Sambayan

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A CALL TO NATIONAL MOURNING

The Concerned Citizens for Justice (CCJ), a broad alliance of Filipinos opposed to the Marcos dictatorship has issued a call to NATIONAL MOURNING in protest over the massive fraud and terrorism that marked the April 7 IBP elections.

Following is the full text of the open letter circulated by the CCJ and 24 other organizations relative to this call to national mourning.

Dear Fellow Filipinos,

This is a call to NATIONAL MOURNING.

On April 7, 1978, our right of suffrage, our right to express our will, our right to participate freely in manifesting the sovereignty of the people, was murdered. Never in our history have we experienced such rampant vote-bribing, vote-buying, vote-manufacturing. Before, during, and after the elections, persons were harrassed, wounded, arrested, and detained.

We now entreat you to join us in a massive and concerted effort to continue to uphold democracy and human rights in our country, by doing the following:

1. *As soon as you receive this letter, make use of a black band, black ribbon or black badge to express your participation in our national mourning.*
2. *Simultaneous with this, join rosary groups or prayer services for the same purpose.*
3. *Participate in a Prayer Vigil at 6:30 in the evening of April 15th. The place will be personally conveyed to you at the proper time.*
4. *At exactly nine o'clock in the evening of the same day (April 15), double the noise you made on April 6th, this time in PROTEST.*
5. *Make ten copies of this letter and send them to your friends.*

Mabuhay ang Mamamayang Pilipino!

Concerned Citizens for Justice

Note:

The original of this letter has been sent to 20,000 persons. Twenty-four organizations are behind this effort.

THE GOSPEL WITH COMPROMISE

It seems that it is time for all of us Christians to face God and to tell him, "Yes, Lord, we are with you, for where else can we go? or to say, "No, Lord, your sayings are too hard, and we shall not follow you any longer."

A sense of deep sadness comes over me when I think of how Christians sit on the fence. What is the matter with us? Have we forgotten that we are followers of a crucified Christ? Have we forgotten that he was just the son of a carpenter, himself a tradesman, a strange itinerant preacher who criss-crossed the tiny country of Palestine, preaching his gospel to the poor? Have we forgotten that from the moment he began preaching he walked

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Editorial

EXECUTIONER OF DEMOCRACY: MARCOS

Democracy died more than five years ago. It did not only die. It was raped, subjected to indignities and trampled upon by Marcos' dictatorship with martial law as its mean and despicable weapon. And when democracy died, the Filipino people were virtually behind bars – inside a vast prison house called the "New Society".

As if that is not enough, Marcos effected a second death for democracy, in the April 7 polls. It was when he unleashed a menacing machinery to subvert the will of the people before their very eyes and violate the sanctity of the ballot. He did it in so massive and brazen a scale that it doesn't leave us any doubt that he wants to cling tenaciously though precariously to his illegally acquired seat – of course, with his wife Imelda by his side.

To him, it is not enough that democracy died. He wants democracy securely buried into the farthest depths – never to re-surface again.

Some were surprised at what he did. We weren't. We knew – judging by his pre-election statements and preparations – that he would do what he brazenly did. We knew all along that the elections would be a farce. We expected the elections to be the dirtiest and to be attended.

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ELEKSYON SA IBP KASINGDUMI NG DIKTADURANG MARCOS

Malinis at mapayapa raw ang nagdaang eleksyon nitong Abril 7, sabi ng diktador na si Marcos.

At tulad ng dapat asahan ayon sa inutos at inihudyat ng diktadura militar sa kanyang mga alipures: diretso nga ang panalo ng KBL, sa pangunguna ng asawa ng diktador.

Papaanong kapani-paniwala ang ganitong resulta? Noong gabi ng Abril 6 bago pa man ang eleksyon, milyun-milyong mamamayan ang nagpahayag ng kanilang matinding oposisyon sa diktadura militar ni Marcos na ang tanging tatak ay kahirapan at pang-aalipin ng bayan.

Binayaran daw ng oposisyon ang mga nagpakana ng ingay at protesta ng mga mamamayan laban sa diktadura. Inudyukan daw ng mga subersibo ang libo-libong kabataan para manggulo't manira ng mga simbolo ng kanyang "Bagong Lipunan", sabi ni Marcos.

Papaano'y natakot si Marcos sa katotohanang walang magawa ang kanyang diktadura militar sa pinagsama-samang lakas ng milyun-milyong taumbayan. Binangungot ang diktador ng katotohanang milyun-milyong mamamayan ang walang takot na lumabas ng bahay, nagmartsa at sumigaw ng "MARCOS, HITLER-DIKTADOR-TUTA! "

Naka-abala at perwisyo raw ang gabi ng pagprotesta ng milyun-milyong mamamayan sa buong Kamaynilaan, sabi ni Marcos.

Papaano'y noong gabi ng Abril 6, ang pagtahimik ng diktadurang Marcos ay ang pagka-abala nito sa pamumudmod ng perang pambili ng boto, pagrerehistro ng libo-libong "flying voters" at pagsisilid sa *ballot boxes* ng mga dinayang balota.

At ano pa nga ba ang nangyari noong araw ng eleksyon?

1. Upang bigyan ng "legalidad" ang kanyang pandaraya, libo-libong "flying voters" ang pinaboto ng mga alipures nitong Barangay na naghakot ng mga botante, nag-isyu ng sertipikasyon at nagpaboto sa iba't ibang presinto!

2. Upang matiyak ang pandaraya, daan-daang *poll watchers* at *volunteers* ang hindi pinahintulutang pumasok sa mga presinto. Marami ang itinulak palabas, binantaan at tinakot. Mayroong sinampal, pinagsu-suntok at binugbog, ipinadakip at ikinulong ng militar!

3. Upang tuwirang makapandaya, noong bandang hapon ng Abril 7, ang mga alipures na Barangay at "goons" ng diktadurang Marcos ay naghasik ng panggugulo at karahasan sa maraming presinto at "sumaklolo" naman ang mga militar upang "kontrolin at pangalagaan daw ang mga balota".

4. Upang makapaghasik ng takot sa mamamayan, simula pa noong Abril 5 hangga ngayon, ipinadadakip at tinutugis ng militar ng diktadurang Marcos ang mga lider at sumusuporta sa oposisyong partido ng LABAN!

Barangay at Militar – Instrumento sa Pandaraya ng Diktadurang Marcos

Sa mga presinto ng Cubao Elementary School, Main Avenue Elementary School at 15th Avenue Elementary School, dumagsa ang daan-daang "flying voters" na inirehistro at pinaboto ng mga Barangay.

Sa Valenzuela naman, 157 sundalo mula sa Kamp Bravo ang bumoto sa presinto ng Paso de Blas sa pamamagitan ng sertipikasyon ng mga Barangay, kahit na ang mga ito'y wala sa listahan ng mga botante ng nasabing lugar.

Sa Zamora, Pandacan, bigla ring dumagsa ang mga taong hindi naman residente ng lugar at pinaboto ng mga Barangay.

Ang pagpapalusot ng mga "flying voters" ay talamak sa mga presinto sa buong Kalakhang Maynila: Malabon, Caloocan City, Quezon City, Pasig, Taguig, Pasay City, Las Piñas, Parañaque at Muntinlupa.

Samantala, noong umaga ng Abril 7, daang-daang tao ang nakitang hinakot ng Manila Transit mula sa San Pedro Tunasan, Laguna.

Noong bandang hapon, pumutok ang *pill box* sa likod ng E. de los Santos Elementary School sa Tugatog. Sinundan ito ng mga pagpapaputok ng *armalite* ng mga goons ni Marcos, nagtakbuhan ang mga mamamayan. Dumating sa eksena ang mga Metrocom, kinordon ang presinto at ang buong paaralan. Pumasok ang Barangay *chairman* sa kuwartong kinaroroonan ng prinsipal. Pinalitan ng ibang balota ang nasa loob ng *ballot box*. Nagsimula ang bilangan.

