

# US appeals court junks Jocjoc asylum petition



**F**ormer agriculture undersecretary Jocelyn "Jocjoc" Bolante is facing immediate deportation after the US Court of Appeals denied his bid for political asylum.

According to University of the Philippines law professor Harry Roque, the US Court of Appeals has turned down Bolante's petition for asylum for failure to support his claim of political persecution in the Philippines.

by MIKE FIRALDE  
Philstar.com

Roque, the lawyer who opposed the application for asylum, said he received information that Bolante is planning to elevate his petition to the US Supreme Court in a bid to delay his impending deportation to the Philippines.

"Although he (Bolante) is entitled to go further and appeal to the Supreme Court, it is highly unlikely that the highest court of the US will overturn the denial by the Chicago Immigration Court, the Board of Immigration Appeals and the US Court of Appeals," Roque said.

Roque revealed the decisions of the US immigration authorities on Bolante while attending the Assembly of State Parties of the International Criminal Court at the United Nations in New York last year.

Roque disclosed the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in Chicago turned down Bolante's petition for review of his asylum bid.

In a nine-page decision by Judge William Bauer on Aug. 27, the court ruled that Bolante "cannot meet his burden of proof on his asylum claim," pointing out the former agriculture official failed to support his claim of political persecution if he goes back to the Philippines.

"Bolante may be correct that he is but a pawn in the opposition party's efforts to oust President Arroyo. But if he concurrently acted to further a scheme to defraud the Philippine public trust and divert funds to a political campaign — activity that would certainly be illegal under our own laws — then facing prosecution for his acts would not be ground for asylum," the ruling said.

"A more fundamental problem for Bolante is that he does not presently face prosecution. No charges have been filed against him," it added.

The US appellate court sustained the previous ruling on the issue.

"In short, the record does not establish that any harm will come to Bolante on his return; it is not even certain that he will face arrest or have to testify before the Senate Committee, given that Bolante has contested the validity of both," it stressed.

Although the Philippine Senate had recommended charges

against Bolante and Agriculture Undersecretary Felix Montes, who had testified for him, they both had not faced prosecution or were unjustly prosecuted and physically harmed along with the other officials of the Arroyo administration involved in the scam, the US court said.

Even the supposed bounty of P200,000 raised by the Philippine Senate for Bolante's capture was not accepted by the US court as basis for his fear and that of his witnesses that he would be harmed once in the Philippines.

"Even if the bounty still exists, it does not show any threat of long-term harm to Bolante; the sole purpose of the bounty is to secure Bolante's testimony before the Senate committee," the court said.

The appellate court sustained the ruling of US immigration officials that Bolante had failed to prove that he would be politically persecuted if he ever returns to the Philippines.

The Chicago Immigration Court and the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) earlier denied Bolante's petitions for asylum even though his son Owen, Undersecretary Montes and retired general Rodolfo Estrellado testified on his behalf.

The BIA, in its June 25 decision, said there was no evidence that the former Philippine agriculture official was harmed and criminally charged as a result of the Senate investigation into the controversy.

Bolante is currently detained in Kenosha County Detention Center in Wisconsin, awaiting the final ruling on his petition for asylum.

Bolante was arrested and jailed in the US after he tried to enter Los Angeles, California on July 7, 2006 when his non-immigrant visa had already been revoked by the US State Department.

Gonzalez said the Philippine government could only take action against Bolante once he returns home.

"If he will be deported, he will be back in our jurisdiction. That is the time we will probably take steps on what action to take against Mr. Bolante. At this time I am not aware of any case that has been decided against him. Except that the Senate has requested that he be arrested," he said.

# [TheWeekthatWas]

## Ailing Cory continues to inspire people



**E**VEN in the face of a major illness, former President Corazon Aquino continues to be an inspiration.

Clad in her signature color yellow, Aquino underscored the importance of rekindling the spirit of partnership in addressing Asian poverty in a speech she delivered before "The Asia Forum" delegates, composed of present and past winners of the Ramon Magsaysay awards. (Inquirer.net)

## GMA appoints Senga ambassador to Iran

**Y**ET another retired Armed Forces chief of staff has been given a prominent position in the Arroyo administration.

But unlike his peers, it took ex-AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Senga two years to get a plum posting.

The Commission of Appointments (CA) received the appointment papers of Senga as the country's new ambassador to Iran, Cebu Rep. Eduardo Gullas said last Aug. 29.

Except for Senga, all the AFP chiefs under the Arroyo administration were given civilian appointments soon after they left office.

Iran is host to over 1,200 overseas Filipino workers most of whom are employed in oil and other energy-related projects. Iran is the world's fourth largest oil exporter, after Saudi Arabia, Russia and Norway.

Senga was Armed Forces chief of staff from Aug. 15, 2005, to July 24, 2006. (Inquirer.net)

## Wer na u? Yo, RP texters send 600M messages a day!

**I**F texting were an olympic event, we would have brought home the gold.

The average mobile phone user in the Philippines sends around 15 text messages a day, according to telecommunications companies.

