of Mrs. Luz BALGARINO y Soriano on December 20, 2000 at masagan Homes Subdivision, Brgy. San Francisco, Bulacan
2. Shooting to death of Mr. Crisanto ORTEGA y Malaga alias Botong, Traffic Enforcer from the Public Order Safety Office of Malabon on November 16, 2000

3. Robbery at the residence of Mr. Miguel SISCAR on March 14, 2001 in Plaridel, bulacan

Judicial records show that the group headed by suspect jerry Rodriguez has several pending cases for highway robbery or brigandage in Quezon Province as early as 1997.

Also arrested was Danilo Ano y Rodriguez, last July 20, 2001 at Brgy. San Pedro, Buenavista, Quezon.

"Investigations are also being conducted to verify the information that the Joel Medraño KFR group has linkages with teh NPA," said P/Director-General Mendoza. Three of the suspects, Jerry Rodriguez aka Joel Medraño, Leonel Malbeda aka Roxanne, and Aye Rodriguez aka Joan, are reported ABB members in the CAMANAVA area.

The arrest of jerry Rodriguez is part of PNP operations to neutralize KFR groups, headed by the Special Task Group in coordination with other PNP units. Previous operations had resulted in the apprehension of 13 other members of the Medraño KFR Group, namely:

Eladio GATMAITAn y Vicente alias Ely of Brgy. Ligas, Malolos Bulacan
Luisito GATMAITAN y Vicente, of Brgy. Purgahan, Malolos Bulacan
Armando ROQUE y Pingol alias Manding, of Brgy San Franciso, Bulacan, Bulacan
Leonel MALBEDA, 36, alias Roxanne, of Lopez, Quezon
Aye RODRIGUEZ, 36, alias Joan, of Pulong Gubat, Guiguinto, Bulacan, alleged leader of a splinter group within the Joel Medraño KFR Group
Juanito CABIGAO, 30, alias Jojo, of Malolos, Bulacan
Adriano CORTEZ, 52, alias Eddie, of Malinta, Valenzuela City, alleged financier of the group
Julio RAGONTON, 55, of Bangued, Abra driver
Gerardo LITAO, 35, alias Jojo, of Dasmariñas, Cavite
Guillermo LITAO, 65, of Bulacan, Bulacan
Renato ABUEVA, alias Adel/Nato
Arnold RAMIREZ, alias Ariel
Rolando VELASCO y Boringgot

Issuing an appeal for UNITED ACTION, Gen. Mendoza also said, "The PNP is working with the community to neutralize the operations of other KFR Groups under our watch."

"We encourage vigilance and cooperative action for immediate response from the PNP. The success rate for solving kidnap-for-ransom cases depends greatly on IMMEDIATE REPORTING OF THE INCIDENT to the PNP," he added.