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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1674



Introduced by
BAYAN MUNA Reps. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,
EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT, and FERDINAND R. GAITE,
GABRIELA Women’s Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,
ACT TEACHERS Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
and KABATAAN Party-List Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

RESOLUTION
URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH THE COMMITTEE
ON JUSTICE, TO CONDEMN AND INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
THE HARASSMENT AND RED-TAGGING OF MANDALUYONG REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT BRANCH 209 JUDGE MONIQUE QUISUMBING-IGNACIO

WHEREAS, on December 10 2020, International Human Rights Day, seven activists namely Lady Ann ‘Icy’ Salem, along with trade unionists Dennise Velasco, Joel Demate, Rodrigo Esparago, Mark Ryan Cruz, Romina Raiselle Astudillo, and Jaymie Gregorio, were arrested after members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) National Capital Region and Philippine National Police (PNP) served search warrants issued by Quezon City Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Cecilyn Burgos-Villavert. Alleged guns, grenades, and ammunitions were confiscated and the raid was done during the wee hours, at about 2:00 am, under the so-called “*intensified campaign against loose firearms and criminal gangs*”;

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2021, however, the charges against Lady Ann Salem and Rodrigo Esparago were dismissed by Judge Monique Quisumbing-Ignacio of Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 209 in Mandaluyong City, who ruled that the warrants were issued in “violation of the Constitution and the Rules of Court.” The ruling, thus, stated that there is a lack of probable cause in the issuance of the search warrant and that “*there being numerous inconsistencies and contradictions, the testimonies of the foregoing witnesses cannot be given full faith and credence*.”

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2021, Lady Ann Salem and Rodrigo Esparago were finally released through an order subsequently issued by RTC Branch 209 Judge Quisumbing-Ignacio;

WHEREAS, last March 17, several tarpaulins were found hanging by footbridges in Metro Manila, particularly in EDSA-Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City containing the text, “*Maraming Salamat Judge Monique Quisumbing-Ignacio RTC Br. 209, Mandaluyong City sa mabilis na paglaya ng kasama naming Lady Ann Salem at Rodrigo Esparago. Tuloy ang Laban!!! Mabuhay!! Mula sa CPP-NPA-NDF*”, which is an

48 outright form of red-tagging, especially that the tarpaulins also appear in the same places where the
49 National Task Force to End the Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) placed their
50 tarpaulins linking Makabayan Bloc with the CPP-NPA-NDF;
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52 **WHEREAS**, Commission on Human Rights (CHR) spokesperson Jacqueline de Guia also said in a
53 statement that, *“Such incriminating claims in the tarpaulin that links Judge Quisumbing-Ignacio to the Communist
54 Party of the Philippines without any specific and verifiable evidence exposes her to grave danger”*;
55

56 **WHEREAS**, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) in a March 18, 2021 statement also
57 condemned the said red-tagging, also enjoining *“all litigants, parties, and sectors not to unduly drag our
58 magistrates into their political, ideological or operational battles or agenda. Instead of terrorizing or attacking the judges,
59 bring before them the best evidence and arguments so that they may discern the truth and act solely based on facts and
60 the applicable laws.”* It also requested local authorities to take down the tarpaulin in question;
61

62 **WHEREAS**, this is not a first time that the members of the judiciary are subjected to threats in
63 handling cases related to activists and members of progressive groups. Last March 12, the Calbayog
64 City police also requested from the Regional Trial Court the names of lawyers who are representing
65 personalities of the “communist terrorist group” who have cases pending before their courts. While
66 the letter was subsequently withdrawn, and the police officer who made the letter-request was sacked
67 by his superiors, this created a “chilling effect” against lawyers who are merely protecting the rights of
68 their clients knowing that they are actively being surveilled by state security forces;
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70 **WHEREAS**, the red-tagging against Judge Quisumbing-Ignacio comes at a time when threats against
71 members of the legal profession are in an all-time high. For instance, a study made by the Free Legal
72 Assistance Group (FLAG) revealed that 61 lawyers, which includes judges and prosecutors, were killed
73 under the Duterte Administration;
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75 **WHEREAS**, as members of Congress and as representatives of the people, we should not
76 countenance these kinds of attacks against members of the legal profession, those tasked in the
77 dispensation of justice in our country, and even, those against ordinary individuals. This state of
78 impunity must be stopped.
79

80 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the House
81 of Representatives, through the Committee on Justice, condemn and investigate in aid of legislation,
82 the harassment and red-tagging of Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court Branch 209 Judge Monique
83 Quisumbing-Ignacio.
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86 Adopted,

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REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist



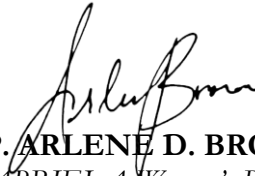
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