



## DOCUMENTATION FORM

### PART 1: INCIDENT REPORT

Case Number :  
Type of case : Killing (killed with wife)  
Name : George Vigo  
Media affiliation : UCAN  
Time and Date of Incident : 2006 - June 19, 5:15 p.m.  
Place of Incident : along Barangay Singao, Kidapawan City  
Perpetrators :  
Motive :  
Witnesses (if any) :  
Lawyer handling the case :  
Investigating Officer :  
Reference/Contact Persons : Norma Alave (mother of Macel Vigo)  
Telephone Number :  
Address :  
Relation to Victim/Incident :

#### Account of Incident:

According to Fr. Peter Geremia, an Italian-American missionary who has worked in Mindanao since 1977, George and Maricel Vigo came to visit him on June 19, 2006, just before being killed.

He said "of course they didn't envision a violent death on that day. They didn't even mention threats or issues. They focused on their own personal and family concerns. It was a sort of renewal of their personal relationship and their deepest commitments."

The priest added that "after our long sharing, they walked away holding hands like young lovers. They looked as if that was the happiest moments of their life, a peak experience. They poured out so much affection that I was amazed."

While the couple were on their way home in the afternoon riding a motorcycle, a gunman on a motorcycle with companions shot the Vigos.

Police have tagged **Dionisio Madanggit**, an alleged NPA hitman, as the killer of George Vigo and his wife Mazel. The New People's Army (NPA) strongly denied police charges that one of its fighters was behind the killing

But according to report in Davaotoday.com on Oct. 1, 2006, the day after couple were killed, then Philippine National Police chief Arturo Lomibao came to Kidapawan City to personally hand over a 10,000-peso check to Maricel's mother Norma Alave, supposedly from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The following day, the police summoned the 60 year Alave to the police station and asked her to sign some documents. She was told that the papers were meant to establish that she was Macel's mother and that George was her son-in-law. Alave who has a failing eyesight, said she signed the document even though she could not read what was written on them.

It was only later when her son Gregorio Alave, 29, found out that the documents his mother had signed included a paragraph that identified the Vigo couple's killer as someone named Dionisio Madanguit. Mrs. Alave said she retracted the statement because she never knew that man.

## PART 2: VICTIM'S PROFILE

Name : George Vigo, 33  
Media affiliation : UCAN  
Position : Correspondent  
Address : Kidapawan City  
Birthday :  
Single/Married : Married  
Children : three sons, two daughters

Background as journalist :

In college, both Macel and George were members of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) and League of Filipino Students (LFS).

Maricel and George Vigo became regular staff of a weekly newspaper "The Headliner," published in Cotabato City and circulated in Mindanao from 1998 until it folded up in 2003. They were both members of the Federation of Reporters for Empowerment and Equality (FREE), an organization of journalists that ran and managed the defunct "Headliner." Macel maintained a column in The Headliner titled "Feminist Expressions."

George regularly wrote about the rights of the indigenous peoples particularly on the encroaching of banana plantations around Mt. Apo, which is considered sacred by the Lumads. George also served as bureau chief of Headliner after Carlos Bautista, who was then with Catholic-run radio station dxND, resigned from his post.

For being so critical of officials in the province, a politician offered George to be his "ghost writer," presumably to silence him. But George turned down the offer.

George, who also studied for three years at the Notre Dame Seminary in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, also served as secretary of the Task Force Apo Sandawa under the Diocese of Kidapawan, that advocated for the environmental protection on Mount Apo.

The couple wrote about the church and communities' peace initiatives in different areas of the region and conducted trainings for campus journalists in Kidapawan City colleges and high schools where they also shared the idea of public and peace journalism.

While covering the 2000 war, George also worked for Tabang Mindanaw, which extended assistance to the internally displaced persons. He was also one of 17 journalists who visited different war-torn villages across Mindanao during the period of the "all-out war" of then President Joseph Estrada.

George hosted Tingog sa Kabatan-unan (Voice of the Youth), a 30-minute radio program of the CFSI aired every Monday noon.