Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 287

Introduced by
BAYAN MUNA Party-list Representatives EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE and FERDINAND R. GAITE,
Gabriela Women’s Party Representative ARLENE D. BROSAS,
ACT Teachers’ Party-list Representative FRANCE L. CASTRO, and
Kabataan Party-list Representative SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH
THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MILITARY ENCAMPENT OF CIVILIAN
FACILITIES AND HOMES BY THE ARMY’S 9TH SPECIAL FORCES AND THE
26TH INFANTRY BATTALION IN THE LUMAD COMMUNITY IN
BRGY. DIATAGON, LIANGA, SURIGAO DEL SUR

WHEREAS, on August 16, 2019, at 5 o’clock in the morning, around 100 soldiers from the
army’s 9th Special Forces and 26th Infantry Battalion Philippine Army arrived at the Lumad
Community in Sitio Simowao, Brgy. Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur. They immediately
occupied the community clinic, corn mill and residents’ homes;

WHEREAS, a certain Lt. Bacaso from the 26th IB announced that they were supposedly there
to conduct a “Community Support Program” and that they would be staying in the area for an
indefinite period;

WHEREAS, on August 17, 2019, in a dialogue between the soldiers and Lumad residents,
Lumad leaders from the community expressed their disagreement or objection with the said
Community Support Program, citing the negative impact it would have on their livelihood.
They can no longer freely visit their farms to harvest their crops for fear of being interrogated,
threatened, or, even charged as rebels and shot by the military;

WHEREAS, despite the community’s strong objection, the military refused to leave the
community. They have remained encamped in civilian facilities and occupying the residents’
homes;

WHEREAS, it can be recalled that in January 24, 2019, two (2) Lumad farmers Randel Gallego
and Emel Tejero, from a neighboring Lumad community, were shot dead by the 36th IB while
they were hauling abaca hemp in the community’s farm areas. They were then presented by the
military as members of the New People’s Army;
WHEREAS, the military’s occupation of civilian facilities and residences of the lumad
community - who did not give their consent, as they in fact strongly objected it - is a violation
not only of the indigenous people’s right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), but, also
of established human rights and international humanitarian laws. Specifically, the military’s
encampment in civilian facilities and homes is a violation also of Republic Act 7610 or the
Special Protection of Children against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act, Republic Act 9851 or
the Philippine Act on Crimes against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and other Crimes against
Humanity, and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International
Humanitarian Law;

WHEREAS, this recent military occupation of civilian facilities and residences in the lumad
communities of Lianga, Surigao del Sur, Caraga Region is a clear affront on the basic rights of
our indigenous people, and, Congress as an institution, should ensure that such affront be
stopped;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives, through the
Committee on Human Rights, to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the military
encampment of civilian facilities and homes by the army’s 9th Special Forces and the 26th Infantry

Adopted,

Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
BAYAN MUNA Party-list

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

ARLENE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women’s Party

SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist