

Civil Society Statement
8 July 2005

We had wanted to give a chance for due process and for the facts and the truth to come out. However, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared last night that she has already spoken the truth and is not interested in forming a truth commission. Today, the resignations of the more decent and reform-minded members of the Cabinet of President Gloria Macapagal -Arroyo confirms that even they have given up on any chance for the President to implement reforms.

We welcome and support the call of the former Cabinet Secretaries for the President to resign. Their courageous and selfless move is in stark contrast to the desperate moves of the president to remain in power. The Cabinet secretaries who have just resigned are men and women of credibility and integrity, who have served the country faithfully both inside and outside of government.

We now have a President who does not have the support of civil society and majority of the people. As a country, we have lost hope that she will put genuine reforms over her personal and political interests. After all, she has had four years to have made these reforms, and she has not. She has failed us as a leader, and we now call on her to step down and resign from office.

While her resignation may calm the political turbulence, we nevertheless still call for the establishment of an independent fact-finding commission that will look into the whole truth behind the alleged 2004 electoral fraud with the aim of bringing all those involved before the bar of justice and institutionalizing much-needed electoral reforms.

We support the constitutional process of succession and ask her successor to form the independent fact-finding commission, call for the revamp of COMELEC and institute the long-needed social and political reforms our people so greatly deserve.

Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO)	Pagbabago@Pilipinas	National Peace Conference (NPC)
Western Visayas Network of Social Development NGOs (WEVNET)	Federation of Free Farmers (FFF)	Caucus for Bicol Development (CBD)
GZO Peace Institute	Mindanao Caucus of Development NGOs (MinCODE)	Cordillera Network of Development NGOs (CORDNET)
Philippine Partnership for the Development of Rural Areas (PhilDHARRA)	National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO)	CapizCODE
PASCRES	Social Democratic Caucus	Aksyon Demokratiko
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