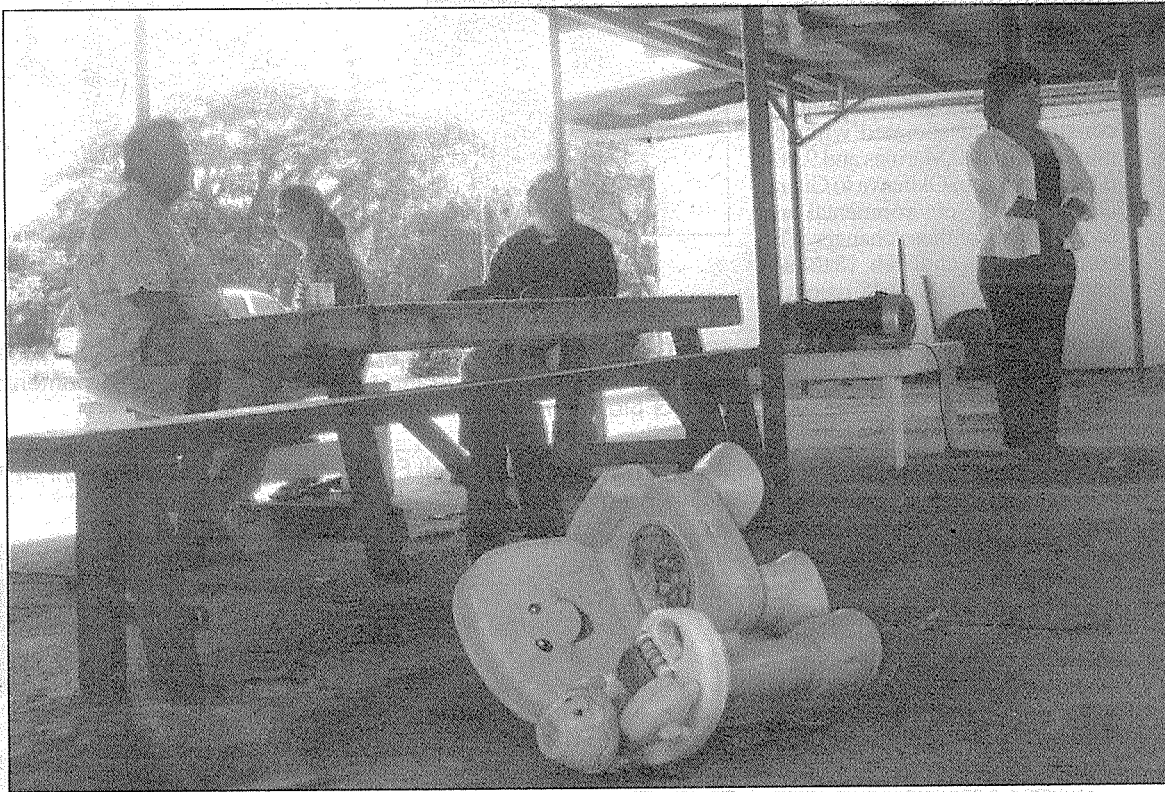


Family shocked by shooting



Amritha Alladi/Pacific Sunday News/aaladi@guampdn.com

Saipan: The relatives of shooting victim Enrique Naputi, from left, Mario Naputi, Rose Reyes, Frank Naputi and Bernie Naputi Dela Cruz, visit the site of the shooting in Kannat Tabla yesterday. The tragedy left four members of the Naputi family dead and Enrique Naputi's four-year-old daughter critically injured.

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SAIPAN — A truck pulled up to the shooting range hidden within the depths of Kannat Tabla yesterday, and five pairs of eyes peered from the vehicle's marginally rolled-down windows, as if to scour the premises for an explanation from the safety of the truck.

Indeed, the Naputi family had come here from Garapan looking for answers.

"It's like, we wanted to know how it happened. Now we keep guessing. 'Maybe this happened,'" said 45-year-old Mario Naputi.

"There's a lot of questions," his sister, Bernie Naputi Dela Cruz, added.

Five people were killed and eight were injured in a mass shooting on Friday that shattered the peace on the relatively peaceful Saipan, which is home to about 50,000 people.

