

Heraldo Filipino

Official Student Publication of De La Salle - Aguineldo

Vol 8 No 5

Special Issue

Lasallians hold peace rally

Rallyer -- 200-0
Gabrino, Froilan

Mayor Poblete talks with Lasallians on Gabrino case

by Orlando A. Oliveros

HUNDREDS of Lasallians participated in a peace rally for Froilan Gabrino, February 23.

Rallyists assembled at the Palaruang La Salle, and from there they commuted to Welcome Rotonda in Silang. They then marched to the Our Lady of Candelaria Church to hold a mass and to have a dialogue with Silang Mayor Clarito Poblete.

A rally panel -- composed of student leaders, faculty members, and Bro ~~Hilado~~ -- was created during the course of the dialogue to discuss with the mayor actions taken by the Silang government regarding the Gabrino case.

Silang police chief Major Florentino Talay said that they had requested the provincial headquarters to handle the investigation, with the Silang and Dasmariñas police in coordination.

On the Lasallians' demand that the investigation process be sped up, Mayor Poblete said that it would be hard to determine since there were no witnesses yet who could provide strong evidence. As of the latest developments, Major Talay said that the Silang police could not present any,

since it is the provincial government who handles the case.

Froilan Gabrino was last seen punching his time card at Reynold's in Dasmariñas. The Silang police say that this lead does not place the Gabrino case under their jurisdiction.

When asked on theories on the case, Mayor Poblete replied: "*Maagang si Amparo, pero hindi sigurado.*" He reasoned that Froilan Gabrino is at an age where he could be aggressive -- he could have made other enemies aside from Amparo.

However, Poblete guaranteed the panel that should there be witnesses who would be willing to testify, they will be placed under the witness-protection program of the Department of Justice.

The panel had set Monday, February 28 a tentative date for another meeting with the mayor and others concerned in the case. People from the media will also be invited to the meeting.

The rally was dispersed around 4:30 in the afternoon.

Gabrino, Froilan
Victim of crime

A Month of Tribulation

January 18. An *Inquirer* article reported the disappearance of another La Salle student.

Froilan Gabrino, a 19 year old Polytechnic student of De La Salle-Aguinaldo mysteriously disappeared on the night of January 11. He has not returned since then.

The disappearance may have been triggered by another incident which happened on January 10.

"*Yung kahoy lang na pinaglalagyan ng parol, nasira lang 'yon. Bale, hindi naman siya ang gumawa no'n -- mga tropa niya. Napasama lang siya.*"

January 10. After the incident, Froilan and his friends -- Dilson Bayas and Ruben Francisco -- were brought to the police headquarters at the town municipal hall.

"*Bagong gising pa yata ang kapatid ko. Pala, 'yung dalawang kasama niya, nadampot na doon sa labasan. Tapos siya ang sinunod na dinampot. 'Yung kapatid ko ayaw sumama, dahil walang warrant of arrest; siguro napilitan lang siya.*"

The four policemen who brought the three to the police headquarters were said to be led by

SPO1 Roman Amparo, an Amadeo policeman who resides at Mary Ann Village -- the same vicinity where the Gabrinao family lives.

Amparo was the subdivision's homeowners' association president last year. Gabrinao and his friends were brought to the police station based on, accordingly, complaints by homeowners.

Major Florentino Talay, chief of the Silang police headquarters, said that the three (Gabrinao, Bayas, Francisco) were brought together with Bayas' and Francisco's parents. Major Talay suggested that the case be settled among those concerned, since both parties belong to the same neighborhood. "Naghi walay na sila pagkatapos no'n."

On the other hand, the *Inquirer* article reported that the three were reportedly brought to the municipal hall, but "were neither interrogated nor told why they were arrested. They were released two hours later, after Talay and Amparo talked. As they were about to leave the headquarters, Amparo reportedly threatened to 'shoot them in the head.'"

Bayas: "Galit na galit siya. Sabi ngang gano'n, babalaan daw sa ulo, parang personal ang galit niya. 'Yun lang ang huling sinabi, tapos biglang nawala siya."

Froilan went home afterwards. One of Froilan's sisters told HF: "No'ng una, hindi namin pinaghinalaang dinukot siya. Kasi, 'yang kapatid ko, tahimik lang. Dinakip sila ng pulis nang January 10, pero hindi naman sinabi sa Nanay ko na binantaan sila, kasi natatakot siya: oras na nalaman ng Nanayko, baka hindi na siya palabasin ng bahay. Kasi, nag-o-OJT siya at gusto niyang matapos ang OJT niya kasi ga-graduate na siya this March.

"Poste lang 'yon ng parol na nabali. Inayos na nga ang kasong 'yon dito sa subdivision, na kesyo bayaran na lang daw at pasensiyahan na lang. Pumayag naman sila, tapos kinabukasan, wala nang kapatid ko."

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January 11. Froilan woke up at 10 - 11 in the morning everyday, since he came home at 12 the night before. He rested awhile, ate, prepared to leave, and then went to Reynold's -- an aluminum sheet factory in Dasmariñas -- for his OJT.

At 11 in the evening of January 11, Froilan punched his time card at Reynold's and left for home. This is where the Silang police finds a dilemma:

Firstly, Froilan was last seen punching his time card in Dasmariñas -- which is definitely not under the jurisdiction of the Silang police. Secondly, there were no witnesses to testify that Froilan indeed got off in Silang.

"Mayroon ngang dalawang testigo: 'yung isa bumaba sa may plaza, tapos 'yung kapatid ko, sa may sabungan bumaba. Tapos maglalakad siya sa may Kapitan Pepe Street.

"Kaya nga may pinuntahan ang nanay ko d'yan, tapos tinanong; mayroon nga raw silang nakitang sasakyang for registration, saka isang kotseng nag-aabang do'n.... Owner-type jeep at isang kotseng pula ang sasakyan. May dalawang naka-jacket 'tsaka naka-rayban na itim. Siguro mayroong kasama 'yon na 'di bumaba.

"Maynagsasabi namang mga tagaroon na noong oras na 'yon, may nagkakagulong mga aso. Biglang natahimik, akalanila mga magnanakaw daw. Pero 'di p'wedeng walang nakakita n'on."

January 12. "...No'ng Wednesday, akala ng mother ko baka nagpaumaga siya, kaya hapon na lang ng Wednesday namin siya hinanap. Tapos naghanap kami sa mga kamag-anak namin; akala namin baka nagtampo lang o kaya natanan. Tapos 'yun: nalaman naming pinagbantaan nga [sila] kaya nagpa-blotter kami sa Silang. Wala naman silang ginagawang aksyon."

February 10. Lencia Gabrinao, Froilan's mother, together with her husband's sister, came to DLS-A to ask the assistance of Polytechnic Dean Liberato Lontoc in bringing the case to the Department of Justice. Mrs Gabrinao spoke of their plan of moving out of their home for safety.

Mrs Gabrinao also met with DLS-A administrators who promised to give support; a peace rally that was to be staged in Silang was conceived.

***February 11.** One month after Froilan's disappearance.