Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1084

Introduced by
BAYAN MUNA Representatives EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE and FERDINAND R. GAITE

RESOLUTION

URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE
ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION ON THE ARREST OF PEASANT LEADER PROCESO “SISOY”
TORRALBA IN BUTUAN CITY

WHEREAS, on April 11, 2020, 71-year old Proceso “Tatay Sisoy” Torralba, chairperson of
Unyon ng mga Mag-uuma sa Agusan Norte (UMAN-KMP) local chapter of Kilusang Magbubukid
ng Pilipinas was arrested at his home in Brgy. Bonbon, Butuan City, Caraga region over the
trumped-up charge of kidnapping and serious illegal detention;

WHEREAS, Torralba has led UMAN-KMP since 1988 and was at the forefront of local
campaigns and negotiations of farmers against high-interest loans and for the increase of
farmworkers’ wages;

WHEREAS, the trumped-up charges filed against Torralba pertain to an offensive launched by
the New People’s Army against a military camp in Sibagat, Agusan del Sur in December 2019. The
attack was pinned on around 400 persons, most of whom are civilians and members of people’s
organizations and rights groups, including Torralba. The charges were made despite Torralba
having physical limitations of carrying out such acts due to his old age, heart ailment, chronic
obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma;

WHEREAS, the charge against Torralba is judicial harassment to silence progressive
organizations and critics of the administration. Even as the whole country reels from the damaging
effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, attacks against activists, members of people’s organizations,
and human rights defenders have intensified under the National Task Force to End Local
Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC). The national task force has since unveiled itself as a
tool to silence any form of dissent from activists and people’s organizations by falsely tagging its
members as armed combatants of terrorist groups. Despite the lifting of Martial Law in Mindanao,
military encampment in communities and human rights violations persist;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for members of Congress, as representatives of our people, to defend
the rights of our people and check on excesses and violations committed against them. Laws and
rules should serve the interest of our people, and should not be weaponized to suppress their rights
and oppress them;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives, through the
Committee on Human Rights, conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the arrest of
peasant leader Proceso “Tatay Sisoy” Torralba in Butuan City.
Approved,

REP. ECOPÉMIA C. CULLAMAT  
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE  
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE  
Bayan Muna Partylist