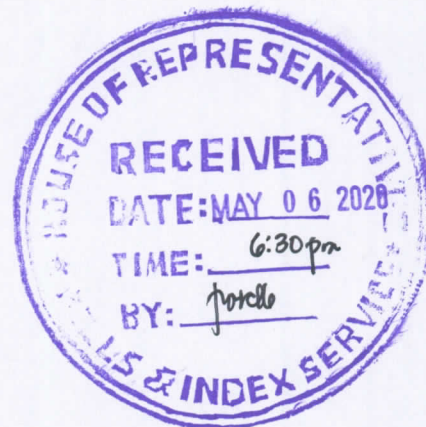


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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

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;”¹

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;²

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;³

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 surrenderers;⁴

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/>

² <https://www.bulatlat.com/2020/04/28/harassment-vs-coca-cola-workers-continues-amid-covid-19-pandemic/>

³ https://www.abante.com.ph/coke-workers-ginawang-rebel-returnee-bayan-muna.htm?fbclid=IwAR2yRAWRge2feg2O0fA_eseSPr6CvfRv9b_b1smDk3ymilSjOwbUdc-nfa8

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/Pamantik/photos/a.980900312001832/2845893338835844/>

1 **WHEREAS**, Article III, Section 8 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that, "The right of
2 the people, including those employed in the public and private sectors, to form unions,
3 associations, or societies for purposes not contrary to law shall not be abridged;"
4

5 **WHEREAS**, according to Section 1 of Administrative Order No. 10, s. 2018, under the E-CLIP,
6 each rebel returnee is set to receive a complete package of assistance, the amount of which amounts
7 to more than P160,000;
8

9 **WHEREAS**, Luzon is still under community quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and
10 while mass gatherings are prohibited, the police and the military blatantly violated the ECQ
11 protocol when they conducted a mass gathering to maliciously present the workers as rebels;
12

13 **WHEREAS**, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis in the Philippines, the National Task
14 Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) continues its operation of
15 demonizing activists and victimizing innocent civilians to justify their existence and be able to avail
16 of the budget allocated for E-CLIP through devious schemes such as abducting and forcing them
17 to act as "surrenderees";
18

19 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives, through its
20 Committee on Human Rights, investigate, in aid of legislation, the alleged presentation of the Coca
21 Cola Workers as rebel surrenderees amid the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.
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REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist