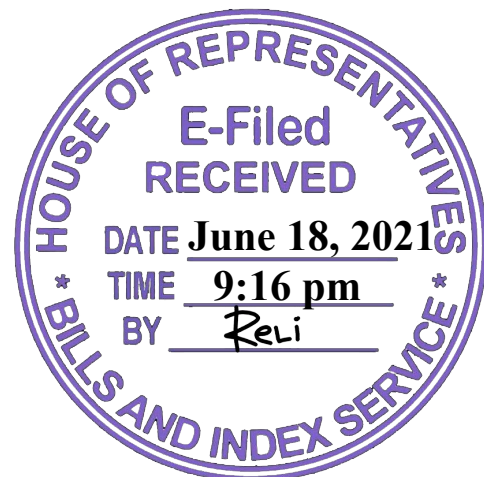


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2 Republic of the Philippines  
3 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
4 Quezon City

5 **EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
6 Third Regular Session

7  
8 **HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1903**  
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 THROUGH THE COMMITTEE**  
19 **ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDEMN, AND, CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION,**  
20 **IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE BRUTAL MASSACRE OF THREE (3)**  
21 **CIVILIANS INCLUDING A 12-YEAR-OLD CHILD PERPETRATED BY**  
22 **ELEMENTS OF THE 3RD SPECIAL FORCES BATTALION IN BRGY.**  
23 **DIATAGON, LIANGA, SURIGAO DEL SUR**  
24  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, on June 15, 2021, at around 1 PM, elements of the 3rd Special Forces Battalion  
27 (SFB) of the Philippine Army indiscriminately fired upon a group of six (6) farmers harvesting  
28 abaca in Sitio Panukmoan, Brgy. Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur. Three (3) Lumad-Manobo  
29 farmers, including a 12-year-old child, were killed while three (3) others were able to run away.  
30 The victims, all residents of Sitio Manluy-a, Brgy. Diatagon, were identified as:

- 31
- 32 1. Willy Rodriguez, 38 years old, member of Lumad organization Malahutayong Pakigbisog
  - 33 Alang sa Sumusunod (MAPASU);
  - 34 2. Lenie Rivas, 20 years old, member of MAPASU;
  - 35 3. Angel Rivas, 12 years old, a former student of Lumad school Tribal Filipino Program of
  - 36 Surigao del Sur (TRIFPSS), student of the Alternative Learning System (ALS) of the
  - 37 Department of Education;
  - 38

39 **WHEREAS**, the victims' bodies were reportedly then brought to the military brigade  
40 headquarters in St. Christine, Lianga, where they were presented as slain rebels of the New  
41 People's Army;

42  
43 **WHEREAS**, family and community members strongly belied the claims as the victims even  
44 asked permission from the military before going to the farm. According to family members,  
45 Angel Rivas joined her family in harvesting abaca to earn money for transportation to submit her  
46 learning modules. Angel was enrolled under the Department of Education's Alternative Learning  
47 System program;

48  
49 **WHEREAS**, family members who identified the bodies also claimed that the victims' remains  
50 were desecrated. The female victims' genitals were torn bearing signs of possible molestation or

1 rape. Angel Rivas' face was beyond recognition and needed multiple stitches. Willy Rodriguez  
2 had multiple broken bones in his arms which was held together only by packaging tape;

3  
4 **WHEREAS**, military troops of the 3rd SFB led by Captain Aranas and the 48th Infantry  
5 Battalion Philippine Army (IBPA) have been encamping in the community since August 2019  
6 and have set up a military detachment in Km. 18, Brgy. Diatagon. The ancestral lands in the  
7 Brgy. Diatagon has been heavily militarized for over a decade now;

