



PNP News Release

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3 CAGAYAN KIDNAPPERS FALL

Police arrested three suspected members of a Manila-based kidnap-for-ransom gang responsible for the abduction of a Chinese-Filipino businesswoman in Cagayan.

In his report to PNP Chief, Director General Leandro R Mendoza, RPO-2 Regional Director, Chief Superintendent Dominador Resos identified those arrested as **Fortunato MANGAHAS, Joel BULAITAN, and Rodelio ATIENZA.**

According to Cagayan PNP Provincial Director, Superintendent Ricardo Padilla, the suspects are believed to be members of a seven-man kidnap-for-ransom syndicate operating in the Cagayan Valley Region.

Padilla said the group's latest victim was Mrs. Editha Chua, a wealthy grocery store owner who was kidnapped in exchange for a P10-million ransom on August 12, 2001 in Tuguegarao City.

Chua was rescued unharmed on the same day in nearby Isabela by operatives of the Cagayan Provincial Police Office and the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division under Superintendent Jude Santos.

This developed as Mendoza instructed the Police Regional Office-2 in the Cagayan Valley Region to step-up manhunt operations for the arrest of the remaining gang members including Joey Jose, the alleged gang leader.

Police are also looking at the possible involvement of the syndicate in other kidnapping cases in the region.