

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

66

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. _____

Introduced by
BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,
Rep. FERDINAND GAITE and Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,
and KABATAAN Party-List Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

RESOLUTION
COMMENDING ACT TEACHERS PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE
FRANCE CASTRO FOR BEING AWARDED THE 2019 ARTHUR SVENSSON
INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR TRADE UNION RIGHTS

WHEREAS, a public school teacher for 20 years prior to being a Member of the Philippine Congress, ACT Teachers Party-List Representative France Castro have fought for the rights and welfare of public and private school teachers; for a nationalist, scientific, and mass-based education; and for the economic and political rights of marginalized sectors of Philippine society in general;

WHEREAS, Rep. Castro served as Secretary General of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT), the militant, nationalist, and progressive organization of teachers and education workers of the country. She was the founding President of the first ever union of public school teachers, the ACT National Capital Region Union, which, under her term, secured the first collective negotiation agreement between teachers and government, mandating economic and non-economic benefits for the former;

WHEREAS, during her first term as Member of the House of Representatives, Rep. Castro had consistently stood up for substantial salary increases for public school teachers and other government employees, as well as the national minimum wage for workers in the private sector. She filed various measures seeking adequate benefits for teachers and against delays or withholding thereof. She was also among those who spearheaded the passage of the law providing for expanded maternity leave for all women workers and who scored the passage of anti-people laws and policies including the regressive taxes brought by the TRAIN Law;

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2019, in Oslo, Norway, the Svensson Foundation honored ACT Teachers Party-List Representative France Castro with the Tenth Svensson International Prize for Trade Union Rights, admitting her into “an exclusive community of 10 strong union heroes and organizations”;

WHEREAS, the Svensson International Prize is presented to “a person or organization that has worked predominately to promote trade union rights and/or strengthen trade union organizing around the world.” In his remarks during the awarding ceremony, the chairman of the prize committee Frode Alheim said that Svensson laureates are “fighting for basic trade union rights and to organize workers under harsh conditions...The Arthur Svensson award is a reminder that no worker should stand alone”;

WHEREAS, the Prize recognized Rep. Castro’s “struggle throughout many years to organize teachers and to fight for basic workers’ rights in the Philippines,” which the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) lists as among the 10 worst countries in the world for workers and trade unionists;

WHEREAS, it also cited her steadfast advocacy for the rights of children, especially those of indigenous peoples, for free and culturally sensitive education that enables their self-determination—an advocacy which led to her illegal detention, arrest, and harassment (via red-tagging and trumped-up charges courtesy of the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines), along with 17 of her fellow members of a National Solidarity Mission for the Lumad in Talaingod, Davao del Norte;

WHEREAS, this international recognition to Rep. Castro is likewise an international recognition of the severe climate affecting Philippine teachers and education support personnel—They are underpaid yet overworked, forced to struggle for their rights and interests but are responded to with intensified oppression and fascism;

WHEREAS, the Prize also comes in the context of the ongoing illegal profiling, intelligence gathering, and harassment by the Philippine National Police against progressive organizations representing public school teachers and academic personnel in such as the Alliance of Concerned Teachers and its regional unions and the All-UP Academic Employees Union;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the House of Representatives commend ACT Teachers Party-List Representative France Castro for being awarded the 2019 Arthur Svensson International Prize for Trade Union Rights.

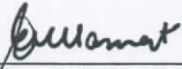
Adopted,



Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
BAYAN MUNA Party-List



Rep. FERDINAND GAITE
BAYAN MUNA Party-List



Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
BAYAN MUNA Party-List



Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women's Party



Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
KABATAAN Party-List