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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 813



Introduced by

**BAYAN MUNA 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 CONDEMN AND CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE KILLING OF PEASANT LEADER NORA
APIQUE IN SAN MIGUEL, SURIGAO DEL SUR**

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, at around 7 p.m., 66-year-old Nora Apique, municipal chairperson and provincial council member of peasant organization Kapunungan sa mga Mag-uuma sa Surigao del Sur-Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KAMASS-KMP), was shot dead by a motorcycle-riding gunman in Sitio Caraatan, Brgy. Patong, San Miguel, Surigao del Sur while she was on her way home;

WHEREAS, prior to her killing, Nora Apique, or Nanay Nora as she was known to many farmers and agrarian reform advocates, was subjected to constant red-tagging and vilification drives by the military especially during the time of Martial Law in Mindanao. She was openly accused by the military of being an NPA recruiter along with Silvestre L. Maratas, Vice-Chairperson of KAMASS-KMP-San Miguel Chapter. These accusations were publicly made in 2017 and 2018 by military assets Hatung and Eugene Maca on the radio program of the 16th Special Forces Battalion on NICE Radio FM in San Miguel which aired Sundays at 9 to 10 o'clock in the morning. Silvestre L. Maratas, was also shot and killed on July 16, 2017 by armed men identified to be agents of the 36th IBPA;

WHEREAS, in 2017, Nora Apique was ordered by officials of the 16th SFB and 36th IBPA to "report" to the military encamped in the barangay hall of Brgy. Patong to "clear" her name. She was scolded by a military official when she went there accompanied by neighbors and her family and was told that she should have gone there alone. In 2019, Nanay Nora was "visited" by three soldiers belonging to the 36th IBPA who told her to "surrender". Nanay Nora refused, telling the soldiers that she would not surrender as she was a civilian;

WHEREAS, Apique was well-known in the municipality of San Miguel for consistently fighting for the interests of poor farmers. Because of this she was chosen by agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) to lead the barangay and municipal Agrarian Reform Committees (BARC/MARC) of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) as its chairperson. She was also a member of the Provincial Agrarian Reform Committee (DAR- PARCOM) of Surigao del Sur. She was not an NPA rebel as the military tagged her to be in justification of their attacks and harassments;

WHEREAS, Nora's killing comes at a time when the whole country reels from the harsh effects

1 of the COVID-19 pandemic. Attacks against activists, members of people's organizations and
2 human rights defenders have intensified even more since President Duterte issued Executive
3 Order 70 which created the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-
4 ELCAC). The national task force has since unveiled itself as a tool to silence all forms of dissent
5 from activists and people's organizations by falsely tagging its members as armed combatants of
6 rebel groups. Despite the lifting of Martial Law in Mindanao, military encampments in communities
7 and human rights violations still persist;

8 **WHEREAS**, it is imperative for members of Congress, as representatives of our people, to defend
9 the rights of our people and check on excesses and violations being committed against them. Laws
10 and rules should serve the interest of our people, and should not be weaponized to suppress their
11 rights nor to oppress them;

12
13 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the
14 House of Representatives, through the Committee on Human Rights, to condemn and conduct
15 an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the the killing of peasant leader Nora Apique in San
16 Miguel, Surigao del Sur.

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19 *Approved,*

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24 **REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**
25 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

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30 **REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**
31 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

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35 **REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE**
36 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

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40 **REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS**
41 *GABRIELA Women's Party*

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REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Partylist


REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist