WHEREAS, Emerito Samarca, 54 years old, married with 4 children, was the executive director of the Alternative Learning Center for Agricultural and Livelihood Development (ALCADEV), a self-initiated school for the Lumad located in Sitio Han-ayan, Brgy. Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur and was founded in 2004. Samarca also worked for SILDAP-SIDLAKAN, a Lumad support institution in Caraga, from 1990 to 1998, and for the Unyon sa Mag-uuma sa Agusan del Norte (UMAN), a local peasant organization affiliated with the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), in the 1980’s;

WHEREAS, Dionel Campos, of legal age, married, resident of Km 16, Brgy. Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur, was the chairperson of the Lumad organization Malahutayong Pakigbisog Alang sa Sumusunod (MAPASU);

WHEREAS, Campos’ cousin and community elder Datu Juvello Sinzo, resident of Km. 16, Brgy. Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur was a member of MAPASU;

WHEREAS, the Karapatan human rights group reported that on the morning of September 1, Samarca was found dead with a stab wound and a slit open throat inside his quarters in one of the school buildings of ALCADEV;
WHEREAS, on the same date, outside the ALCADEV compound in Sitio Han-ayan, Dionel Campos and Datu Juvello Sinzo, were shot dead by members of the Magahat-Bagani Force, a paramilitary group allegedly taking orders from the Philippine Army, while members of the Armed Forces watched as the killings were taking place, according to witnesses cited by Karapatan;

WHEREAS, teachers of ALCADEV and members of MAPASU identified the armed perpetrators as members of the Magahat-Bagani Force and the 36th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army;

WHEREAS, the said Karapatan report contained the following account:

- On August 30, 2015, about 40 soldiers of the 36th IBPA, 75th IBPA, Special Forces, and the members of the Magahat-Bagani Force associated with a known military asset, Marcos Bocales, occupied the school grounds and the function hall of ALCADEV;
- The elements of the 36th IBPA, 75th IBPA and SF, and the members of the Bocales group, threatened the school’s faculty members, staff, and ordinary residents with an ultimatum that, unless they leave in two days, they will be massacred;
- The soldiers asked the community members of the whereabouts of the ALCADEV coordinator Reynaldo Campos, Tribal Filipino Program of Surigao del Sur (TRIFPSS) Executive Director Norma Ampis, Chairperson of MAPASU Dionel Campos, and two other TRIFPSS teachers;
- Thus, on the same day, the residents evacuated to a nearby community in Km. 16 to bring their family to safety;
- Late afternoon of the same day, half of the soldiers were seen leaving Han-ayan and headed for Km. 16;
- As Residents and teachers were leaving Sitio Han-ayan, 25 soldiers of the 75th IBPA and around 3 members of the the Magahat-Bagani Force, all described to be in full battle gear, remained in the community;
- At around 4 AM on September 1, soldiers went from house to house ordering residents to come out;
- The armed men confiscated the cellphones and cameras of the residents, and ALCADEV staff;
- Members of the Magahat-Bagani Force ordered ALCADEV teacher Belen Itallo to sit beside Dionel Campos, after which, known member of the para-military group Bobby Tejero and his brother Loloy Tejero shot Campos in the head killing him instantly. Other members of the paramilitary physically assaulted Datu Juvello Sinzo before they shot him dead;
- Later in the morning, the community members who went back to the ALCADEV campus found Samarca’s dead body, hog tied and with his throat slit open, his face bruised and almost unrecognizable;
- On the same day the community cooperative store of MAPASU was burned down by the Magahat-Bagani Force as soldiers fired indiscriminately around the community;
- The incident caused around 307 families or about 2,000 individuals to evacuate to Tandag City where they brought the remains of Samarca, Campos and Sinzo;

WHEREAS, ALCADEV was established on July 19, 2004, through the efforts of indigenous people's organizations in the Caraga region, as an alternative learning institution especially
designed to provide secondary education to indigenous youth belonging to the Manobo, Higaonon, Banwaon, Talaandig and Mamanwa tribes living in the mountains of Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, and Agusan del Sur;

WHEREAS, MAPASU is an organization of indigenous peoples in Surigao del Sur, Caraga region and is well known for its militant stance against the intrusion of mining companies in their communities;

WHEREAS, according to Karapatan, the Magahat-Bagani Force, formerly known as Marcos Bocales’ Task Force Gantangan during the Arroyo regime’s Oplan Bantay Layang is being armed by the military to sow division and terror among the Manobo-Lumad, using the worn-out trick of divide-and-rule;

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2015, the victims’ family members filed a case of multiple murder, arson, robbery, grave coercion and grave threat against leaders and members of the paramilitary group Magahat-Bagani, Bobby Tejero, Loloy Tejero, Garito Layno, and 25 others;

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2015, Judge Edwin Malazarte of Branch 28 Lianga, Regional Trial Court issued a warrant of arrest against Bobby Tejero, Loloy Tejero, Garito Layno, and 25 other members of the paramilitary group Magahat-Bagani;

WHEREAS, on October 2, 2015, the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights held a two-day senate inquiry on the Lianga Massacre. Senators expressed their condemnation of the killings and called for the arrest of the paramilitary perpetrators and the disbandment of all paramilitary groups;

WHEREAS, four years have passed since the Lianga Massacre but the leaders and members of the paramilitary group Magahat-Bagani and are still at-large. No arrest has been made against any perpetrator of the Lianga Massacre. Residents, however, have reported sightings of paramilitary members together with the military;

WHEREAS, the families and friends of the victims, as well as their colleagues at the ALCADEV, MAPASU, and other people’s organization and non-government organizations in Mindanao and in Metro Manila are demanding justice for the victims and are calling for the immediate stop to the escalating killings and the massive militarization in the entire island of Mindanao;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Committee on Human Rights, conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the extra-judicial killings of ALCADEV Executive Director Emerito Samanca, Manobo Lumad leader Dionel Campos and Datu Juvello Sinzo, that took place on September 1, 2015 in Brgy. Diatagon, Lianga town, Surigao del Sur, allegedly perpetrated by members of the paramilitary group Magahat-Bagani backed by the Philippine Army.

Adopted,

Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
BAYAN MUNA Party-list
Rep. CARLOS ISRAEL T. ZARATE
BAYAN MUNA Party-list

Rep. FERNANDO R. GAITE
BAYAN MUNA Party-list

ARLENE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women's Party

FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers' Party-list

SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Party-list