



***Martial***

***Law***

***Survival***

***Guide***

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## **myth?**

The attack on Juan Ponce Enrile in September of 1972, which supposedly prompted the declaration of Martial Law, was a real ambush.

**TRUTH:** In 1986, at the height of the revolt, Enrile told a media conference held at Camp Crame that the entire event had been staged.

# ***are you ready?***

***It is the year 1972 in the Republic of the Philippines and incumbent President Ferdinand Marcos just declared Martial Law in the second term of his presidency. This was following the political unrest that was initiated during the First Quarter Storm and the terrible ambush and attempted assassination of his press secretary, Juan Ponce Enrile. It was time, according to him, to create order in the chaos.***

***This time in history saw heroes and villains who impacted the nation as a political and social force but what does all of this mean for the ordinary citizen, who simply found himself thrust into this new world and subject to these new rules that he is obliged to follow? This Martial Law Survival Guide is designed for him. It provides relevant information from the characters and entities present in the scene to the likely situations he might find himself in, as well as outlining the need-to-know facts that the everyday Filipino needs in order to make it alive.***

1 **President Ferdinand Marcos**

*President of the Republic of the Philippines since 1965*



2 **Imelda Marcos**

*First Lady of the Republic of the Philippines*



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**The Cronies**



3 **Political Resistance**



**Armed Forces of the Philippines**



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1

- × Under Martial Law, he holds supreme control over all three branches of government and the entirety of the Philippine military
- × Supposedly declared Martial Law to create a “New Society” – an orderly Philippine society free from crime, rebellion, and entrenchments of the old oligarchy *but really, it is more likely that he did it in order to maintain his seat in power*

2

- × Aside from being the first lady, she held several positions simultaneously at one point in time, including the Minister of Human Settlements – a position created especially for her.
- × Notorious for using public funds to finance her luxurious lifestyle (and love for shoes)

3

- × Political leaders and aspirants who are vocal about the abuses and corruption of the Marcos administration
- × Many of these individuals belong to the Liberal Party.
  - × In August of 1971, roughly a year before the declaration of Martial Law, the political campaign rally of the Liberal Party in Plaza Miranda was bombed. Many people, along with some members of the party were injured. Though the culprit of the bombing remains unknown, culpability has rested heavily on the president himself, or the leader of the Communist Party, Jose Maria Sison.

 **Sen. Ninoy Aquino, Sen. Jovito Salonga**

4

- × Individuals chosen by the president to run, own, run, and manage key sectors of the economy, such as the tobacco, sugar, and coconut industry, to name only a few
- × Loyal to the president because of the insurmountable economic advantage he bestowed upon them

 **Herminio Disini, Lucio Tan, Danding Cojuangco**

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- × Growing in size and strength due to Marcos’ heavy investments
- × Loyal to Marcos because he pays his officers well

× Duties:

 **General Fabian Ver**

- |                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>× to ensure that the interests of the Marcos family are well protected</li> <li>× to neutralize all forms of resistance</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>× Most loyal general of the president; even said that he would jump off a plane if Marcos told him to</li> <li>× Allegedly involved in the detainment and elimination of key members of the resistance</li> </ul> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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**Writers & Journalists**



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- × Consists of local and university sanggunian leaders
- × Majority were forced into hiding, went underground, or jailed by the government
- × As a movement, their main goal is to speak up against the plans and schemes of Marcos and his cronies

 **Ed Jopson**

- × Served as president of the National Union of the Students of the Philippines before joining other labor groups
- × Joined and served as an officer under the communist party despite previous allegiance to the moderates

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- × Has begun to mobilize the moderate organizations and encourage all citizens to join
- × Leaders forced into hiding for being critical of the administration
- × Some members (e.g. the Jesuits) even have special equipment to help keep track of government activity
- × They serve as a voice for the people in the fight against the regime's corruption and abuses

 **Jaime Cardinal Sin**

- × Publicly called out Marcos to end Martial Law
- × Consistently critical of the government but manages his relations with officials well
- × United the various moderate groups under one cause: to put an end to Martial Law

8

- × Upon the declaration of Martial Law, only media outlets approved by the President such as The Philippine Daily Express, and government-owned channels have been allowed to operate and publish content. Many media organizations have been shut down and several writers had been arrested.
- × Writers or journalist who want to publish anything above ground need to subject their work to a very rigorous screening process.
- × Many writers and journalists who have been writing protest pieces against the administration have continued operations underground.

 **Pete Lacaba**

- × Known protest writer who wrote the famous poem, Prometheus Unbound. The first letters of each line in his poem spell out the words "Marcos Hitler Diktador Tuta"

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- × The radicals consist of communist rebel groups such as the CPP-NPA and Islamic resistance such as the MILF
- × These individuals resort to violence to show resistance against the government
- × Utilize activist fronts to recruit members from youth organizations and labor unions
- × Main goal: Destabilize and overthrow the government through warfare

 **Joma Sison**

- × Youth leader that fought for labor rights and land reform before establishing the CPP

 **Nur Misuari**

- × Founded the MNLF to push for reforms against government that had deprived Moro people autonomy
- × With his cause supported by some Middle Eastern countries such as Libya, he led MNLF to war against the Marcos administration

## do's and don'ts

### myth?

Marcos had no plans of declaring Martial Law but he had to in order to keep the country stable.

