

Human Rights and Democracy

Sounds of a scuffle outside. Off stage:

Man: No no please! Let me go!

Leader: Get out the way!

Security: Stop!

Leader: Don't get in my way!

Security: You can't go in there...

Leader: We can go where we want! Get rid of him!

Security: Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

Actor 2: Finis nao!

Leader: Get inside!

Actors rush into the conference room. Some have their faces covered by balaklavas. Some wear headbands. Ham stands up and walks towards them.

Ham: Who are you? Are you the string band?

Actor 2: String band?!

Actor 4: Hemi tink se yumi kam blong singsing! **[The actors laugh.]** Boss! **[He calls to the leader.]**

Ham: What's going on! We're expecting a group to come! We can't keep important people like this waiting!

Leader: Sorry! Sorry brother! Not us..

Ham: Look you can't just come in here...

Leader: Can't we? **[The leader psuhes him aside.]** Ohh.. we're too dirty to come in here aren't we? Look at these clothes! We look like rascals! But still.. I think we'll come in. We've got some work to do..

Akta 1: Bae yumi kilim olgeta nao ya?

Leader: Not yet!

Akta 2: Yumi stap wet long wanem? Olgeta ya nao I bin mekem ol lo we I stap spolem yumi ol man ples!

Ham: How dare you come in here and.. The police will come in a minute! You'd better get out now! I'm going to ring them!

Leader: The police? You think the police will come? They never did before and they won't now. **[He laughs and then pushes Ham roughly into a chair. Then he speaks to the whole audience.]** Sorry.. you don't understand what's going on, do you? You've been sitting here talking, talking, talking and out there.. everything has changed! We've taken over. The poor shall inherit the earth! Tell them brothers and sisters! The poor shall inherit the earth!

Actors: The poor shall inherit the earth! Amen!

Leader: We've had enough! We've seen everything being taken from us! The land! Our custom! Our culture! Our society is falling apart!

Actor 2: Hemia nao!

Actor 3: Yumi no gat wan samting nating!

OI: No gat!

Actor 4: Oli spolem yumi evriwan!

Leader: [**He walks a bit further into the audience**] We live out there.... in corrugated iron shacks.. some of the shacks aren't even made of corrugated iron.. bits of hardboard and timber that's all. Mud floors. No water. No electricity. [**He speaks directly to a participant.**] No laws against living like that are there?

Actress 1: Yumi no gat taem blong stori! Yumi mas goaheat!

Leader: I want to explain to our friends.. They don't know much about us. They've been to busy to find out.. busy putting us in prison, for stealing from their rich houses!

Actors: Killim olgeta! Killim ol! Kilim ol nao ya!

Leader: Shut up! I tell you what to do! You.. [**He walks back to the actors.**] don't tell me!

Actor 3: Sori.. masta.. mi sori!

Leader: Don't call me masta! I'm not your master! We're all the same now! [**He slaps him hard across the head.**]

Actor 4: Bae yumi mekem wanem nao?

Leader: Ohh.. I forgot these ladies and gentlemen. They're sitting here waiting to be entertained by a string band... Maybe we should sing for them!

Actor 4: Wanem?

Leader: Sing! Sing for the judges and lawyers! Look! Over there.. instruments. Let's tell them what we've done and why we've done it!

Hey my friend
 Have you had a look out there?
 Young people on the streets
 Walking up and down everywhere!
 We're fifty percent of the population
 And what do we get?
 No hope, no work no education!
 Life's got a lot to offer you
 Big houses! Fast cars! Foreign holidays!
 What have we got to look forward to?
 Working twelve hours, six days for minimum wage!
 This is our democracy
 Good life for you!
 Bad life for me!
 Every four years the people vote
 To change the government
 That's when we get to see MPs,
 When they come to buy our vote!
 What do we get from this democracy?
 Good life for you!
 Bad life for me!
 We're gonna change the system!
 Get rid of the rule of law!
 The law's for the rich not for the poor!
 You don't take the rich men to the courts
 If you do they walk out free!

So my friends
 We'll take over now
 Bye bye law and democracy!

Leader: Give them a big clap! They sang that very well... And the song is educational as well as entertaining! I'm sure you'll all agree with that!

Actor 4: Mi lez blong pleple! Bae yumi finisim wok ya noa ya!

Actor 2: I tru nomo! Yumi stap westem taem!

Actor 5: Bae yumi mekem wanem wetem ol kaen man olsem?

Leader: Some of our friends don't understand bislama. I'll translate. They want to know what we're going to do with you. Don't worry! We're not going to harm you. We're going to make you work... Have they got him? **[He shouts to one of the female actors who shrugs.]** Find out! **[The actor takes out a mobile phone and turns his back on the audience while she speaks.]** Yes, we've got a little case for you. Just to keep you busy so you don't worry about all this change and trouble. **[the actress puts away her mobile.]**

Actress 1: Oli stap karem hem I kam nao..

