

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 11



Introduced by

**BAYAN MUNA Party-List Representatives FERDINAND R. GAITE,
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE and EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
ACT TEACHERS Party-List Representative FRANCE L. CASTRO,
GABRIELA Women's Party Representative ARLENE D. BROSAS and
KABATAAN Party-List Representative SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**

RESOLUTION

**URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON
SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORM TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, THE ELECTION-RELATED HARASSMENTS AND
THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE
PHILIPPINES AND PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE IN PARTISAN
POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE COURSE OF 2019 MIDTERM
ELECTIONS**

WHEREAS, the recently concluded May 13, 2019 national elections, the Makabayan Coalition had seen one of the most vicious attacks against its members and supporters even before the campaign had started, during the campaign period, on election day and even after the conduct of the election. These attacks, based on the reports collated by the election watch-dog *Kontra Daya* and other human rights organizations, ranged from death threats, media vilification, harassments and, worse, killings;

WHEREAS, prior to the elections, the AFP and the PNP have already unjustly linked the Makabayan Bloc and other individuals and organizations to numerous ouster plots to supposedly overthrow the administration of President Duterte, without any substantial evidence to their claim;

WHEREAS, these malicious and clearly partisan accusations were particularly spread by AFP Deputy Chief-of-Staff for Civil-Military Operations, Major General Antonio Parlade, Jr., who issued several public pronouncements repeatedly red-tagging and vilifying the Makabayan Bloc and other organizations like Karapatan and National Union of People's Lawyers. He also repeatedly dubbed Makabayan bloc as "Kamatayan bloc."

WHEREAS, these systematic, vicious and malicious attacks are evident by the following incidents all throughout the election period:

- a) in Baybay, Leyte, voters were told that those who will vote for the Makabayan party-lists can be targeted by the Synchronized Enhanced Management Police Operations (SEMPO), which already resulted to several trumped-up charges, illegal arrests and deaths of members of progressive organizations in the Negros Island;
- b) in the Cordillera, Makabayan volunteer, Manuel Ferrer, Agnes Mesina, Reynante Oftana, Rowena Hidalgo and Ted Lazaro, among other Makabayan coordinators, received various death threats during the period;
- c) in Cebu City, Bayan Muna officials were subjected to harassment by the police officers in full battle gear. According to a report, police officers aimed their arms at the Bayan Muna members while conducting a briefing for poll watchers.¹
- d) on April 22, reelectionist Councilor Bernardino “Toto” Patigas, the coordinator of Bayan Muna in Escalante City, Negros Occidental was assassinated while on his way home coming from a campaign sortie;
- e) the Police Regional Office Cordillera Facebook page also shared a post on May 7, 2019 campaigning against the Makabayan party-lists.²
- f) on election day, May 13, 2019, PNP officers were caught on camera while distributing “Pulis Serbis Balita,” a tabloid identified as “The Official Newsletter of the Philippine National Police” containing black propaganda articles against the Makabayan candidates near and/or inside the poll precincts, specifically Geronimo Elementary school, Sampaloc and Maypajo Elementary School, Caloocan City. The official twitter of PNP and Police Community Relations Group defended the distribution of the black propaganda material and claimed that the tabloid did not contain any red-tagging articles and they are distributing the “newspapers” twice a week on all places of convergence.
- g) the Iloilo City police’s Pulis Icpo Serbisyo Publiko, Baguio PNP Facebook page (Baguio Pulisya Singko) and Community Relations Division of the Police Regional Office Cordillera also shared the fake news on the alleged disqualification of the Makabayan bets.

¹ <https://www.kontradaya.org/14/05/2019/%EF%BB%BFkontradaya-unprecedented-red-tagging-harassment-electioneering-on-election-day/>

² <https://www.nordis.net/2019/05/baguio-pnp-shares-fake-disqualification-news-of-makabayan-party-lists/>

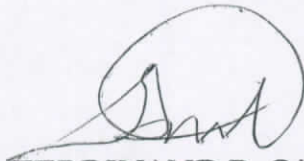
- h) the Facebook accounts of the army's 8th Infantry "Dependable" Battalion, Philippine Army; the Joint Reserve Task Force "Metro Davao"; the CMO 11rcdg; 1st Metro Davao Ready Reserve Infantry Battalion Philippine Army; and 1105th Ready Reserve Infantry Battalion Peace Keepers also shared the fake disqualification of Makabayan from elections.
- i) on May 15, DILG Assistant Secretary Ricojudge Echiverri linked the Makabayan coalition to the Communist Party of the Philippines through a social media post. According to his statement, they are successful in convincing their friends not to vote the Makabayan candidates.³ Also, during a protest on May 16 in front of the DILG Main Office, a ground personnel of DILG puts up loud audio-video set-up playing black propaganda materials.

WHEREAS, the foregoing incidents show that they were not just random or isolated, but, in fact part of a systematic campaign coming from elements of the security sector and their minions that and unjustly and unlawfully interfere with our electoral process, if only to sow fear and tyrannically prevent the people from voting into office members of the Makabayan Coalition – which vile objective, though, miserably failed;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms to investigate in aid of legislation, the election-related harassments perpetrated on the members and supporters of the Makabayan Coalition and the involvement of elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police in partisan political activities in the course of 2019 midterm elections.

³ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1120348/bayan-kontra-daya-slam-red-tagging-of-party-lists-under-makabayan-coalition#ixzz5s7SHfR9l>

Adopted,



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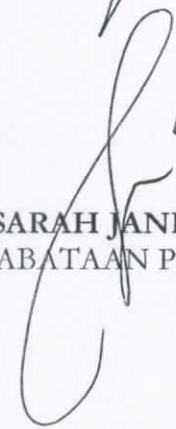
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