

The Martial Law Years in Iligan City 1972-1981

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Abstract

The study aims to uncover the personal experiences, community responses, and socio-political dynamics of the Iliganons during the Martial Law years from 1972- 1981. By examining these diverse narratives, the research seeks to provide a deeper understanding of how Martial Law impacted the Iliganon's life and influenced local history. This study employs qualitative research, including mixed method of oral history archival research, and descriptive-narrative mode of writing. The researcher interviewed one hundred (100) respondents and consulted primary persons or key informants of the study. However, all forty-four barangays in Iligan were not included. Instead, the researchers intentionally selected ten barangays namely the Saray-Tibangaa, Mahayahay, Pala-o, Suarez, Maria Cristina, Tambacan, Tubod, Buru-un, Hinaplanon, and Kiwalan—as the focus areas. These barangays, chosen for their dense populations and significant impact during the implementation of Martial Law, that play a crucial role in the study. The proponent collected first-hand accounts and historical documents to present various narratives of the Iliganons to elucidate the time's socio-political climate.

1. Introduction

Martial law has been a significant chapter in Philippine history with a profound impact on the country's political, economic, and social aspects. It has also had a wide influence on our society, becoming ingrained in our culture and affecting the sentiments of ordinary people. Studying the impact of Martial Law under President Marcos on the Filipinos will provide a clearer understanding of this dark chapter in Philippine history. The administration of Ferdinand Marcos was a nightmare for Filipinos due to its cruelty and vindictiveness. Martial Law was implemented on September 21, 1972, under the guise of addressing rebellion. It was used to justify radical reforms and was seen as a means to stabilize Philippine society [1].

This study will compare the social conditions of Iligan City before and after the imposition of Martial Law and aims to describe personal experiences, share responses of the people, and understand their perspectives on the 1972-1981 Martial Law years. Moreover, this study is significant for several reasons. First, it is the first attempt to undertake a study on the Perspective of Iliganon's about Martial Law in Iligan City. Second, it provides a first-hand information on the struggles and experiences of the Iliganon's during Martial Law. Third, it could be a potential reference for researchers studying the rich history of Iligan City under Martial Law during the Marcos Regime and for ordinary individuals interested in the history of Iligan City. Fourth, it will supplement the written sources on Iligan City's history. The scope and delimitation of this study focus on the implementation of Martial Law under Marcos's administration from 1972 to 1981, specifically in Iligan City. However, not all the forty-four barangays in Iligan were covered in the study only

ten Barangays were chosen as the locale of the study. These include Saray, Tibanga, Mahayahay, Pala-o, Suarez, Maria Cristina, Tambacan, Tubod, Buru-un, Hinaplanon, Kiwalan. Having the highest population and who were mostly affected by the Martial Law implementation was the primary consideration in concentrating on these Barangays. The very limited time of five months makes the researchers impossible to cover all other barangays in Iligan. In addition, the availability of written documents of these ten barangays motivated them to undertake this endeavor in these areas. Having no readily available transportation to penetrate the hinterlands and the limited financial resources to prepare communication letters to the barangays, allowing the researcher to conduct interviews in the locale, are part of the reasons for excluding the remote areas from the research. Along the way, the researchers met some obstacles, such as discouragement due to the refusal of some of the targeted respondents to be interviewed and availability of a more legal documents. Despite these odds, the researchers still managed to interview people in authority about Martial Law in Iligan City, gather important documents that would validate the study, and make this paper worthy of attention. Finally, all the needed information was sustained through this process.

2. Methods

This study employs qualitative research, particularly descriptive-narrative, and historical types of research. One hundred informants participated in the in-depth interview and focus group discussion, categorized into people who experienced and lived during Martial Law, such as ordinary residents, government employees, non- state actors, and military officials. These 100 are widely distributed to the ten barangays and assigned with twenty respondents

at most for each barangay. Regarding the method of reaching out to respondents, snowball sampling from the people previously interviewed and believed to have knowledge and experiences of the realities relevant to the study became a practice of the researchers. Semi-Structured questionnaire as guide questions was also used during the interview. That is written in bisaya / vernacular as a medium of language. Mobile phones, personal computers, and laptops were used to record and document the interviews conducted. Aside from the interview, the researchers also relied on the available written materials, such as legal documents provided by the City Hall of Iligan that talk about the condition of Iligan before the implementation of Martial Law, resolutions and ordinances issued by Mayor Cabili during Martial Law; relevant documents from the PSA (Philippines Statistic Authority Office) about the demographic profile of Iligan City. This study also utilized secondary sources of information such as books, magazines, newspapers, and articles found in the public library thus making this paper provide a cohesive analysis of the study.