Leader: Good! Good! I'm very intrested to see what our fine friends here do with our prisoner. **[Sound of cries outside.]** Hurry up! Bring him in!
[The minister and his wife are brought in and thrown roughly on the floor their hands are tied behind their backs.]

Wife; You can't do this to us! You'll suffer for it! The police will come and get you!

Leader: The police have got a lot of work to do today! I hope they've got transport..

Minister: Just let us go. We wont do anything ...

Leader: You haven't done anything for years have you? Not anything useful!

Minster: You can't blame me! It's not my fault!

Actor 4: Hemi falt blong hu? **[He pushes the minister, his wife screams.]**

Actor 3; Mifala I save wanem we yu bin stap mekem!

Actor 2: Bae yu yu luke save nao ya!

Leader: No no no! No rough treatment please.. not in front of these good people!

Actor 2: Oli kross long wanem? Ol polis oli stap kilim no gud yumi oltaem!

Leader: Yes.. the police beat us up.. but these judges and lawyers don't see that! What they don't see doesn't worry them!

Actor 2: Ale yumi karem hem I go aotsaed bakegen! Kilim hem longwe...

Leader: Wet! We're going to show these judges what real justice is! For too long justice has been blind and deaf! Blind when bigmen do wrong! We are going to give justice back its eyes and its sharp and terrible sword!

All: Kill! Kill! Kill!

Wife: You're crazy to follow him! He'll kill all of you one day!

Actress: Shuttem bikfala maot blong yu!

Minster: Let her go! She's done nothing! Let her go!

Leader: Ohh.. he's worried about his wife.. isn't that beautiful? **[He puts an arm round the minster.]**

Actress 2: He didn't worry about her before! He was always in the clubs with girls...

Wife: Liar!

Actress 2: And when she complained he beat her! That's why he didn't vote for the Women's Rights bill! **[The actresses all laugh.]**

Actor 2: Yumi no wandem kaen bill olsem tu! Yumi mas stoppem ol woman blong no wok aotsaed long haos nao!

Actor 3: Ol woman oli mas save ples blong olgeta long kastom mo kulta!

Actress 1: What are you talking about idiots! We're not going back to the kitchen!

Wife: See what they're going to do! They'll put you into island dresses and make you cook!

Actress 2: Shut up you! **[She slaps her.]**

Leader: Enough! No fighting now! We can talk this out later!

Actress 1: But you can't let them say things like that!

Leader: It's time to start! Minister... These are your judges. I am the prosecutor. Judges, you will listen to our case..

Wife: Who's going to defend him?

Leader: Sadly the only lawyer in the public solicitors office has run away. The public prosecutors office has been empty for some time.. luckily we have stepped in.

Wife: You can't try people without a defense lawyer! Tell them Arnold!

Minister: How can you call this a trial?! This is a mockery of justice!

Leader: Ohh he's so worried about justice now! Why wasn't he worried before? We needed public prosecutors and solicitors.. but the government did nothing! Why didn't he do anything when he had the power?

Actress 2: He only cares about his own neck!

Actor 4: Hemi stap wari bigwan nao ya!

Actor 3: Sapos we hemi gat janis bakegen, bae hemi mekem se I gat fulup lawyer long ol ofis blong gavman!

Leader: Let's put our case to the judges! Come on! Listen all of you!

We accuse this man

We accuse him!

He's guilty!

He's guilty as sin!

We are his judge and we are his jury

This is a case he ain't gonna win!

He was a leader of our dear country

He was a leader and we trusted him!

But you know what he did?

He stole the money that came from our taxes

He stole the money that came as aid

He sold our name and our resources

Now we'll get him to dig his own grave!

Wife: No!

We accuse this man
 We accuse him!
 He's guilty!
 He's guilty as sin!

He was a leader of our dear country
 He was a leader and we trusted him!

Leader: [**The music carries on under the speech.**] He sold our fish to foreign companies! Our forests! The people in the villages are crying because all they had has gone! Judges! I ask you to give him the ultimate penalty..

Minister: Please .. please..

Leader: What's your verdict! Tell us! Don't keep the minister waiting!

Ham: We can't tell you anything. This is not a court of law. You have given us no evidence. You can't do this...this man has human rights...

Leader: Human rights! He has human rights! [**Everyone laughs.**]

Actor 3: Inomo gat human raets nao ya!

Actor 2: Ol samting blong ovasee! Oli stap spolem yumi nomo!

Actress 1: We'll burn the constitution! Burn it! We don't need to be told, what's right and what's wrong!

Wife: You'll be sorry!

Actress 2: Us! Why?

Wife: Even if he did wrong.. everyone deserves protection under the law.. and everyone should have their human rights!

Leader: But who gets them? Tell me misses? Who gets these human rights? Do I?

