



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 28

Introduced by

REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women's Party);
REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE, and REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
(Bayan Muna Partylist); REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO (ACT Teachers' Partylist);
and REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO (Kabataan Partylist)

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VIOLENT DISPERSAL OF STRIKING WORKERS BY THE
GUARDS AND GOONS OF PEERLESS PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION (PEPMACO)
IN CANLUBANG, LAGUNA**

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 3 of the 1987 Constitution affirms that "the State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment opportunities for all;

WHEREAS, Section 1 of the Republic Act No. 11058 or commonly known as the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Standards Law affirms that the State "shall ensure a safe and healthful workplace for all working people by affording them full protection against all hazards in their work environment;

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the same law states that "every employer, contractor or subcontractor, if any, shall provide his workers, free of charge, protective equipment for their eyes, face, hands and feet, and lifeline, safety belt or harness, gas or dust respirators or masks, and protective shields whenever necessary by reason of the hazardous work process or environment";

WHEREAS, Peerless Products Manufacturing Corporation (PEPMACO), which is owned by businessman Simeon Tiu and which manufactures the Champion and Calla detergent powder and Hana shampoo through its production plant in Canlubang, Laguna, employs around 500 workers under labor only contracting arrangement and under circumstances that seriously endanger the occupational health of its workforce;

WHEREAS, PEPMACO has illegally terminated around 200 workers including members and officials of Pempaco Workers' Union (PWU), a duly registered labor union;

WHEREAS, in the face of grave abuses and non-compliance of the company to labor standards, PWU filed a Notice of Strike on June 6, 2019 before the labor department;

WHEREAS, PEPMACO workers led by PWU successfully launched their strike on June 24, 2019, establishing their picketline at Gate 1 and Gate 2 of the PEPMACO manufacturing plant in Canlubang, Laguna;

WHEREAS, PEPMACO's management ordered the guards to implement a food blockade on the striking workers on the same day of the strike's launch, barring any entry of food and other forms of support to the workers;

WHEREAS, at around 1 in the morning last June 28, 200 masked goons at Gate 1 and 300 at Gate 2 attacked the striking PEPMACO workers while majority of them were asleep. The workers guarding the barricade that night shouted and warned those sleeping but before they could even get up, the goons started hurting them. The goons even destroyed their tents, according to the workers;

WHEREAS, the officials of the union tried to negotiate that they will back out peacefully as long as they would not hurt more workers because many of them are sick and a few of them had just undergone operation. But after 20 minutes, the goons drove the PEPMACO workers away from gate 1 to the end of the airstrip. There were policemen present but they were just watching while the goons beat up the workers. The president of the union even talked to them but to no avail;

WHEREAS, in the Gate 2 of the said establishment, the goons were even more violent. They blasted huge amounts of water towards the workers using four fire trucks and rained on them rocks and glass bottles. The goons even shouted the words "sige, ngayon niyo itaas ang mga kamao niyo!" mocking the struggle of the workers for humane working conditions;

WHEREAS, the policemen only heeded to the calls for help of the workers after the dispersal in Gate 2. They volunteered to give rides in their patrol to those wounded and brought them to the JP Rizal Medical Center. But it was too late as 12 workers were already badly hurt, most of which were hit in the head;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, THAT THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VIOLENT DISPERSAL OF STRIKING WORKERS BY THE GUARDS AND GOONS OF PEERLESS PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION (PEPMACO) IN CANLUBANG, LAGUNA

Adopted,



ARLENE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women's Party




FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist

CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist



EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist



FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers' Partylist

SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist