



FERNANDO “BATMAN” LINTUAN, 52

Place of death: Agdao City, Davao, Southern Mindanao

Date of Death: 24 December 2007

Family Background/Civil Status: Married (widower) with four sons

News Organization/s (position/s): Radyo Arangkada dxRA, The Radio of Life dxRR, ABC 5, Aksyon Radyo dxGO, Sun.Star Super Balita

Job/Employment Classification: Block-time radio broadcaster, Columnist

Affiliated Organizations: Davao Sportswriters Association, Philippine Sports Commission

Academic/Professional Background:

Lintuan has been a radio broadcaster since the 1980s and eventually became a columnist for Sun Star Super Balita, a local newspaper in Davao. He was the first president of the Davao Sportswriters Association and also a member of the Philippine Sports Commission.

Circumstances:

Fernando Lintuan was shot twice in his head by one of two men riding a motorcycle while driving his car with colleagues Lucio Ceniza and Edgar Vanzon about a hundred meters away from their radio station in Davao on December 24, 2007 at around nine o' clock in the morning.

Lintuan just came from his morning program at dxGO and was leaving the radio station's premises together with Ceniza and Vanzon, who were not hurt by the incident.

Lintuan was shot when his car was temporarily halted while giving way to a tricycle that was unloading passengers. The gunman took advantage of the situation and fired from across a narrow road then twice more right outside the radioman's car, instantly killing him.

Case Status/Updates:

Two suspects, Leonilo Larosa, who also worked for dxGo as a blocktimer, and his nephew Cristobal Matundo, were arrested and charged with illegal possession of firearms on January 25, 2007 after a raid. Larosa was tagged in the Lintuan case after a 15-year old witness identified him to be the man who approached him in the sari-sari store and later as the man who shot

Lintuan. He posted bail on the charge. Lintuan reportedly criticized the illegal gambling practices of Larosa in his radio dxGO radio program. Davao city prosecutors have already filed murder charges against Larosa

Larosa has denied the charges and states that he and Lintuan were in amicable terms prior to the murder.

Oliver Baldonado Antoc, an army reserve and ex-bodyguard of Cong. Frankiln Bautista, was arrested on December 28, 2007 was earlier floated as a suspect in the crime. No evidence was gathered however and Antoc was only charged with illegal possession of firearms and drug possession. He posted bail for the two charges on 22 January 2008.

Background:

Lintuan is known to be a “hard-hitting” radio broadcaster in Davao known for his sharp criticisms of local government.

His most recent comments before his death are about an assumed corruption of funds behind the newly constructed “People’s Park” in Davao which he calls “Crocodile’s Park.” Lintuan criticized alleged overpricing of the park.

Lintuan also criticized the involvement in and promotion of Larosa in “Last Two,” an illegal numbers game where the winning combination is taken from the last two numbers winning combination of the Sweepstakes lottery.

A labor conflict with a former employer and an altercation with a taxi driver are angles also explored by the police as possible reasons for Lintuan’s murder.

He was fired from ABC 5, a local TV network, for leading an employees’ Labor Union, and also caused the confiscation of a taxi driver’s license after complaining to the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for not driving him to his destination. Lintuan appealed to the LTFRB for the return of the taxi driver’s license after the latter apologized.

Lintuan nickname Batman is an abbreviation of “batang Mandaya” (Mandaya kid), as Lintuan came from the Mandaya tribe.