Republic of the Philippines

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1050

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
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ARREST OF SEVEN (7)
MEMBERS OF THE KALUMBAY REGIONAL LUMAD ORGANIZATION IN
BALINGASAG, MISAMIS ORIENTAL

WHEREAS, on June 26, at around 3 AM, seven (7) members of the Kalumbay Regional Lumad
Organization (Kalumbay) were arrested without warrant by combined forces of the Criminal
Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and
Philippine National Police (PNP) in Brgy. Blangko, Balingasag, Misamis Oriental. Subsequently
detained, these seven are Datu Reynaldo Ayuma, Pablita Hilogon, Glenn Hilogon, Bambi
Hilogon, Toto Hilogon, Junjun Ayoman, and Jesson Langka;

WHEREAS, authorities claimed to have seized assorted firearms including three (3) homemade
shotguns, two (2) .38 caliber pistols, and ammunitions for high-powered rifles. Those arrested
were tagged by arresting officers as members of the New People’s Army and were charged with
violation of RA 10591 for illegal possession of firearms and ammunition with violation of RA
9516 for illegal possession of explosives, according to Lt. Noel Oclarit, deputy team leader of the
CIDG-10 in Misamis Oriental;

WHEREAS, according to Lumad group Kalumbay, those arrested were their members who
were former residents of Sitio Camansi, barangay Banglay, Lagonglong, Misamis Oriental. They
were forced to evacuate from their lands due to intense militarization and harassment in their
community. They have become internal evacuees or “bakwit” since 2018. They temporarily took
shelter in the Provincial Capitol grounds in Misamis Oriental from 2018 to 2019. When the local
government demolished their makeshift homes, the evacuees sought residency in farming
communities in Misamis Oriental for livelihood. The seven were residing in Brgy. Blangko where
they were rounded up and illegally arrested;

WHEREAS, one of those arrested is Datu Reynaldo Ayuma, a Higaonon leader who is at the
forefront of Camansi evacuees struggle to defend their ancestral domain in Mt. Balatukan which
is being threatened with encroachment from logging and mining projects;

WHEREAS, there have been numerous attacks against indigenous people and environmental
defenders for the defense of ancestral lands. In 2019, another Higaonon leader, Datu Jomorito
Goaynon, was detained over alleged violations of the Human Securities Act of 2007. The case was dismissed. However, he remains detained over subsequent trumped-up charges. As of March 2020, there are already 36 indigenous political prisoners, with 28 coming from the ranks of Lumad, who are jailed over trumped-up charges for leading and actively participating in campaigns to defend land and livelihood;

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 committed against them. Laws and rules should serve the interest of our people and perpetrators of abuses against it should be held to account. Congress is duty-bound to conduct investigations to be able to uphold justice and protect the people against abuses especially during extraordinary times such as the COVID-19 pandemic;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Committee on Human Rights conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the illegal arrest of seven (7) members of the Kalumbay Regional Lumad Organization in Balingasag, Misamis Oriental.

Approved,

REP. EOE MIA C. CULLMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. ANE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women’s Party

REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Partylist

REP. SARAH I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist