

SIGNED STATEMENT OF NINE MAGDALO OFFICERS READ BY CAPT. GERARDO GAMBALA

People have different views and interpretations on what we did at oakwood but as direct participants of the said exercise, we know in our hearts that we are guilty; this we have accepted the verdict of the court and submitted ourselves to God Almighty.

We have trudged the wrong path when we crossed the boundary between professionalism and adventurism so we got lost along the way. But during the years we spent in detention, a sense of conviction dawned before each one of us in unique and wondrous ways which led us to acknowledge that we undoubtedly made a mistake. Since then, we learned to live each day with a contrite heart.

We came to the realization that while it is our right to seek redress for our grievances, we have to do so within the framework of our democratic institutions under the rule of law. And as long as these institutions are functional, it is our duty to strengthen them - not to destroy them through force, violence or unlawful means.

We apologize to the Filipino people. We humbly ask for your forgiveness for our act of rebellion, for setting a bad example to the future generations and for presenting ourselves as the only individuals who have the monopoly of idealism. While we have envisioned genuine reforms for our country, our actions at Oakwood brought political upheaval and further disunity. We have seen that instead of helping, we weakened the very country we dearly loved.

We apologize to the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the institution we have severely damaged, we appeal to our fellow soldiers not to emulate our actions at Oakwood. For no matter how noble our intentions were, what we did can never be justified, we came to realize that true changes starts from within one's own heart.

We have committed ourselves to the decision we have made, and we have nothing more to hold on to except to continually seek for mercy and grace from God and the authorities we have submitted ourselves to. So today, we earnestly ask for your prayers as we face another chapter in our lives.