



JUAN “JUN” PALA, 49

Place of Death: Davao Empress Subdivision, Davao City

Date of Death: 6 September 2003

Family Background / Civil Status: married to Louise with whom he has two children.

News Organization/s (position/s): dxGO of Manila Broadcasting Corp. (broadcaster)

Job/Employment Classification: blocktimer

Affiliated Organizations:

Academic / Professional Background:

Pala has a degree in education.

Pala worked for dxRH as a cub reporter in 1987 and became a regular anchor a year after. Before his death, Pala hosted the radio program “*Isumbong Mo kay Pala*” (Tell Pala) and “*Aksyon Radyo*” (Action Radio) on dxGO in Davao City.

Pala – known for his anti-communist comments in the 1980s – previously served as a spokesperson of the anti-communist vigilante group Alsa Masa, He was also a one-term councilor in Davao City.

Circumstances:

Pala was headed back to his house in Empress Subdivision after visiting his friend at Vista Verde Village in Panacan, Davao City, when unknown gunmen riding pillion a motorcycle attacked to their group at around 7:45 p.m. on 6 September 2003. Pala was accompanied by his brother and a bodyguard-cousin during the incident. Pala died after sustaining nine shot wounds mostly on his chest and head.

Case Status/Updates:

Pala’s family refused to submit his body for an autopsy, leaving the police unable to identify the slugs in his body. The Davao police came out with the cartographic

sketches of four possible suspects (two believed to be the gunmen onboard the red Yamaha motorcycle; and the other two were said to be the look-outs).

No suspects have been identified until now. No witnesses were able to testify regarding the killing.

Background:

Pala's family and the Davao police believe that Pala's murder is linked to his critical commentaries against his political opponents in his show at dxGO. Pala had been continuously criticizing local and national political personalities including Mayor Rodrigo Duterte. Right after the second attempt to kill him on 29 April 2003, Pala claimed that Mayor Duterte was the most likely culprit. (The first attempt to kill him was on 14 June 2001.)