Ganito ang naganap nang bandang hapon sa halos lahat ng presinto sa Malabon bago magbilangan ng balota. Magputukan ang mga baril, may sasabog na *pill box*, darating ang militar, kokordonin ang lugar, paaalisin ang nakabantay na mga mamamayan at saka magbibilangan.

Samantala, sa Taguig, alas tres pa lang nang hapon ay itinigil na ang botohan. Sumabog din ang *pill box*. Dumating ang militar at ang Barangay. Dinala ang *ballot box* sa munisipyo upang doon magbilangan.

Noon ding hapong yaon, sa mga presinto sa Cubao, nang matapos na ang botohan at magsisimula na ang bilangan, biglang may kaguluhang nangyari sa loob ng mga paaralan. Nagdatingan ang mga armadong militar. Pina-alis ang mga mamamayan at saka pa lang nagbilangan. Wala na talagang nakasaksi pa sa sumunod na pangyayari sa loob ng presinto.

Karahasan at Pananakot ng mga volunteers at poll watchers

Milyong piso ang nagasta ng diktadurang Marcos sa paglalathala ng *1978 Election Code* at *Electoral Code*, na siya rin mismong sumalungat nitong Abril 7.

Sinabi ng diktadurang Marcos sa pamamagitan ng kanyang COMELEC na malayang makakapagmasid ang oposisyon at ang mga mamamayan sa buong proseso ng botohan.

Ngunit maraming *poll watchers at volunteers* ang sinita, pinalabas, tinampalasan at ipinadakip ng kanyang mga alipures na Barangay tanod at ahente noong araw ng eleksyon.

Sa Roxas High School sa Pandacan, tatlong tagamasid ng oposisyon ang walang awang pinagsusuntok ng mga Barangay tanod samantalang di kalayuan sa presintong ito, isang babaing poll watcher ang sinampal, isa pa ang itinulak ng mga miyembro ng Barangay council, nang kanilang sitahin ang nakitang paglabag sa "Election Code".

Sa San Rafael Parish, Pasay City, ilang madre ang binastos ng mga Barangay tanod nang kanila ring protestahan ang nagaganap na dayaan at paglabag sa "Election Code".

Sa mga presinto sa ikalawang distrito sa Maynila, ang mga "volunteers" na binuo ng mga organisasyong sibiko ay hindi pinahintulutan ng mga alipures ni Marcos

na obserbahan ang eleksyon. Marami ang buong dahas na pinalabas, may sinuntok, hinabol at tinakot. May ilang hinuli at ipinakulong.

Samantala, isang tagamasid ang nakahuli at nagprotesta sa ginawang pagpunit ng mga balotang may sulat na LABAN ng *election committee chairman* sa Taniong, Malabon. Hindi na nakatagal pa ang nasabing tagamasid nang dumating ang mga Barangay tanod at ahenteng pawang mga armado.

Sa Muntinlupa, nagprotesta ang isang pari kasama ng ilang *volunteers* nang sila'y sapilitang paalisin ng mga Barangay tanod na pinangungunahan ng pamangkin ng alkalde.

Ang nasabi ay ilan lang sa napakamaraming pangyayari ng karahasan at panunupil ng karapatan ng mamamayan noong Abril 7.

Pang-aaresto ng Oposisyon–Pagnanasa ng Diktadurang Takutin ang Mamamayan

Hindi nagkasya para kay Marcos na dayain na lamang ang eleksyon.

Bago pa man magsimula ang eleksyon, pinakilos na ng diktadura ang kanyang militar upang dakpin ang mga lider at kandidato ng oposisyon.

Noong Abril 7 ng gabi, pinaligiran ng Metrocom ang bahay ni Charito Planas. Sabi ng militar, may mga *armalites* daw na natagpuan sa bahay. Ngayon ay pinaghahanap na si Planas sa salang sedisyon at pakikipagtulungan sa NPA! Katawa-tawang istorya!

Noong Abril 8 ng hapon, dinampot ng militar ang nasa 500 katao na nag-prayer rally bilang protesta sa pandarayang naganap nitong eleksyon! Ang bintang ng diktadura ay iisa – sedisyon!