Actress 1: We haven't got any rights!

They tell me I got freedom
 Go where I want
 Say what I think
 But what I need to know
 Is how I'm supposed to live?
 There's no work for me
 No work and no pay
 How am I meant to get through
 This long long day?

I got the right to live and the right to die
 The right to walk the same old road
 The right to say, 'I'm hungry.'
 The right to sit down,
 The right to sit down and cry!

Leader: Who has these rights? And how do we get them? Tell me?

Actress 1: What 's the verdict?

Actor 2: Ale yumi stretem samting ya nao ya!

Actor 4: Yumi wet longtaem tumas! Sapos we oli no wandem stretem problem blong yumi! Yu bae yu stretem!

Leader: Me?

Ol: Ale go ahead! Yu nao judge!

Leader: Stand up Minister! **[They pull the minister to his feet and hold his wife down. The all stand looking at him.]**

Leader: I pronounce your sentence! For the crime of stealing the country's money! Death! For buying the peoples votes! Death! For stealing our resources! Death!

Actress 2: We have to kill him 3 times!

Leader: Take him outside!

Wife: No...

Minister: I want to speak! Let me say goodbye. Let me speak!

Leader: What do you say friends? Do we let him speak? A few last words.. ?

Actor 4: Hemi stap toktok tumas! ENUF YA!

Actress: Let's go! **[They start to drag him out.]**

Wife: Please.. please!

Minister: If it was you.. you'd want to explain! Make your peace with man and god!

Leader: Let him speak! Minister this is your last chance.. to speak the truth.

Minister: Thank you.. I won't take up much of your time. I know I've been.. Well I haven't done much for my people.. I've been corrupt. I didn't know what I was doing as an MP or as a minister. I didn't read the laws we were passing in parliament.. I couldn't really understand them. What you said about the Rights of Women bill.. yes it was true.. I thought I had the right to beat my wife. I was the one cheating but.. I wanted to be able to hit her if she complained. I don't deserve her love...

[Some of the actors move uncomfortably.]

It's a funny thing this democracy. People vote us in, never ask what we do. They never read the laws we make. They just blame us when they don't get what they want... To get back in, we have to give our supporters money .. and to get all the money you need.. you have to .. find ways of stealing it. People think if they vote for you, you have to keep paying them back. Pay for every funeral, every marriage. We spend our whole salary on them! At the end of the month...

Leader: Don't try to make us feel sorry for you! You got fat in government!

Minister: I got fat yes.. but so will you! You'll want money like I did and you'll give yourself more than the others! Because you think you deserve it!

Leader: No I won't!

Minister: You'll do bad things and try to cover them up! And you'll be worse than us, because no one can ever get rid of you! They can't vote you out!

Leader: I'm not like you!

Minister: You'll be worse than me! You'll have more power! Have pity! Have pity on me! I don't want to die! Give me one last chance!

Leader: Dirty snake! I felt sorry for you! I thought you were going to tell the truth! But you just wanted to save your worthless life!

Minister: You can't do this to me...

Leader: Take him out! Take him out!

Minister: No! No please!

Actress 1: Come on! Ale! Olgeta!

Wife: Don't please .. no...

Leader: Her too!

Wife: What have I done? You don't have to kill me!

Leader: Finish them all off! We don't want people following her when he's gone.

Wife: No!

Minister: Let me live.. I won't work against you! I can help you... **[They drag him out.]**

Leader: Quickly! I've had enough!

Actor 3: Yu no wari!

Leader: I am so sorry.. I was hoping it would be quick and easy! Still these things have to be done. He's a criminal! And now justice has been done. We gave him a fair trial and the chance to give a last speech. And his wife would have been lonely without him. Hmm... **[A gun shot then another.]** Ahh! Finished! Now we can get on and do what we have to do!

Actor 4: Yumi flattem ol wok ya!

Leader: What do you want to do with .. ummm.. **[He gestures to the judges.]**

Actor 4: Yumi no wandme ol kot olsme nao ya.. bae I mo gud sapos we.. **[His mobile rings.]** Helo? Olsem wanem? No! No! Bae mifala I kam! **[He puts the phone away.]**

Leader: What is it?

Actor 4: Sam long olgeta oli stap faet iet! Oli kilim ded sam grup blong yumi finis. Yumi mas go helpem olgeta!

Actor 3: **[Running in.]** Ol gel oli ronwe.. oli talem se oli no interest blong stap wetem yumi nao.

Leader: Stupid! They can't leave us now!

Actor 2: Bae yumi aot long ples ya! No gud oli finem bodi blong minista mo yumi stap! Bae yumi go!

Leader: Okay. We'll go now! We've got to go and help some friends. You wait here.. **[They start to leave, walking out backwards.]** We'll be back! **[They turn and run out. There are cries and shots.]**

