FRUTO INTERVIEW

TRANSCRIPT	ENGLISH TRANSLATION
ANCHOR: Sa ibang balita naman, isa na namang itiniwalag na Iglesia Ni Cristo ang humarap sa ABS-CBN para ibunyag ang sinasabing panggigipit sa kanya ng Sanggunian ng INC. Exclusive, nagpa-patrol, Ces Oreña Drilon. REPORTER: Nagtatago si Lito Fruto, dating miyembro ng Iglesia Ni Cristo na tiniwalag nitong Abril. Humarap siya sa ABS-CBN, pero hininging itago ang mukha. May banta raw sa kanyang buhay. FRUTO: Kung ano't anuman ang mangyari sa akin, iisa lang ang may responsibilidad kaya nangyari ito dahil sila lang ang mayroong dahilan para saktan ako. REPORTER: Ayon kay Fruto,tiniwalag sya dahil sa mga kritikal na pahayag laban sa INC. Aminado siya, nagpapasa rin sya ng impormasyon sa isang anonymous blog na naglilitanya ng mga katiwalian umano sa pamunuan ng INC. Ayon kay Fruto, ang unang banta sa kaniya, nangyari nitong Mayo, kung saan isang granada and hinagis sa tapat ng kaniyang bahay pero hindi ito sumabog, Napansin rin ni Fruto na ilang beses din syang sinundan ng mga umano'y armadong tao at minamanmanan ang bahay. At nitong Hulyo, sya umano ay na-frame up sa kasong sexual assault ng isang kasamahan ng INC. FRUTO: Kilala ko po siya, dahil choir member sya eh, Iglesia Ni Cristo siya eh. Nagamit nila itong bata na maging dahilan para maaresto ako. REPORTER: Kaugnay umano ng gawa-gawang kaso, dinukot din daw siya ng Caloocan police mula loob ng kaniyang pamamahay. Sinira ang pintuan at kinuha pa	ANCHOR: In other news, another expelled Iglesia Ni Cristo member met with ABS-CBN to reveal alleged persecution against him by the council of the INC. Exclusive, Ces Oreña Drilon, patrolling. REPORTER; In hiding is Lito Fruto, former member of the Iglesia Ni Cristo who was expelled last April. He was interviewed by ABS-CBN, requesting that his face be hidden. He said there is a threat to his life. FRUTO: Whatever happens to me, there is one responsible party to blame for this because they are the only ones who has a reason to hurt me. REPORTER: According to Fruto, he was expelled because of his critical statements against the INC. He admitted that he passes information from an anonymous blog that exposes alleged corruption in the INC leadership. According to Fruto, the first threat to him happened last May, wherein a grenade was thrown in front of his house but it did not detonate. Fruto also noted that several times, he was followed by armed men, allegedly, and they seem to be watching the house. And just this past July, he was allegedly framed up in a sexual assault case involving a co-member of INC. FRUTO: I know her because she's a choir member, she's an Iglesia Ni Cristo member. They used this child as the reason for my arrest. REPORTER: In connection to what he alleges are fabricated cases, he was also abducted from his own home by the Caloocan police. They destroyed his front door and even took some of his things inside. He sad there was no warrant of arrest from the police.

ang mga gamit sa loob. Wala raw warrant of arrest ang mga pulis. BOY: Bigla na lang po silang nagtalunan. REPORTER: Dito? Saan ang, paano ang pagtalon? BOY: Diyan po. Diyan lang po. REPORTER: Diyan? Hindi dumaan dito? BOY: Wala, wala pong dumaan diyan, dito lang po. REPORTER: Tapos? BOY: Yun po, pinagsisipa na po nila yung pinto.Winasak nila yan. REPORTER: Tatlong araw nakulong si Fruto. FRUTO: Pinuntahan ng abogado yung investigator dun sa ano, pinaalis lang siya, at sinabi sa kaniya na "Umalis ka nga dito, iniistorbo mo lang kami eh.". So nagalit yung abogado ko at nagtanong siya, Sabi niya, "Who among you in this room are members of the Iglesia Ni Cristo?". Walang sumagot. Sumagot yung hepe, "Wala ka nang pakialam". Eh Iglesia ni Cristo po yung hepe ng Caloocan. REPORTER: Sa panayam sa telepono, inamin ni Caloocan Police Chief Bartolome Bustamante na siya ay miyembro ng INC pero wala naman daw itong kinalaman sa kaso ni Fruto. Depensa niya sa pag-aresto ng walang warrant of arrest, isang hot pursuit daw ang operasyon laban kay Fruto. Sa pakikipag-ugnayan ng isang kaibigan sa INC, nagpost si Fruto ng "sorry" sa kanyang Facebook account para magkaroon ng katahimikan sa buhay. Pero may isa pang hiling aniya ang pamunuan ng INC. Nais umano ng pamunuan ng INC na pirmahan niya ang isang statement na ginawa nila at i-post sa Facebook, kung	BOY: They all just jumped in. REPORTER: Here? Where and how did they jump? BOY: There. Just there. REPORTER: There? They didn't pass here? BOY: No one. No one passed there, just here. REPORTER: Then? BOY: That's all. They kicked the door. They destroyed it. REPORTER: Fruto was detained for three days. FRUTO: The lawyer went to see the investigator but they all shooed him away, and they said to him, "Just leave! You are just being a disturbance to us.". So my lawyer got mad and asked, "Who among you in this room are members of the Iglesia Ni Cristo?". No answer. The chief replied, " It's none of your business,". But the Caloocan chief is an Iglesia Ni Cristo member. REPORTER: In a telephone interview, Caloocan Police Chief Bartolome Bustamante admitted that he is an INC member but says it has nothing to do with Fruto's case. He justified that they did not have a warrant of arrest because it was a hot pursuit operation against Fruto. In communicating with a friend in INC, Fruto posted "sorry" in his Facebook account so he can have some peace in his life. But there was one other thing the INC leadership asked of him. They allegedly wanted him to sign a statement made by them and post it on Facebook, wherein he would blame the siblings Ka Angel and Ka Lottie Manalo in slandering INC. Ka Angel and Ka Lottie are siblings of the INC leader Ka Eduardo Manalo. FRUTO: It was so hard to do, my conscience could not take it. My conscience couldn't take that my child and

saan isinisisi niya ang magkapatid na sina Ka Angel at Ka Lottie Manalo sa paninira sa INC. Si Ka Angel at Ka Lottie ay kapatid ng INC leader na si Ka Eduardo Manalo. FRUTO: Napakahirap po na gawin, hindi kaya ng konsiyensya ko. Hindi ko naman maatim ng konsiyensya ko na maligtas kami ng anak ko pero meron namang kaluluwang mapapahamak dahil doon sa ginawa ko. REPORTER: Ayon kay Fruto, hindi niya ito kayang gawin, kahit na ang kapalit ay ang kaniyang pagtatago at panganib sa kaniyang buhay. Kahapon pa sinisikap ng ABS-CBN ang panig ng INC ukol dito sa pamamagitan ni INC Spokesperson Edwil Zabala. Pero nakapatay ang cell phone nya at hindi rin sumasagot sa mga text. Ces Oreña Drilon, ABS-CBN news.	myself are safe while there are souls who will suffer because of what I did. REPORTER: According to Fruto, he couldn’t do something like this, even if it meant constant hiding and danger in his life. Since yesterday, ABS-CBN has been trying to take the INC’s side of the story through INC spokesperson Edwil Zabala. But his cell phone was off and he has not answered texts as well. Ces Oreña Drilon, ABS-CBN news.