**TRUTH:** Martial law was a premeditated means of staying in power. Marcos had spies track down and closely follow all of his potential enemies as early as his first term. He also managed to manipulate the economy by giving the different industries to his closest friends. Marcos managed to gain the support of the Americans through his close friend Ronald Reagan.

### myth?

Ferdinand Marcos was a distinguished war hero, having received 33 medals in his lifetime.

**TRUTH:** Though Marcos really did serve in the military in World War II, at least three of the medals supposedly conferred to him by the United States, namely the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, and Order of the Purple Heart, have already been proven to have never been granted to him at all. Only two of his supposed medals were actually granted during the war yet their authenticity have also been put into question by his officers.

## **SITUATION 1**

September 21, 1972

***It's the first day and the streets are quiet with the new proclamation. What can you do now?***



### **DO**

Keep calm! The worst thing you can do right now is panic

Keep your doors closed. As much as possible, silence is needed to show you are not rebelling against the situation.

### **DON'T**

Leave your house. There's a reason why the streets are empty except for the policemen patrolling every corner. You must show every sign of obedience

## SITUATION 2

### Out Past Curfew

***One of the most pervasive aspects of the era that one would encounter as a citizen is that of curfew. As per General Order No. 4, no one is allowed out past 12AM. If you were caught, you could be arrested or worse, depending on the situation and/or your luck.***



#### DO

Secure your permits from Camp Lapu-lapu before planning any party or function. It is a requirement for a gathering of more than 5 people.

Make sure to have a watch on you at all times

Be organized and punctual when attending your parties or functions

Make sure to leave your parties at around 11PM

#### DON'T

Start your parties or night events later than 7PM. Recommended time is 4PM to be safe.

Go home before 4AM.

#### **What if you find yourself out with friends then later realize it's 12AM and you're far from home?**

Our suggestion is to stay where you are. If you are out, hide inside your vehicle until 4AM. If you are at a friend's place, you have no other choice but to stay over.

## SITUATION 3

### Lack of Basic Needs

***This is something that must not be underestimated. At this time, many will go hungry and this might include you. Why? Commodities will be controlled by the government so you will have to take extra measures to be able to gain your fair share of them.***



#### DO

Make sure to sleep early so you can wake up early for the line to buy sugar and rice the next day

Make friends with the policemen as they are the best people to buy gasoline stubs from

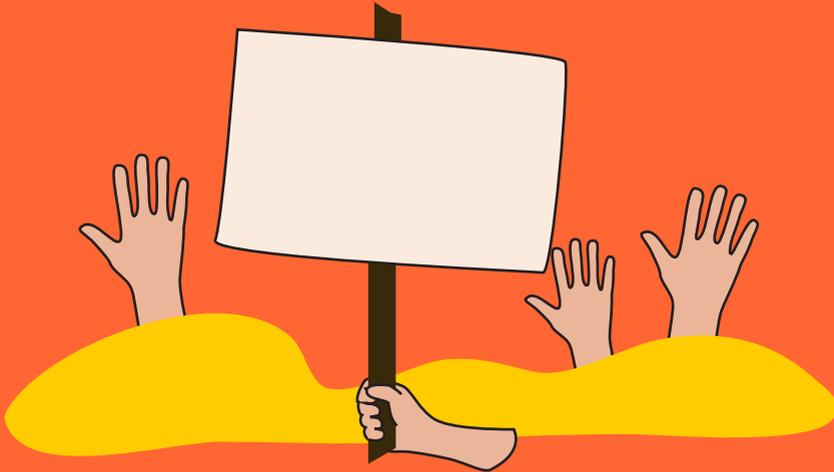
#### DON'T

Try to steal or undermine this system. Unless you have the right connections, you will be punished severely for any law-breaking even if it is to just get food for your family

## SITUATION 4

### Someone Approaches You Asking You to Join Their Cause

***Be them noble or foolish, there will be those who will rebel against the situation. The purpose of this guide, however, is to help you stay alive. Unless you are willing to risk death:***



#### DO

Mark him as someone you "do not know and have never met." You cannot have any connections with subversives

Make an effort to believe everything in the news, no matter what. It is a measure to keep you safe.

#### DON'T

Make any further eye contact with the person. Chances are he will go away soon in order to not attract any attention

### **myth?**

The Marcos era was the "Golden Age" of Philippine economy.

**TRUTH:** In 1982, our national GDP plummeted so severely that it had taken 21 years to restore it to normal 1982 levels.

## SITUATION 5

### Someone You Knew Was Taken Away

*Disappearances become a norm now and anyone who seems remotely opposed will likely be hunted down. Chances are, you will know someone who will get arrested.*



#### DO

Pray. It is one of the only things you can do now. At best he or she is detained. At worst, he or she will be needing your prayers

#### DON'T

Question the authorities. Try to believe that they are always right.

Make any inclination of seeming subversive. Obedience is essential if you are to stay alive.

## **stories from the safehouse**

***Resistance and criticism were not taken well by the Marcos regime. In as early as his first term, Marcos had already hired intelligence officers who would craft dossiers on his political enemies and track down all of their activities. The government knew everything about these individuals: their families, occupation, route to work, and where they could possibly hide. All enemies of the state were abducted in the middle of the night by armed goons and detained in safehouses where they will be subjected to the various “interrogation techniques” listed below. Some of them were never to be seen alive ever again.***

### **myth?**

Martial Law was needed to quell the severe NPA threat.

**TRUTH:** Fabian Ver confirmed that the communists were not yet a valid threat as there were less than 800 armed men serving under the NPA when Martial Law was declared. However, by the end of the Marcos regime the number would grow into the thousands as more Filipinos chose to rebel and go underground.

## **PHYSICAL BEATING**

It was typical for all prisoners to get beat up by their arresting officers. Some were lucky to have just endured punches to the gut and kicks to the limbs as others got struck with sticks and pipes, whipped, seared with cigarette butts and live flames, had their heads struck against an edge, and hung upside down.

## **COLD TORTURE**

Interrogators would have their prisoners strip naked and sit on cold cement for hours as they turn down the temperature and blast the air conditioner.

## **CHILI PEPPERS**

Red chili peppers would be crushed by officers and smeared all over the detainee's eyes, mouth, and even genitalia.

## **NAWASA**

Officers would get a wet cloth and tightly wrap it around the suspect's face or ram it down their throats to hinder their breathing. After which, they would slowly pour water or water mixed with soap and chili down their nostrils before repeatedly punching them in the stomach. Some creative interrogators replaced water with gasoline.

## **DRY SUBMARINE**

Prisoners would have their limbs tied to a chair before having a plastic bag tightly wrapped around their heads.

## **SAN JUANICO BRIDGE**

To imitate Ferdinand's gift to Imelda, detainees were forced to suspend their bodies by laying their head on one edge and their feet on another. Everyone who was not able to hold their position was beat up by their officers before being forced to do it again.

## **SUBMARINE**

Prisoners had their heads dunked into toilets filled with the officers' urine and excrements.

## **TRUTH SERUM**

Some detainees were brought to small clinics where they would be subjected to flickering spotlights designed to put them in a daze before getting injected with a truth serum. The serum has the capacity to put individuals into a subconscious state. Overdosing made some prisoners mentally incapable.

## **SEXUAL ABUSE**

Some prisoners, female and male, were forced to dance in front of the interrogators while others had their genitals fondled by the officers, played with by large dogs, and even burned. Officers also ended up raping some of their detainees for hours.

## **MENTAL TORTURE**

Officers also liked to mess with their prisoners' heads by putting them in solitary confinement for days, weeks, and even months. Some detainees were forced to attempt suicide via Russian roulette but only to find out that the gun given to them was not loaded. Inhumane officers would also serve their meals sprinkled with gunpowder and force some of them to drink their own urine.

## ***effects on the prisoners***

The considerably lucky ones would make it out of the safe houses but their lives would never be the same. Some experienced trauma, hallucinations, and slurred speech upon release. Others ended up living the rest of their lives in mental health facilities due to the extreme stress that they had to endure during their stay.

It has been estimated that around 70,000 people were imprisoned, 34,000 were tortured, and 3,000 were killed during the nine-year run of Martial Law. To this day, the Marcos family has not yet apologized for any of the human rights violations.

## conclusion

***It is February 25, 1986. The president had just won the snap elections against Cory Aquino. The news is that he cheated... again. Today, the people are angry and have taken it to the streets. There are rallies everywhere – both on EDSA and in other regions of the country.***

***Managing to stay alive has become far more difficult. More soldiers and policemen have been deployed with heavy weapons, ready to pursue all means to contain all forms of resistance. The left wing has maintained its plans of taking over the government as it continues to pursue more volunteers to join their revolution. The call for civil disobedience against the government has never been stronger. The country is at a crossroads in its fight for its history and future. Yet choosing to remain silent would be to condone the oppressors. So if I were you, I would join my countrymen in their fight. Nevermind if you are neither activist, nor pro-Marcos, nor pro-Aquino. This revolution is for anyone who is pro-Filipino.***

## **I LEAVE YOU NOW WITH A FINAL LIST OF DO'S:**

***If you have a car, park them on the highways to stop the tanks from advancing.***

***But if they do and a soldier points his gun at you, walk up to him and offer him a flower.***

***Bring enough food and drinks to share with your fellow countrymen. They would be very grateful.***

***Listen to the stories of the people around you. Share your stories as well.***

***When the revolution is over, celebrate the victory, but do not forget its history. As you move forward with your life, make it a point to always remember. Make sure that your children remember, and that your children's children will also remember. May their future never be as dark as the past that you had just left behind.***



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By **Josh Co**  
**Kiana Feliciano**  
**Samantha Santos**

Layout &  
Design **Maia Sevilla**