Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1072

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

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN
INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SERIES OF
HARASSMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST RESIDENTS OF
KASIGLAHAN VILLAGE, BRGY. SAN JOSE, RODRIGUEZ, RIZAL

WHEREAS, the Housing project in 1K2 Kasiglahan Village, Brgy. San Jose, Rodriguez, Rizal
has been around for three (3) years and six (6) months. It was occupied in 2016 after it was
found to have been left unoccupied for a significant period. Residents who occupied the said
housing project cleared the overgrowth and cleaned the area, eventually forming their own
organization, the San Isidro Kasiglahan, Kapitran at Damayan para sa Kabuhayan, Katarungan
at Kapayapaan (SIKKAD K3);

WHEREAS, militarization in the area started in 2019, led by the National Task Force to End
Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) together with the 80th Infantry Battalion of
the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police (PNP), after state forces spread
unfounded allegations that “terrorists” were staying in the area. This marked the start of a series
of harassment against residents according to human rights organization KARAPATAN-
Southern Tagalog. Harassment against the community has since then intensified, according to
residents. As of this writing, at least one (1) up to three (3) military trucks surround the area;

WHEREAS, an investigation into the complaints raised by the community in Kasiglahan Village
was conducted by human rights group KARAPATAN-Southern Tagalog in June of 2020.
According to the report, military presence started in October 2019 with soldiers and 6x6 military
trucks seen around the area. The report brought to light the following incidents of intimidation
and harassment:

1. Since November 28, 2019, a certain 2nd Lt. Grace Emia connected with the NTF-
ELCAC would conduct daily “visits” to the home of SIKKAD K3 President Annafe
Cainglet;
2. On December 1, 2019, 2nd Lt. Emia along with Barangay Officials reportedly made
rounds in the village, listing the details of each unit;
3. On December 7, 2019, 2nd Lt. Emia along with a certain Saga and Bolor, identified as
members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), arrived in the village bringing a
letter from the Department of Local and Interior Government (DILG) stating that a
profiling of residents in the village would be conducted;
4. On 20 March 2020, five (5) members of the leadership of SIKKAD K3, namely Annafe Cainglet, Jovielyn Cubillo, Nenita Ballento, and Elsie Magatsole, were called to the office of Brgy. San Jose at around 2 PM. They were then brought to Brgy. San Jose Main without their prior consent. There, Brgy. Captain Glenn Evangelista, along with members of the NTF-ELCAC, and 2nd Lt. Grace Emia, spoke to them. 2nd Lt. Emia allegedly asked them to help in the repacking of relief goods and in the upcoming relief operations on March 28. The leaders were then transferred to the building’s Conference Room to repack. Because the room was highly enclosed, the five (5) leaders did not notice that it was already dark outside. They finished repacking at around 1 AM after which, they were given a ride home on board a 6x6 military truck. They arrived home at around 2 AM. According to the leaders who were “invited” by the Barangay, the invitation was a form of surveillance by the NTF-ELCAC.

5. On March 27, community leaders Annafe Cainglet, Jovielyn Cubillo, Nenita Gozon, Nenita Ballento, and Arcill Tuyor of SIKKAD K3 were summoned by soldiers suspected to be members of the 2nd Infantry Division Philippine Army. Even before the incident, the report notes that the leaders had already been tagged as terrorists by the military.

6. On March 28, an official of the barangay gave a list to the community bearing 14 names of persons who were “invited” to a “Local Peace Engagement” in Brgy. San Jose Main.

7. On April 29, another letter from the barangay arrived. A text message was received by residents inviting those who wanted to “clear” their names from being accused as terrorists and inviting residents to a Local Peace Engagement. Due to the malicious accusation, residents immediately cleared their names. It was found that in the Local Peace Engagement, officials asked about urban poor group Kadamay and partylist, and whether they were running any “underground” activities. They also asked about certain individuals and whether they were members of the New People’s Army (NPA). Attendees were then accused of being terrorists and assisting or sending financial help to terrorists. Attendees were forced to give their personal information and thumb mark. They were shown videos encouraging them to “surrender” and help the military in order for them to have a “Happy Home”. They were then given envelopes containing messages that promised they would receive P2,000,000.00 if they were able to give information.

8. On May 22, a certain Nica Endaya, from the NTF-ELCAC, summoned the leaders of SIKKAD K3. According to the community leaders, they were accused of being terrorists and were being forced to surrender by Endaya. The task force reportedly explained to them about the NTF-ELCAC and Enhance Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) for rebel surrenderees. The leaders believe they were being used by the Barangay for the NTF-ELCAC.

9. On June 6, a certain Ralph Noriel from the NTF-ELCAC went to the office of SIKKAD K3 and spoke about issues regarding Housing, promising to help residents and a livelihood program. On June 11, community leaders spoke to Ralph Noriel. They soon found that at around the same time, the military conducted profiling activities in the community.

10. On June 18, community leaders Adela Destura, Nita Vallentos, and Jenelyn Vulah were summoned by a certain Albert Rodriguez from the NTF-ELCAC to their headquarters in San Mateo, Rizal. They were questioned about alleged codenames and were warned that they could be charged with forcible entry and rebellion. A day after on July 19, 2nd Lt. Emia and Albert Rodriguez of the NTF-ELCAC along with soldiers “visited”
community leaders Nenita Gozon, Rose Díaz, and Noralyn Layao and subjected them to
similar questioning.

11. On June 22, a police mobile carrying 5 policemen in full battle gear arrived in front of the
SIKKAD K3 office, seemingly surveying the area. The mobile parked in front of the
office and asked if there had been any exchange of gunfire inside the community on the
night of June 21 to which the marshal of SIKKAD answered in the negative.

12. On June 23, resident Fortunato Peloquero, while alone in his residence, reported seeing a
barangay official and two (2) soldiers talking to each other and pointing at his residence.
The three (3) were seen around the area. Later, Fortunato learned that his name was in
the list of alleged terrorists.

13. On June 24, after a few days of residents spotting helicopters owned by the AFP around
the area, in the morning residents saw the helicopter flying above the area covered by
1K2.

14. On June 28, around 2:30 AM a 6x6 military truck and police mobile arrived in the
village to set up a checkpoint at the entry of the housing project. Police and soldiers were
in full battle gear however the checkpoint had no signage and was hidden in a dark area.
The questionable establishment of a checkpoint in the wee hours of the morning caused
alarm among the marshals of the community and residents. In the morning, the
checkpoint was moved to the street in Block 17 and San Jose Builder. In the checkpoint,
officials reportedly inspected and went through the contents of bags and vehicles in a
dark area, without proper lighting, calling out residents who went outside the housing
area. At the end of the day, because of the military and police presence in the area,
SIKKAD K3 decided to put up a community watch post to stand guard. Minutes after
building the watch post, SPO1 Calayon of PNP Rodriguez accompanied by 3 soldiers in
full battle gear arrived at the area and destroyed the newly installed watch post. SPO1
Calayon reportedly shouted at the resident and acted in a disrespectful manner towards
the residents who were assigned to stand guard.

15. On June 29, the NTF-ELCAC sent text messages to residents of the housing project.
Containing vilification against progressive organizations, blaming members of SIKKAD
K3, and other forms of threat and harassment.

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Rodrigo Duterte placed the entire Luzon under
Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) to stem the spread of Covid-19. The memorandum
released by the Executive Secretary placing Luzon under ECQ, states heightened police and
military presence to strictly implement the quarantine, allowing only frontline workers, authorized
persons, media personnel and persons conducting humanitarian missions to pass through border
checkpoints. Despite these guidelines, the series of harassment by state forces against residents of
Kasiglahan Village not only violated the rights of the residents but also went against the Covid-19
protocols set by the government;

WHEREAS, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed alarm over
the tightening of censorship and freedoms in several countries in the Asia-Pacific, including the
Philippines;

WHEREAS, the presence and actions of military elements has caused fear and anxiety among the
residents. What state forces could downplay as mere “invitations,” “profiling”, or “presence” are
actions tantamount to harassment and repression especially for organized communities asserting
their rights to housing, fair wages, social welfare, and participation in public affairs and discourse;
WHEREAS, “red-tagging,” or the propaganda tactic of labelling individuals or organizations as terrorists or communists is a well-documented occurrence in the Philippines. Red-tagging often precedes extrajudicial killings, trumped-up charges, and disappearances of many activists, community organizers, organized workers, peasants, and urban poor, and even lawyers and church people and other people who are critical of government policies;

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 abuse committed against them. Laws and rules should serve the interest of our people and 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, that the Committee on Human Rights conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the series of harassment and human rights violations against residents of Kasiglahan Village, Brgy. San Jose, Rodriguez, Rizal.

Approved,

REP. EUREMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
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REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
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