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## **MASS ACTIONS TO COMPEL ESTRADA RESIGNATION ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE SENATE TRIAL**

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I congratulate the broad united front of organized forces and the people for undertaking the nationwide mass actions on November 14, demanding the resignation of Estrada.

These mass actions resoundingly manifest the determination of the people to oust Estrada from power and pave the way for the soonest possible direct encirclement of the presidential palace by at least one million people until he resigns.

The broad mass movement to compel the resignation of Estrada is far more important than the Senate trial because of the current pro-Estrada majority in the Senate.

Estrada himself has publicly expressed the confidence that he can use said pro-Estrada majority as his whitewashing machine. There is also a huge slush fund from the big cronies of Estrada (like Lucio Tan and Eduardo Cojuangco) for buying and ensuring votes of not guilty.

The evidence against Estrada for graft and corruption and related crimes is so overwhelming that for a while the presentation of this evidence will further discredit and isolate him. But the current pro-Estrada Senate majority puts in doubt his conviction.

The broad mass movement to oust Estrada must rise in magnitude and militancy in order to prevent the current pro-Estrada Senate majority from whitewashing his crimes.

The mass actions for the ouster of Estrada will grow in size and strength because the economic crisis is rapidly worsening and because the outrage of the people over Estrada's immorality, corruption and plunder will become more intense.

On the other hand, Estrada will find it dangerous and self-defeating to assemble a crowd even under the pretext of a prayer rally, by ordering government employees, paying lumpen elements and using the bootlicking bosses of the El Shaddai and the INC, in order to conjure the illusion of popular support.

The outrage of the people over their economic suffering and the crimes of Estrada is so intense that if only one section of the crowd starts to chant "Estrada resign!", the rest of the crowd will follow and isolate Estrada and the pro-Estrada organizers on the spot.

Estrada should remember how in Romania the crowd organized in support of the government turned against Nicolae Ceaucescu, after one section of the crowd started to chant against him.

Estrada should also remember that in the final days of Marcos it became impossible for the Marcos regime to rent a crowd for overcoming the gigantic uprising of the people in 1986.

The broad united front of organized forces and the entire people are determined to defeat Estrada through peaceful but massive and militant mass actions. These are adequate for ousting a president, without as yet changing the ruling system.

If Estrada were to use violence against the people and to suppress their democratic right to assemble, he would only aggravate the instability of the system and generate more militant popular resistance. Thereby he would further prove his inability to rule and would accelerate his own downfall.

The broad masses of the people are resolute in rising to oust him. His own imperialist masters and most of his ruling class superiors now consider him far more of a liability than an asset. There is no way for him but to resign or else suffer worse consequences for his crimes. #

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