

Marcos, Ferdinand - Administration

L. A. CONSUL BALIAO

DENOUNCES

MARCOS

NCRCCLP

PLEDGES

SUPPORT



ASIA COLLECTION
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII LIBRARY

Last Friday, May 18, 1973, Mr. Ruperto Baliao, acting Consul-General of the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles announced his resignation from the Philippine Foreign Service at the main office of the Los Angeles Times. Signing his name in his own blood, Mr. Baliao made public a document denouncing the suppression of the civil liberties of the Filipino people by the dictatorship of Mr. Ferdinand Marcos whom he called the "new Hitler". Mr. Baliao also exposed the existence of an espionage network directed from the Philippine Embassy in Washington D.C. charged with collecting the names and activities of Filipino leaders and civil libertarians here in the United States. He also presented a list of 160 names which he said now forms part of the Philippine government blacklist.

At the same time, the former Consul-General announced his intention to apply for political asylum in the United States since it is now impossible for him to return to the Philippines without facing persecution from the government and even imprisonment and torture along with other political prisoners currently detained by the martial law government.

In his cablegram to Carlos P. Romulo, Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Baliao said, "I have exposed to the American people and government some evil doings and excesses of your dictator's government. I pray that our merciful God will grant you longer life...long enough to witness the resurrection of Philippine democracy which Marcos easily killed because leaders like you did not have the willingness, much less the guts, to defend it like free men." (Los Angeles Times, May 20, 1973)

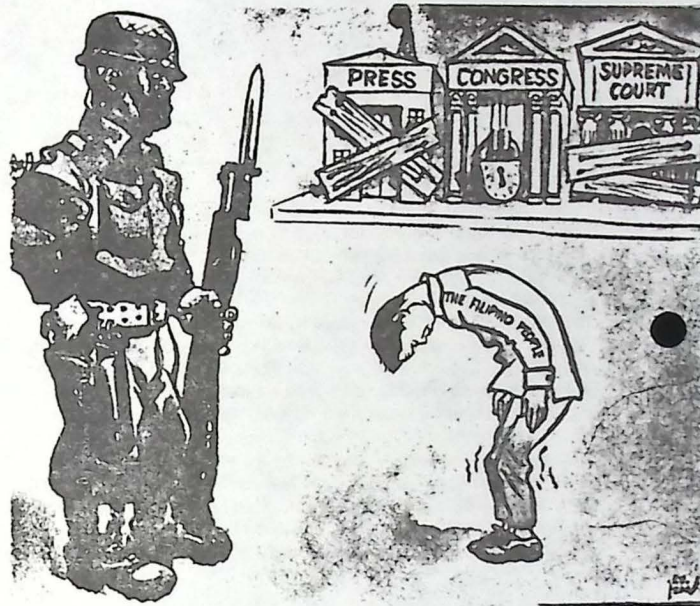
Even now, unknown thousands of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans all over the United States are greatly inspired by the courage with which Mr. Baliao exhibited his opposition to martial law in the Philippines and his dedication to the cause of restoring civil liberties in that country. Certainly he can depend on the support of all people in the United States who believe in Democracy and are opposed to totalitarian dictatorships everywhere.

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RESTORATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES IN THE PHILIPPINES (NCRCLP) is an organization of Filipinos, Filipino-Americans and Americans who have been working to inform the public about martial law in the Philippines and to rally support for the restoration of civil liberties there. We pledge our full support to Mr. Baliao and to all those who have been "blacklisted" by the Marcos Dictatorship and its representatives here in the United States. Many of those whose names appear on the "blacklist" are members of our organization as well as individuals who sincerely feel that martial law in the Philippines is actually doing a lot more harm than good. Others however, are merely innocent bystanders whose primary concern is improving the lot of the Filipino-American community here.

NCRCLP Statement on Marcos Blacklist

The arbitrary blacklisting of people here in the U.S. is a reflection of what is going on in the Philippines. There are now at least 8,261 political prisoners who several months ago, were languishing in the known Philippine concentration camps, many of whom were originally arrested on the flimsiest of charges and NONE of whom have yet been given fair and democratic trials. The arbitrary blacklisting revealed by Mr. Baliao and the continuing espionage is a glaring attempt on the part of the Marcos dictatorship to terrorize and harass the Filipino-American

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community and extend the martial law dictatorship to Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in the United States.

The fact that the partial blacklist revealed by Mr. Baliao contains names of people who have not even spoken out on the martial law issue means that no one is safe from the attacks and intimidations of President Marcos' official representatives here in the U.S. People such as Mr. Nick De Lara have been placed on such blacklists simply because he runs a very popular radio program which is liberal in its commentary and mainly entertaining—here in San Francisco (Pilipinas kong Mahal—My Beloved Philippines). Anyone else who is doing anything for the Filipino-American community can be regarded as "radical" and "subversive" even if he doesn't want to openly get involved on the issue of martial law at all. Other examples are such well-known personalities as Mr. Alex Esclamado who runs the influential but non-committal Philippine News; Mr. Paul Bagnas, a U.S. citizen and Vietnam veteran captain and community leader in San Diego; as well as Mr. Fred Cordova who is the moderator of

the only Filipino Drill Team in the U.S., the award-winning FYA Drill Team of Seattle. These are just some of those who have been blacklisted without any apparent reason whatsoever. It seems that doing good community work for the Filipino community in America is a crime against Marcos' New Society: Absolutely no one other than those who are rabidly pro-Marcos is exempt from inclusion in the CONSULATE BLACKLISTS.

All indications show that the collection of these blacklists is actually in preparation for the wholesale extradition not only of Marcos critics but also of potential leaders in the Filipino-American community. Currently an extradition treaty with the United States is being negotiated by a Philippine panel in New York headed by Solicitor General Estolito Mendoza. The actual collection of these blacklists meanwhile is being coordinated by Mr. Lamberto Almeda, intelligence head of the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. Both men are Marcos loyalists hand-picked by the dictator to supervise these operations.

Clearly the cloak and dagger activities of the Philippines consulates all over the United States, directed from Malacanang, are all part of a systematic attempt to export martial law to Filipinos in the United States. Furthermore they are a mockery of the democratic way of life for which the people of America have so long fought and violation of the Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations.

We in the National Committee for the Restoration of Civil Liberties in the Philippines will exert every effort to help protect the rights and liberties of Mr. Ruperto Baliao and of those being targeted by the Marcos regime here in the U.S. We call upon all freedom-loving people and civil libertarians to unite under the following points: opposition to martial law and immediate restoration of civil liberties in the Philippines; and protection of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans from the harassment of the Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RESTORATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES
IN THE PHILIPPINES

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