

Memo of Melito Glor Command on Policy towards Prisoners of War

Memo to: Molave Detention Center
Ref: Memo No. 8806-03
Date: 18 June 1988
From: Melito Glor Command
Subject: Proper Treatment of POWs

POWs of the NPA are captives from among the AFP and other enemy combatant forces. The conditions of war require that, for as long as necessary and feasible, we secure them and neutralize their capability of inflicting further harm to the revolutionary forces and the people.

At the same time, POWs under custody shall be given their due as human beings and accorded their human rights, given the limits of our conditions and all efforts shall be made to convince them to rectify and desist from doing further harm to the revolutionary forces and the people.

In accordance, therefore, with the Three Main Rules of Discipline and The Eight Points for Attention,, standing policies and memoranda on the handling of POWs and the international norms of war, including civil war, as specified in Protocols I and II additional to the Geneva Conventions, the following guidelines in regard to proper treatment of POWs are reiterated for strict compliance.

1. In safeguarding the lives, health and welfare of POWs, they shall be accorded the following to the best of our ability:
 - a. regular and proper meals, which shall be the same as those provided to the officers and men of the detention center; POWs may be allowed to purchase additional goods.
 - b. availability of a resident medical or paramedical officer, regular medical check-up and whatever medication is required, especially in case of illness;
 - c. regular schedule of sunning and outdoor physical exercises;
 - d. decent and human living and sleeping quarter within the limits of the guerrilla conditions;
 - e. decent toilet facilities;
 - f. communication with, and when security conditions permit, visits by their immediate relatives and loved ones, including conjugal visits;
 - g. newspapers and other reading material, whenever available and under supervision; and
 - h. respect of their personal belongings.
2. In no case shall any act of physical violence or any hostile act against POWs be tolerated.
3. In case of enemy assault upon the detention center, the POWs shall be immediately removed from the area and line of fire and their lives continued to be safeguarded as much as possible.