

Rehearsal Script for *99 Dead Performance Art*¹

Translation by Sanam Ratsadon

#99DeadPerformanceArt was performed. The show was held on September 19, 2020 in front of the Supreme Court, where the FreeArts group staged various cultural art activities. The performance was a part of the mass demonstration *#19SeptReturnPowertoThePeople* [*#19กันยาทวงอำนาจคืนราษฎร*] protest in Sanam Luang by United Front of Thammasat and Demonstration.²

99 Dead is a work of performance art in remembrance of almost 100 lives lost during the April - May 2010 government crackdown on Red Shirts protesters. Upon the violence, the Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's only response was "Unfortunately, some people died."³ Even to this day, no culprit from the government nor the military was charged or prosecuted. But however, many Red Shirts have been charged again and again [for demonstrating in 2010]. Despite various obstacles that have prevented those responsible for the killings from being held accountable, the demand for justice rages on for more than 10 years. The number of deaths, therefore, is the only concrete tangible proof in this atrocity that these deaths must not be forgotten. It is from this where the idea for the performance was derived.

Performance Recording

Part I: "Unforgettable / Unrememberable" [*ลืมไม่ได้ จำไม่ลง*]

Unforgettable/ Unrememberable is a poem by Kal Real on the incidents[massacres] of 6 October 1976 to May 2010 addresses the continuity of state violence against people who think differently -- the kind of violence that did not stop at what we saw or heard, but one that has continued to be perpetrated through laws and guns.⁴ During the 6 October 1976 massacre, deep hatred among civilians was systematically orchestrated by the state. The Nawaphon, Red Gaurs Movement, and Village Scouts served as state machineries acting in the name of the Nation, Religion, and Monarchy to demonize, kill, smash, beat, and

¹ [The script was written as an internal document for the performers so that they would understand the contexts and performance cues, especially because many were quite young in 2010. The footnotes were inserted by the editorial collective to assist in providing contexts for those unfamiliar with Thailand.]

² <https://twitter.com/hashtag/19กันยาทวงอำนาจคืนราษฎร>

<https://m.facebook.com/ThammasatUFTD/>

³ It can be interpreted that in an act of protest, the group FreeArts reverses the appointed prime minister's unremorseful words in a turn of phrase by performing and shouting "Someone Died Here!" at every site where demonstrators were killed.

⁴ The term of "thinking differently," refers to dissident politics in Thailand including Marxist-communism, anti-royalism, republicanism, or simply progressive leftist political positions.

burn people who had different opinions. This will be expressed [in the performance] through bloodstained shirts left along the way.⁵

Have you forgotten, or not?

The scratch marks, the old poems & verses

The melodies of revolutionary songs, the eulogies for martyrs

The tragedy of massacre on the grounds "under the Bodhi tree"

Have you forgotten, or not?

The flaming rays of sun & the scent of grass blooms on the football field

Scenes of life, of fighting shoulder-to-shoulder

Sounds of calling out and opening up, for the realization of dreams

Just so people could take one step forward in freedom

From the snares of hardship & poverty

From injustice, to a civilization of reason

With bare hands waving away darkness

Sowing faith, rousing hope from the ground

Like flower buds opening on a riverbank in a morning of calm

But the reality of truth in a country existing in falsehood where

Names that came before come after, names that come after rise to the top

Named Proud but full of hatred, anybody disagrees is an enemy

What is white is black, no fairness to speak of ever

People work the fields with buffalo, buffalo-like people grow in power

Dictatorship never dies, while the ones that must die turn to dust beneath dust

Have you forgotten, or not?

The sobs of allies

⁵ For more information about the 6 October 1976 massacre see: Bowie, Katherine. *Rituals of National Loyalty: An Anthropology of the State and Village Scout Movement in Thailand* New York: Columbia University Press, 1997. Thongchai Winichakul. "Remembering/Silencing the Traumatic Past : The Ambivalent Memories of the October 1976 Massacre in Bangkok." In *Cultural Crisis and Social Memory: Modernity and Identity in Thailand and Laos*, edited by Shigeharu Tanabe; Charles Keyes. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2002. See also: Winichakul, Thongchai. "Moments of Silence: The Unforgetting of the October 6, 1976 Massacre in Bangkok." *Hawai'i: University of Hawai'i Press*, 2020.

Friends, comrades, the masses, and one's own head underfoot

Surrounded on all sides!

The force crashing down like a great storm of venomous

Smear campaigns from the sky!

