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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. 1872**
9



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**
19 **THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN**
20 **INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE KILLING OF PEACE**
21 **CONSULTANTS REYNALDO BOCALA IN ILOILO**
22 **AND RUSTICO TAN IN CEBU**
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25 **WHEREAS**, on May 28, 2021, in the evening, members of the Criminal Investigation and
26 Detection Group (CIDG) shot dead 75-year-old Reynaldo Bocala, peace consultant for the
27 National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), along with his companion Welly Arguelles
28 Epago in an alleged shootout in Providence Subdivision, Barangay Balabag, Pavia, Iloilo.
29 According to local media outfit Panay Today, PNP-CIDG was reportedly conducting a raid to
30 serve four (4) warrants of arrest against Bocala. A Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity
31 Guarantees (JASIG) document of identification was reportedly found on Bocala by operatives.
32 Bocala is also the husband of peace consultant to the NDFP Maria Concenpcion "Concha"
33 Araneta who was designated as a terrorist by the Anti-Terrorism Council;

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35 **WHEREAS**, on the same day at around 8 PM, Rustico Tan, an 80-year-old former priest and
36 NDFP peace consultant, was killed in Pilar, Camotes Island in Cebu. Unidentified gunmen entered
37 Tan's home and shot him while he was asleep in his hammock. He sustained six gunshot wounds
38 including one in the head, eye, and neck. Before the killing, Tan was arrested twice by the police
39 over fabricated charges. In 2017, Tan was arrested in Santander, Cebu over allegations that he was
40 a member of the New People's Army (NPA) in Visayas. The cases against him were dismissed. In
41 2019, he was again arrested in Bacolod City over similar charges but was released on recognizance
42 in March 2020;

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44 **WHEREAS**, human rights group Karapatan has called for the current administration to abide by
45 the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian
46 Law (CARHIDL) signed by the NDFP and the Government of Republic in 1998, and to
47 International Humanitarian Law. The CARHIDL affirms and applies the principles of
48 international humanitarian law to protect individual civilians as well as persons who do not take a
49 direct part or who have ceased to take part in armed hostilities;

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1 **WHEREAS**, several peace consultants of the NDFP have been murdered under the Duterte
2 administration since 2019. In January 2019, Randy Malayao was shot dead in his sleep while aboard
3 a bus. In August 2020, Randall Echanis was brutally murdered in his rented apartment. In
4 November 2020, elderly couple and retired consultants Eugenia Magpantay and Agaton Topacio
5 were killed by police in a raid in Angono, Rizal, also in an alleged shootout. In December 2020,
6 elderly couple and retired communist leaders Antonio Cabanatan and Florenda Yap were found
7 dead by strangulation in their home in Oton, Iloilo;

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9 **WHEREAS**, it is imperative for members of Congress, as representatives of our people, to defend
10 the rights of our people and check on excesses and violations, especially in this time of crisis. It
11 must bring perpetrators to account to put a stop to the killings and rights violations against its
12 people. Laws and rules should serve the interest of our people, and should not be weaponized to
13 suppress their rights and oppress them;

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15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the
16 House of Representatives, through the Committee on Human Rights to conduct an investigation,
17 in aid of legislation, killing of peace consultants Reynaldo Bocala in Iloilo and Rustico Tan in Cebu.

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20 *Adopted,*

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

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

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35 **REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE**
36 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

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40 **REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS**
41 *GABRIELA Women's Party*

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44 **REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO**
45 *ACT Teachers Partylist*

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49 **REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**
50 *Kabataan Partylist*