Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 763

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

RESOLUTION
URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE
ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE INDiscrimINATE FIRING ON A LUMAD
COMMUNITY BY SUSPECTED ELEMENTS OF THE 75TH IB, 36TH IB AND
9TH SFC PHILIPPINE ARmy IN DIATAGON, LIANGA SURIGAO DEL SUR

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2020, three (3) Lumad residents of Sitio Emerald, Barangay
Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur were injured by shrapnel after suspected elements of the 75th IB,
36th IB, and 9th SFC Philippine Army indiscriminately fired at the homes of Lumad residents
including the home of farmer Naldo Calipay at around 1:00 PM. Calipay’s child, a 5-year-old
student of Lumad school Tribal Filipino Program of Surigao del Sur (TRIFPSS), was hit by a
shrapnel on the arm while his two relatives, aged 19-years-old and 55-years-old, were hit by
shrapnel on the arm, shoulder, back and leg;

WHEREAS, prior to the incident residents of Sitio Emerald report that the 75th IB set up camp
behind the house of one resident on January 13, 2020;

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2020, at around 11:00 AM, residents heard explosions and gunshots
fifty (50) meters from the center of the community in Sitio Simowao which was allegedly a firefight
between the 75th IBPA and the New People’s Army. The firefight lasted for one (1) hour;

WHEREAS, on the same day at around 1:17 PM, ten (10) soldiers in full battle gear surrounded
the house of a resident in Sitio Emerald and opened fire. According to one of the residents who
witnessed the incident, the shooting came from the direction of the military camp. One grenade
fell on the house of Naldo Calipay which destroyed the roof of his house and caused the injuries
of his child and two other relatives;

WHEREAS, after the indiscriminate firing, residents report that the military threatened to
retaliate against the community if they would be attack by the NPA;

WHEREAS, in a statement, the 4th Infantry battalion claims that the injured victims were attacked
by the NPA. However, according to the Malahutayong Pakigbisog Alang sa Sumusunod
(MAPASU), the organisation of the Lumad in the area, the victims were pressured into signing a
false account of the event;

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2019, 67 families from Sitio Emerald were forced to flee from their
community out of fear for their lives as a result of the indiscriminate firing. They moved to a
nearby community to secure their safety;

WHEREAS, community members have long been calling for the pulling out of the camps set up
by the 75th IB in their community. The Lumad leaders of the community have held dialogues with
the military and the local government to no avail;

WHEREAS, attacks against people’s organizations and human rights defenders have intensified
since President Duterte issued Executive Order 70 which created the National Task Force to End
Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC). The national task force has since unveiled itself
as a tool to silence any form of dissent from activists and people’s organizations by falsely tagging
its members as armed combatants of terrorist groups. Despite the lifting of Martial Law in
Mindanao, military encampment in communités and human rights violations still persist;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for members of Congress, as representatives of our people, to defend
the rights of our people and check on excesses and violations committed against them. Laws and
rules should serve the interest of our people, and should not be weaponized to suppress their rights
and oppress them;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives, through the
Committee on Human Rights, conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the indiscriminate firing on a lumad community by suspected elements of the 75th IB, 36th IB and
9th SFC in Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur.

Approved,

REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist