



DENNIS CUESTA, 38

Place of Death: General Santos City, South Cotabato

Date of Death: 9 August 2008

Family Background / Civil Status: married to Gloria with whom he has seven children

News Organization/s (position/s): dxMD-Radio Mindanao Network in General Santos City (commentator, "Sumbong at Aksiyon")

Job/Employment Classification: Regular

Affiliated Organizations:

Academic / Professional Background:

Circumstances:

Cuesta succumbed to gunshot wounds, five days after he was shot by a gunman riding pillion on a motorcycle.

The gunman shot Cuesta on 4 August 2008 along a national highway near a shopping mall in General Santos City. Cuesta sustained wounds in the head and near the spinal column after being shot five times with a .45 caliber pistol.

Cuesta came from an RMN promotional program minutes before he was shot. Police reports indicate Cuesta was shot five times using a .45 caliber pistol.

Case Status/Updates:

The police and Task Force 211 filed murder charges against a junior police officer, Inspector Redemptor Acharon, for the death of Cuesta. Two eyewitnesses have tagged Acharon as the gunman, the *Inquirer* reported.

Background:

Cuesta's colleagues believe he was killed because of his work.

Dodong Solis, RMN assistant area manager for Mindanao said that barely a month before the incident, Cuesta tackled in his radio program “Sumbong at Aksiyon” (Grievance Desk) a complaint submitted by an individual whose village water supply was contaminated, resulting to villagers acquiring diarrhea.

Cuesta, after pursuing the story, received a phone call from the secretary of the association believed to be behind the contamination angrily reprimanding him for his report. Solis said that the City Health Council investigated on the incident after Cuesta’s report.

After the report about the water contamination, Cuesta has been receiving death threats while suspicious individuals were seen roaming around the station, said Alex Joson, RMN station manager for General Santos.

Solis also said that Cuesta was advised by his wife to resign from his job as radio broadcaster or request to be reassigned after the threats came, to which Cuesta rejected both.