Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1154

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 KILLING OF FOUR (4)
FARMERS IN POLOMOLOK, SOUTH COTABATO

WHEREAS, on 8 August 2020, Ottah Alangan, Moadz Modjie, Amer Pagalasan, and Noel
Castrana, four (4) farmers from Polomolok, South Cotabato, were killed in police operations to
arrest suspected ISIS members;

WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Lino Capellan, spokesperson of the Police Regional Office – 12, at around
6:45 in the morning of August 8, the Police Regional Office 12 together with Philippine National
Police Special Action Force, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the National Intelligence
Coordinating Agency, conducted a raid at Purok Maguindanao, Bgy. Lumakil, Polomolok, South
Cotabato. According to Lt. Col Cappellan, they tried to serve a warrant for Solaiman Paraluman,
Rod Embang, and Ottah Alangan, and for brothers Ramiden and Ryan Bisaya, charged with
murder and robbery. The victims were slain in separate shootouts with joint operatives;

WHEREAS, according to Jovy Yu Alangan, wife of the slain Ottah Alangan, as documented by
human rights group Kawagib, no warrant of arrest was presented to them during the police
operations. One of the police officers in civilian clothes asked her of the whereabouts of her 19-
year-old son, Munir Alangan, saying Munir was suspected of being an ISIS member. According
to Jovy, policemen in uniform and civilian clothes barged in their house, pointed a gun at her,
her children, and grandchildren and told them to lie face down on the floor, and minutes later
told to go inside their cabinet. Inside the cabinet, she heard gunshots inside and outside her
house;

WHEREAS, at around noon, the police left Purok Maguindanao and Jovy learned from
relatives that her husband was taken by the police inside their house and was shot at the kitchen
area. She learned that Alangan’s body and her cousins Moadz Modjie and Amer Pagalasan, and
the Muslim revert (Balik-Islam) Noel Castrana, were brought to the Polomolok District Hospital.
Jovy reportedly learned that her husband Ottah Alangan sustained four gunshot wounds at the
chest, kidney area, and his leg, and that the police allegedly put two sachets of what looked like
white crystals in the hands of Alangan. She also learned that her cousin Moadz Modjie was shot
in the head and chest part which led to his death. Modjie was allegedly shot in front of his 11-
year old son;
WHEREAS, in a separate incident, Amer Pagalasan, and Noel Castrana, both working as guards of a corn dryer facility owned by the Moro National Liberation Front Special Zone of Peace and Development (MNLF SZOPAD) cooperative, were also killed by police operatives. The two were sleeping at the facility on the day of the raid, which happened to be near the house of a certain Ryan Bisaya, who was the target of the police raid;

WHEREAS, according to rights group Kawagib, Barangay Lumakil chieftain Efren Condo confirmed that the police did serve a “search warrant” for Ryan Bisaya, Moadz Modjie, and Alangan, but he was not at his barangay during the raid. He called the killing of Otto Alangan, Amer Pagalasan, and Noel Castrana as a “mistake” or collateral damage in the operation because they were not the target of the operation. According to Condo, Ottoh Alangan was killed but the police were looking for his son Munir Alangan. Pagalasan and Castrana, on the other hand, were near the house of a certain Ryan Bisaya when he was being pursued by the police operatives;

WHEREAS, according to Barangay Chief Condo, as a result of the raid, 102 families, or 325 individuals were forced to evacuate at 7 PM on August 9. Residents of Purok Maguindanao allegedly received text messages informing them that another raid of the same magnitude would be conducted;

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 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 killing of four (4) farmers in Polomolok, South Cotabato.
Adopted,

REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women’s Party

REP. FRANCIS L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Partylist

REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist