Republic of the Philippines

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 448

Introduced by
BAYAN MUNA Representatives EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE and FERDINAND R. GAITE,
ACT TEACHERS Party 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 THROUGH THE COMMITTEE
ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO INVESTIGATE IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ALLEGEDLY PERPETRATED BY THE
ELEMENTS OF CIDG AND COMBINED FORCES OF PNP AND AFP, ON
VIRGILIO “KA YOYONG” LINCUNA, WHICH INCLUDE ILLEGAL ARREST
AND FILING OF TRUMPED UP CHARGES

WHEREAS, on the 10th of October year 2019, Virgilio “Ka Yoyong” Lincuna, 68 years old, Secretary-General of Unyon ng mga Mag-uuma sa Agusan del Norte and Chairperson of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP)-Caraga was arrested by some 20 combined forces of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the 402nd Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division, Philippine Army at the UMAN office in Brgy. Tiniwisan, Butuan City;

WHEREAS, Lincuna, at the time of his arrest, was in a meeting with farmers to discuss the activities to celebrate the Peasant Week this October;

WHEREAS, after ransacking the UMAN office and taking the CCTV cameras, the arresting officers brought him to Camp Raphael Rodriguez in Butuan City;

WHEREAS, Virgilio “Ka Yoyong” Lincuna, has been in the peasant movement since the early 1980’s, leading campaigns to alleviate the conditions of poor farmers including the raising of wages of farm workers and the lowering of land rent; increasing the prices of palay and copra; ending usury; opposing land conversion, land grabbing, large-scale mining operations and plantations in the region;

WHEREAS, Ka Yoyong provided para-legal services to farmers not only to resolve land disputes but also to help farmers defend their rights;

WHEREAS, Ka Yoyong was vocal in his critique of the Duterte government and strongly called for the lifting of Martial Law in Mindanao especially in the face of numerous reports by farmers of human rights violations committed by operating troops of the AFP in the region. Under the Duterte regime farmers have reported increased threats, harassments and intimidations to force
farmers to sever ties with KMP, vilification and red tagging, forced fake surrenders as NPA, trumped-up charges, illegal arrests, and many other abuses;

WHEREAS, Ka Yoyong was falsely accused of being a member of the New People’s Army (NPA), as alleged by the PNP and the AFP who arrested him;

WHEREAS, it is clear that the basis of Ka Yoyong’s arrest and the allegations made against him by the PNP and AFP in Caraga are clearly trumped-up and are but attempts to silence farmers in airing their legitimate grievances;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives Committee on Human Rights to investigate, in aid of legislation, the human rights violations, allegedly perpetrated by elements of Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Philippine National Police (CIDG-PNP) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), on Virgilio “Ka Yoyong” Lincuna, which include illegal arrest and filing of trumped up charges.

Adopted,

Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Party-list

Rep. CARLOS IZAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Party-list

Rep. FRANCISCO L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party

Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Party-list