

# Six press statements from the Partido ng Manggagawa on the state of emergency

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Press Statement

March 3, 2006

Partido ng Manggagawa (Labor Party-Philippines)

## **Farcical lifting of state of emergency**

Phil. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's (GMA) announcement is merely a farcical lifting of the state of emergency for while her right hand lifts Proclamation 1017, her left hand threatens to impose it again anytime she so desires. Or Proclamation 1017 may be replaced by a 1018 that in all probability will be worse.

The farcical lifting was meant to assuage business of political stability and not assure the people of their political liberties. The witch hunting of militant groups must end, all illegally arrested must be released and the intimidation of media must stop.

The former dictator Marcos also lifted his martial rule Proclamation 1081 in 1981 under pressure from the Americans. But the political repression continued until he was finally ousted. The people, especially the workers and the poor, must not let their guard down even with the farcical lifting of the state of emergency. Civil liberties will be guaranteed only through the ouster of GMA and the establishment of a transition government committed to the bill of rights and to social justice.

We call on the people to transform and extend the struggle against the state of emergency into the campaign for the ouster of the wannabe tyrant now occupying Malacanang (the presidential residence). ###

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Press Statement

March 1, 2006

Partido ng Manggagawa (Labor Party-Philippines)

## **Lift the state of emergency now!**

Phil. Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's announcement that the state of emergency may be lifted within a matter of days is a piecemeal concession meant to appease growing public anger over the suppression of the right to freedom of assembly and free speech. That the state of emergency will remain in place only means that next few days will be maximized to escalate the spate of arrests and other repressive acts. The illegal arrests and crackdown on militant groups must end immediately.

We express support for the militant party-list solons that have been detained or are under threat of arrest. We add our voice to the popular clamor for them to be released and for warrantless arrests to

stop. Despite our ideological differences, we believe that the injury to one is the injury to all. Sooner than later, leaders of other militant groups will be in the line of fire of the GMA regime's repression. What is at stake is the people's hard-won civil liberties paid for in blood and sweat over the course of the anti-dictatorship struggle.

Street protests that will directly challenge the political repression and break the terror of creeping dictatorship are slated in the coming days until the state of emergency is finally lifted and repressive acts are ended. ###

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Press Statement

February 26, 2006

Partido ng Manggagawa (Labor Party-Philippines)

### **Break the illegal state of emergency thru open protests**

The leaders of militant groups will not be forced underground. We will assert our hard-won right to peaceful assembly and free speech. In the coming days, militant groups together with middle class groups and human rights advocates will lead daily protest actions including street rallies in the Metro Manila and major cities nationwide. Truly, in the line of fire is the place of honor.

If the running dogs of the desperate illegitimate regime of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (GMA) will arrest us for defying her repressive state of emergency, then they better make sure they have the proper warrants and an airtight case for we will contest their repressive acts in the courts and in the streets. GMA's Proclamation 1017 is just the former dictator Marcos' martial rule Proclamation 1081 in disguise.

We firmly believe that the people, especially the workers and the poor, will break the illegal state of emergency through open protests. The white terror of martial law was broken by open defiance; the fear factor of GMA's trying-hard copycat will be easier to shatter. GMA may have all the bad intentions but she does not have the united military to suppress the people.

The La Tondena workers strike of 1975, the Alay Lakad march of the Dagat-Dagatan urban poor and the students' Democratic Reform Movement-these courageous struggles were in open defiance of the dictatorship's ban on strikes, rallies and protests. It took years of hard struggle to break martial law; it will take less sacrifice to smash the state of emergency of an illegitimate regime that is far weaker than Marcos.

Last February 24, the mass movement already showed that it would not be cowed by a wannabee dictator. The workers and the poor faced the full force of GMA's iron fist and were not broken in a daylong running street battle with riot police. They are the harbinger of the protests that will escalate until the state of emergency is broken or the fake president is overthrown. ###

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Press Statement

February 25, 2006

Partido ng Manggagawa (Labor Party-Philippines)

**Proclamation 1081 of Marcos then, Proclamation 1017 of GMA now**

The storm troopers of Phil. Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (GMA) are knocking at the gates of Sulo Hotel to possibly arrest all or some of the opposition deputies of the lower house of parliament. If GMA is now the law then defiance is our duty. To be arrested by the praetorian guards of an illegitimate regime is a badge of honor.

The workers and the poor courageously showed yesterday that they are the vanguard fighter for democracy, bravely rising to the extra challenge of defending civil liberties and uncowed by the fear factor of GMA's iron fist Proclamation 1017 (declaring a state of emergency). The least militant leaders could do to honor the valiant resistance of the workers and the poor and advance the cause of social change is by being their voice either in the streets or behind bars.

If the former dictator Marcos had his Proclamation 1081 then, GMA has her Proclamation 1017 now. Twenty years after the fall of the dictator, an illegitimate child ironically of the second Edsa uprising is rolling back the gains of the first people power. Nothing has changed except that now the people are poorer and life is much harder due to the pro-globalization policies of the GMA regime.

We call on the workers and the poor to defy the terror of a creeping martial law and break the illegal state of emergency by launching protest actions in the streets, in the factories and in the communities. The Filipino people ousted a dictator once; we can overthrow another tyrant again.

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Press Statement

February 24, 2006

Partido ng Manggagawa

The state of emergency declared by Phil. Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is a blank check for an illegitimate regime to suppress the people's right to peaceful assembly and ironic for today is the anniversary of the first people power uprising. However, the state of emergency is a desperate act of a dying regime.

We call on the people to resist and assert their hard won civil liberties. It is time for another people power uprising but it must be of a new type. The masses must make sure this time that their victory is not be snatched by another faction of the elite.

We appeal to the soldiers and the police to cross the barricades and join the people. The soldiers and the police are not just mandated to be the protectors and not oppressors of the people. But more so, they are workers and poor in uniform, brothers and sisters of the people in the streets.

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Press Statement

Partido ng Manggagawa

February 21, 2006

### **They can imprison the man but not the ideas**

The corrupt Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (GMA) regime and its accomplices among reactionary generals can detain Lt. San Juan (an escaped military rebel) but they cannot imprison the ideals he is fighting for. His capture will be a setback to the cause since in Lt. San Juan the rebel officers have found a potent voice. His courageous statements ring across the land louder than any bomb exploding in Malacanang (the presidential palace).

GMA have more to fear from a San Juan than a dozen bombs. Still Lt. San Juan is just one among numerous nameless and faceless idealistic officers and soldiers that will continue the struggle.

The military report that Lt. San Juan was intercepted in the company of Maoist guerillas is probably a spin intended to heighten the anti-communist bogey. Nonetheless the fact that rebel officers are open to dialogue with militants groups is a positive development in uniting the forces fighting for social change. The rebel officers and soldiers are workers and peasants in uniform and have a common interest with militant groups in the struggle against corrupt generals and elite politicians.

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