Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. [1283]

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the killing and beheading of Bernardo Guillen is a clear violation of the
Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law
(CAHRILHL) between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National
Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDLP), which guarantees the protection of civilians in times
of armed conflict. The agreement distinguishes between civilians and combatants, guaranteeing
that civilians, together with their property, shall not be the object of attack. In accordance with
International Humanitarian Law, the agreement prohibits violations to the right to life, including
physical or mental torture and mutilation;

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

WHEREAS, the brutal killing of Bernardo Guillen and the continuing attacks against civilians
and peasants are unjustifiable. 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, especially in this time of crisis. Laws and rules should serve the interest of our people and
violators should be held accountable;

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

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. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist

REP. FERNANDO R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. FRANCIS L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Partylist