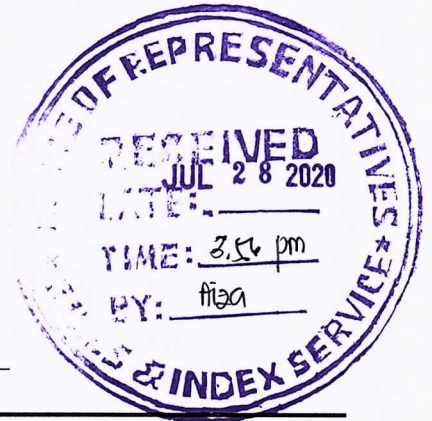


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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1087



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 KILLING OF JAY-AR MERCADO AN INDIGENOUS
PEOPLE ORGANIZER AND MEMBER OF BIGKIS AT LAKAS NG MGA
KATUTUBO SA TIMOG KATAGALUGAN (BALATIK)

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2020, Jay-Ar Mercado, 25 years old, an Indigenous People's organizer and member of Bigkis at Lakas ng mga Katutubo sa Timog Katagalugan (BALATIK) was arrested and killed by suspected elements of the 4th Infantry Battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Mercado was conducting information gathering on the needs of the indigenous people after two consecutive hurricanes hit them in Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro. He was fourth of seven siblings. He was the son of a farmer in Ramos Dasmaringas, Cavite;

WHEREAS, On February 1, 2020, Jay-ar Mercado's family was notified of his death. They went to a funeral home in Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro after receiving reports that his remains were there. To their dismay, Jay-ar's remains were no longer there. The military, without notifying or seeking consent from the family had claimed and buried his remains earlier that day;

WHEREAS, Mercado was a member of Katipunan ng mga Samahang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan (KASAMA-TK). As farmers, Jay-ar's family stood for their right to land in Lupang Ramos. In 2013 he decided to become a volunteer of the Bigkis at Lakas ng mga Katutubo sa Timog Katagalugan (BALATIK), a progressive organization of Indigenous Peoples promoting the right to self-determination and justice in the Southern Tagalog region;

WHEREAS, it is known that the Philippines is one of the most dangerous places for environmental activists according to the 2019 findings of international group Global Witness. The death of Jay-ar, an organizer for indigenous people, is another death that adds to the many deaths documented. These circumstances manifest the desperation of the militarist regime to silence rights defenders;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives, through its Committee on Human Rights, investigate, in aid of legislation, the killing of Jay-ar Mercado an Indigenous People's organizer and member of Bigkis at Lakas ng mga Katutubo sa Timog Katagalugan (BALATIK).

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REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist