

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



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 142

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 OF
STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE CLANS LUMAD SCHOOL DIYA MENUWA IN
PALIMBANG, SULTAN KUDARAT, AND THEIR COMMUNITY LEADERS BY THE POLICE,
MILITARY, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, since October 11, 2016, students and teachers of the CLANS Lumad School Diya Menuwa, a community school for Manobos in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat, have been harassed, vilified and intimidated by representatives of the Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the local government including Mayor Abubacar "Bakre" Maulana, and combined elements of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Philippine Marines;

WHEREAS, the Save Our Schools Network (SOS) reported that the said school, a community school run by the Center for Lumad Advocacy and Services (CLANS) and serving 1,003 Manobo students, is being tagged by the perpetrators as a school for the New People's Army (NPA) and is not recognized by the government;

WHEREAS, the CLANS reported that on said date, armed and plainclothes-wearing police hung tarpaulins—which bear the logos of the Palimbang municipal

government, the National Commission of Indigenous Peoples, the DILG, the DepEd, the Philippine Marines, and the PNP—labelling CLANS as “the entry point of deception of the New Peoples’ Army” or a front of the NPA and saying that CLANS and the schools they manage are “fake and illegitimate”;

WHEREAS, the police also entered the school and started taking pictures of it as well as the volunteer teachers;

WHEREAS, the following day, the officials of Barangay Kipunget gathered the residents to conduct a meeting where the vilification was repeated;

WHEREAS, municipal officials also held a “caravan” covering Kipunget and several other sitios and barangays where they distributed flyers with the same contents as the tarp;

WHEREAS, officials then told the residents that there will be a P5,000 reward for those who can take pictures of the CLANS teachers or point out who the NPAs are;

WHEREAS, they also announced that teachers who will refuse to stop teaching at the school will only be given three warnings, or else be arrested;

WHEREAS, due to the threats, harassment, and vilification, *Diya Menuwa*, which operates in 18 sites, was forced to close for several days, with classes in four sites yet to resume as of this writing;

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);

WHEREAS, government officials, police, and military are duty-bound to immediately stop the threats, harassments, and vilification in light of the ongoing peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, both sides in the peace talks are currently drafting a Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (CASER), in which education is recognized as a centerpiece human right, especially for the youth;

WHEREAS, the peace talks and the CASER also seek to give the utmost protection to the Lumad peoples’ rights to life and self-determination and the Lumad children’s right to education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives condemn in the strongest terms the threats, harassment, vilification committed by the police, military, and representatives of national government agencies and the local

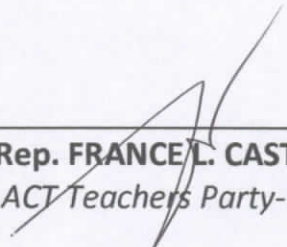
government against the students and teachers of the CLANS Lumad School Diya Menuwa in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat, and their community leaders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the House investigate, in aid of legislation, these human rights violations.

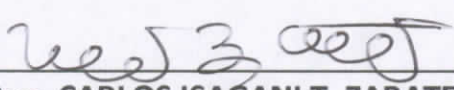
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the House urge all concerned agencies to look into the allegations of the victims and to immediately put an end to all forms of attacks on Lumad schools and people's organizations.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the House call on President Rodrigo Duterte to investigate and hold accountable the local government officials, PNP and AFP elements who are involved and aim to spoil the peace talks.


Adopted,



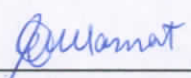
Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-List



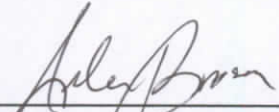
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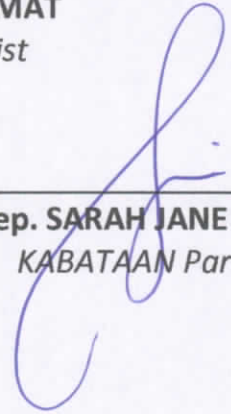
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