

ANTI-MINING ADVOCATE SLAINED IN SURIGAO DEL SUR

In a small *nipa* house located in the middle of a pineapple plantation owned Dodong Ledesma in Sitio Magroyong, Brgy. Tina, San Miguel, Surigao del Sur where Dodong, Deodato Pame and another 8 individuals seated in a semi-circle discussing the plans of the ancestral domain last Dec. 2, 2007 around 2:00 in the afternoon.

An hour after, while some of the group members about to leave the place, a gun shot hit Deodato Pame on his back part of his right arm while still exchanging discussion with his seatmate and friend Dodong.

Dodong and the rest of the group carry him to the nearest highway but he didn't survived. No one saw the triggerman but based on the initial investigation report, the triggerman was about 60-80 meters away.

Dodong Pame is a fighter in Surigao del Sur illegal logging, mining and corruption in the last 30 years. He has been a front liner of some of the community and church led advocacies. He has been known for his anti-large scale stand in the province. He is also one of the complainants of the case filed against SUDECOR in relation to indigenous peoples' rights. He also filed recently ombudsman cases against influential officials in the province for facilitating development projects that are detrimental to IP and settler communities.

For a time, he even placed a streamer in front of his house "Ang nagpuyo dinhi sa Balay, Supak sa Mina" (Residing in this house is an anti-mining). His untimely death is a big loss to the struggle of communities in Surigao del sur to stop large-scale mining and logging in the province.

Diosdado Pame will be buried on human rights day, Dec. 10, 2007, 2:00 pm at Tina cemetery, Brgy. Tina, San Miguel, Surigao del Sur.

For your help or inquiries, you may contact:

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