3.1 Results and Findings

3.1.1 Historical Background During Martial Law in Iligan City

Iligan became a chartered city on June 16, 1950, through Republic Act No. 525. The bill was authored by Mohammad Ali Dimaporo and Senator Tomas Cabili and signed into law by President Elpidio Quirino. It achieved chartered city status due to meeting population, income, and land size qualifications [2].

According to Professor Geoffrey Salgado, Iligan is one of Southeast Asia's few rapidly urbanized small-sized cities due to industrialization. From a municipality of 3,329 inhabitants in 1903, Iligan is now an urban center with 300,000 people. The census was taken before the conversion of Iligan from a municipality to a chartered City in 1950. The president appointed the Incumbent Municipal Mayor, Benito Ong, as the first Mayor of Iligan City. He challenged and encouraged business investors to put up huge firms in Iligan City during his administration. As a result, the Maria Cristina Hydroelectric Power Plant was constructed, ushering in the era of industrialization and progress. It followed May of 1953,

the establishment of the Maria Christina Fertilizer Plant and IISMI (Iligan Integrated Steel Mill, Incorporated) which was lately known as National Steel Corporation [3].

During Martial Law, there was hope among the people of Iligan, who sought changes in the government systems to eliminate corruption and bureaucracy. The city experienced order and stability, especially during curfew hours imposed by the local administration. The economic conditions of Iligan improved due to the growth of industries, infrastructure, institutions, and other facilities, benefiting the residents. The city's growth and development were influenced by various policies, including macroeconomic trade and industrial policies and local policies related to city planning and management. Martial Law also led to a wider sense of peace and civil order, as strict compliance with ordinances and regulations was imposed, restricting lawlessness. Business establishments operated without disturbance, and local officials continued to function effectively, providing services to the people. However, it's important to acknowledge that some Iliganons experienced bitterness and injustice, leading to subversion during Martial Law. KI1 accounted: Martial Law in Iligan, job opportunities increased, but as a retired Philippine Army member, I found it difficult to support Marcos's governance. Many soldiers abused their power and tortured individuals, tarnishing the army's reputation [4].

The Resolution No 37, series of 1973 together with the proposed Plantilla of Personnel for the Office of the City of Public Works Supervisor for Fiscal year 1972- 1973, proposed for Streets, Roads and Bridges Fund Budget as contained in the 2nd endorsement of the City Mayor dated February 1, 1973. The City Ordinance No. 963, s.1973, an ordinance appropriating necessary funds for the operation, maintenance, construction and for the repair of the streets, roads and bridges of the City of Iligan for Fiscal year 1972-1973. This resolution passed by the city government provided a mass construction of Infrastructure in Iligan City which provides an efficient transportation that helped as well the economic productivity of Iligan, making firms more competitive, boosting the region's economy. The accessibility of the infrastructures in the city helped shape local firm investments and would attract more investors [5].

Year	Population	Increase/ Decrease
1903 March 1	2,872	
1918 December 31	10,078	7,206
1939 January 1	28,273	18,195
1948 October 1	25,725	2,548
1960 February 15	58,433	32,708
1970 May 6	104,493	46,060
1975 May 1	118,778	14,285

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

Figure 1: The Population Increase From (1903-1975)

Barangays	Total Population 1970	1975
Buru-un	6702	7243
Hinaplanon	6135	7667
Kiwalan	4014	4299
Mahayahay	5704	7704
Maria Cristina	4141	5370
Pala-o	6190	6743
Saray-Tibanga	15,628	17435
Suarez	5174	5700
Tamabacan	3271	4082
Tubod	8311	10426

Source: Iligan City, Office of the City Planning

Figure 2: Population of Ten (10) Barangay From (1970-1975)

The table shows the population of several barangays from 1970-1975. The city's population increased from 104,493 in 1970 to 118,778 in 1975, with an annual growth rate of 2.5%. Tambacan has the highest population density at 8,473 people per square kilometer. The declaration of Martial Law

in Iligan City has created a new opportunity of the economic sphere of the city. The table indicated below shows the total financial resources of the 10 barangays in Iligan City in the period of 1972-1978 [6].