Words of wolves barking & howling & growling

Sounds of rounds, grenades & full-auto machine guns Bang! Bang! Bang!

Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang

Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang

Like a farmer gone mad, who slits the throats of his own animals!

Picks off hardened wings that dared to fly into the rings of storm and

Plucks the soft white feathers, soaked in the color of blood

Youth slaughtered

Breath cut off, logic barred

Tunnels of hope barricaded

Dreams & ideals erased & purged

“.....”

Or, is it unrememberable?

The pile of people's bodies on a pyre of hatred

Like scrap parts of plebeians & slaves

Torn off by the force of booby traps & land mines left after the war

Left for the vultures & the crows to feast on merrily

Or, is it unrememberable—

The fact that those dangling remains of a human are human just like us

Are they not?!

Each of those bodies is some mother's child

Is some younger sister's big sibling

Is some son's father

Those limbs

Count among the people in this same motherland, do they not?

Loud and angry music is being played. Bodies are falling all over to the ground. Red strains everywhere. But people are still trying to get up and move forward, up and move forward, endlessly. Ten killed, hundred

thousands more will be reborn. A treadmill belt lacking any consciousness whatsoever, but existing only in the trigger. Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! People like scraps of carcasses, unresponsive and unaware. A license to kill has been echoing for over a week now. Signaling for violence, the middle-class who sipping their wine in the city's center said -- 'Do something about it!' Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang

Part II: List of Those Killed in the April-May 2010 Massacre

At the end of each name that is read aloud, the performers gradually fall to the ground, with red dust scatters into the air. Those who died have a name and exist. From one person falling onto the ground like stacks of spoons, 1...2...3...10...50. Then, a woman in a nurses' uniform rushes in to help those who fell. She tries to flip over and drag the person that is piled on the floor. Bang! The sound of gunfire rang out. In an audio reading list--- Kamolkade Akahad's name was read aloud. It is the name of Ms. Phayao Akahad's daughter. Phayao Akahad, is the middle-aged actress who was wearing the same nurse's uniform that belonged to her daughter, fell to the ground. That is the end of the list of names who are recorded; many are still missing with their fate unknown. The song "Love You Thailand" is played, as the cheers of joy explodes as if peace had been achieved. A group of people with garbage bags and cleaning equipment come out to collecting the bloodstained shirts on the road, while waving the national flag. "Big Cleaning Day"— it is the whitewashing and bleaching by the government "Together We Can"—we are the accomplices, committing a massacre in the centre of the capital.

Part III: Song of Remembrance

The finale song is "A Farewell Letter from the Revolutionist" [จดหมายลาตายจากนักปฏิวัติ] by the band Kampun [The Fist], joined by the performers.

When you're down, know that the stars are still up in the sky. Still there the stories of our days and our comrades.

Our homeland awaits your return.

The land where thieving demons in disguise rule.

So I'm flying away, a farewell to the nightmare.

Of friends falling in the middle of gun smoke.

Where they kill, slaughter, decimate, imprison, cleanse, trample, & return to happiness.

So I shall leave our home with you, father, mother, daughters and sons.

If I am lucky and haven't died yet, I will return to the people in victory.

Hug my dear friends, remove the shackles on our comrades.

If one day earth must cover my body, remember I died for the people.

I leave it to you who hear this song.... Keep fighting!

Sixty volunteer performers met to rehearse for the upcoming show, for the next a few hours before the performance. The majority of them had no prior experience with the performance. Some of them travelled far away from different provinces. Many, more or less, had heard stories about the massacre. But all of them shared concern about the current state of affairs. We begin to rehearse with the basics of what we need to learn for the performance: how to fall, to walk, to save yourself and others by observing the people surrounding each performer. Also, how to address unexpected situations and immediately resolve problems that might occur. Everyone was well informed of the performance structure and procedures. We spent almost four hours in the rehearsal room before delivering our performance to an audience.

This project was made possible by various groups of people from different sectors: theatre artists, musicians, poets, and volunteers took part as performers. It was an initiative of *Red Comrades* who wanted to commemorate the heroes and those who died in the 2010, both the people and state officials. with the desire that people will know what happened and so that nobody will ever be mistreated like that ever again.

Special thanks to *Red Comrades* who initiated this project. Thank you to all the artists, the crew team, performers, and all the volunteers that devoted your physical bodies and minds, time.

In hope that the message will not be silenced and fade with time.

With faith in the People,

Liberation Art Group- *FreeArts*

List of the *99 Dead Performance Art* performers

- Kal Real [poet and reciter of the poem, "Unforgettable, Unrememberable"]
- Phayao Akahad [guest performer; mother of nurse Kamolkade Akahad killed in the May 2010 massacre]
- The band Kampun [Fist] [singers of "A Farewell Letter from the Revolutionist" [จดหมายลาตายจากนักปฏิวัติ]]
- Karn Suphanapasod (Karn)
- Kittiya Eakkapojnanun (Gift)
- Komsan Chonpairroj (Jumbo)
- Khunpat Khachana
- Jiratita Tammarak (Hugo)
- Chanakarn Rujimol (Ammy)
- Chonlakarn Hiranchai (May)
- Chanon Chinprasert (Non)
- Chitchai Thanawattanakorn (Tommy Def)

- Napattra Wongsanguan (Toonglao)
- Nattadanai Ngaamwilai (Ice)
- Dumrongsak Wongudom (Fluke)
- Tonpat Leuritkul (Boss)
- Songklod Bunkorn (Keng)
- Thanawat Srimeung (Nay)
- Thanawin Panrat (Best)
- Thanaporn Dejkunchorn (Nutchorn)
- Thamphat Khongkaew
- Naphatsorn Taychanarawong (Eef)
- Nantayod Baancheun (Nui)
- Netchanok Sritokham (Gade)
- Pathompong Kwangthong (Meen)
- Praphamonton lamjan (Erng-euy)
- Pran Limchuenjai (Por)
- Preedaporn Chaleonpon (Aomdeejee)
- Panjapon Petrattana (Art)
- Panyapat Upan (Manao)
- Paopoom Chiwarak (Pao)
- Polpat Yokyong (Pan)
- Patchara Prachomsri (Pat)
- Peeraphat Yongwanichakorn (Kong)
- Patr Termsuk
- Phinyapat Meksakunwong (Namwan)
- Murod Musor (Mint)
- Ratchanat Na Wanpen (Toe)
- Rujiporn Tangpanithanon (Meow)
- Ruetai Luangtep (Pang)
- Woratep Adulkittipaisarn (Nampu)
- Worapod Chaiyana (Tum)
- Wasin Pongkao
- Wanlaya Klaipong (Pang)
- Sutthawee Soikam (Bang-ern)
- Somchai Malaiwan (Sammy)
- Sudarat Boonprasert (May)

- Akira Athisripanyo (Sack)
- Aphisara Jaroenpon (Amp)
- Anwanee Nadaman (Wawa)
- Assama Khanmuk
- Ampon Pandang
- Isarathorn Termsap (Gug)

The *99 Dead* Performance Art project was co-created by Red Comrades [Sahai See Dang], friends, and the FreeArts group.

Production team

- Director - Teerawat Mulwilai
- Assistant Director - August Songkiatthana
- Music design – Pisitkul Kuanthlang
- The poem “Unforgettable, Unrememberable” [ลืมไม่ได้ จำไม่ลง] – Kal Real
- The song “A Farewell Letter from the Revolutionist” [จดหมายจากนักปฏิวัติ] – The band Kampun [Fist]
- Chuwet Dejditsarak
- Sun Mae
- Thanawat Booranasriri
- Bank Boonchoom
- Patticha Kamprasit
- Peerayuth Shuasomboon
- Panumas Kotchadej
- Siri Nilapreuk
- Abhisit Sarnaphapan
- Atchara Ingkamarathorn
- Isara Hata
- Euekam Arramrak

The April-May 2010 Massacre

List of the deceased at Kok Wua intersection - 10th April 2010

1. Mr. Sawat Wong-ngam, 43, was shot on the top right head through the left
2. Mr. Thawattanachai Kladsuk, 36, bullet wound in the left chest through the back

3. Mr. Thotsachai Mekngamfa, 43, bullet wound in the left chest through the back
4. Mr. Charoon Chaimaen, 46, was shot on the right chest and bullet stuck inside
5. Mr. Wasant Phuthong, 39, was shot on the back head through the front
6. Mr. Sayam Wattananukul, 52, was shot on the chest through the back
7. Mr. Montchai Sae-jong, 54, collapsed respiratory system from emphysema and died at the hospital
8. Mr. Amphon Thitiyarat, 26, was shot on the back head through the front
9. Mr. Yutthana Thongcharoenphunporn, 23, was shot on the back head through the front
10. Mr. Phraison Thiplom, 37, was shot on the front head through occipital and died at the hospital
11. Mr. Kriangkrai Khamnoi, 23, was shot on the hip and the bullet stuck in the abdomen, died at the hospital
12. Mr. Khanung Chatr-teh, 50, was shot on the right chest and the bullet stuck inside
13. Mr. Noppon Phaophanat, 30, bullet wound in the stomach, died at the hospital
14. Mr. Saming Daengpetch, 49, bullet wound in the head, died at the hospital
15. Mr. Somsak Kaewsan, 34, bullet wound in the back through left chest
16. Mr. Boontham Thongphui, 40, was shot on the right forehead through the top part of the back head
17. Mr. Therdsak Fungklinchan, 29, wound at the left chest and died at the hospital
18. Unidentified man, 40-50, wound at the right hip cut through the aorta groin and died at the hospital
19. Mr. Manah Achran, 23, was shot on the back head through the front
20. Mr. Anan Sirikulwanit, 54, bullet wound
21. Mr. Anan Chinsongkram, 38, lung infection after being tear gassed, died six months later
22. Mr. Boonchan Maiprasert, 56, was shot in the left pubis
23. Mr. Hiroyuki Muramoto, Reuters cameraman, 43, bullet wounds in the chest, died before arriving the hospital

Soldiers

24. Gen. Romklao Thuwatham, 43, the right occipital and both calves were torn apart, died at the hospital
25. Pvt. Singha Onsong, 22, bomb injuries in left chest and left thigh
26. Pvt. Anupon Hommalee, 29, bomb injury in the head, died at the hospital
27. Pvt. Phuriwat Prapan, 25, wound showing occipital skull bone
28. Pvt. Anupong Mueng-amphan, 21, bruised chest and both calves were torn apart

List of the deceased on Silom road - 22nd April 2010

29. Ms. Thunyanun Thabthong, 50, injuries from bomb blast on Silom road

List of the deceased at Sala Daeng - 13th May 2010

30. Major Gen Khattiya Sawasdipol, 58, bullet wound in the head, died at the hospital

31. Mr. Chatchai Chalao, 25, open wound at the occipital, died on the spot

List of the deceased - 14th May 14 2010

32. Mr. Piyapong Kitiwong, 32 was shot dead at Lumpini Park

33. Mr. Prachuab Silapan, 44, was shot dead at Lumpini Park

34. Mr. Somsak Silarak, 29 was shot dead at Sala Daeng

35. Mr. Inplang Tedwong, 40 died on the spot

36. Mr. Saneh Nilleung, 48 died on the spot

37. Mr. Chaiyan Wannajak, 21 died on the spot

38. Mr. Boonting Pansila, 25, Vajira volunteer paramedic, shot on the neck

39. Ms. Laongdao Klomklom, 44, infection of the cortex and ruptured blood vessels in the brain

40. Mr. Boonmee Remsuk, 70, septicaemia and a history of injury from shot through the intestine

41. Mr. Tanutad Udsawasirimunkong, 54, shot in the back through spine, at the centre of the back and shoulder

42. Mr. Hernsa Onsa, 40, a slug bullet wound in the left groin, died at the hospital

List of the deceased - 15th May 2010

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43. Mr. Manoon Talad, 44, died at Soi Mor Leng

44. Mr. Pun Kamgong, 42, was shot in the left chest and died at Soi Mor Leng

45. Mr. Kitipan Khanthong, 25 wound in the ribcage, died at the hospital

46. Mr. Sornkrai Srimeungpun, 34, bullet wound in the head, died before arriving at the hospital

47. Mr. Channarong Ponsrila, 32, was shot in stomach and arm, died at Ratchaprarop

48. Mr. Tipnet Jiampon, 32, bullet wound in the head, died before arriving at the hospital

49. Mr. Suphacheep Chunlatad, 36, wound in the head, died before arriving at the hospital

50. Mr. Warin Wongsanit, 28, wound in the right chest, died before arriving at the hospital

51. Mr. Mana Sanprasert, 22, gunshot wound in the head (Por Teck Tueng Volunteer)

52. Ms. Santhana Sappasri, 32, was shot in the stomach and arm, died at Soi Mhor Lheng

53. Mr. Thunwa Wongsiri, 26, bullet wound in the head, died before reaching the hospital

54. Mr. Ampon Cheunsi, 25, died on the spot

55. Mr. Samaphan Srithep, 17, bullet wound in the head, died on the spot

56. Mr. Uthai Aon-in, 35, died on the spot

57. Mr. Pornsawan Nakachai, 23, several bullet wounds, died at the hospital

- 58. Mr. Kringkrai Leunthaisong, 25, bullet wound in the head, died at the hospital
- 59. Mr. Wongsakorn Plangsri, 40, was shot in the chest, bled in the chest cavity, died at the hospital
- 60. Mr. Thanakorn Piyapoldirek, 50, died on the spot
- 61. Boy Kunagorn Srisuwan, 12, was shot by high velocity bullet in the back

List of the deceased - 16th May 2010

- 62. Mr. Prachuab Prachuabsuk, 42, died at Charoenkrung Pracharak
- 63. Mr. Kiattikun Chatweerasakul, 25, was shot in the left chest, died on the spot
- 64. Mr. Somchai Prasuwan, 43, bullet wound in the head, died at the hospital
- 65. Mr. Supan Toomthong, 49, died on the spot
- 66. Mr. Chaleow Deeruenrum, 27, was shot in below the right breast round and died on the spot
- 67. Mr. Supoj Yatima, 37, died at spot
- 68. Mr. Wothichai Warakham, 22, slug bullet wound in the back through the front of body centre, died at the hospital
- 69. Mr. Samai Tadkaew, 36, bullet wound in the colon through the spinal cord, died at the hospital

List of the deceased - 17th May 17 2010

- 70. Mr. Sompan Luangchom, 35, bullet wound in the stomach, died on the spot
- 71. Mr. Yeun Pothongkham, 60, wound in the bottom, died on 21st May 2010

List of the deceased - 18th May 2010

- 72. Mr. Muhammad Aree (Ong Lawin), Burmese migrant, 21, wound in the chest through the back and died on the spot

List of the deceased - 19th May 2010

- 73. Mr. Thanachod Chumyen, 34, bullet wound in the left kidney and the aorta
- 74. Mr. Thawin Khammoon, 38, wound in the head and died before arriving at the hospital
- 75. Mr. Prachya Saekow, 21, bullet wound damaging the liver and died on the spot
- 76. Mr. Narin Srichomphu, 27, bullet wound damaging the brain and died at the hospital
- 77. Ms. Wasinee Teppan, 39, the lung and liver were damaged by bullet and died before arriving at the hospital
- 78. Mr. Kittipong Somsuk, 20, died from fire at Central World Plaza. The body was found on 21st May 2010

79. Unidentified man

List of six deaths at Wat Pathum Wanaram Rachaworawihan - 19th May 2010

- 80. Mr. Attachai Chumchan, 28, bullet wound damaging the lung
- 81. Mr. Mongkol Khemthong, 37, bullet wound damaging the lung, liver and heart
- 82. Mr. Suwan Sriraksa, 31, bullet wounds through the lung and heart. 11 gunshot wounds in the body
- 83. Mr. Akradet Khankaew, 22, the subdural hematoma and a bullet wound through the oral
- 84. Ms. Kamolkade Akahad, 25, bullet wound damaging the brain and 11 gunshot wounds in the body
- 85. Mr. Rop Suksatit, 66, bullet wounds damaging lung, liver, diaphragm, right kidney, intestine and through the arm

List of the deceased - 19th May 2010

- 86. Mr. Songsak Srinongbua, 33, Khonkhan province, bullet wound in the chest
- 87. Mr. Ploen Wongma, 40, Udonthani province, died at the hospital on 20th May 2010
- 88. Mr. Apichart Racheewan, 36, Udonthani province, bullet wound damaging liver, stomach, spleen and small intestine
- 89. Mr. Prachuab Charoentim, 49, shot in the left leg through the right leg and cutting artery which caused the major blood lost and died
- 90. Mr. Fabio Polenchi, Italian photographer, 48, shot in the chest and died on the spot

Soldiers and police killed between 28th April 10 – 19th May 2010

- 91. Private Narong Sara, died on the spot, from a crash at the National Memorial, on 28th April 2010
- 92. Sergeant Karnnupat Lerdchanpen, 38, bullet wound, died on the spot outside Krung Thai Bank on Silom Road, on 7th May 2010
- 93. Sergeant. Wittaya Promsaree, 35, injured by a shrapnel on the right chest and died at the hospital, in a crash at Lumpini Park's Gate 4, on 8th May 2010
- 94. Sergeant. Pongchalit Tippayanontakarn, 31, bullet wound in the head, died on the spot
- 95. Sergeant. Anusit Chansantor, 44, died on the spot

Apart from these, there are also reports of disappearances cases whose fates remain unknown.
