

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 177

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by:

Gabriela Women's Party Reps. ARLENE D. BROSAS and EMMI A. DE JESUS,
Bayan Muna Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, ACT Teachers Partylist
Reps. ANTONIO L. TINIO and FRANCE L. CASTRO, Anakpawis Partylist Rep.
ARIEL B. CASILAO, and Kabataan Partylist Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT INCIDENT OF INDISCRIMINATE FIRING IN SITIO TIBUGAWAN, BRGY. KAWAYAN, SAN FERNANDO, BUKIDNON ALLEGEDLY PERPETRATED BY THE PARAMILITARY GROUP NEW INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S ARMY BACKED BY THE 8TH IB OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY WHICH RESULTED TO THE DEATH OF A PREGNANT WOMAN AND WOUNDING OF SEVEN (7) CIVILIANS, INCLUDING FIVE (5) MINORS

WHEREAS, human rights group KARAPATAN-Northern Mindanao reported that on July 30, 2016, a community of Tigwahanon Tribe in Sitio Tibugawan, Barangay Kawayan, San Fernando, Bukidnon was strafed by more or less 11 elements of the paramilitary group, New Indigenous People's Army (NIPAR) backed by the 8th IB Philippine Army. The indiscriminate firing happened after a wedding ritual;

WHEREAS, in the morning of July 30, Barangay Kawayan IP Mandatory Representative Datu Arnold Manhura reportedly came across with Alde "Butsoy" Salusad, leader of NIPAR, in Sitio Spring. According to Datu Arnold Manhura, Salusad was wearing a military camouflage and combat shoes, and was fully armed. At least 11 other armed men were with him. They also brought with them two residents from Sitio Spring and Sitio Tibugawan who were tied up with a rope and forced to guide the group. Datu Arnold said that he pleaded with "Butsoy" not to go to Sitio Tibugawan as the appearance of fully armed men might disturb the wedding festivities. Salusad ignored his plea and after a few minutes, the community was fired upon;

WHEREAS, according to KARAPATAN, Makenet Gayuran, 20 years old and six (6) months pregnant of the Tigwahanon tribe was first to fall down and died while carrying her 9-month old baby. Seven (7) others were wounded in the incident that lasted over ten minutes, including five minors;

WHEREAS, prior to the incident, Alde Salusad tagged Datu Jeffrey Mandaguit as a member of the New People's Army. Datu Jeffrey is the Chairman of Kaogalingong Sistema Igpapasindog tu Lumandong Ogpaan (KASILO), a resident of Sitio Tibugawan, an activist defending their ancestral domains against development aggression, and was among those who evacuated to UCCP-Haran in Davao. Alde Salusad was also heard saying that if Datu Jeffrey will not surrender, NIPAR would massacre the whole community in Tibugawan;

WHEREAS, Benjamin "Nonong" Salusad, father of Alde Salusad and also among the alleged perpetrators, has a standing warrant of arrest for the murder of late Barangay Captain Jimmy Liguyon in 2012. Benjamin Salusad was then member of the CAFGU, and now a regular member of the 8th IB-PA;

WHEREAS, the incident happened few days after President Duterte's declaration of unilateral ceasefire during his State of the Nation Address (SONA);

WHEREAS, the declaration of unilateral ceasefire was never felt in Lumad communities in Mindanao, particularly in Bukidnon, because their communities remained militarized;

WHEREAS, the incident is a clear violation not just of the unilateral ceasefire declared by President Duterte, but of international humanitarian laws that seek to spare civilians of the ongoing armed conflict;

WHEREAS, just and lasting peace has been desired most by the orphaned and injured civilians, and the Lumad and indigenous communities who have been under attack and displaced by the AFP and its paramilitaries;

WHEREAS, the need to resume peace negotiations amid such clear violations has become more urgent. Furthermore, the Filipino people should unite against all moves to violate human rights especially of civilians;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT INCIDENT OF INDISCRIMINATE FIRING IN SITIO TIBUGAWAN, BRGY. KAWAYAN, SAN FERNANDO, BUKIDNON ALLEGEDLY PERPETRATED BY THE PARAMILITARY GROUP NEW INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S ARMY BACKED BY THE 8TH IB OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY WHICH RESULTED TO THE DEATH OF A PREGNANT WOMAN AND WOUNDING OF SEVEN (7) CIVILIANS, INCLUDING FIVE (5) MINORS.

Adopted,



ARLENE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women's Party


EMMI A. DE JESUS
Gabriela Women's Party


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Bayan Muna Partylist


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