Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 989

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
BASELESS ARREST OF ILIGAN 14, AND ALL OTHER STATE FORCES’
INTIMIDATION AND HARASSMENT AGAINST PROTESTERS

WHEREAS, a significant number of youth and citizens nationwide conduct series of
peaceful protests in various protest centers during a pandemic to register the
widespread dissent on the hurried passage of the Anti-Terrorism Bill;

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2020, Philippine Independence Day Commemoration, 16
students—among them are members of Kabataan Partylist Northern Mindanao (KPL-
NMR)—staged a mañanita-style protest in barangay Palao, Iligan City which lasted for
only five minutes;

WHEREAS, according to the Iligan City Police Office (ICPO), the students were invited
to ICPO Station 5 for “violating the health protocols on social distancing;”

WHEREAS, KPL-NMR and the Students’ Alliance for the Advancement of Democratic
Rights of MSU-IIT (STAND-IIT) disputed this, stating that the police’s statement was
“misleading and is clearly meant to save face and make their warrantless arrest appear
legitimate;”

WHEREAS, “As shown in a video recorded by one of the protesters, the students were
not invited, the police officers dragged them by the arm, caught them in a chokehold
and when the students asked them on what grounds they were being arrested, the
arresting officers couldn’t cite any violations,” read a joint statement by KPL-NMR and
STAND-IIT. One the officers even shouted “Shoot them!” while the students were being
dragged;
WHEREAS, that, despite the fact that the students were able to produce legal documents for their protest while observing strict physical distancing. The students were also given ten minutes to conduct their program but chose to stage a five-minute protest, intending to immediately disperse in a peaceful and organized manner;

WHEREAS, the 14 arrested students were then detained without probable cause for roughly seven hours before they were released before 6 p.m.;

WHEREAS, KPL-NMR and STAND-IIT stated that the students were subjected to abuse and intimidation, with one student choked by an officer in plainclothes while he was trying to explain. One student was also labeled as a “recruiter for the New Peoples’ Army” which put it in trouble with its parents despite the falsehood;

WHEREAS, the police officers also confiscated the students’ phones and interrogated seven of them before legal counsel arrived, taking personal information from them. Their legal counsel Kristine Campilan stressed that the police officers were violating Republic Act 7438 by conducting a “custodial investigation without the assistance of counsel;”

WHEREAS, state forces trivialize the protests as mere violations of the government’s social distancing measures instead of addressing the root issues surrounding them;

WHEREAS, police have also used intimidation tactics against protesters in other parts of the country. In Tuguegarao City, police threatened members of Kabataan Partylist Cagayan Valley with arrests should they continue with their own mañanita-style protest;

WHEREAS, in Manila, about 40 police officers were immediately deployed in response to a protest staged inside the De La Salle University-Manila campus on June 12, 2020. There were approximately 20 protesters conducting a short program, including former Deputy Speaker Atty. Erin Tañada;

WHEREAS, in Manila’s San Pablo Apostol Church, UP Rises Against Tyranny and Dictatorship reported that police officers led by Station Commander Lt. Navidad and Vic Blanco confiscated placards from protesters despite observing proper social distancing measures;

WHEREAS, even the UP Diliman “grand mañanita” wasn’t safe. Quezon City Police Department officers blocked the entrances along with the Commission of Human Rights and the Asian Center, blocking protesters from entering the campus.

WHEREAS, these protests were part of a nationwide series of actions calling for the junking of the Anti-Terrorism Bill, which critics have repeatedly slammed as actually targeting activists;
WHEREAS, this harassing and 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, 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 baseless arrest of Illigan 14 and all other state forces’ intimidation and harassment against protesters.

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