

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1812



Introduced by Honorable Representatives
ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women's Party);
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, FERDINAND R. GAITE, and EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT (Bayan Muna Partylist); FRANCE L. CASTRO (ACT Teachers Partylist); and SARAH JANE I. ELAGO (Kabataan Partylist)

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INTENSIFYING ATTACKS AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST PEASANT WOMEN IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, peasant women have increasingly become targets of human rights abuses through President Duterte's counter-insurgency policies and programs including Martial Law in Mindanao, Memorandum Order 32 in Negros, Samar, and Bicol, Executive Order 70 or the whole-of-nation approach, which created the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF ELCAC), and the recently enacted Anti-Terror Law;

WHEREAS, the cases of violence such as extra-judicial and mass killings, illegal arrest and detention, filing of trumped up charges, red-tagging, forced surrender, forcible mass evacuation, food blockade and aerial bombings in farmer communities, continued amid surging cases of COVID-19 and strict lockdown;

WHEREAS, the victims of these rights abuses are known leaders, organizers and members of peasant women organizations under Amihan National Federation of Peasant Women. It is an organization that asserts farmers' rights to land, food and livelihood and is a vocal critique of the government's anti-farmer and anti-people policies;

WHEREAS, as of March 2021, more than 300 farmers were killed including forty-two (42) peasant women. Among them are Jennifer Tonag, Nora Apique, Merlin Celis, Vilma Salabao, Lucrecia Tasic, Julie Catamin, Ana Mariz Evangelista. Justice remains elusive and the perpetrators remain at large;

WHEREAS, according to Karapatan human rights group, sixty-three (63) out of the total eighty (80) peasant women political prisoners were imprisoned and charged with trumped-up charges such as illegal possession of firearms and explosives under President Duterte's government. Among them are Genalyn Avelino, Amanda Echanis, Marilyn Chiva, Marevic Aguirre, Aileen Catamin, Marilou Catamin, Eleutricia Caro, Jucie Katipunan Caro, Nona Espinosa, Azucena Garubat, Ma. Lindy Perocho, Imelda Sultan, Moreta Alegre, Marivic Colito, Mylene Colito, Corazon Javier, Armogena Caballero, Margie Baylosis, Merlinda Abraham, Rea Casuyon, Melissa Comiso;

WHEREAS, elderly and sick peasant women political prisoners were denied of proper medical attention causing worsened health conditions, or worse, death. Amihan cited the cases of Adelaida Macusang,

jailed in Tagum City who died on May 4, 2020 due to cardiac arrest and kidney failure; Nona Espinosa, jailed in Guihulngan City, who was separated from her newborn baby Carlen who eventually died due to lungs and blood infection; and Ma. Lindy Perocho, jailed in Escalante City, 57 years old, a member of National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW) who was arrested on November 1, 2019 and accused of illegal possession of firearms and explosives. She is in dire need of immediate and proper medical attention due to her heart and kidney problems;

WHEREAS, peasant women leaders, organizers and members are victims of series of harassment and vilification of state forces, putting their lives and their families at risk. The following are some of the documented human rights violations against peasant women that need to be investigated:

- Threat, Harassment, Intimidation and red-tagging of peasant woman leader Jacqueline Ratin, National Vice- Chairperson of Amihan and Chairperson of Amihan-Cagayan
- Threat, Harassment, Intimidation, red-tagging and forced surrender of peasant woman Julie Marcos of Amihan Cagayan
- Threat, Harassment, Intimidation, red-tagging and forced surrender of peasant woman Emelia Ventula
- Threat, Harassment, Intimidation and series of Red-tagging of peasant women organizer and leader Nenita Apricio
- Threat, Harassment, Intimidation and red-tagging of peasant woman leader Leonisa Taray, Chairperson of SABAKAN – Amihan Bohol
- Illegal Arrest and detention, filing of trumped-up charges to peasant woman leader Genalyn Avelino, National Council member of Amihan
- Extra-judicial Killing of Lucrecia Tasic, Anakpawis campaigner and barangay official
- Illegal Arrest and detention, filing of trumped-up charges to peasant woman organizer Amanda Echanis, Amihan – Cagayan organizer
- Extra-judicial killings of fisherfolk couple Chai Lemita-Evangelista and Ariel Evangelista
- Threat, Harassment, and Intimidation fisherfolk woman leader Jewelyn T. Fernandez
- Threat, Harassment, Intimidation and attempted murder of fisherfolk woman leader Jeralyn T. Cerezo


WHEREAS, peasant women are under attack because they oppose Duterte’s anti-people and anti-farmer policies such as Rice Liberalization Law, and agricultural liberalization and they are fighting for the clamor of farmers for genuine land reform, increasing of palay farm gate prices, production support and subsidy and strengthening of local food production;

WHEREAS, billions of funds are spent on counter-insurgency programs victimizing innocent and civilian ‘food security frontliners’ instead of prioritizing social amelioration and production support to ensure the country’s food self-sufficiency;

WHEREAS, these brazen attacks and the culture of impunity manifest the worsening state of human rights in the country, thus, it is imperative for the members of the Congress to defend its constituency against excesses and violations committed against them and ensure that laws and policies are not weaponized to oppress the people, especially the marginalized sectors;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House Committee on Human Rights conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the intensifying attacks and human rights violations against peasant women in the country.

Adopted,



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