

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session



**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 96**

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Introduced by  
**REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women's Party);**  
**REPS. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, FERDINAND R. GAITE, EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**  
**(Bayan Muna Partylist); REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO (ACT Teachers Partylist);**  
**and REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO (Kabataan Partylist)**

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**A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO  
CONDUCT AN ONSITE INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, REGARDING  
THE MULTIPLE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT  
RESULTING FROM THE ENCAMPMENT OF THE ELEMENTS OF 50TH  
INFANTRY BATTALION-PHILIPPINE ARMY IN THE ANCESTRAL DOMAIN OF  
THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY IN AG-AGAMA, WESTERN LUBUAGAN,  
KALINGA**

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) states that "*Emphasizing the contribution of the demilitarization of the lands and territories of indigenous peoples to peace, economic and social progress and development, understanding and friendly relations among nations and peoples of the world*";

**WHEREAS**, Article 30 of the UNDRIP states that "*Military activities shall not take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples, unless justified by a relevant public interest or otherwise freely agreed with or requested by the indigenous peoples concerned*";

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines is among the 143 countries which favored the adoption of the UNDRIP in 13<sup>th</sup> of September year 2007 during the United Nation's 61<sup>st</sup> Assembly;

**WHEREAS**, on October 5, 2015, around 40 elements of the 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Philippine Army (IBPA) showed up in the village of Ag-agama, Western Lubuagan, Kalinga from the forest to ask for help from the community in retrieving the body of a fellow soldier who died from falling and the villagers complied with the request;

**WHEREAS**, on October 7, 2015, 15 military personnel in full battle gear with no nametags on their uniforms returned to the village and went up to the residence of a local leader of Ag-agama Community Organization (AGCO), Beatrice Belen, who also happens to be the Vice Chairperson for External Affairs of INNABUYOG - an alliance of women's organizations in Cordillera;

**WHEREAS**, the military interrogated Belen, accusing her straightforwardly that she has been coddling members of the New People's Army, and when she asked them their designation, she was not answered by the military personnel;

**WHEREAS**, the mere presence of soldiers with long rifles in the community has sown fear and threat to the peaceful community of the Uma tribe and the interrogations have intimidated and harassed not only Belen but also her family, most especially the children in their home;

**WHEREAS**, on October 8, 2015, more soldiers went to their sitio, a rough estimate of 60 fully armed men, causing more fear to the tribesmen and disruption of their normal daily activities, most of which are farming, hunting, and other livelihood activities in the forest, gravely affecting their economic needs;

**WHEREAS**, some rice crops grown by farmers were destructed by the ongoing military operations causing them losses, but their complaints have fallen on deaf ears;

**WHEREAS**, since October 14, 2015, approximately 40 members of the 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Philippine Army (IBPA) have encamped in the village of Ag-agama, Western Lubuagan, Kalinga without any rightful identification of their unit and the soldiers' individual identities since no nametags were found on their uniforms, leaving the community without any recourse on how they can act on their complaint legally, where to demand reprieve from the militarization and identify any of the soldiers who frontally intimidate and harass members of the tribe;

**WHEREAS**, soldiers intimidate and wield their firearms in front of the indigenous community, without regard for safety, and corrupt the peace in the community;

**WHEREAS**, on October 29, 2015, the community was seriously concerned more than ever when a drunk soldier fired his rifle, causing more psychological, emotional, and mental harm to the people of Ag-agama and thus resulting agitation from other members of the tribe, some members fear that if this is not resolved soon may result to more harm than peaceful resolution to the encampment of these soldiers in their village;

**WHEREAS**, during the opening of classes many students were photographed without consent, by the military, parents expressed their concern for the safety of their children whose privacy has been breached;

**WHEREAS**, residents were interrogated by the soldiers under the guise of census and disaster risk reduction programs, functions which their very own barangay and AGCO have long been undertaking together in the past without undue intrusion and complaint from residents of the barangay;

**WHEREAS**, there was a reported incident of a search without warrant made by soldiers in one house on July 10, 2016 - wherein in that house were young girls still sleeping at the break of dawn. The three girls, when stripped off of their blanket, were shocked and unable to move and the matriarch of the household was so afraid and does not know what to do. Later on the same day, their house was under tight surveillance;

**WHEREAS**, Beatrice Belen was again politically harassed by the military, they sent her a summon from the Headquarters of the 50<sup>th</sup> IBPA in Pinukpuk, Kalinga last August 10, 2016;

**WHEREAS**, an 18 year old high school student was aimed at by a soldier from a far on September 3, 2016, triggering fear and anger from the gun pointing incident, the teenager almost fainted;

**WHEREAS**, there were series of catcalling and sexual harassment against women of Ag-agama including girls and married women, women kept complaining how disrespectful and uncalled for the very belittling treatments they have received from the soldiers and are worried for their safety as women who are indeed vulnerable to different abuse, violence, and rape;


**WHEREAS**, the soldiers called for a community meeting last September 4, 2016 in order to set up a Civilian Auxiliary Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) Detachment, to which the community opposed, and that despite the opposition of the community of Uma, the military went on with the aid of the CAFGUs in setting up the detachment;

**WHEREAS**, the military lured and deceived 69 civilians to enlist as CAFGUs in order to receive a monthly allowance of 4,500 pesos for a 15-day duty every month, and these civilians were later on presented by the military as former members of the New People's Army who have surrendered, 50 of them eventually passed the 45-day training and they were surprised to learn that they were declared as surrenderees;

**WHEREAS**, since the first time they have encamped in the community of the Uma tribe in Ag-agama, aside from the persistent human rights violations, the soldiers have consistently violated the barangay ordinance against gambling and liquor drinking, destroying the peace and order situation in the community;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the House Committee on Human Rights conduct an onsite investigation, in aid of legislation, regarding the multiple human rights violations and sexual harassment resulting from the encampment of the elements of 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Philippine Army in the ancestral domain of the indigenous community in Ag-agama, Western Lubuagan, Kalinga.

Adopted,

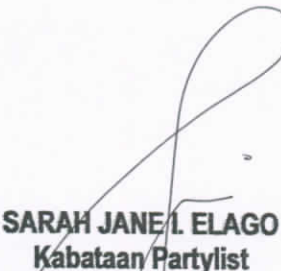
  
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