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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 665



Introduced by
BAYAN MUNA Representatives CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,
FERDINAND R. GAITE and EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY, TO CONDUCT AN
INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON ALLEGED ABUSES OF THE
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE DURING THE CONDUCT OF TRASLACION
2020

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2020, Manila's Risk Reduction and Management Organization recorded a total of 487 people who suffered minor injuries and no fatalities during the feast of the Black Nazarene which started at 4:10 AM at the Quirino Grandstand and ended at 8:45 PM at Quiapo Church;¹

WHEREAS, some media reports showed the apparent use of excessive force by the Philippine National Police (PNP) to control the movement of the devotees;

WHEREAS, during the procession, some devotees claimed that the security officers sprayed them with "water mixed with chili." PNP Spokesperson Bernard Banac though denied that the spray came from the police and accuse "saboteurs" trying to taint the image of PNP.² Philippine Red Cross said that there is no recorded injury from the spray;

WHEREAS, one of the commotions in Traslacion 2020 was recorded by GMA 7 reporter Jun Veneracion. In the video, it is shown how the police rounded up and pushed the devotee to the ground;³

WHEREAS, it was also shown that National Capital Region Police - Southern Police District (NCRPO-SPD) Chief Brigadier General Nolasco Bathan then snatched and confiscated the cellphone of Jun Veneracion, who was recording the commotion between the "cops and a hapless Black Nazarene devotee on Ayala Bridge in Manila." Later on, Brig. Gen. Bathan even threatened to also confiscate the reporter's handheld radio instead of answering why did he snatch Veneracion's cellphone. Twenty minutes later, upon returning the cellphone to the reporter, Bathan claimed that he supposedly failed to immediately recognize Jun Veneracion. After checking

¹ <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/1/9/traslacion-2020-injuries.html>

² <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/1/10/Traslacion-video-GMA-reporter-Jun-Veneracion-police.html?fbclid=IwAR2J2PcpOhFIAJd-C9-56j0nR7HYFuUp4KLI7q4wO1m00j8hSKtnxpH3oDA>

³ <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/721621/police-snatches-gma-reporter-s-phone-amid-commotion-at-black-nazarene-feast/story/>

1 the phone gallery, Jun Veneracion found out that the recording was deleted, which the police
2 denied;⁴

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Brig. Gen. Bathan later claimed that he didn't know that Veneracion is a journalist.
5 He added that he confiscated the cellphone because he is taking pictures of the commotion and
6 taught that Veneracion is "rescuing" the devotee held by the police;⁵

7
8 **WHEREAS**, on January 10, 2020, Police Brig. Gen. Bathan apologized to Jun Veneracion saying
9 that he thought that the reporter is holding a grenade and not a phone. Also, again, he claimed
10 that he didn't order anyone to delete the video;⁶

11
12 **WHEREAS**, Bathan's claims or denials are belied by the fact that at the end of the recovered
13 video, he was recorded to have ordered a subordinate: "Burahin mo, burahin mo. Kuha ni Jun
14 Veneracion. Putang-ina nagku-kuwan eh;"⁷

15
16 **WHEREAS**, the actions of Gen. Bathan and the PNP members supposedly tasked to maintain
17 order in the conduct of the Traslacion is apparently reflective of the highhanded mindset now
18 prevalent in the police force, which should not be tolerated or allowed to continue;

19
20 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives, through the
21 Committee on Public Order and Safety, to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on alleged
22 abuses of the Philippine National Police during the conduct of Traslacion 2020.

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25 *Adopted,*

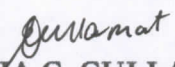
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REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE

Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE

Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT

Bayan Muna Partylist

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/jun.veneracion/videos/10217468724843158/>

⁵ <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/721639/police-official-who-confiscated-gma-reporter-s-phone-says-he-was-just-following-orders/story/>

⁶ <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/01/10/pnp-general-apologizes-for-phone-snatching-incident/>

⁷ <https://www.rappler.com/nation/248951-southern-metro-police-chief-bathan-apology-reporter-jun-veneracion-traslacion-2020>