

PUBLIC

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4 January 2000

Further information on EXTRA 181/99 (ASA 35/46/99, 17 December 1999) -
Imminent execution

PHILIPPINES

Alex Bartolome, labourer

Alex Bartolome was executed as scheduled on 4 January 2000. He had been convicted in 1995 of the rape of his daughter. He is the seventh person to be put to death since the Philippines resumed executions in February 1999.

According to a *Reuters* report, shortly before his execution Alex Bartolome asked his wife and daughter for forgiveness and also urged President Estrada to make his execution the last of the new millennium.

Members of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines expressed their dismay at the execution. Spokesman Monsignor Hernando Coronel said in a statement: "We should begin entering the new millennium on the right foot. We should have started the year right. It is possible that the Philippines is the only Christian nation that greeted the new millennium by killing a fellow Christian".

No further action is required. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.