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Written by Special to the Filipino Reporter
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VIZCONDE MASSACRE

After 15 years in jail, Hubert Webb walks



Former Sen. Freddie Webb, left, leads son Hubert Webb out of the New Bilibid Prison on Tuesday after the Supreme Court acquitted Hubert and six others. (Photo by Danny Pano)

MANILA — After 15 years behind bars, Hubert Webb and six others convicted for the sensational Vizconde massacre in 1991 walked out of prison on Dec. 14 after being cleared by the Supreme Court (SC).

Writing 7-4 with four abstentions, the High Court ruled that Parañaque Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 274 judge and now Court of Appeals (CA) Justice Amelita Tolentino erred in handing down in January 2000 a guilty verdict on Webb, Hospicio "Pyke" Fernandez, Antonio "Tony Boy" Lejano, Michael Gochulian, Peter Estrada and Miguel "Ging" Rodriguez for the crime of rape with homicide.

The SC's ruling covered former policeman Gerardo Biong who was released last month after serving his 12-year sentence for destroying evidence, including bloodstained clothing.

The CA upheld Tolentino's ruling on Dec. 15, 2005.

"They should be released soon unless they are held for any other unlawful cause," court administrator and SC spokesman Jose Midas Marquez told a press conference.

"There is no more motion for reconsideration that can be filed. That would be tantamount to double jeopardy," he added.

Marquez stressed that even if guilt was not proven beyond reasonable doubt, the freed convict cannot be automatically considered innocent.

He added that Webb and the other convicts may claim damages from the government for being wrongly imprisoned.

"They would have to file a separate case for that, and their claims would have to be proven," Marquez said.

Marquez also vehemently denied allegations of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) that money changed hands in the acquittal of Webb and the six others.

"It would be better if they read the majority decision," he said.

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Mafia killed Versace, not Cunanan: Book

A new book claims that fashion icon Gianni Versace was gunned down by Mafia over unpaid debts, and not by Filipino-American alleged serial killer Andrew Phillip Cunanan, who the book says was merely framed up.

Versace, 50, was said to be shot at the back of his head on the

steps of his Miami mansion on July 15, 1997 by Cunanan, an alleged high-class gay prostitute, according to police and news reports.

The tragic incident made headlines across the globe and shocked the fashion world.

But the newly-released book
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ANDREW CUNANAN



GIANNI VERSACE

P740-M GRAND JACKPOT

N.Y. winner to retire in PH

The lucky New York-based *bulibeyan* lotto winner could have missed the mind-boggling P740-million grand jackpot had he not let another bettor cut in line at a lotto outlet in Royal Subic Mall (right photo) in Subic Bay, Zambales.

A Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) official said the winner, whose identity will remain anonymous for security reasons, "generously" let another person place her bet first and waited for his turn before he could place his winning combination for the lottery prize.

The PCSO earlier said the grand winner used the "Lucky Pick" method, which generates
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