

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 198**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**Introduced by Introduced by Reps. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, ANTONIO L. TINIO, EMMI A. DE JESUS, FRANCE L. CASTRO, ARLENE D. BROSAS, ARIEL B. CASILAO, and SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**

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**RESOLUTION**

**EARNESTLY URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE TO GRANT A GENERAL, UNCONDITIONAL AND OMNIBUS AMNESTY TO ALL FILIPINOS WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, IMPRISONED, CHARGED AND/OR CONVICTED FOR ACTS OR OMISSIONS PUNISHABLE UNDER THE REVISED PENAL CODE AND/OR SPECIAL LAWS IN CONNECTION WITH THE REBELLION WAGED BY THE NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY (NPA), OR, FOR OTHER CRIMES IN PURSUIT OF ONE'S POLITICAL BELIEFS RELATED TO ITS ACTIVITIES."**

**WHEREAS**, Section 19, Article VII of the Constitution expressly provides that the President shall have the power to "grant amnesty with the concurrence of the majority of all the Members of Congress";

**WHEREAS**, it is recognized that certain Filipinos have been arrested, imprisoned, charged and/or convicted for acts or omissions punishable under the Revised Penal Code or special laws in connection with the rebellion waged by the New People's Army, or, for other crimes in pursuit of one's political beliefs related to its activities.

**WHEREAS**, presently, the human rights group *Karapatan* recorded a total of 519 political prisoners, 42 of whom are women, 125 have illnesses of varying degrees, 40 are elderly, 9 are couples, 129 are in prison for more than 10 years.

**WHEREAS**, *Karapatan* reported that almost all the charges levelled against these 519 political prisoners are fabricated charges of common crimes. Twenty one of these prisoners are peacetalks consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) who should have been long freed on the basis of the 1995 Philippine government-NDFP Joint Agreement for Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG).

**WHEREAS**, there is now an openness and goodwill between the government of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) for the resumption of the long-stalled peace process to tackle the root causes of the nearly five-decade old armed conflict in our country;

**WHEREAS**, in order to promote an atmosphere conducive to the attainment of a just,

comprehensive and enduring peace, and, in line with the peace and reconciliation initiatives of President Rodrigo R. Duterte, there is a compelling need to declare a general, unconditional and omnibus amnesty in favor of Filipinos who have been arrested, jailed, charged and/or convicted for acts or omissions punishable under the Revised Penal Code and/or special laws in connection with the rebellion waged by the New People's Army, or, for other crimes in pursuit of one political belief related to its activities;

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amnesty, which excludes those crimes against chastity and rape, should restore to the grantees their civil and political rights suspended or lost adversely by virtue of any executive, administrative or criminal action or proceedings against the grantee;

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amnesty is necessary for the general interest of the Philippines and the Filipino people for a just and lasting peace;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ADOPT THIS RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE TO GRANT A GENERAL, UNCONDITIONAL AND OMNIBUS AMNESTY TO ALL FILIPINOS WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, IMPRISONED, CHARGED AND/OR CONVICTED FOR ACTS OR OMISSIONS PUNISHABLE UNDER THE REVISED PENAL CODE AND/OR SPECIAL LAWS IN CONNECTION WITH THE REBELLION WAGED BY THE NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY (NPA) , OR, FOR OTHER CRIMES IN PURSUIT OF ONE'S POLITICAL BELIEFS RELATED TO ITS ACTIVITIES.**

*Adopted,*


  
**Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**  
*Bayan Muna Partylist*

  
**Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO**  
*ACT Teachers Partylist*

  
**Rep. EMMI DE JESUS**  
*Gabriela Women's Party*

  
**Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO**  
*ACT Teachers Partylist*

  
**Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS**  
*Gabriela Women's Party*

  
**Rep. ARIEL B. CASILAO**  
*Anakpawis Partylist*

  
**Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**  
*Kabataan Partylist*