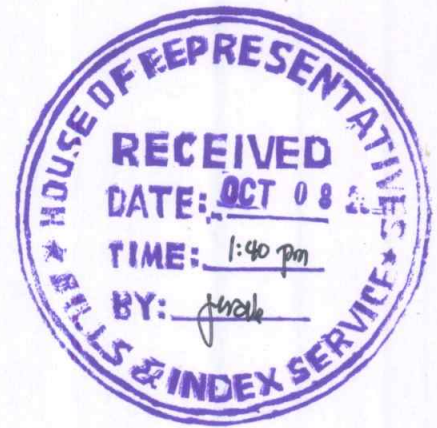


1 Republic of the Philippines
2 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3 Quezon City

4
5 EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
6 Second Regular Session

7
8 HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1283



9
10 Introduced by

11 BAYAN MUNA Representatives EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
12 CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE and FERDINAND R. GAITE,
13 GABRIELA Women's Party Representative ARLENE D. BROSAS,
14 ACT TEACHERS Party-List Representative FRANCE L. CASTRO,
15 and KABATAAN Party-List Representative SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

16
17 RESOLUTION

18 URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF
19 LEGISLATION, THE KILLING AND BEHEADING OF FARMER BERNARDO
20 GUILLEN IN BARANGAY TAN-AWAN, KABANKALAN CITY, NEGROS
21 OCCIDENTAL

22
23 WHEREAS, on 26 September 2020, Bernardo Guillen, a 50-year-old farmer living in Sitio Amian,
24 Barangay Tan-awan, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental, was found dead in a ravine with his
25 head severed from his body in the same town;

26
27 WHEREAS, on 17 September 2020, at around 3 PM an encounter between the 94th IB and 15th
28 IB of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and alleged members of the New People's Army
29 (NPA) took place in Sitio Amian, Barangay Tan-awan, Kabankalan City. Bernardo Guillen and his
30 wife were working on their farms near the Hilabangan River when they heard gunfire and
31 immediately went home. Upon their arrival, members of the Philippine Army instructed them to
32 evacuate immediately. Upon traversing the Hilabangan River at Sitio Alusiman, Barangay Tan-
33 awan Guillen went back to his house. His wife and children continue to walk towards the
34 evacuation site. His family did not hear from him since then. After the encounter, Guillen's wife
35 and children went home but Bernardo Guillen never returned. On the eighth day, Guillen's
36 younger brother reported that he was missing to the barangay. On September 26 at around 11 AM,
37 a search party found Guillen's body in a ravine near the encounter site. The body was already
38 decomposing with his severed head found at his feet;

39
40 WHEREAS, Guillen is the father of Bernard Guillen, one of six (6) political detainees collectively
41 known as the Mabinay 6, peasant advocates accused of being members of the NPA. They were
42 arrested last 2018 over charges of illegal possession of firearms. They are currently detained in
43 Dumaguete City;

44
45 WHEREAS, the killing and beheading of Bernardo Guillen is a clear violation of the
46 Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law
47 (CAHRIHL) between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National
48 Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), which guarantees the protection of civilians in times
49 of armed conflict. The agreement distinguishes between civilians and combatants. guaranteeing

1 that civilians, together with their property, shall not be the object of attack. In accordance with
2 International Humanitarian Law, the agreement prohibits violations to the right to life, including
3 physical or mental torture and mutilation;
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Bernardo Guillen is the 275th peasant victim of extra-judicial killings under the
6 Duterte regime. Killings against farmers and peasant advocates have intensified in Negros Island
7 since the implementation of Memorandum Order 32, declaring a “state of lawlessness” and
8 deploying more police and military forces in the Negros, Samar and Bicol region. These attacks
9 against peasants and members of progressive organizations have further worsened through the
10 continuous terror-tagging of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict
11 created through Executive Order 70;
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the brutal killing of Bernardo Guillen and the continuing attacks against civilians
14 and peasants are unjustifiable. It is imperative for members of Congress, as representatives of our
15 people, to defend the rights of our people and check on excesses and violations committed against
16 them, especially in this time of crisis. Laws and rules should serve the interest of our people and
17 violators should be held accountable;
18

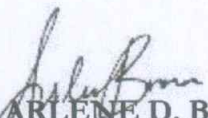
19 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the
20 House of Representatives conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the killing and
21 beheading of farmer Bernardo Guillen in Brgy. Tan-awan, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental.
22

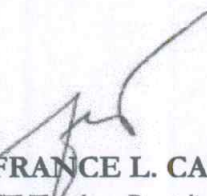
23 *Adopted,*
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27

28 
29 **REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**
30 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

31 
32 **REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**
33 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

34 
35 **REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE**
36 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

37 
38 **REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS**
39 *GABRIELA Women's Party*

40 
41 **REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO**
42 *ACT Teachers Partylist*

43 
44 **REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**
45 *Kabataan Partylist*
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47