WHEREAS, on June 15, 2020, banners red-tagging youth leaders, specifically students and alumni from University of the Philippines Baguio (UPB) and Saint Louis University (SLU), surfaced in different areas in Baguio City;

WHEREAS, imprinted in the tarpaulins are the photos of the youth leaders with captions that read "Certified youth recruiters" and "kasabwat ng komunista sa pagbi-brainwash ng kabataan sa Baguio para magalit at mag-aklas laban sa gobyerno";

WHEREAS, in a Facebook post of Youth Act Now Against Tyranny Baguio-Benguet stated that tactics such as this spread fake news and pose threats to the lives of the youth leaders;¹

WHEREAS, Youth Act Now Against Tyranny Baguio-Benguet likewise stated that "These tarpaulins are spreading fake news and endangering the lives of our progressive youth! We enjoin the public to help us document and take these down! If you see one, please send us a photo and take the tarpaulins down;"

WHEREAS, logos of Anakbayan and Kabataan Partylist along with the photos of UPB students: University Student Council Chairperson Nico Ponce, National Union of Students of the Philippines Spokesperson Louise Montenegro, League of Filipino Students - Metro Baguio Chairperson Cheska Kapunan, Northern Dispatch Reporter Khim Abalos including UPB alumni Christian Dave Ruz and Keidy Transfiguracion, and SLU alumni Richard Gabaen were printed on the tarpaulins;

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2020, Baguio youth groups filed blotter over the red-tagging tarpaulins and will plan to file another case at the Commission on Human Rights-Cordillera Administrative Region²;

WHEREAS, this is not the first time that youth activists in the CAR were vilified as terrorists by what appears to be state-perpetrated elements;
WHEREAS, with the onset of Executive Order No. 70, which launched a Whole of Nation Approach to suppress the communist insurgency in the country, the administration has only aggravated its attacks against the youth and the people. In the last few months, there has been a spate of raids, arrests, harassments, and killings the administration has laid upon against the people;

WHEREAS, this administration is hell-bent on consolidating all forms of power and use it in silencing and jailing those critical of its fascist maneuvers while allowing drug lords, rapists, murderers, corrupt officials, ninja cops among others scot-free; that when it comes to the innocent and progressives, they are either killed right away or are charged guilty until proven innocent without evidence, worst planted with, despite the law saying otherwise;

WHEREAS, this regime has been criminalizing activism. The administration’s agenda has shifted from ending drugs and criminality to ending activism and democracy in the country. This administration only seeks to further oppress the people through systemic attacks which only do more harm than his portrayed intention. Instead of addressing the root cause of why activism exists, this administration seeks to weed out activists and the mass movement as a whole;

WHEREAS, the hopes that the state forces under this administration will lead the charge for nationalism and patriotism are misguided. Not only have they failed to uphold their duty in protecting the youth and the people, but they have only continued to act as President Duterte’s war dogs in his pursuit to criminalize and silence dissent and critical thinking in the country;

WHEREAS, President Duterte has openly undermined the role of the youth along with various marginalized sectors in the country. Instead of heading their calls for rights and justice, Duterte’s administration has only responded by enacting anti-people policies, implementing anti-poor programs, and enforcing its iron fist the very instance the people mobilize against his administration;

WHEREAS, the youth continue to be daring in speaking against tyranny. In a time where many should cower and fear against the might of the state's fascist machine, the youth, together with the people have chosen to fight. Such attacks and threats have only made the peoples' resistance against Duterte's administration even stronger. The people today are driven for the pursuit of freedom and democracy in the country for it is the same freedom and democracy this administration seeks to take away;

WHEREAS, the youth are more than just a voice of protest. The youth are the vessels behind the support and fortification of marginalized sectors of society. Willingly giving time and effort, the youth immerse themselves in the struggle of the poor, educates the masses about their rights, and mobilizes the people towards a just and equal society. Rather than the brainwashing being done by government forces, the youth have been open to open opportunities for sectoral immersions, wherein people educate themselves about the country’s social realities;

WHEREAS, now more than ever should the youth stay vigilant, and follow the path towards justice and freedom under the mere compassion for all those who are being trampled and taken advantage of in this country’s system. The youth must extend the power of the masses in letting the truth be heard, freedom be protected, and judicial independence be secured;

WHEREAS, in the face of the menace that is Duterte’s Administration, and with his endless attacks to the people, he has openly waged a war against the people he
was previously overthrown by the people. The youth today have shown that they are the hope of the nation amidst these attacks;

WHEREAS, Kabataan Party-list and all the other youth organizations will remain steadfast in denouncing the state’s misinformation drive and the militarization of our schools, and in forwarding the interests of the youth and the oppressed for genuine social change;

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT, the House of Representatives’ Committee on Human Rights condemn and investigate, in aid of legislation, the banners red-tagging youth leaders, students and alumni of University of the Philippine Baguio and Saint Louis University that surfaced in different areas in Baguio City on June 15, 2020.

Adopted,

Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Party-list

Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Party-list

Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-list

Rep. FERDINAND GAITE
Bayan Muna Party-list

Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women’s Party

Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Party-list