

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



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 143

Introduced by
ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,
Rep. FERDINAND GAITE and Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,
and **KABATAAN Party-List Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**

RESOLUTION
STRONGLY CONDEMNING AND CALLING FOR AN URGENT INVESTIGATION IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE THREATS, HARASSMENT, AND VILIFICATION AGAINST
STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE SALUGPONGAN TA'TANU IGKANOGON
COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER IN SITIO NASILABAN, BRGY. PALMA GIL,
TALAINGOD, DAVAO DEL NORTE, BY THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND
THE PARAMILITARY GROUP ALAMARA

WHEREAS, teachers, school personnel, and students of Lumad schools in Mindanao, which are established and maintained by people's organizations and members of the local communities themselves due to the absence of public schools offering free education in their areas, suffer from threats, intimidation, vilification, killing, enforced disappearances, torture, and charging of trumped-up cases, with their school premises encamped by the military and their facilities destroyed;

WHEREAS, the indigenous community school Salugpongan Ta'Tanu Igkanogon Community Learning Center, Inc. (STTICLCI) is a private institution that provides free education to Lumad students via its several school branches in the far-flung communities in Region XI;

WHEREAS, students, teachers, and personnel of STTICLCI report continuous attacks against their school and communities by the paramilitary group called Alamara and elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), including intense threats;

WHEREAS, on July 2016, STTICLC executive director Ronnie Garcia, a Mamanwa from Compostela Valley, and his family were harassed by military agents in Tagum City. They were surveilled by armed suspicious men and then approached by a certain Mario Claveria, who identified himself as intelligence agent of the military and told them that he wants to pay a surprise visit to their office in Salugpongan and wherever Garcia was staying;

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2017 in Talaingod, Davao del Norte, Rodel Butanlog and three others forcefully entered the Sitio Nasilaban campus of the STTICLCI and interrogated Ramel Miguel, a Manobo high school teacher, for 30 minutes about the school's legal documents and operations and tagged as "NPA sympathizer." He was detained and not allowed to leave his classroom;

WHEREAS, Teacher Miguel is also chairperson of the Association of Community Educators (ACE), a group of volunteer teachers working in IP schools;

WHEREAS, the following day, soldiers also harassed community members in Nasilaban and disseminated malicious and false accusations against the school, branding it as a school run by the New People's Army (NPA), threatening the locals not to participate in Salugpongan's Brigada Eskwela, and insisting that the parents pull their children out of the school;

WHEREAS, on June 20, Butanlog fired three times at Teacher Miguel while he was having his class, wounding one student and damaging several school properties. Present during the indiscriminate firing were around 60 students and 3 teachers;

WHEREAS, Buntanlog left after the shooting, but not before vowing to torch the school upon his return;

WHEREAS, Ricky Balilid, ACE vice-chairperson, reported that Buntanlog had been hunting for Miguel for some time, and threatened to kill the teacher should they meet face to face;

WHEREAS, the 103rd Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army (PA) admitted having Butanlog, alias Ang-Angoy, formerly of the paramilitary Alamara and now a member of the Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU), in its custody as of June 21;

WHEREAS, elements of the PA and Alamara have consistently been accusing the STTICLC of being run by the NPA, despite even though they have been issued operational permits issued to STTICLC by the Department of Education;

WHEREAS, on June 05, 2017, Arnold Dalin, a grade 10 student of STTICLCI was attacked and threatened by the Alamara while Lorena Mandacawan, secretary of the Parents, Teachers and Community Association (PTCA) of STTICLCI, was forced and intimidated at gunpoint to sign a document saying that the 60th Infantry Battalion was allowed to camp in a neighborhood near Salugpungan school. Dalin and Mandacawan were blocked by soldiers and members of Alamara while they were on their way to attend the Brigada Eskwela;

WHEREAS, the Save Our Schools Network reported that a 17-year-old former student of STTICLCI has been abducted in Bagangga, Davao Oriental and is presently in the custody of the EastMinCom Headquarters in Panacan;

WHEREAS, both international and Philippine law prohibits the targeting by the military of schools, school personnel, and students as well as the use of public infrastructure such as schools for military operations and military purposes;

WHEREAS, the situation intensified with the declaration of martial law in Mindanao, with the military under the Eastern Mindanao Command taking advantage of the declaration of Martial Law to consistently and intensify their attacks against the school;

WHEREAS, these activities endanger the lives of students, teachers, and school personnel and hinder, if not deprive, Lumad children of their right to education and their tribes of their right to self-determination, an insult to injury after government had for so long neglected and left their communities in extreme poverty and without access to basic social services such as education;

WHEREAS, this repression of educators and developers of IP communities in the region goes against the constitutional mandate to “encourage non-formal, informal, and indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning independent, and out-of-school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs” (Paragraph 4, Section 2, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution);


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives condemn in the strongest terms the threats, harassment, and vilification committed by the military, against the students and teachers of the Salugpungan Ta'Tanu Igkanogon Community Learning Center in Sitio Nasilaban, Brgy. Palma Gil, Talaingod, Davao Del Norte and their community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the House Committees on Human Rights and Basic Education and Culture to investigate in aid of legislation these grave human rights violations.

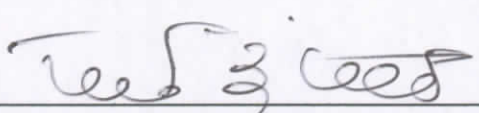
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the House urge all concerned agencies to look into the allegations of the victims and to immediately put an end to all forms of attacks on Lumad schools and people's organizations.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the House call on President Rodrigo Duterte to investigate and hold accountable the AFP and all responsible parties for all the attacks committed against the Lumad schools and communities.


Adopted,




Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-List



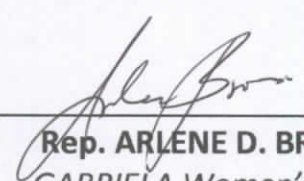
Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
BAYAN MUNA Party-List



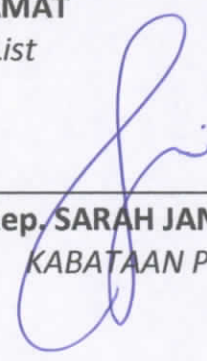
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