



# Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD)

Rms 310-311, Philippine Social Science Center, Commonwealth Ave., Brgy Central, Diliman, Quezon City

Telefax: 00-632-4546759 Telephone Number 00-632-4566434 Mobile 00-63-9177924058

Email [afad@surfshop.net.ph](mailto:afad@surfshop.net.ph) website [www.afad-online.org](http://www.afad-online.org)

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The **Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD)** strongly condemns the recent actions of the Philippine government in relation to the burial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

We condemn the decision of the Supreme Court, through the nine concurring justices, to allow the burial of Marcos. This burial is in direct contradiction to the demand of the victims of martial law to bury Marcos in Batac, one of the conditions that the Marcos family agreed to in exchange for their return to the country. We assert that justice must be, first and foremost, defined by the victims themselves. By disregarding the demand of the victims, the Supreme Court has become complicit to yet another act of injustice.

We also condemn the effort today to fast track Marcos' burial at the *Libingan ng mga Bayani*. No announcements were made, no media were invited, and no public access to the ceremony was allowed. This underhanded attempt to keep the burial under wraps is an obvious indication that the Philippine government is not confident in its recent decisions.

Martial law resulted in more than 800 documented cases of enforced disappearance, 3,257 documented cases of extra-judicial killings, 70,000 documented cases of detention, and 120,000 cases of arbitrary arrests. Therefore, those at the helm of martial law, primarily the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, do not deserve to be buried in sacred ground, much more, to be declared a hero. This attempt to revise history is an unjust act that AFAD strongly opposes.

We struggle for the reconstruction of the historical memory of the disappeared and of the many other victims of human rights violations. As we indefatigably do so, the Marcoses, with the obvious support of the Duterte administration, twist history in the name of "unity and healing" which, without justice, are impossible to achieve. Today's burial of the late dictator and plunderer is a national shame and a betrayal to the real heroes of the country who offered their lives to the altar of freedom so that others may live.

In the name of the disappeared, we must not tire, we must not surrender, we must never forget!

Signed:

**MARY AILEEN D. BACALSO**

Secretary-General

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