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ASIAN CATHOLIC DIRECTORY

## UNITED STATES

# HEARING ON FATHER MANSMANN'S ALLEGED RAPE CASE IS STALLED

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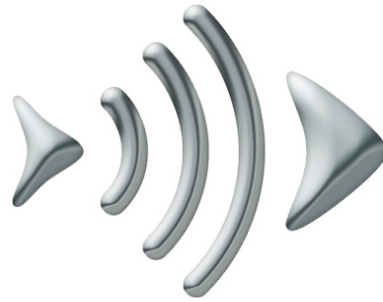
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1

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The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has delayed its hearing on an alleged rape by a priest in Davao City, 975 kilometers southeast of Manila.

NBI officials at their Davao regional office told UCA News the agent assigned to the case needed more time for a "proper investigation" of the allegations. The hearing had been set for Oct. 17.

3

Indian Christians witnessed increased hostility in 2024

December 19, 2024

Passionist Father Rex Mansmann, director of Santa Cruz Mission in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, 1,000 kilometers southeast of Manila, was accused of rape by a 13-year-old T'Boli tribal girl.

4

Activists urge Indonesia to abolish death penalty

December 20, 2024

The girl, Loyda Toyot, told the press here Father Mansmann raped her in his convent Sept. 18. Toyot was presented to the press by the Office of Southern Cultural Communities (OSCC), a government organization that has tried to close down Santa Cruz Mission on several occasions.

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Sri Lankan  
cardinal calls  
an end to  
corruption,  
lawlessness  
  
December 20,  
2024

Seminary in Quezon City Oct. 19 presented denials of the allegations on the missionary's behalf.

Samuel Loco, a T'boli and former student at the mission, said at the forum that he knows Toyot personally and that people who are pressing the case are not in any way related to her.

6  
Indian tribal  
Christians  
banned from  
celebrating  
Christmas  
  
December 20,  
2024

Loco, now municipal councilman, said, "Loyda has no relatives. Her neighbors are excited over the case because they believe they would get something from settlement proceeds."

OSCC claimed Toyot's father filed the rape complaint.

7  
Christmas  
not exclusive  
for  
Christians,  
says  
Malaysian  
Anglican  
bishop  
  
December 20,  
2024

According to Father Mansmann the charges came after the Sept. 24-27 Tribal Filipino Workshop-Consultation hosted by the mission. House Bill 3381 introduced by the Diocese of Marbel was presented to legislators, government officials, foreign dignitaries and civic leaders.

The bill seeks to secure tribal Filipinos' ancestral domain and, if approved, would abolish OSCC.

8  
Indonesian  
Catholics  
mourn ex-  
bishop  
known for  
simplicity  
  
December 19,  
2024

In a statement he sent from Pennsylvania, United States, where he is undergoing medical checkup, Father Mansmann said: "The attack on my name and reputation is the latest attempt of the OSCC-PANAMIN clique to harass ... and destroy Santa Cruz Mission."

Father Mansmann says that PANAMIN

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Cambodians reshape Christmas to herald-in better times  
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9

Climate change threatens Cambodian floating village

December 20, 2024

(Presidential Assistance for National Minorities) was "discredited and disbanded" in 1986, only to be established again under President Corazon Aquino as OSCC, which consists mostly of former PANAMIN employees.

He said in 1974, PANAMIN instigated a vicious campaign against Santa Cruz Mission and himself.

10

Christmas a call to rediscover wonder and share joy: Pope

December 21, 2024

The missionary had criticized the office's alleged exploitation of ethnic Filipinos to gain funds and its alleged unlawful exploitation of natural resources in the area.

Twice in the past Father Mansmann was accused of rape, and in 1989, he was branded as an agent of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. Later he was accused of being a member of the Communist-led New People's Army. All the charges were dismissed.

"They can no longer accuse Father Mansmann of other crimes ... so they have to use a moral ground," Father Wilfredo Estraza, vice provincial of the Passionist congregation said at the Quezon City forum.

He said the Passionist community will defend their colleague who has been "indicted through the local media and dailies."

"I am not the only victim. It is obvious to me that the girl bringing the charges has no motive of her

own but was sought out and coached by the OSCC of the provincial and regional levels," Father Mansmann wrote.

END

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Dear reader,  
November begins with the Feast of All Saints. That month will mark the beginning of a new UCA News series, Saints of the New Millennium, that will profile some of Asia's saints, "ordinary" people who try to live faithfully amid the demands of life in our time.

Perhaps the closest they will ever come to fame will be in