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Oppose the coup d'etat!

Uphold the Constitution!

BISIG firmly opposes the violent attempt of the Reform the Armed Forces of the Philippines Movement (RAM) to grab from the people their right to peace and democracy. A coup d'etat is a seizure of power by a minority who pretends to be advancing the interests of the majority. History has proven, however, that coups have never been the solution to the problems confronting the people. In fact, the common destiny of coups is greater repression and suffering of the people under a military junta.

The Aquino Government has not been faithful to the promises of EDSA. In spite of this, a coup d'etat is not the answer to the crisis confronting us.

The Constitution lays down our foremost aspirations and the democratic processes through which we may achieve them. We must advance and uphold it. The coups of Honasan, being a clear affront thereto, must therefore be condemned.

It cannot be denied, however, that during the period of almost four years, the Aquino government and the Congress have abandoned the Constitution and the Filipino people. The government displayed its criminal neglect by giving budgetary priority to the payment of our foreign debt service; by enacting laws and policies that violate the interest of workers, farmers and urban poor settlers; by tolerating rampant graft and corrupt practices in public service; and by allowing the price of basic commodities to increase while the delivery of such social services as transportation, electricity, water, etc. remain grossly inadequate. In requesting for US air support at the height of the coup, the Aquino government once more made a mockery of our Constitution.

A government's only defense against assaults on its integrity is the people – not any foreign power. For the Aquino government to win back the active support of the people, it must deliver the promises embodied in the Constitution. Towards this end, the following popular demands must be met:

1. To remove those members of the Cabinet who remain insensitive to the grievances of the people;
2. To replace the country's foreign debt negotiators with individuals who can effectively represent the interest of the Filipino people;
3. To revamp the present military leadership, and punish all those in the hierarchy and rank and file guilty of committing or condoning human rights violations;
4. To investigate and impose the appropriate punishment on those members of Congress who have acted against the interest of the people;
5. To consult the people on all matters and issues which affect them, such as the oil price increase.
6. To punish all the members of the civil bureaucracy and the armed force who directly participated in or supported the coup d'etat.

The strength of a democratic government rests on the support of the people. A democratic government endures only if it listens to the people. Otherwise, it shall constantly face rebellion of all forms and from all fronts.