



## PNP News Release

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### Family Driver Involved in Kidnapping **PNP ARRESTS 4 KFR SUSPECTS**

In joint operations, elements of PNP PACER, Intelligence Group, NCRPO and Imus Police Station arrested four (4) kidnap-for-ransom suspects involved in the kidnapping of 15-year old Kathleen Pacquing in Manila last July 23, 2002.

PNP Chief Police Director General Hermogenes E Ebdane Jr presented the four suspects to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Department of the Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina in Malacañang this morning.

The four (4) suspected kidnappers are:

- JOSEPH RANDY MENDOZA y TEVES, 32 years old, jobless, resident of Barangay Anabu II, Imus, Cavite, identified as the leader and negotiator;
- NELSON PILAR y FLORANO, 39 years old, driver of Kathleen Pacquing, resident of Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur;
- MARIA VICTORIA ACUATIN y SERVO, 38 years old, self-employed, separated, resident of Barangay Anabu II, Imus, Cavite, caretaker of the safehouse;
- JOSELITO MORTEGA y AMAYNA alias LITO, 31 years old, jobless, resident of Parañaque City, ransom-taker.

Among those arrested was the victim's driver, NELSON PILAR, who admitted to providing information on the victim's movements after extensive investigation by PACER operatives.

PILAR was abducted together with Kathleen and held in custody for one week while negotiations for ransom were on-going. Aside from the ransom demand, the kidnapers asked for an open deed of sale of the Honda Accord used by the victim. The victims were released July 30, 2002, and the arrests were made on August 1, 2002.

“We reiterate our warning that thorough background checks be done on the people you hire for positions in the household. Make sure they have the proper clearances, and they should be referred by people you know and trust,” Director General Ebdane said.

Another case where the family driver was involved was in the kidnapping of Mary Grace Cheng Rosagas in June 2001. Said driver, FLORANTE CONCEPCION, was arrested by PACER operatives in July 2002.

Immediately after the safe release of the victim, police elements debriefed the victim who was able to provide the physical description of two kidnapers, the negotiator and the caretaker of the safehouse, and the immediate surroundings of the safehouse.

With this information, operatives were able to identify the location of the safehouse in Imus, Cavite, and conducted follow-up operations resulting in the arrest of MENDOZA, ACUATIN and MORTEGA at 4:00AM, August 1, 2002.

Confiscated from the suspects were the following items:

Cash amounting to forty-seven thousand pesos (Php 47,000.00) believed to be part of the ransom payment;

- One (1) cal. Super 38 Llama with SN 10268 and two (2) magazines loaded with 18 live ammunition;
- One (1) Mitsubishi Lancer with plate number DGF-909 used by kidnapers to block the victim’s vehicle;
- One (1) Nokia 3210 cellphone;
- One (1) Ericson T68 cellphone;

- Two (2) ATM cards belonging to victim, Sarah Kathleen, and her mother, Evelyn;
- Two (2) black bonnets;
- Four (4) pieces plastic handlocks; and
- One (1) handcuff

Further investigation revealed that MENDOZA, PILAR and another gang member still at-large, JOSELITO DIAZ, have been charged with various crimes in the past. MENDOZA has one (1) case of murder in Gen. Trias, Cavite City; one (1) case of homicide in Bacoor, Cavite; one (1) case of rape in Muntinlupa City and two (2) counts of robbery in Calamba, Laguna and San Juan Metro Manila. PILAR has a standing Warrant of Arrest for rape issued by RTC Branch 275, Las Piñas City, while DIAZ was arrested in 1985 and charged with kidnapping-for-ransom and serious illegal detention.

Criminal charges for kidnap-for-ransom and for carnapping are being prepared against the suspects while manhunt operations are being conducted against the four (4) suspects at-large. The victim's father, Dr Modesto Pacquing, has expressed the family's support and cooperation in the on-going operations, and is set to file charges against the arrested suspects.