Mga kababayan, minsan pang nanindigan tayo sa hamon ng diktadura na ipahayag ang ating kagustuhan at tunay na damdamin nitong Abril 7 ngunit nilapastangan lang tayo.

Minsan muli pa nating napatunayan na kailanman ay imposibleng magkaroon ng malinis, maayos at mapayapang eleksyon sa ilalim ng diktadura militar.

Minsan pang nakita natin na ang diktadurang Marcos ay bingi at bulag, walang pagkilala at paggalang sa KALAYAAN AT DEMOKRASYA.

PINATUTUNAYAN NG MGA PANGYAYARI NITONG NAGDAANG ELEKSYON NA HINDI IBABALIK NG DIKTADURA MILITAR NI MARCOS ANG TUNAY AT GANAP NA KALAYAAN AT DEMOKRATIKONG KARAPATAN SA ATING BAYAN!

Ating tandaan ang Abril 6 – ang gabi nang pagpapahayag ng ating iisang damdamin: tutol at laban tayo sa kahirapan at pang-aalipin na dulot ng diktadura militar ni Marcos.

Hindi tayo susuko sa pambubusabos at pagsasamantala ng diktadura ni Marcos.

Tayo'y isang bayang nagnanais pa ng kasarinlan, kasaganaan, kalayaan at demokrasya!

Ang landas tungo sa ating pagkakaisa at matapang na paglaban, tulad ng ating ipinamalas noong gabi ng Abril 6, bagama't may panganib at pagpapakasakit, ang siyang magbabagsak sa imbing diktadura militar ni Marcos!

Ang ating pagkakaisa at paglaban ang tiyak na daan upang marating natin ang isang malaya at demokratikong lipunan!

Lumikha tayo ng dambuhalang puwersa ng taumbayan na magwawakas sa paghahari ni Marcos sa ating bayan.

1. Maglunsad tayo ng mga impormasyong kampanya sa ating mga kababayan na magbubunyag ng mga pandaraya, karahasan at panloloko ni Marcos nitong nagdaang eleksyon!

2. Pagtibayin natin ang ating pagkakaisa sa pamamagitan ng pagbubuo ng isang malawak na organisasyon ng mga mamamayang magpapatuloy ng laban para sa ating mga demokratikong karapatan!

3. Makilahok tayo sa mga gagawing pagkilos ng taumbayan at makipag-isa sa iba pang mga organisadong lakas ng taumbayan sa hanay ng kabataan, manggagawa, maralitang taga-lunsod, propesyonal at simbahan!

Bilang pagtutol at protesta sa pagyurak ng diktadura militar sa ating karapatan at kagustuhan, gawin natin ang mga sumusunod:

– Magsuot ng itim na *ribbon* o ban dana upang ipahayag ang pakikiisa sa pagdadalamhati ng taumbayan;

– Sumama sa Prayer Vigil sa alas 6:30 ng hapon ng Abril 15 sa isang simbahang ipapaalam na lamang.

– Sa alas 9 ng gabi ng Abril 15, lalo pang mag-ingay bilang protesta laban sa diktadura sa inyong mga tahanan at lansangan tulad ng ating ginawa noong Abril 6 ng gabi.

Mabuhay ang nagkakaisang mamamayan laban sa diktadura militar!

Ipagpatuloy ang laban para sa kalayaan!

Ipagpatuloy ang laban para sa demokrasya!

Ibagsak ang batas militar!

Sa lakas ng taumbayan, wakasan ang diktadura militar!

KILUSANG MAMAMAYAN LABAN SA DIKTADURA MILITAR

EXECUTIONER OF DEMOCRACY: MARCOS

by large-scale frauds and terrorism. What we did not foresee though was the unlimited and diverse uses of fraud, violence, terrorism, deceit, bribery – a masterful and terrifying operation which only a conscienceless dictator can mastermind. Now, everybody is convinced that the Marcos dictatorship recognizes no limits, no constraints, no scruples. He doesn't stop at anything.

All these we knew from the very start. So when we supported candidates in the April 7 elections, we did not half expect to win – because all the odds were heavily against us. Of course, we welcomed the possibility – a remote one – that we would – assuming Marcos will commit less fraud.

But, that was not our primary objective. Our primary objective was to use this little freedom given us before the elections to go to the people, bring the real issues to them – of trampled rights and the real socio-economic situation, awaken them to the harsh and hard realities that now confront us and get them involved in the unending struggle against the repressive regime. Our primary objective then was to sharpen their political consciousness.

This is the rationale of the ecumenical crusade for a conscientized electorate–to keep the struggle alive, to keep the struggle going and burning – and BURNING HOT!

And if the real untampered results of the elections were the measure – an overwhelming majority of the electorate in Metro Manila have been effectively conscientized. Our efforts thus have been greatly rewarded. We have shown the regime that our minds – screaming out for freedom – cannot be chained all the time. Our collective voice cannot be muzzled for long. Our chains must break.

The real victors then in this election are the people, many of whom coming from Manila's depressed areas, who forgot both hunger and fatigue to campaign for the LABAN ticket from house to house. The supporters of LABAN were the least moneyed – but their voices became stronger and louder, much louder than the voices of all government controlled media combined. Because the

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people were involved, because they joined hands to fight the repressive regime, because they went through the hardships and pains – they themselves experienced liberation in their consciousness. They themselves knew profoundly the urgency and worth of the cause we are all fighting for.

That is the reason for our continuing struggle in the streets, in the factories, in schools, in our offices, in the countrysides – everywhere – where the ugly and sinister head of the regime wreak havoc, fear and repression.

And we will continue in our campaign. We know that in the process our ranks will increase, day by day.

The more Marcos tightens his iron grip, the more the chains of passivity and indifference are loosened. The more he suppresses freedom and throws dissenters to jail, the more he gets people out of their self-imposed silence and inaction. Whatever the Marcos dictatorship does, it is effectively sealing its own doom, signing its own death warrant. That is the fate of any dictatorship.

And that is the lesson of the April 7 elections. But, take courage. The executioner of our cherished democracy will have his just desserts. Now the executioner plays with his axe – and swings indiscriminately, cruelly – making war against the Filipino people. Someday, the axe will turn against the executioner. Long live Democracy!

A chain letter

Raul was barely a boy of twelve, a son of an ordinary carpenter. Young at his age, he joined the many who triumphantly proclaimed thru their "noise barrage" the people's power. But the repressive regime knows no bound in suppressing the mounting people's guts and courage – a bullet passed thru Raul's heart as they vainly dispersed the people's assembly of protest – tears swelled among those who witnessed the barbarous act. Tears also shed after the mockery of the April 7 elections. Tears is only all we have but no amount of tears will bring justice to Raul's death and to democracy that goes with the dirtiest election ever held.

People, have courage! I Stand witness to this hour of shame! I Democracy was trampled and buried in front of us and we only shed tears!

Come APRIL 15 at 9:00 p.m. when your weary eyes could no longer shed tears, I urge you once more to beat your *palangganas*, honk your horns, stump your feet, shout "FREEDOM", create the loudest possible noise that the Lord may hear us on this struggle for freedom and justice.

God will be with us and whom shall we be afraid of?

A committed Filipino

THE GOSPEL...

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in the shadow of death? Have we forgotten that following him means to take the greatest risk that man can take? Have we forgotten that following him means living dangerously?

It seems that we have spent centuries trying to eliminate the risk and the danger of his call. It seems that we have cushioned the risk and practically eliminated any and all danger by drawing up a set of moral rules that give us security instead of holy insecurity; rules that lull our conscience to sleep instead of making it wide awake and ready to undertake the risks of being a Christian.

Christ said that if we are not with him, we are against him. How do we measure up to this saying of his? Are we really with him? Are we ready to give up father, mother, sister and brother, in the sense he means it, that following him demands? Are we ready to lay our lives on the line of his law of love with its fantastic dimensions of dispossession and surrender? Do we truly love one another, beginning with ourselves? (Do we truly love Christ in the poor? The slumdwellers, workers, farmers, fishermen?)

I wonder how long we can sit on the fence of compromise. God is not mocked!

By Catherine van Hueck