

Unionist missing since March 1

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AN ORGANIZER of the militant labor union Sosyaliyang Kilusang Mangagawa (SKM) has been reported missing since March 1, 1999.

The Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) reported that Prudencio Bati-on, 37, married and with four children, has failed to return home for seven days now.

Bati-on's wife, Daday, 34, contacted TFDP after her husband did not come home Monday night

or call her up as was his wont in the past.

Daday knew that on the day her husband disappeared, he was supposed to go to the house of Barangay Capt. Ato Aresala of Bagong Barrio, Kalookan City. He was about to buy the motorcycle that Aresala was offering him.

But when Daday called up Aresala, the barangay captain told her that her husband had already left. Aresala told Daday

that her husband hinted that he would go to the Land Transportation Office.

At around 11:30 a.m., Daday received a call from her husband, but he did not mention where he was when he made the call.

Bati-on's niece, Margie Dumagay, also claimed that he called her at around noon the same day.

Daday also told TFDP that her husband was supposed to

meet a friend at SM North EDSA at around 1 p.m. Daday claimed that her husband did not make it to his appointment.

After his last two calls, Bati-on has yet to call any member of his family or his co-workers in the union.

Since Wednesday, Bati-on's wife, together with some TFDP staff, went the rounds of police precincts and hospitals but could not find him.