Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1088

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 PEASANT ACTIVISTS EMERITO PINZA
AND ROMY CANDOR IN SANTA ROSA, LAGUNA

WHEREAS, On January 19, 2020, peasant activists Emerito Pinza and Romy Candor were killed
by suspected elements of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Regional Mobile Force Battalion 4A
led by police captain Paul Bobadilla in Sitio Balot Kahoy, Barangay San Antonio, Kalayaan, Laguna.
Pinza and Candor were members of Pinagkaisang Ugnayan ng mga Magsasaka sa Laguna;

WHEREAS, the PNP Regional Mobile Force Battalion 4A led operations in Kalayaan, Laguna
claiming the two were killed in an alleged encounter that happened on January 19, 1:30 PM;

WHEREAS, Human rights group Karapatan and Pinza and Candor’s families belie the claim.
Emerito Pinza had been reported missing by his wife Mirabel and since February 1 his wife, along
with human rights group, Karapatan had been seeking information on his whereabouts from the
Kalayaan PNP, Laguna Provincial Police Office, and Camp Vicente Lim and Camp Macario Sakay
where they received conflicting reports;

WHEREAS, On February 5, the bodies of Pinza and Candor were found in the Calamba Municipal
Cemetery where they were buried on January 24. They were buried under the false names of ‘Leo
San Jose Dela Cruz’ for Emerito Pinza and ‘Bipar’ for Romy Candor. Their remains were brought by
soldiers from Camp Vicente Lim to a nearby funeral home on January 21. The remains were then
brought to the Calamba Municipal Cemetery on January 23 according to Karapatan Southern
Tagalog. During this time, their families had no knowledge of Pinza and Candor’s whereabouts
contrary to the PNP’s claim that the remains were returned to their respective families;

WHEREAS, the killings of Pinza and Candor come at the heels of another killing in the Southern
Tagalog region, indigenous people organizer Jay-ar Mercado was killed by suspected elements of the
4th Infantry Battalion on January 25, 2020 in Oriental Mindoro. Two coconut farmers, John Ardy
Cacao and Jason Calusin, have also been reported missing since February 3. They are suspected to
have been abducted by elements of the 85th Infantry Battalion Philippine Army;
WHEREAS, the killings and disappearances come after the appointment of Major General Antonio Parlade, Jr. as head of the Southern Luzon Command (SolCom) of the military last January 17. Attacks against peasants and activists have been intensifying under the implementation of Executive Order 70 creating the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict, of which Parlade served as spokesperson and one of its key figures. The NTF-ECLAC has been responsible for the baseless red-tagging and harassment of peasants, activists and members of people’s organizations;

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 its Committee on Human Rights, investigate, in aid of legislation, the killing of peasant activists Emerito Pinza and Romy Candor in Santa Rosa, Laguna.

Approved,

[Signatures]

REP. EUPHRAZA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist