

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



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 207

Introduced by
ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
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
CONDEMNING THE THREATS, HARASSMENT, AND TRUMPED-UP
CHARGES AGAINST OPHELIA TABACON, ALLIANCE OF CONCERNED
TEACHERS-REGION X UNION PRESIDENT AND URGING AN IMMEDIATE
INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE SAME AND SIMILAR
ATTACKS AGAINST LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF UNIONS OF PUBLIC
SCHOOL TEACHERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, on April 25, Ophelia Tabacon, an elementary school teacher and president of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers-Region X Union, received a death threat by Facebook Messenger from a certain Ashley Mendoza, saying "Nasa watch list kna 4 kamatayan";

WHEREAS, about a month earlier, on March 22 and 29, leaflets distributed by a group identifying itself as "Movement Against Terrorism–Northern Mindanao Region (MAT-NMR)" maliciously branded the Movement Against Tyranny, a national alliance against fascism, along with the Alliance of Concerned Teachers, other progressive mass organizations and their leaders as fronts and supporters

of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed group, the New People's Army;

WHEREAS, Ms. Tabacon and the Alliance of Concerned Teachers were also specifically named among 18 individuals and organizations as members of the CPP in flyers distributed during an assembly of human rights groups on February 22 in Cagayan de Oro City. Two brown envelopes containing the red-tagging document, which was written in Bisaya, were handed over by "military-looking" men to the security guards of Philtown Hotel, where the assembly was being conducted. Also among those tagged as CPP "members" were members of the media, pastors and religious groups, and human rights monitor Karapatan;

WHEREAS, on March 2019, the Sibagat Municipal Police Station through PSINSP Charlie Kedyam filed criminal charges against Ms. Tabacon and 110 others, many of whom are just named with aliases, for robbery and destructive arson. According to the complaint, Ms. Tabacon was among those took part in an operation of the New People's Army in Sibagat, Agusan del Sur Caraga on December 19, 2018 onwards and captured military officers;

WHEREAS, these charges as obviously false, as Ms. Tabacon, a teacher of Camaman-an Elementary School in Cagayan de Oro City, was never anywhere in Agusan del Sur on the dates when the alleged crime was committed;

WHEREAS, Ms. Tabacon, despite being lowly paid, is one of the many public school teachers who bravely continue fighting for decent salaries and benefits and criticize governmental policies which drive teachers and the Filipino people further into poverty, such as the regressive taxes under the TRAIN Law. Even before she became president of ACT-Region X Union, Ms. Tabacon advanced the rights and welfare of teachers, Lumad children, and other marginalized sectors. She was vital in forming ACT-Region X Union, standing up for and protecting the right of teachers' to better pay and working conditions through unionism;

WHEREAS, this social conscience and activism is being answered with death threats, as well as intimidation and harassment through the tagging of their persons as "rebels" and "terrorists" and the filing of patently fabricated criminal charges;

WHEREAS, such dastardly attacks, being directed against union leaders, amount to union busting and are intended to intimidate, silence, and not only Ms. Tabacon personally but also the members of ACT-Region X Union. These attacks are aimed to demonize the Union and public school teachers and discredit their campaigns, which are but legitimate grievances of teachers and education sector personnel, the education sector, as well as other marginalized sectors;

WHEREAS, both the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines have tagged ACT, ACT Teachers Party-List, and other militant organizations and unions of education workers as "legal fronts" of the New People's Army (NPA). Teachers, ACT's regional unions of teachers in basic education, and the All-UP Academic Employees' Union are also subjected to profiling by the PNP, which violates the teachers' rights to privacy and self-organization;

WHEREAS, Congress has to step in with its powers of oversight on agencies and inquiries in aid of legislation to prevent the commission of further threats, harassment, and intimidation against public school teachers and their unions, and to bring the perpetrators of these illegal acts to justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives condemn the threats, harassment, and trumped-up charges against Ophelia Tabacon, Alliance of Concerned Teachers Region X Union President.


BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the House Committees on Human Rights and Basic Education and Current conduct an immediate investigation in aid of legislation into the same and similar attacks against leaders and members of unions of public school teachers across the country.

Adopted,




Rep. **FRANCE L. CASTRO**
ACT Teachers Party-List


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