INCOME BY BARANGAY	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Buru-un	14507.04	9234.57	11905.59	14395.59	15077.47	7569.66	16237.36
Hinaplanon	3572.23	3925.36	2392.76	3344.75	2690.25	1383.61	3857.03
Kiwalan	224.65	396.51	27924.34	25425.90	24090.04	13531.62	50757.96
Mahayahay	1807.14	2512.30	2597.29	2924.28	3484.74	1619.61	3916.42
Maria Cristina	10478.64	14484.28	14265.95	14670.72	17784.74	9950.51	15649.33
Pala-o	4767.55	8196.92	8663.98	10291.62	10208.77	5217.73	12686.10
Saray- Tibanga	9238.37	8534.67	8714.38	9052.75	9638.86	4494.37	9831.92
Suarez	40881.96	37,129.98	111921.64	229476.34	270343.13	135732.15	276686.80

Iligan City, Office of the City Planning

Figure 3: Income by Barangay

As shown in the Table of the Iligan City Treasurer the income of the city from 1972-1977. In the year 1977, the City of Iligan, realized an income of 13,782,908.80. The Department of

Finance on September 13, 1977 issued an order reclassifying Iligan into a First Class-A city, effective July 1, 1977 pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 465.

Income Accounts	FY 1972	FY 1973	FY1974	FY 1975	FY 1976	FY 1977
Internal Revenue Allotment	387,747.26	546,024.00	1,641,347.40	1,641,347.40	1,641,347.40	2,051,684.28
Revenue from Taxation	3,392,950.37	4,285,411.97	4,339,777.74	6,962,941.18	7,656,859.05	8,518,068.91
Revenue from Economic Enterprises	173,901.70	86,411.57	344,461.38	599,406.94	649,998.22	705,897.7
Fees, Permits, Rentals, Penalties	219,365.28	201,565.52	391,028.15	370,627.23	484,556.21	683,949.70
Other receipts	1,185,296.82	1,320,144.90	1,796,434.61	3,231,647.84	8,300,718.50	1,823,308.44
TOTAL	5,359,264.43	6,538,550.2	8,513,049.28	12,805,959	18,733,552.38	13,782,908.80

Source: Office of the City Planning, Iligan City

Figure 4: Income Account from FY 1972-1977

The economically active group in the city is assumed to be 48 percent of the labor force, with an employment rate of 93 percent. However, the impact of industrial progress, educational turnover, and overseas employment has likely increased the economic participation in the city. During the years of Martial Law, Iligan experienced a peak in economic

progress. This was attributed to a significant increase in employment and enhanced resource productivity. Despite the growing social tensions across the Philippines during this period, Iligan City was acknowledged as a first-class city due to its economic prosperity and rising employment opportunities [7].

3.3 Social Condition of Iligan City Under Martial Law

From 1972 to 1981, the Philippines was under Martial Law, with President Marcos wielding absolute power. This period generated both negative and positive impressions among Filipinos. The proclamation 1081, dated September 21, 1972, declared a state of Martial Law due to widespread destruction of lives and property, lawlessness, anarchy, chaos, and disorder. President Marcos ordered the enforcement of a curfew from midnight to 4 o'clock in the morning, with violators facing arrest and possible military custody. In support of Proclamation No. 1081, Mayor Camillo Cabili issued Resolution No. 392, Series of 1972, outlining the general provisions of Martial Law. The resolution aimed to inform the residents of Iligan City, particularly the 44 Barangays and their respective barrio captains. The members of the Board Alfredo R. Busico, Casimere P. Cabigon, and Antonio P. Fabe requested the military authorities of Iligan to conduct meetings or forums with all barrio captains to educate them about Proclamation 1081. This resolution was signed and approved by the City Vice Mayor, Pacificador Lluch, and the Secretary of the Municipal Board, Voltaire Rovira. The City Resolution effectively declared the imposition of Martial Law in Iligan City, leading to the enforcement of various laws and orders, including the suspension of the freedom of the press, application of curfew hours, total repression of civil rights, and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus [8,9].

President Marcos restructured the local administrative system in the Philippines, creating barangays as smaller units and further dividing them into puroks or zones. The Local Government Code of the Philippines outlines the process for creating, merging, or altering barangays and their boundaries through law or ordinance, subject to a majority vote in a referendum conducted by the Comelec. The New Philippine Constitution of 1973 guaranteed and promoted the autonomy of local government units, especially the barrios, to ensure their development as self-reliant communities. On December 21, 1972, President Ferdinand Marcos issued Presidential Decree No. 86, which aimed to broaden citizen participation in the democratic process and provide ample opportunities for the citizenry to express their views on important national issues. This Decree mandated the creation of a Barangay or the Citizen's Assembly in each barrio in every municipality, municipal district, and chartered city. In cases where there are no barrios in cities or municipalities, a Citizen's Assembly should be established for every barangay [10].

3.4 Iligan As A Safety Place

Even before Iligan became a chartered city on June 16, 1950, it was already home to residents from three different ethnic groups: the M'ranos, Christian migrants, and Higaonons, as well as other indigenous peoples. The coexistence of these groups led to conflicts during wartime due to their distinct beliefs, traditions, and customs. During Mayor Camillo Cabili's administration, he made sure to address the prevailing peace and order issues in the city, particularly the conflicts between Muslims and Christians and the threat of rebellion and sedition. Military camps, such as

Tipanoy Camp and the Army Brigade in Maria Cristina, were established strategically to ensure security, preventing rebel groups such as the MNLF and NPA from attacking the city. Mayor Cabili also made efforts to unite the Muslim and Christian communities in Iligan by convening a peace conference attended by leaders from the five barrios of the city, including Mandulog, Rogongon, Digkilaan, Bonbon, and Mainit. During the conference, it was agreed that an ordinance would be passed authorizing leaders and barrio officials to list the names of new Muslim residents in their respective areas. Another important point reached during the conference was the decision to have barrio leaders fully support barrio officials in maintaining peace and order and to organize committees in each barrio with members from the Christian, Muslim, and native communities. Barrio Captain Marigo Dianal of Tubaran asked the sultans of Barrio Mandulog to reaffirm their commitment to achieving peaceful coexistence with Christians in their areas. The sultans responded positively, declaring that, having known the habits and customs of Christians for years, there was no reason why they could not live together in harmony. Mayor Cabili appealed to the conference attendees that in the case of killings, regardless of whether the victim is Christian or Muslim, the matter should be brought before the proper authorities. He emphasized that nobody should take the law into their own hands and that peaceful means of trials and execution should be pursued [11].

Before Martial Law was declared, there was a widespread unrest in Mindanao due to the activities of the Barracuda and Ilaga groups. Governor Quibranza, Mayor Camillo Cabili, and other Christian officials accused Ali Dimaporo and his brother Naga of being responsible for leading the Barracuda. Additionally, Governor Quibranza also accused the organization of three liquidation squads supported by non-Moro Ilaga vigilantes armed with weapons and ammunition. The conflict between Barracuda and Ilaga became so severe in Lanao del Norte that President Marcos had to personally intervene. After Martial Law was declared, the conflict between the Barracuda and Ilaga intensified, resulting in increased killings and criminal activities. Despite these conflicts, Barracuda and Ilaga were unable to infiltrate the area of Iligan and did not cause any disruptions in the city. In Iligan City the prelude and the period of implementation of Martial Law heightened the social tensions in the area as series of bombings and social threat prevails that added factors of how the people of Iligan feel the in dire need of security and safety of the individual. The first dynamite explosion in the city caused havoc and fear among the Iliganons. A leftist group was suspected of trying to destabilize the local government. Some blamed the government for the chaos, while authorities believed NPAs were involved. Business owners and public entities were urged to stay vigilant. Three activist groups criticized the bombing, calling it a staged event to justify Martial Law. Another bombing incident that happened at the Premier Cinema, now at Barangay Poblacion. Ali Undag reported a grenade and a bottle of gasoline inside the cinema. SSD forces and attorney Encarnacion are investigating the incident at the NBI office, and the cinema's management has

been ordered to stop the show for inspection.¹⁴ On April 18, 1979, an ambush in Tumpol Malimbato, Iligan City resulted in the deaths of 5 individuals, including Ramon Olbinario, a 20-year-old from Dalamas, Iligan, and workers of PTH construction Incorporation. The perpetrators have not been identified, but there are speculations that the NPA (National People's Army) was involved. During the period of Martial Law, despite the social unrest in Iligan, the implementation of curfew hours positively impacted the city. It led to a sense of reform in the community, contributing to improved security and the maintenance of peace and order. The regular presence of patrolling authorities on the city streets led to decreased criminal activities, making the city safer for its residents [11-15].

KI 2 accounted: I had very good experiences during the martial law because of the peace and order situation. Initially, I was afraid of its implementation. However, as time went on, I realized and understood that martial law was beneficial for our society as it helped control young people's behavior and reduce criminal activity in our city. The implementation of curfew hours led to more disciplined individuals. I can attest to the discipline of our young people at that time as I served as the first Kabataang Baranggay Chairman at Santa Filomena. The curfew hours had a positive impact. In terms of peace and order, I could sleep soundly without fear of burglars because plenty of soldiers were patrolling the city. Crimes and criminality decreased, and I felt safe during that time. According to sir Boy Lapot: Crimes in Barangay Buru-un were kept to a minimum due to establishing a checkpoint from Barangay Ditucalan to Barangay Buru-un. My father, a retired Philippine Constabulary, mentioned that people found in the streets would be arrested starting at midnight. Those who violated the rule would be taken into custody at Camp Tipanoy. Checkpoint security was intensified in our Barangay due to its vulnerability to threats from NPA, Barracuda, and Ilaga

It has been viewed that the social atmosphere of Iligan during those times were in the stage of upheaval that somehow affected entirely the life of Iliganon in terms of security and personal safety, but this aftermath chaos however, were compensated by social-economic programs of the present administration which booster the opportunities of employment that made Iligan City a choice of residence to people who were in dire need of jobs and made the city as one of the most industrial city in Mindanao. The social condition in Iligan City during Martial Law was characterized by repression and fear, but also resilience and solidarity among its residents. The impact of this period is still felt today, that influence the city's social and political landscape.

3.4 Narratives on Human Rights Violation

Martial law has been a significant chapter in Philippine history, profoundly impacting the country's political, economic, and social aspects. It has also had a wide influence on our society, becoming ingrained in our culture and affecting the sentiments of ordinary people. Studying the impact of Martial Law under President Marcos on the Filipinos will provide a clearer understanding of this dark

chapter in Philippine history." The declaration of Martial Law also asserted the restrictions on the freedom of the press. Private-owned radio, newspapers, magazines, and television facilities were seized. The media commentators could not easily voice their sentiments and exposed news reports that were against Marcos's administration and Martial Law as well since the press and other mass communications media had been put under the strict control of the Marcos government. In the case of Iligan City radio stations like the DXIC, DCMI, and DXRG were among the stations not included in the seizure instituted by the President because they did not report any unwanted issues against the Marcos governance.

KI 3 accounted: During the time of Martial Law, I worked as a radio commentator. Although there were commentaries I wanted to share, I had to hold back. We were prohibited from expressing opinions or sentiments against Marcos and Martial Law. I started at DXIC and later moved to DXMI and then DXRG. These radio stations remained open because they were the only ones willing to broadcast content critical of Marcos and his government. While we reported killings, we did not delve deeply into government issues. We also received news about abuses and inhumane treatment by the military, but we chose not to broadcast it. [16].

In the late 1960s to 1970s, student activism surged against the Marcos regime. The protests, led by Kabataang Makabayan (KM), aimed for democratic reforms. Martial Law suppressed the movement, leading to arrest abuse of activist. In Iligan City, a growing number of student activists at MSU-IIT were actively advocating for government reforms. Under the Marcos administration, those student activists who refused to surrender were arrested by the PC (Philippine Constabulary) and the Army, and many of them experienced torture and abuse. KI4 accounted: In Barangay Tubod, there have been reports of abuses and torture by military personnel, with detainees in Camp Tipanoy facing severe restrictions and physical violence. Additionally, former propaganda members have been targeted, and there are reports of activists going missing [17].

An interview with a key informant, whose identity he didn't want to be disclosed for security reasons, revealed that during the height of Martial Law in 1972, he was in his first year of college. At that time, an organized activist group was scattered to different places in Mindanao and the Visayas Islands, particularly in Cebu. Although he decided to stay in Iligan to pursue his studies, others who had wandered to different places for propaganda movement eventually returned. When they reunited, they shared accounts about the abuses under the Marcos regime, which led them to form a group with the aim of overthrowing the military rule of Marcos. There were encounters between his group and government forces, resulting in some members being killed, captured, or scattered. Despite being pursued, he managed to escape and traveled to Pangasinan, Isabela, and Manila to look for other members of their group. When he returned home to Iligan to see his family, he was captured. After months of interrogation, he was released by the Philippine

Constabulary (PC) but was detained again in Camp Alagar for further questioning. Following his release, he began evading and hiding from the authorities. He encountered some of his fellow fighters who planned another propaganda movement against the Marcos administration. His role in the movement was to produce and post pamphlets and leaflets in public places. While doing so, he was captured and detained in a pigpen but was eventually released with the help of his government-employed cousin. As a condition of his freedom, he was required to report to Camp in Tipanoy and disclose his itineraries for the whole week. He was prohibited from associating with people and other different groups. Some of his fellow members were subjected to torture, including broken noses and ribs. Despite the pressure and torture, the First Quarter Storm Survivor Dekada 70, continues to exist silently, comprising surrendered MNL and NPA members. Some of his fellow group members went to Kalinga Apayao to fight for their cause. They often convened in safe houses in Mahayahay, Palao, and Poblacion. Another group, called "Lumping," was more combat-oriented and created chaos, throwing pillboxes at the riot squad of Marcos and being the front-liners in rallies and demonstrations. Some activists went to Davao and were initially called "Sparrow" or liquidation squads. They experienced abuse from uniformed personnel, including having their hair shaved with very dull bayonets while imprisoned in Tipanoy, resulting in wounds and bulging on their heads. Eventually, they were granted amnesty and given a small amount of money to start a livelihood and to align with the government [18].

In an interview of this key informant, he stated: I created and posted stenciled pamphlets and leaflets in public places, which attracted the authorities' attention. I was detained and interrogated in a detention camp for a month. After that, I had to report to Camp Tipanoy weekly and was prohibited from being in a group of people and entering Iligan. Our group was called First Quarter Storm Dekada 70 [19].

The imposition of Martial Law has led to increased violations of rights. This includes the suppression of freedom of the press, restrictions on mass assemblies, and public dissent against the government, as well as instances of torture and injustice carried out by the military and Philippine constabulary forces. These actions have caused the people of Iligan to become more aggressive in their opposition to Marcos' one-person rule. In an interview with KI6 informants' states: Marco's implementation of Martial Law was not effective in terms of social context and reshaping freedom of speech. The limitations on freedom of speech greatly affect individual rights. People are not able to freely express their opinions about the government's wrong doings due to fear of reprisal. Before Martial Law, student organizations were widespread. However, during Martial Law, student activists were arrested, and some went missing and never returned home [20].

Before the declaration of Martial Law on September 21, 1972, the city experienced widespread strikes. The government had to intervene to control the situation. The Iligan Electric Company, owned by the prominent Borja family, was involved

in a strike, leading to blackouts in the city and causing distress among the population and industries. Upon declaring Martial Law, strikes were automatically considered illegal, and the workers were ordered to return to their jobs. Arnold Van Vugt, as reported in the Sun Star Philippines, was ordered to appear in a military camp for investigation regarding the social action activities he initiated. He was put under house arrest while the investigation was ongoing. The authorities found him guilty of subversion, and he was officially placed under detention in Camp Tipanoy. He was kept separate from other detainees and was held incommunicado, with guards stationed at the entrance of the camp to prevent his subversive ideology from influencing other detainees [21].

Illegal incarceration of political enemies was widespread in the locality of Iligan City. Francisco Dosdos, one of the detained politicians, was arrested at about 9 in the morning of March 26, 1976, by a team of the Military Intelligence Group (MIG) riding on a civilian jeep that arrived at the office of Francisco Dosdos in the National Steel Corporation at Suarez, Iligan City. They informed Franc that he had an Arrest Search and Seizure Order (ASSO). Beside him, the Military Intelligence Group (MIG) arrested an official of the Industrial Relations Department of the Company. Both were brought to the Headquarters of the Philippine Constabulary (PC) in Camp Tomas Cabili, Tipanoy, Iligan City. After a short while, Franc Dosdos was blindfolded, and the jeep traveled in an unknown direction. After about 20 minutes, the jeep stopped. Still, he was blindfolded and guided to walk some steps into a place, something like a room, where he heard people's voices. One said, "I have not yet killed today and there was man came to his side, made him touch his hairy and muscular forearm, and said, "So, you are malakas, let us see". Maybe you are a commander. You stand with a military bearing, and you have a military haircut". He heard somebody crying again. Now and then, somebody would scream, obviously in pain. Francisco Dosdos, when he was detained, was asked several questions about some personalities whom he said were communists. Late in the afternoon, an older man in civilian clothes, whom he learned later to be one of Master Sergeant Max Salazar joined in the interrogation. He had a harsh voice, and his posture was threatening. Franc Dosdos thought that he would experience or be subject to physical torture. In the evening, he slept in the room referred to as the "lion's den" by his interrogator. He saw David Borja, who already had a black eye, and Roberto Cahoy, who had a bruise on his chin, was once a victim of torture. When he fell asleep, he was punctuated by screams and cries as tortures and executions continued. Borja and Cahoy were already badly beaten. Pastor Tenorio, Jr. Romulo Cantutay, Jimmy Pineda, Carmencito Yamba, Roberto Cahoy, David Borja, and Francisco Dosdos were confined in an overcrowded detention cell. Every day, they would suffer the humiliating conditions in the cell, shortages of food, and small bathrooms and toilets used by around 25 - 30 detainees. After that ordeal and torture session, they were detained back in Tipanoy and had no idea what case they were being charged with and when they could possibly be released. One year passed, and they were still in a stockade in Tipanoy. Francisco Dosdos was not immediately released as President Marcos claimed; he

was released on March 4, 1977, a year later. Marcos ordered his release but was still under surveillance and required to report weekly in camp Tipanoy [22].

K17 accounted: I was a political detainee during Martial Law. I was arrested on March 26, 1976, and held in Camp Tipanoy for nearly a year. During my detention, I witnessed the suffering of my fellow detainees who were subjected to torture. When Jimmy Carter assumed the presidency in 1977, he stated that aid to countries holding political detainees might be cut. In response, President Marcos of the Philippines denied the presence of political detainees and ordered their release. I was eventually released on March 4, 1977. Under Martial Law, the Filipino people have been deprived of their rights, such as rights to due process, meaningful participation in the decision-making process [23].

touching their common welfare, and right to truth and information. These elements are believed to be a massive injustice compounded by the manipulation of people by the dehumanizing fear that comes with the power of the gun. In an interview with KI8 (Key Informant) a former Kapitan from Barangay Bunawan, he mentioned that the NPA (New People's Army) infiltrated the area, and many people, including the Barangay Captain, evacuated the area. Those who remained in the barangay were supporters of the NPA, referred to as "Masa." Ederito Cabarubias was among those who stayed in the barangay and supported the NPA. Despite the danger, he chose not to leave. Following a confrontation between the army and the NPA, five soldiers were killed, escalating tensions between the two groups. President Marcos then assigned the 12th Infantry Battalion to reinforce security in the area, stationing them at Camp Isaac Dandasan Sr. in Barangay Bunawan. Reports indicate that the military committed atrocities, including killing livestock for food and engaging in violence against civilians, particularly those associated with leftist political groups such as the Communist Party of the Philippines. The residents of Barangay Bunawan felt powerless to confront or report these actions, fearing retaliation or conviction. Tragically, there were reports of civilian women being subjected to rape, torture, and killing by the military based on suspicion alone [24].

3.5 People's Responses Towards the Martial Law

The declaration of Martial Law in Iligan City sparked mixed reactions among the locals. Some saw it as a necessary measure to suppress subversion and rebellious movements, while others believed it would negatively impact the city's social conditions and curtail civil rights. The initial response of the Iliganons to the proclamation of Martial Law provided insight into their level of acceptance of the new government under the Marcos administration. After considering the pros and cons in their own private assessment, many acknowledged the undeniable achievements of the Marcos administration, particularly in economic growth and infrastructure development. Marcos's efforts to propel the Philippine economic progress were evident in the significant improvement of infrastructure, including roads, highways, bridges, schools, hospitals, and academic institutions.

During Marcos' rule, many people opposed his regime through protests and spreading information. Those in Iligan who opposed the administration struggled to overcome the hardships of being captured and detained by military forces. Media was heavily censored, making it difficult for the true extent of the abuses during Marcos' regime to be known. Some in Iligan viewed the declaration of Martial Law as a step towards economic progress, as the administration focused on infrastructure projects, which still have a positive impact today. Many saw the Martial Law years as a way to restore order in society, especially those who were not directly affected by the repressions in the preceding years. The human rights abuses resonated with some of the residents in Iligan City, fueling discontent towards the government. The illegal arrest and detentions and implementation of curfew hours contributes to the fear and frustrations of the Iliganon's particularly to those who are directly involved. The implementation of curfew hours, the strict censorship of the media, and the increase human rights violations affected the socio-political dynamics of the city. The response of this implementation in Iligan reflect a range of varied experiences and perspective that entirely shaped by the broader concept of the of socio-political unrest that widely affected the local conditions.

3.6 1972 Martial Law: From the Iliganon's Perspective

President Marcos's imposition of Martial Law created opposing views among the Filipino people, especially in the Southern Philippines. It was meant to confiscate guns and armaments and quell rebellion. However, it left a social stigma due to abuse by uniformed personnel. Some saw it as a year of disgrace, while others in Iligan saw new opportunities despite adversities [25].

The comparison between Marcos' Martial Law and Duterte's Martial rule reveals significant differences. Duterte declared Martial Law in Mindanao in response to the rebellion in Marawi, while Marcos imposed Martial Law throughout the entire country. Unlike the reported human rights violations and abuses under Marcos, Duterte's Martial Law in Mindanao did not lead to widespread oppression. The Philippine Army and PNP under Duterte's Martial Law were reported to be more disciplined and respectful of human rights. The impact of Martial Law under Marcos has left long- lasting psychological and emotional wounds on many Filipinos. At the same time, Duterte's Martial Law in Mindanao did not significantly disrupt the people's lives in the region. President Duterte's Martial Law did not curtail freedom of speech or other fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution, and the government agencies continued to operate normally. Additionally, President Duterte did not suspend the writ of habeas corpus and ensured that warrants supported all arrests. KI10 accounted: For me, the implementation of Martial Law by President Duterte provides security to the City of Iligan, because of the impositions of curfew hours. Before martial Law, Iligan was in the state of chaos and upheaval caused by the drug addicts, because of the curfew hours the crimes had lessen. During the time of Marcos, the implementation of curfew hours also strengthens of civil order of the locality. We know for the fact that Marcos

declare Martial law because of the rebellious movement. I am in favor about the extension of Martial Law in Mindanao; there's no reason to be afraid of, military officials were not abusive with their power towards the people. But those who were against the government and practice lawlessness were the one who feared the law [26].

In Proclamation No. 216, President Duterte declared a state of Martial Law in Mindanao due to a national emergency caused by lawless violence. The issuance of this proclamation was prompted by the series of violent acts committed by the Maute terrorist groups, resulting in casualties among ordinary citizens and government forces. It's important to note that President Duterte's declaration of Martial Law should not be equated to the imposition of martial law throughout the Philippines during Marcos's presidency, as these two instances have generated differing views, both positive and negative. The proclamation of this law by President Duterte has elicited a mixed response from the people of Iligan. It will enhance security and maintain civil order in Mindanao against rebellion. On the other hand, there is a concern that President Duterte may potentially use this to extend his presidency and perpetrate the same abuses and injustices seen in the past. It's crucial to consider the implications of Martial Law and its potential impact on the region. KI11 recounted: Upon the declaration of martial law our parents are surprised even because the policies of martial law are dangerous. during that time there are lots of injustices or cases of human rights violation due to the abuses conducted by the Philippine const and the Philippine army. Dutertes martial law in the present, has been viewed differently, some agrees to it while others oppose it as we can never avoid people who doesn't like the laws passed. but in my opinion, I am thankful for Duterte's proclamation of martial law in Mindanao because it has served peace and order to our city especially the checkpoints that they initiated to ensure the security of the people in the city. I can really see that the Martial law declared by Duterte has no cases of abuses committed or taking of advantage from the soldier [27].

Some Iliganons have perceived the implementation of Martial Law by President Duterte in Mindanao as a measure to maintain public order and safety. Since its implementation, peace has been a relative restoration, leading to renewed confidence among regional investors. This has created opportunities for the people of Mindanao. Some Iliganons see positive aspects of the Martial Law proclamation, such as the military upholding sovereignty, protecting the people, and respecting civilian authority and human rights. It's important to acknowledge that while there are similarities between Duterte's and Marcos's implementation of Martial Law in terms of peace and security, the injustices that occurred during Marcos's regime cannot be overlooked. KI12 Master Sgt. Accounted: I was very active during the Martial Law period of Marcos because I was a soldier. Around 1977, I was assigned here in Iligan. Me, being a soldier, I was very much favor of Marcos declaring Martial Law because there has been a lot of changes in our city as a result of the many

programs implemented by Marcos. Many have found and enjoyed job opportunities. We, in the military, we really can't go against Marcos, except with those who attempted coup d'etat. There's really nothing to worry about Martial Law and us soldiers because we, soldiers, like everybody else, also want peace for our country. It's only the lawless people that should be afraid because we would really apprehend them. If I would look at the Martial Law of Duterte now, it is very far different from the Martial Law before, because I see it now, it's just like semi-Martial Law that most people haven't felt that there is such Martial Law in place here in Mindanao [28].

4. Discussions

The study aims to shed light on the social conditions in Iligan before and during the implementation of Martial Law under the Marcos administration. Based on the gathered data, the researcher reveals the social atmosphere of Iligan and its impact on the lives of its residents. It also delves into their experiences, struggles, and how they perceived Martial Rule. The study serves as a narrative of the events during the Martial Law era, considered one of the darkest chapters in history, especially for those who experienced its severity. It also seeks to document the personal experiences of individuals who directly faced the adverse effects of Martial rule in Iligan City. The research reveals Iligan City's history before and during Martial Law, a period of one-person rule by the President. Iligan City was chartered on June 16, 1950, and experienced rapid socio-economic development, transforming into a highly industrialized and first-class city. Under the leadership of Mayor Benito Ong and later Mayor Camilo Cabili, the city saw significant progress and development, including infrastructure projects and economic growth. Despite the diverse ethnic and religious makeup of the population, the city faced wartime struggles due to differences in beliefs and traditions. The declaration of Martial Law had varying effects on the residents of Iligan. While some felt a sense of security due to curfews and reduced lawlessness, others experienced fear and injustice, leading to subversion. Nonetheless, the city's political stability during this period was still in controllable phase.

Recommendation

A study of this kind deserves no ordinary efforts. Heart, minds and soul should be with the work. Social issues affecting the day to day lives of the citizens need attention so that the comprehensive understanding will lead to the solutions of the prevailing concerns. To those future researchers who would like to conduct similar research study, it is highly recommended a more thorough and in-depth study be done to fill the gap that is due to the limitations incurred in this study. To gather and conduct interviews to people who had the first - hand experience and direct witnesses to the events studied. So that an objective, biases free outcome be arrived at that will make the study more verifiable, credible, valid and more authentic that can be the source of information that can be used for future planning and reference. It is suggested that, if possible, the 44 barangays of Iligan City will be part of the study.

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