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, residents have called for the pull-out of troops encamped in their communities for  
10 fear of harassment and killings citing previous cases of rights violations committed by military  
11 forces. on January 24, 2019, two (2) Lumad-Manobo farmers Emel Tejero and Randel Gallego  
12 were shot dead by soldiers of the 36th IB who opened fire on them while they were harvesting  
13 abaca in their farms. It can also be recalled that on September 1, 2015, paramilitary group  
14 Magahat-Bagani, aided by members of the 75th Infantry Battalion, brutally massacred three (3)  
15 civilians in Sitio Han-ayan, Brgy. Diatagon. Among the victims were datu Jovello Sinzo,  
16 MAPASU Chairperson Dionel Campos, and Alternative Learning Center for Agricultural and  
17 Livelihood Development (ALCADEV) school director Emerito Samarca;

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, MAPASU is an organization of Lumad in Surigao del Sur. The organization has  
20 been active in launching campaigns in defense of ancestral lands from large-scale foreign mining  
21 companies and other forms of development aggression. Because of its active resistance,  
22 MAPASU leaders and members have been the target of intensified red-tagging and vilification by  
23 state forces especially by the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict  
24 (NTF-ELCAC);

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, the Lumad communities in Brgy. Diatagon and in neighboring areas in Surigao del  
27 Sur are situated in the Andap Valley complex which is known to be rich in coal, nickel, gold, and  
28 other mineral reserves. The area has long been the target of mining companies. In February  
29 2018, at an Indigenous Peoples Leaders' Summit, President Rodrigo Duterte himself stated that  
30 he would personally choose investors of palm oil plantations and mining operations for ancestral  
31 lands, including the Andap Valley Complex. According to environmental group Caraga Watch,  
32 the following corporations are set to operate in the area: Benguet Corp., Abacus Coal  
33 Exploration and Development Corp., Great Wall Mining and Power Corp., ASK Mining and  
34 Exploration Corp. (exploration phase), and CoalBlack Mining Corporation;

35  
36 **WHEREAS**, according to Karapatan, this has been the 25th Massacre under the Duterte  
37 administration's counterinsurgency campaign killing a total of 121 individuals. Other incidents of  
38 mass killings against civilians were reportedly documented in Sumilao, Bukidnon; Palayan, Nueva  
39 Ecija; Masbate City and Cawayan, Mobo and Mandaon towns, Masbate; San Nicolas,  
40 Pangasinan; Gubat and Bulan towns, Sorsogon; Lake Sebu and Polomolok towns, South  
41 Cotabato; Siaton, Negros Oriental; Bato and Ragay towns, Camarines Sur; Matalam, Cotabato;  
42 Antique; Patikul, Sulu; Baguio City; Polomok, South Cotabato; Kabacan, North Cotabato; Baras,  
43 Rizal; Capiz; and Sta. Rosa, Laguna;

44  
45 **WHEREAS**, the brutal massacre of civilians by forces of the 3rd SFB is highly condemnable.  
46 The killing of civilians and the desecration of their remains are gross violations of the  
47 Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law  
48 (CARHHL) and International Humanitarian Law. A thorough and impartial investigation on the  
49 massacre should be conducted to hold perpetrators accountable and to prevent any more  
50 massacres and rights violations;

51

1 **WHEREAS**, it is imperative for members of Congress, as representatives of our people, to  
2 defend the rights of our people and check on excesses and violations, especially in this time of  
3 crisis. It must bring perpetrators to account to put a stop to the killings and rights violations  
4 against its people. Laws and rules should serve the interest of our people, and should not be  
5 weaponized to suppress their rights and oppress them;  
6


7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the  
8 House of Representatives, through the Committee on Human Rights, to condemn and conduct  
9 an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the brutal massacre of three (3) civilians, including a 12-  
10 year-old minor, perpetrated on June 15, 2021 by elements of the 3rd Special Forces Battalion in  
11 Brgy. Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur.  
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14 *Adopted,*  
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20 **REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**  
21 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

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24 **REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**  
25 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

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

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31   
32 **REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS**  
33 *GABRIELA Women's Party*

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36 **REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO**  
37 *ACT Teachers Partylist*

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39   
40 **REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**  
41 *Kabataan Partylist*