

Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines (CHRP) Presents

Looking Back 36 Years After Martial Law
An Ecumenical Program on Human Rights

Thursday, September 25th, 2008
St. Patrick's Church, San Francisco



Co-Presented by Members of GMAWatch:
ALAY, Anakbayan-East Bay, Babae, FOCUS-San Jose, LFS-SFSU, NAFCON

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THE FILIPINOS' OATH

An English translation of Panata ng Pilipino, a poem written in Filipino by Joi Barrios-Leblanc

(Inspired by the works of Amado V. Hernandez, Rio Alma, Jose Lacaba and Beienvenido Lumbera)

Never again.
Never again to barbed wires.
A stretch of sky from a prison cell,
The constant fear of fascist rule

Never again to the grasshopper queen
Her opulent feasts as the masses
starve.

She who thinks she wears a crown,
Hesitates not when she tramples upon the poor.

Never again to the amazing adventures of Juan de la Cruz,
From the rice fields to the factory, he seeks for work
Yet, at each turn, a sign:
"Bawal magreklamo!" "Bawal magwelga!"
No complaints, no strikes, no dreams of freedom
nor prosperity allowed.

I gaze at the photographs taken by the lens of my youth
Then and now in my beloved land,
and I ask, what the difference is
Of Martial Law declared
And Martial Law creeping in.

Never again, not today, nor tomorrow.
Our eyes wide open in the darkness of the night,
We stand guard,
learning from the
past.

The masses can
drive away kings and
queens,
Pretenders to the
throne
Armed with love for
the land,
The people shall
never hesitate to
revolt.



Program Line-up

5:15 PM Celebration of the Mass

6:00 PM Opening Song - *Pananagutan*

Introduction by Reverend Israel Alvaran

Invocation by Reverend Ed Dura, St. Patrick's
Pahayagan performed by Josh Castro

6:10 PM Remembrance of Martial Law with Reverend
Dave Rodriguez, United Methodist Church

6:20 PM *Panata ng Pilipino* - Poetry reading by Professor
Joi Barrios-Leblanc, UC Berkeley

6:25 PM Jeanelle Ablola, Buena Vista United Methodist
Church, on current human rights situation

6:35 PM Video presentation by ALAY (Interviews with
families of the disappeared)

6:50 PM Prayers of the Faithful

7:00 PM *Siglo* and *Batingaw* performed by Pendong Aban,
Jr. and Chat Coloma-Aban, formerly of Asin

7:10 PM Call to action led by Rachel Redondiez, CHRP

7:15 PM *Awit sa Bayani* performed by Josh Castro

7:20 PM Candle-lighting ceremony and procession outside
Closing song - *Bayan Ko*

*Our special thanks to
St. Patrick's Church and
Father Ed for generously
hosting this event!*



PAHAYAGAN - *Empiel Palma*

Paggising sa umaga narinig niya sa radio
Balitang nakakatakot
pakinggan
Hindi lang isang tao kundi marami pa
Ang magkakasamang pinaslang

Kulay dugo ang kulay ng bawat pahayagan
Tila isang laro na lamang ba ang pagpaslang
O kay raming buhay na ang nasayang
Sa walang tigil na pagyurak sa pantaong karapatan

Hanggang kalian luluha ang mga naulila
Hanggang kalian sila magdurusa
Nasaan ang katarungan na hinihintay
Sa walang awang pagkitil ng buhay

AWIT SA BAYANI - *Tambisan sa Sining*

Nilisan mo man itong daigdig
Tinig mo'y patuloy na maririnig
Lulan ng mga himig mong alay
Na lipos ng pag-ibig

Pag-ibig sa bayang sayo'y
nagluwal
At sa manggagawang
labis mong minahal
Tulad mo ay di malilimot
Habang kami ay narito

Marami pang dapat
imulat kasama
Lipuna'y puno ng prob-
lema

Sa paghinto ng tibok ng puso mo
Kami ang magpapatuloy

Tulad mo ay di malilimot
Habang kami ay narito