The Philippine Long Distance Telephone group estimates the 33 million subscribers of Smart and Talk N' Text collectively send 500 million to 600 million text messages a day. This means the average subscriber of the PLDT group taps out 15 to 18 text messages on the cellular phone per day. (Inquirer.net)

### A HEALTHY BEAUTIFUL SMILE

everytime at the

## FERNANDEZ FAMILY DENTISTRY

Your search for a good family dentist is over.

**WE'LL SHOW YOU WHY:**

**TOTAL FAMILY DENTAL CARE** - Provided by a caring and friendly staff trained to provide YOU and your family with a personal touch.

**YOUR COMFORT IS OUR CONCERN** - Since ancient times, dentistry has been nearly synonymous with pain. Now there is new hope for the fearful. Computers and other high-tech tools are working together to make pain obsolete at the Fernandez Family Dentistry offices.

**FULL SERVICE FACILITY** - With our lab on premises, your family's dental needs can all be treated under one roof. Everything from Gum Treatment to Tooth Repairs, Cleaning, Bleaching, Bonding, Veneers and Dentures. Everything to make you look and feel great.

**STATE OF THE ART TECHNOLOGY** - Our staff is continually learning and updating their skills to provide care for your dental needs.

**LOTS OF WAYS TO PAY** - Everyone can afford care. Regular maintenance is not costly. We make every effort to accept most insurance plans and it's simple because we do all the paperwork for you!

**EMERGENCIES** - Your pain is our concern. Dental emergencies receive quick attention. We're on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. STOP YOUR SUFFERING NOW and call us.

**OPEN SATURDAYS & EVENINGS**

If you have questions or would like to make an appointment for you or one of your family members, then call one of the offices most convenient for you.

1131 W. San Bernardino Road  
COVINA  
(626) 967-3599

**2 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS**

6660 W. Sunset Blvd., Suite 701  
LOS ANGELES  
(323) 467-5717

## FILING FOR PERM? RELY ON US.

Under the PERM (Program Electronic Review Management) System, the process for labor certification will be significantly shortened to a matter of months instead of the 3-4 year span from the regular labor certification process.

Count on Michael F. Eng and Bert S. Nishimura, reputable lawyers with an impressive history in immigration law to handle your PERM case with competence, credibility and confidence.

### ENG & NISHIMURA

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST

COMBINED 45 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH IMMIGRATION CASES  
BOTH ARE GRADUATES OF ACCLAIMED  
UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW & HAVE HANDLED THOUSANDS OF  
IMMIGRATION CASES INCLUDING:

- Green Cards for Spouses, Children, Parents, Brothers & Sisters
- Green Cards & Work Permits for Registered Nurses, Accountants, Medical Doctors, Teachers, Medical Technologists, Ministers, Religious Workers, Travel Agents, Computer Analysts, Architects, Bilingual Secretaries, Staff Writers and Journalists, Cooks, Engineers, Managers, Investors, Child and Elder care workers, and many, many more!
- Expedited Green Cards for Children about to turn 21 years old.
- U.S. Citizenship for all green card holders, and children in the U.S. but who have one parent who is a citizen.

CALL NOW FOR FREE CONSULTATION CONCERNING PERM,  
NEW LAW EXPEDITED PROCESSING FOR NURSES  
AND EMPLOYMENT BASED GREENCARDS

Experienced & Friendly Staff of 6 Lawyers & 10 Staff • Competitive and Reasonable Prices • Experienced in Taking the Hard Cases • Offices Close to All Freeways • Major Credit Cards Accepted.

## 213.622.2255

1055 W. SEVENTH STREET, #1780  
(Where Seventh Street Crosses Over the 110 Harbor Freeway)

## Pilipino po tayo!

### LAW OFFICES OF KENNETH U. REYES, P.C.

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

**Kenneth U. Reyes, Esq.**

Law Offices of  
Kenneth U. Reyes, P.C.  
3699 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 700  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

<p><b>IMMIGRATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US Citizenship</li> <li>• Green Card</li> </ul> <p><i>Marriage Petitions, Realitive Petitions Employer Petitions, PERM</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visa</li> <li>H-1B Temporary Worker Investor's VISA</li> <li>• Deportation Defense</li> </ul> <p><b>PERSONAL INJURY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serious Auto Accidents</li> <li>• Rear Enders</li> <li>• Injuries from defective products</li> <li>• Serious injuries from premises accidents</li> <li>• Fractures &amp; brain injuries from accidents</li> </ul>	<p><b>FAMILY LAW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divorce</li> <li>• Property Division</li> <li>• Child Custody and Visitation</li> <li>• Child and Spousal Support</li> <li>• Domestic Violence Restraining Order</li> <li>• Legal Separation</li> </ul> <p><b>CIVIL LITIGATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Disputes</li> <li>• Real Estate Disputes</li> <li>• Breach of Contract</li> <li>• Partnership Dissolution</li> <li>• Business Dissolution</li> </ul>
---	---

We Pay Special Attention to Your Case  
Call for an Appointment  
**(213)388.1611**  
website: [www.kenreyeslaw.com](http://www.kenreyeslaw.com)  
email: [kureyeslaw@aol.com](mailto:kureyeslaw@aol.com)