



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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 508

Introduced by Honorable Representatives

ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women's Party);

CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, FERDINAND R. GAITE, EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT (Bayan Muna);

FRANCE L. CASTRO (ACT Teachers); and REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO (Kabataan)

A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SATURATION DRIVES CONDUCTED BY THE MANILA POLICE DISTRICT AT THE BASECO COMPOUND IN TONDO, MANILA AND RECOMMEND MEASURES TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF URBAN POOR RESIDENTS AGAINST UNREASONABLE SEARCHES AND SEIZURES

WHEREAS, last August 11, 2019, about 2,000 members of the Manila Police District (MPD) led by MPD deputy director for administration Col. Antonio Yarra, rounded up residents and conducted a simultaneous anti-criminality law enforcement operation at the Baseco compound in Tondo, Manila;

WHEREAS, Mayor Isko Moreno has given the Manila Police and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency one week to clear what he says is the most drug-influenced part of the city and a known haven of different kinds of criminal elements and wanted persons;

WHEREAS, the MPD said that the saturation drives are being conducted to prevent more crime incidents and to flush out criminals and wanted persons from their hiding places as there have been complaints of rampant robberies, muggings, and extortion activities in the area;

WHEREAS, around 720 persons were rounded up, three drug suspects were killed while 46 other individuals were arrested for various offenses during the said saturation drive;

WHEREAS, the police said the three drug suspects were killed in an alleged encounter with authorities at the execution of the operation;


WHEREAS, the presence of massive armed policemen wielding their firearms and searching houses without search warrants has sown fear and threat to the community creating an atmosphere reminiscent of the Martial Law period. The saturation drives have intimidated and harassed innocent residents and their families who were forced to vacate their houses and establishments for hours;


WHEREAS, Section 2 of Article III or the Bill of Rights of the 1987 Constitution states that, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures of whatever nature and for any purpose shall be inviolable, and no search warrant or warrant of arrest shall issue except upon probable cause to be determined personally by the judge after examination under oath or affirmation of the complainant and the witnesses he may produce, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized";

WHEREAS, anti-criminality campaign in the form of "saturation drive" such as the one conducted in Baseco violates the right of every person to be secure in their houses against unreasonable search and seizures as stipulated in the Bill of Rights. Moreover, such "saturation drives" are only conducted in depressed communities victimizing the poor and marginalized;

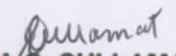
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House Committee on Human Rights conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the saturation drives conducted by the Manila Police District at the Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila and recommend measures to protect the rights of urban poor residents against unreasonable searches and seizures.

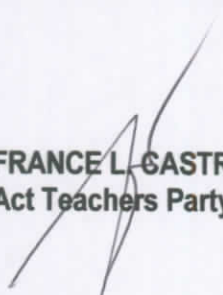
Adopted,


ARLENE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women's Party


CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist


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