

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1127



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES
ARIEL B. CASILAO

**CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, EMMI A. DE JESUS, ANTONIO L. TINIO,
ARLENE D. BROSAS, FRANCE L. CASTRO, AND SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPACT OF
AERIAL BOMBINGS, EXECUTED BY THE ARMED FORCES OF THE
PHILIPPINES, AS PART OF THEIR COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS, ON
THE FARMER COMMUNITIES, PRIOR AND UNDER THE DECLARATION OF
MARTIAL LAW IN MINDANAO

WHEREAS, the human rights group Karapatan has reported ten incidents of aerial strikes, as part of counter-insurgency operations and all-out war under the martial law proclamation, since July 2016 until May 2017 with hundreds of thousands of civilians being affected, and majority of them are peasants, indigenous peoples and other rural-based sectors;

WHEREAS, during the early part of the Duterte presidency, the Armed Forces of the Philippines extended its counter-insurgency program against the New People's Army (NPA), Oplan Bayanihan, under the Aquino administration until end of 2016, and it included launching of aerial strikes in farmer communities, which they tag as "hotbed" of the NPA:

- on July 7 and 8, 2016, in Caraga town, Davao Oriental, aerial bombings were executed by the 16th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army (IBPA) that affected 11,000 civilians;
- on August 5, 2016, in Maragusan, Compostela Valley, by the 71st IBPA that affected around 1,116 civilians and;
- on August 4-6, by the 25th IBPA, that affected 240 residents in Monkayo, Compostela Valley;

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2017, President Rodrigo Duterte, in reaction to an NPA offensive in Bansalan town, Davao Del Sur, directed the AFP to use all air assets and uttered "plantsahin niyo lang yung bomba diyan" (with supposed translation as "flatten the hills");

WHEREAS, the AFP has already commenced with aerial strikes or bombings it since last year and early this year, even before his pronouncement and prior to the declaration of martial law in Mindanao:

- on February 11, 2017, in Alabel town, Saranggani, by the 73rd IBPA, that affected 720 residents;
- on February 11, 2017, in President Roxas town, North Cotabato, by 39th IBPA, affecting 1,001 residents;
- on March 13, 2017, in Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte, by 29th IBPA, affecting 300 residents;
- on March 16, 2017, in Malibcong town, Abra, by 24th IBPA under 7th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army (IDPA), affecting 2,538 civilians;
- on May 9, 2017, in Calinan District, Davao City, by the 3rd IBPA under 7th IDPA, affecting 1,014 civilians;

WHEREAS, the AFP 4th IBPA also launched aerial strikes on April 11, 2017, in Inabanga town, in response to the reported intrusion of alleged members of Abu Sayaff Group in Bohol island, which caused the mass evacuation of at least 708 civilians;

WHEREAS, following the declaration of martial law in Mindanao on May 23, 2017, the AFP launched a serial of aerial bombings in Marawi City, that caused massive destruction of the city and mass evacuation of more than 300,000 residents;

WHEREAS, under the martial law declaration, while President Duterte has announced that it will not target the NPA, contradicting the claim of Department of National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, and the “12 key tasks” of the AFP, stated in the AFP Operational Directive 02-17, third item as “Degrade armed capabilities of the NPA,” according to Karapatan Southern Mindanao Region, aerial strikes on alleged NPA hotbed was conducted:

- on May 25, 2017, on Moro farmer communities in sitios Pedtobawan, Campo, Apulan, and Centro Salat in Brgy. Salat, and in sitio Libpas in Brgy. Trael, President Roxas, North Cotabato by elements of the 39th and 72nd IBPA using MG520 attack helicopters and 105mm howitzers;
- and on the barangays of Tangkulan, Anggaan, and Damulog in Bukidnon;
- that triggered the mass evacuation of at least 1,600 Moro and farmer residents;

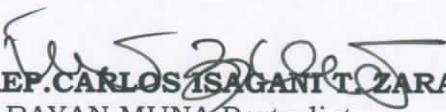
WHEREAS, with this aerial bombings or strikes turning out to be a standard-operating procedure (SOP) for the AFP, and its perpetuation is an outright manifestation of government neglect on the resultant impact on farmer communities, such as violation of their basic rights to life, liberty and safety, to land and livelihood, to self-determination and right to a peaceful environment, hence, these authors are compelled to file this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Committee on Human Rights to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the impact of aerial bombings, executed by the AFP, as part of the counter-insurgency operations, on the farmer communities, prior and under the declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

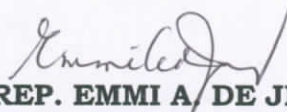
Adopted,



REP. ARIEL B. CASILAO
ANAKPAWIS Party-list



REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
BAYAN MUNA Party-list



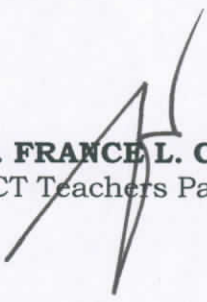
REP. EMMI A. DE JESUS
GABRIELA Women's Party



REP. ANTONIO L. TINIO
ACT Teachers Party-list



REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women's Party



REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-list



REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
KABATAAN Party-list