Republic of the Philippines

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1086

Introduced by

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

RESOLUTION

URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE
ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE ILLEGAL ARREST OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORKER
JENNEFER AGUHOB IN OROQUIETA CITY, MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL.

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2020, combined elements of police and military forces, led by Police
Lt. Col. Melfin Ian Burelat, arrested human rights worker Jennefer Aguhob in her residence in
Oroquieta City, Misamis Oriental. The arrest was based on a warrant for charges of Murder issued
by Judge Victorio Lacaya, Jr. of Regional Trial Court Branch 9 in Dipolog City, Zamboanga del
Norte. Aguhob is currently detained in Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Jail, Manukan,
Zamboanga del Norte;

WHEREAS, Aguhob, who is an engineer by profession, has long been working with victims of
human rights violations as a paralegal worker. She was previously a volunteer of the Iglesia Filipina
Independiente’s Abundant Life Program, assisting and facilitating the appearance of legal counsels
in court hearings. She is also a recent law graduate and national council member of human rights
group, Karapatan;

WHEREAS, According to Karapatan, before her arrest, Aguhob had no knowledge that there
was a complaint filed against her. Thus she was deprived of her right to due process. She had also
reported experiencing several threats and harassments over the past two years, including her
removal from the city’s engineer office after military personnel spoke to her superiors;

WHEREAS, the arrest of Aguhob is part of the attacks against members of progressive
organizations and human rights defenders whose work exposes the abuses of state forces against
different sectors. Even after Martial Law in Mindanao has since lapsed, it continues to be felt
across the region through trumped-up charges and illegal arrests systematically carried out by state
forces;

WHEREAS, The arrest of Jennefer Aguhob comes after the illegal mass arrest of members of
peoples’ organizations in Negros and Manila in 2019. Attacks against people’s organizations and
human rights defenders have intensified since President Duterte issued Executive Order 70 which
created the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC). The
national task force has since unveiled itself as a tool to silence any form of dissent from activists
and people’s organizations by falsely tagging its members as armed combatants of terrorist groups;

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 should not be weaponized to suppress their rights
and oppress them;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives, through the Committee on Human Rights, conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the illegal arrest of human rights worker Jennefer Aguhob in Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental.

Approved,

REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. CARLOS ISAGAY T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist