



UPDATES PHILIPPINES

RELEASED BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES

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EDITORIAL

When abuse is inevitable, fight back!

With the stamp of approval of the Commission on Elections and Philippine Congress, Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. will be the next President of the Republic of the Philippines, succeeding Rodrigo R. Duterte on 30 June 2022. Joining the son of the late dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos is Vice President-elect Sara Z. Duterte-Carpio, daughter of the tyrant Duterte. The tandem's so-called landslide electoral victory is nothing but a blatant confirmation that the country's ruling classes condone – nay, handsomely reward – plunder, torture, murder and treason against the Filipino people.

The Marcos II regime is set to be a continuation of Duterte's tyranny and a return to the Marcos dictatorship. This clique represents the most brutal and insatiable among the country's ruling classes of moribund landlords and comprador bourgeoisie. It will appeal for 'unity' among the warring factions of the ruling classes, all the better to wield absolute control and to eliminate all forms of resistance.

You can forget about returning to the Filipino people the estimated US\$10 billion plundered under the Marcos dictatorship! Now back in power, the Marcos II regime will bring bureaucrat capitalist corruption to new heights, trumping even the bribe-taking, the pocketed government commissions and drug smuggling horde of Duterte. It will heighten the campaign of disinformation and the distortion of contemporary history, and will wipe away the people's memory of the Marcos fascist dictatorship.

The legislature and judiciary will be steamrolled and will rubberstamp the dictates of the Marcos II regime.

But they will take power over a ruling system that is rotten to the core, a government mired in grave crises. Duterte senior is leaving behind a mountain of foreign and domestic debt, a government bankrupted by corruption, defense overspending and budget deficits.

The Marcos-Duterte clique is grossly isolated due to the Filipino people's extreme hatred of tyranny, corruption and oppression under their dynasties. It is set to be weak and unstable amid the people's heightening grievances, factional infighting among the ruling classes and the worsening economic crisis. It will resort to ever-greater and evermore violent repression of political dissent.

The Filipino people will not simply relax, lie down and revel in the face of all these abuse! They are now even more determined to defend their democratic rights and freedoms. Indeed, the installation of the Marcos II regime creates ever-favorable conditions for advancing the revolutionary armed struggle.

In the coming years, the revolutionary movement will serve as the strongest core and principal weapons of the Filipino people in fighting against plunder and dictatorship, and in further advancing the people's democratic revolution for national and social liberation. **UP**



The most repressive election since dictator Marcos – International Observer Mission

The widespread irregularities and violence in the May 9 national elections in the Philippines undermined the democratic process that “took place in the most repressive context since the time of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos,” said Séverine de Laveleye, member of the Chamber of Representatives of the Federal Parliament of Belgium and Commissioner of the International Observer Mission to the Philippine elections, when she presented the [IOM interim report](#).

The independent delegation visited the regions of Central Luzon, Metro Manila, Southern Luzon, Central Visayas, Western Visayas and Mindanao from the start of the campaign period in February until Election Day.

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Mme. De Laveye added that the election was marred by a higher level of failure of the electronic voting system than ever before. There was also rampant vote buying, disturbing levels of state and military-orchestrated red-tagging, many incidents of deadly violence and diverse irregularities.

The IOM reported, the elections “did not meet the standard of free and fair election because of these prevailing conditions that robbed the voters of access to reliable information, access to the voting places without intimidation, and a credible vote counting system”.

In particular, they cited a local candidate in Metro Manila who said, “never in the history of the city has vote-buying been so rampant as in 2022 wherein one candidate was spending PhP5 to PhP7 million a day”. Journalists in Calabarzon told the delegation that the amount distributed has increased from PhP200 some years ago to PhP2,000 to PhP4,000 in this election.

Red-tagging was rampant everywhere, reported the IOM. Even Leni Robredo, Marcos’ main rival, and Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong, a former police intelligence officer, were targets of the anti-communist harassment by Lorraine Badoy, spokesperson of the Duterte government’s National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict.

Armed military and police were heavily visible in one of the visited areas. Multiple tanks and helicopters were seen in some cities. This heavy military presence did not succeed in the Duterte government’s stated aim of ensuring a safe voting process.

The IOM also reported on election-related human rights violations, noting the first political killings related to the elections took place in Sorsogon, Bicol Region, on January 15. These violations took the form of political killings, shootings, abductions, death threats, political arrests, harassment and surveillance of candidates and supporters, very large-scale red tagging, widespread vote-buying, media manipulation and repression, fake news and harassment of journalists by the Marcos campaign.

IOM concluded, this election cannot be declared “free and fair” until all the illegal acts that have marred the process are dealt with. “Given that the Marcos-Duterte UniTeam praised the notorious policies of the current President Duterte, the international community needs to increase its focus on the human rights situation in the Philippines because it will only worsen from here.”

Part of this “intensified international focus,” according to the IOM, is holding the outgoing Duterte government officials “accountable for its abysmal human rights record.”

The International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines and local election watchdog Kontra Daya launched the International Observer Mission in February 2022. **UP**



US advocates push for human rights investigation in the Philippines under Marcos II

Appalled by the prompt congratulatory message of US President Joe Biden on the proclamation of Ferdinand

Marcos Jr. as president of the Republic of the Philippines, human rights advocates in the US criticized President Biden and proposed instead to investigate the human rights conditions in the Philippines.

Members of the Hawaii Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines said that the US government’s acceptance of the “fraudulent Philippine election results, is a slap in the face of the many victims of the numerous human rights violations, murders and massive corruption under the Marcos dictatorship and the current Rodrigo Duterte regime.” The HCHRP added, “Rather than acknowledge the impacts of such an election on the many who have suffered human rights abuses in the Philippines, the Biden administration rushed to congratulate Marcos Jr.”

In January 1995, the US District Court of Hawaii decided in favor of the class action suit of 10,059 victims of human rights against the estate of the late dictator Marcos. The jury awarded US\$766 million as compensation for the injuries and deaths and US\$1.2 billion in punitive damages.

Human rights organizations documented at least 3,257 extrajudicial killings, 35,000 cases of torture, 77 enforced disappearances and more than 70,000 unwarranted detentions during the Marcos dictatorship. Some 2,520 of those murdered were tortured and mutilated. The Marcoses, including then First Lady Imelda R. Marcos, have yet to face up to these crimes.

The HCHRP urged Hawaiians to support the call for an independent investigation of the recent Philippine elections. The independent International Observer Mission was in the Philippines starting

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February 2022. It reported widespread irregularities and violence in what it deemed the most repressive election since the time of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The HCHRP also called on the US Congress to approve the Philippine Human Rights Act. Rep. Susan Ellis Wild (D-Pa.) and 30 other Democratic Party Representatives introduced the measure in June 2021 to the US Congress, and had been endorsed by the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, Communications Workers of America, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Malaya Movement and the Service Employees International Union. The proposed measure aims to prohibit the use of US tax dollars to support the operations and equipment of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, until the deplorable human rights violations and killings in the Philippines cease.

President Biden and President Xi Jinping of China were one of the first heads of state to congratulate Marcos, Jr. **UP**



Teachers say, Never Again to Dictatorship!
File photo: AM Umil | bulatlat.com

Academics call for defense of truth and academic freedom vs. Marcoses

Philippine scholars and academics launched on 19 May the online petition, Manifesto in Defense of Historical Truth and Academic Freedom. “We want to bring out a strong statement in defense of historical truth against the unrelenting efforts to revise the historical record of plunder and human rights violations during Martial Law and the entire Marcos era,” said Professor Oscar Campomanes of the Ateneo de Manila University, one of the initiators of the Manifesto.

“We also commit ourselves to defend the exercise of academic freedom, resist all forms of censorship such as book-banning, and oppose all attempts at red-tagging,” Prof. Campomanes added.

The online petition has already gained more than a thousand signatures, from both Filipino and non-Filipino academics, based in the Philippines and abroad.

The Manifesto decried the “disinformation, fabrication, manipulation, deceptive rebranding and propaganda” being done to revise historical facts, “projecting myths about the so-called Golden Age during the regime of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos, Sr, and erasure of the numerous human rights violations during the Martial Law period.”

The Manifesto also pledged to “combat all attempts at historical revisionism that distort and falsify history to suit the dynastic interests of the Marcoses and their allies and to fortify their power”.

It called for the launching of activities and initiatives to collect and disseminate historical and collective memories and to disseminate these to the public.

The initiators of the Manifesto also include Dr. Nicole CuUnjieng Aboitiz of University of Cambridge, Prof. Francis Gealogo of Ateneo de Manila University, Dr. Ramon Guillermo of University of the Philippines, Prof. Caroline Hau of Kyoto University, Dr. Jayson Lamchek of Deakin University, Prof. Vina A. Lanzona of University of Hawaii at Manoa, Prof. Carlos Picos III of De La Salle University and Prof. Lulu Torres Reyes of University of Santo Tomas. **UP**



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