Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 840

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

RESOLUTION
URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGED
PRESENTATION OF COCA COLA WORKERS AS REBEL SURRENDEREES
AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC CRISIS

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2020, the Philippine National Police (PNP) Police Regional Office 4A
and the 202nd Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army held a press conference at Camp Vicente
Lim where it presented 16 workers from Coca-Cola Sta. Rosa as “rebel returnees,”

WHEREAS, labor group Defend Coca-Cola Workers tagged former labor leader-turned-police
asset Rey Medellin as instrumental in the continuing harassment faced by the workers. On March
29, Medellin posed as “Rebo,” a “rebel returnee” who “surrendered” in a similarly staged ceremony
at Camp Vicente Lim. On April 1 and 2, the PNP conducted visitation activities among union
leaders’ houses and coerced said workers to surrender as members of the NPA, reportedly with
the help of Medellin;

WHEREAS, again, on April 8, 2020, soldiers reportedly went to the homes of several workers to
force them to sign Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) forms. On
April 23, nine (9) workers were allegedly forcibly taken to Camp Sakay, illegally interrogated, and
were accused of being rebels;

WHEREAS, at around 12:35 AM of May 1, 2020, the Pagkakaisa ng Manggagawa sa Timog
Katagalugan (Pamantik-KMU) said in a statement that 16 Coca-Cola workers were picked up after
the end of their shift to attend to an alleged “Labor Day program,” but suspected that they would
be presented as fake surrenderees;

WHEREAS, Defend Coca-Cola Workers reported cases of harassment as early as January 2020,
when Coca-Cola management brought workers to Fort Sto. Domingo, Santa Rosa, and to Camp
Vicente Lim, Calamba, for anti-union seminars;

1 https://www.bulatlat.com/2020/05/02/labor-day-surrender-of-16-reds-staged-groups/
pandemic/
3 https://www.abante.com.ph/coke-workers-ginawang-rebel-returnee-bayan-muna.htm?fbclid=IwAR2yRAWRge2feg200fA_eeseSPr6CvFrV9b_b1smDk3ymilSJoWbUdc-nfa8
4 https://www.facebook.com/Pamantik/photos/a.980900312001832/284589338835844/
WHEREAS, Article III, Section 8 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that, “The right of the people, including those employed in the public and private sectors, to form unions, associations, or societies for purposes not contrary to law shall not be abridged;”

WHEREAS, according to Section 1 of Administrative Order No. 10, s. 2018, under the E-CLIP, each rebel returnee is set to receive a complete package of assistance, the amount of which amounts to more than P160,000;

WHEREAS, Luzon is still under community quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and while mass gatherings are prohibited, the police and the military blatantly violated the ECQ protocol when they conducted a mass gathering to maliciously present the workers as rebels;

WHEREAS, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis in the Philippines, the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) continues its operation of demonizing activists and victimizing innocent civilians to justify their existence and be able to avail of the budget allocated for E-CLIP through devious schemes such as abducting and forcing them to act as “surrenderees”;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives, through its Committee on Human Rights, investigate, in aid of legislation, the alleged presentation of the Coca Cola Workers as rebel surrenderees amid the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

Adopted,

REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist