

Written by

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***JGL Eye Column***

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CHICAGO (*jGLi*) – The tense atmosphere that pervaded in Manila last week has all the stuff that people power 3 was made off. Thankfully, by some quirks of events, the brewing constitutional crisis between the judiciary and executive branch was defused when the Commission on Election and the Department of Justice filed the election sabotage charges against former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

When the Filipino people did not go to Ninoy Aquino International Airport to bar Rep. Arroyo from leaving for her medical treatment abroad and bought time to let political apparatus takes its course, it was a sign of the maturity of the political system in the Philippines

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Let's face it. If the DOJ-Comelec did not file the criminal charges against Arroyo, the war of words between the DOJ and the Supreme Court would have escalated. It would have prompted the people to spill into the street and to proceed to NAIA to prevent the departure of Mrs. Arroyo and her husband, former First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

The people would be there to handle the matter had the Arroyos insisted on leaving as disagreement between the two branches of government was leading into a full-blown crisis.

### **REPLICATING THAILAND**

The scenario would have replicated the events in Thailand three years ago when the People's Alliance for Democracy or the Yellow Shirts invaded the two ends of the road in front of the terminal building of Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok and blockaded the road to the airport and overpowered hundreds of policemen in full riot gear, canceling flights and leaving thousands of travelers in the airport as they protested corruption of the Thai government.

When the government called on the Royal Thai Army to restore order at the airport, the Army

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did not follow orders, like the Philippine military, who called for people's support in EDSA in 1986 and 2000.