Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 988

Introduced by KABATAAN PARTY-LIST Representative Sarah Jane I. Elago,
ACT TEACHERS PARTY-LIST Representative France L. Castro,
BAYAN MUNA PARTY-LIST Representatives Carlos Isagani T. Zarate,
Ferdinand Gaite and Eufemia C. Cullamat,
and GABRIELA WOMEN’S PARTY Representative Arlene D. Brosas

RESOLUTION
URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON JUSTICE AND ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO
CONDEMN AND INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE UNJUST AND
VIOLENT DISPERSEL AND ARREST OF UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES-CEBU
PROTESTERS, AND TO DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE DROPPING OF CHARGES
AGAINST CEBU 8

WHEREAS, this violent response to peaceful and legitimate dissent comes even before
the signing of the terror bill into law, raising questions as to how much further the state
and its repressive forces intend to take their crackdown on activism and active
citizenship;

WHEREAS, a number of youth and other individuals conducted a protest on June 5,
2020, around 10:00 AM to protest against the hurried passage of the Anti-Terrorism Bill;

WHEREAS, a SWAT team dispersed the protest, and arrested eight individuals: NUSP
Associate Vice President Joahanna Veloso and UP Cebu USC Vice Chair Bern
Cañedo, Dyan Gumanao of Kabataan Partylist Cebu, Nar Porlas of Anakbayan UP
Cebu, Jaime Paglinawan of Bayan Central Visayas, Janry Ubal of Food Not Bombs
Cebu, UP Dillman College of Engineering alumnus Al Ingking, and 19-year-old Clement
Corominas who was only a bystander. They were detained in Camp Sotero Cabahug;

WHEREAS, people criticized the police who dispersed the rally of fewer than 40 people.
The officers were seen on video wearing anti-riot gear and manhandling participants of
the largely peaceful protest1;

1 https://www.rappler.com/nation/263160-arrested-anti-terror-bill-rallyists-cebu-ordered-released-without-
bail?fbclid=IwAR0I_Sk08y7gowtYBIOL9SeVSNv0HyvGcOJYhc3ntZUZnwOQLFr7-smnWY
WHEREAS, guards of UP Cebu reportedly helped in the dispersal, while police officers continued to chase in pursuit of the protestors while they were inside the Campus;

WHEREAS, the UP-DND accord of 1989 prohibits any police or military operations within the campus without prior coordination to the school administration;

WHEREAS, at 11:18 AM of June 5, a lawyer has arrived to assist the arrested protestors, among whom are USC students. When asked what the charges were, PNP responded: "wala pay charges" [there are still no charges]. Police claim that GCQ guidelines were violated but they could not cite which specific guidelines;

WHEREAS, eventually, according to lawyer King Anthony Perez, spokesperson of the legal team of the so-called “Cebu 8”, charges were filed by the police included violations of Section 13 of Batasang Pambansa or The Public Assembly Act of 1985; Section 9 of Republic Act No. 11332, or the Law on Reporting of Communicable Diseases, and Article 151 paragraph 2 of the Revised Penal Code.

WHEREAS, the eight individuals arrested were ordered released without bail in the afternoon of June 8. The National Union of Peoples’ Lawyers (NUPL) Cebu said in a statement that the release order was issued by Cebu City Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC) Branch 4 Judge Jenelyn Villaceran Forrosuelo who gave ten days for the defense to comment on the charges;

WHEREAS, the Anti-Terrorism Bill is now only pending the approval of the president, which earlier he directed as urgent, despite the numerous and more pressing issues that need to be addressed such as mass testing, transportation, and safety nets to livelihood for the benefit of the people;

WHEREAS, even prior to the creation of the bill, relentless attacks on the youth and the people have been going on for the longest time which begs the question of what more the moment the Anti-Terrorism Bill becomes a law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives condemn and investigate, in aid of legislation, the unjust and violent dispersal and arrest of protestors in UP Cebu and demand the immediate dropping of the charges against Cebu 8.
Adopted,

Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO  
Kabataan Party-list

Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE  
Bayan Muna Party-list

Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO  
ACT Teachers Party-list

Rep. FERDINAND GAITE  
Bayan Muna Party-list

Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS  
Gabriela Women’s Party

Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT  
Bayan Muna Party-list