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2 Republic of the Philippines
3 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
4 Quezon City

5 **EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**
6 Second Regular Session

7
8 **HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1688**
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10 **Introduced by**

11 **BAYAN MUNA Representatives EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,**
12 **CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE and FERDINAND R. GAITE,**
13 **GABRIELA Women's Party Representative ARLENE D. BROSAS,**
14 **ACT TEACHERS Party-List Representative FRANCE L. CASTRO,**
15 **and KABATAAN Party-List Representative SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**
16

17 **RESOLUTION**

18 **URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH THE COMMITTEE**
19 **ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF**
20 **LEGISLATION, ON THE ARREST OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORKER RENALYN**
21 **TEJERO IN BARANGAY LAPASAN, CAGAYAN DE ORO**
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24 **WHEREAS**, on 21 March 2021 at 5:30 a.m., police and soldiers, wearing bullet-proof vests,
25 arrested 25-year-old human rights worker Renalyn Tejero in Barangay Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro,
26 citing an arrest warrant issued by a local court. Upon her arrest, Tejero was handcuffed and her
27 request to call her lawyer or family was denied, and for several hours following her arrest, her
28 whereabouts were unknown. Legal due process was not followed with no subpoena served prior
29 to the woman human rights defender's arrest, leaving her unaware of the murder allegations against
30 her until she was arrested. Neither Renalyn Tejero or her lawyers have yet been granted access to
31 the relevant documents citing the basis of her arrest and the allegations against her. Renalyn Tejero
32 has had access to her lawyer since her arrest;

33 **WHEREAS**, Renalyn Tejero serves as a paralegal officer of human rights organization Karapatan,
34 assisting farmers, indigenous people, and political prisoners experiencing rights violations. Before
35 working for Karapatan, Tejero was a member of the Student Christian Movement of the
36 Philippines and served a student leader while studying Sociology at the Caraga State University;

37 **WHEREAS**, according to human rights group Karapatan, Tejero was brought to a facility no one
38 knew about except the police and stayed there until midday of March 21. Eventually the group
39 found her at the headquarters of Philippine National Police (PNP) Caraga at Camp Colonel Rafael
40 Rodriguez in Butuan City;

41 **WHEREAS**, according to her lawyer, Tejero never received a subpoena, and was never
42 summoned for a preliminary investigation. Tejero was arrested in connection with murder and
43 multiple attempted murder cases and was unaware of what the police accused her of doing;

44 **WHEREAS**, in a statement released on Sunday afternoon, March 21, the Caraga police accused
45 Tejero of being a member of the New People's Army (NPA), and linked her to two murders in
46 Sitio Inadan, Barangay Magroyong, San Miguel, Surigao del Sur on March 19, 2020. However, it is
47 unclear how there was only one murder case against Tejero when the police claimed that there were

1 two victims;

2 **WHEREAS**, before her arrest, Tejero was among the activists red-tagged by a group called
3 Movement Against terrorism-Surigao Chapter. In November 2020, she was among the 32 activists
4 tagged as communist insurgents in posters and tarpaulins all over Lianga, Surigao Del Sur, and
5 Butuan City. The same tarpaulin included Bayan Muna Representative Eufemia Cullamat, and
6 another Karapatan worker, Naty Campos-Castro;

7 **WHEREAS**, with these accusations and arrest, Renalyn Tejero joins a group of human rights
8 defenders who have recently been targeted for their alleged membership in “Communist Terrorist
9 Groups”. Red-tagging is a tactic that is repeatedly and systematically used by the authorities in the
10 Philippines against human rights defenders to discredit them and portray their legitimate human
11 rights work as a national security threat, with most arrests and extrajudicial killings of human rights
12 defenders justified under this pretext;

13 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the
14 House of Representatives conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the arrest of human
15 rights worker Renalyn Tejero in Barangay Lapasan, Cagayan De Oro.

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18 *Adopted,*

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24 **REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**
25 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

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29 **REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**
30 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

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29 **REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE**
30 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

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34 **REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS**
35 *GABRIELA Women’s Party*

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34 **REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO**
35 *ACT Teachers Partylist*

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40 **REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**
41 *Kabataan Partylist*
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