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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 814



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 CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE ARREST OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORKER TERESITA
"TESSIE" NAUL IN LANA O DEL SUR

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, at around 8 AM, Teresita "Tessie" Naul, Karapatan Regional Council Member for Northern Mindanao, was arrested by joint elements of the 4th Infantry Division Philippine Army, 2nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade, Mechanized Infantry Division, Philippine National Police - Criminal Investigation and Division Group (PNP-CIDG), and PNP Region 10 in Lala, Lanao del Sur on trumped-up charges of Kidnapping and Serious Illegal Detention, and Destructive Arson;

WHEREAS, prior to her arrest, Naul was vilified and red-tagged, along with other human rights activists and church workers, in leaflets distributed by perceived state agents near an Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI) Church in Cugman, Cagayan de Oro City on March 11;

WHEREAS, the trumped-up charges filed against Naul pertain to an offensive launched by the New People's Army against a military camp in Sibagat, Agusan del Sur in December 2019. The attack was pinned on around 400 persons, most of whom are civilians and members of legitimate people's organizations and rights groups, including Naul. The charges have been denounced as a judicial harassment to silence progressive organizations and critics of the administration;

WHEREAS, Teresita Naul's arrest comes at a time when the whole country is reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even as the people are scrambling to protect and feed themselves, harassment, arrests, and killings continue. The attacks against activists, members of 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 all forms of dissent from activists and people's organizations by falsely tagging its members as armed combatants of rebel groups. Despite the lifting of Martial Law in Mindanao, military encampments in communities 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 being committed against them. Laws and rules should serve the interest of our people, and should not be weaponized to suppress their

1 rights nor to oppress them;


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3 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,**S that the
4 House of Representatives, through the Committee on Human Rights, conduct an investigation,
5 in aid of legislation, on the arrest of human rights worker Teresita "Tessie" Naul in Lanao del
6 Sur.
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10 *Approved,*
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16 **REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**
17 *Bayan Muna Partylist*
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21 **REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**
22 *Bayan Muna Partylist*
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26 **REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE**
27 *Bayan Muna Partylist*
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31 **REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS**
32 *GABRIELA Women's Party*
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35 **REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO**
ACT Teachers Partylist


REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist