

IN THE KNOW

120 journalists killed since 1986

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Six journalists have been killed in the country this year, bringing to 120 the number of media people slain since the Marcos dictatorship was overthrown in 1986.

On April 7, Benefredo Acabal, publisher and columnist of the Cavite-based paper *Pilipino Newsmen*, was shot dead by a motorcycle-riding gunman in Pasig City.

About three weeks later, television host Marcos Mataro was gunned down by two motorcycle-riding men while he was waiting for a Manila-bound bus in Pampanga.

Mataro was a former Iglesia ni Cristo minister who transferred to a religious group headed by Ang Dating Daan host Eliseo Soriano. He became host of the UNTV show *D'X-Man*, a program exposing alleged anomalies in the INC.

On June 30, newsman Bert Sison was driving his car in Sariaya, Quezon, when his path was cut by two men on a motorcycle. One of them shot the 60-year-old writer and radio broadcaster repeatedly, then turned to his daughter, Liwayway. Sison died, while his daughter survived with a bullet wound in the arm.

Martin Roxas, an anchorman of Radio Mindanao Network *dyVR*, was killed on Aug. 7 after he was shot in the back while riding a motorcycle on his way home from work in Roxas City, Capiz province.

Three days before the attack on Roxas, Dennis Cuesta of Radio Agong was shot in General Santos City. Cuesta slipped into a coma and died on Aug. 9.

On Aug. 15, Ronaldo Julia, a reporter for *dzGE* radio and the *Weekly Informer*, was walking to his home in Magarao, Camarines Sur, when he was shot several times by an assailant. The gunman escaped on a motorcycle driven by another man.

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