Most of the injured are tourists who were sight-seeing when the alleged shooter opened fire at a tourist spot of World War II remnants miles away — in Marpi village — after leaving the carnage at a shooting

Shooting: 'Isolated incident'

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range. The gunman had opened fire at the range just hours earlier, causing tragedy to the Naputi family, who live next to the range. The alleged shooter is believed to have shot himself after firing shots at the group of South Korean tourists.

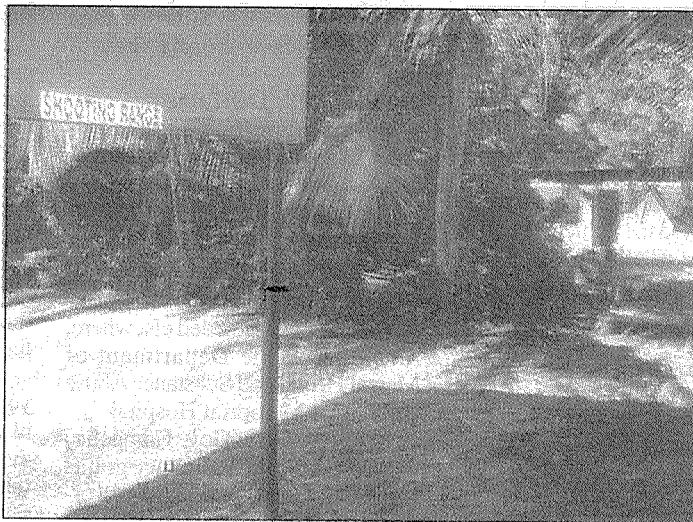
Saipan police know the shooter's identity, but his name has not been released to the public pending notification of his next of kin.

The shooter is of Chinese descent, and a notification process has begun to inform his family in China because he doesn't have relatives in Saipan, said Northern Marianas Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Farkong.

Many island residents said yesterday that this kind of tragedy was unprecedented, and they called it an "isolated incident."

"It's bad luck, just bad luck," said Don Hyung Park, brother of one of the injured victims, Jai Hyung Park. He flew in from South Korea early yesterday morning to see his brother.

Don Park said he honeymooned in Saipan in 1996, and he had always considered it safe. But sitting in the Commonwealth Health Center waiting room yesterday, he said all he felt was confusion and shock, and he doubted



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Family home:

The Naputi residence, seen at right, is only feet away from a shooting range in Kan-nat Tabla, Saipan. Four members of the Naputi family were killed and one is critically injured in a mass shooting Friday.

that he would travel again.

"Nothing can be explained," he said.

The Naputi family also wanted to gain some peace of mind yesterday by visiting the scene of the shooting at Kan-nat Tabla.

Mario Naputi recalled that he had received a call from the Saipan hospital Friday night, to learn that his cousin, 30-year-old Enrique Naputi; Enrique's daughter Corinna Naputi, 2; godson Vince Rosario, 5; and Dela Cruz's nephew, Richard Borja, who is in his 20s, had been shot.

The family had been preparing for 4-year-old Dolores Naputi's birthday party, and Enrique Naputi had even picked up Rosario to join in on party preparations about an hour before the shooting, Mario Naputi said.

Dolores Naputi was shot

in her chest and survived, but lost her dad and younger sister.

Yesterday, only a pink zori and colorful toys remained strewn across the ground where the children had stood just a day earlier.

The shooting also left Enrique Naputi's pregnant wife, Kollin Deleon Guerrero, without her man by her side when the baby arrives.

While the expectant mom grieves for her husband and 2-year-old daughter, she also has 4-year-old daughter Dolores Naputi to care for.

Instead of blowing out her birthday candles, the 4-year-old was recuperating yesterday in the Commonwealth Health Center ICU.

She remained in the ICU yesterday, but is expected to be OK, Dela Cruz said.

"She's going to make it,"

Dela Cruz said.

Since the shooting, the Naputi family said they have been receiving constant support from the community.

On Friday night, the Naputis held the first rosary service for the deceased family members at the hospital morgue. Mario Naputi said the family was not allowed to view the bodies because they were still under investigation.

As of yesterday, however, the family started holding the rosary services at the San Vicente Church, Dela Cruz said. She added that she was comforted by the support of the community, especially those who weren't family but came by to express their condolences anyway, she said.

"The hospital was so crowded yesterday they had to tell people to wait outside," Mario Naputi said.