

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**374**

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**



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

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**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DOCUMENTED CASES OF GRAVE CHILD RIGHTS VIOLATIONS UNDER THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION, AND RECOMMEND MEASURES TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES**

**WHEREAS**, on August 25, 1999, the United Nations Security Council adopted the Security Council Resolution 1261, the first resolution on children and armed conflict. This resolution identified and condemned six grave violations affecting children the most in times of war: 1) Killing and maiming of children, 2) Recruitment or use of children as soldiers, 3) Sexual violence against children, 4) Abduction of children, 5) Attacks against schools or hospitals, and 6) Denial of humanitarian access for children;

**WHEREAS**, in 2005, the United Nation's Security Council adopted Resolution 1612 which paved the way to the establishment of Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave violations committed against children in times of armed conflict;

**WHEREAS**, Article 10, section 22 of Republic Act 7610 or the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act states that, "Children are hereby declared as Zones of Peace. It shall be the responsibility of the State and all other sectors concerned to resolve armed conflicts in order to promote the goal of children as zones of peace";

**WHEREAS**, Article 9, section 20 of the same act affirms that "children of indigenous cultural communities shall not be subjected to any and all forms of discrimination";

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act 11188 or Children in Situation of Armed Conflict Law prohibits killing, torture, intentional maiming, rape, abduction, recruitment of children into government armed forces and other armed groups, food blockade, arbitrary detention, and denial of humanitarian access;

**WHEREAS**, when President Duterte implemented Martial Law in Mindanao and the Memorandum No. 32, the recorded of cases of child rights violations remarkably escalated with 13 school-related killings, 3,633 forcible closure of schools, 930 indiscriminate firings, 2,350 aerial bombardment, and 18,249 forcible evacuations in Mindanao alone;

**WHEREAS**, last April 21, 2018, Jhun Mark Acto, a 15-yearold student of Ricardo L. Ipong National Highschool in Old Bulatukan, Makilala, North Cotabato and was temporarily living in Astorga, Sta. Cruz for a summer vacation, was found lifeless in Sitio Bayungon;

**WHEREAS**, combined elements of the 39<sup>th</sup> infantry battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and 2<sup>nd</sup> Scout Ranger Battalion fired gunshots directed towards the location where Jhun and his two cousins were taking a rest from harvesting copras. According to witnesses who testified, Jhun was even heard begging for his life. To justify what the military was saying an encounter, they dressed the lifeless body of Jhun with a black shirt bearing the New People's Army logo, a backpack and put firearms and explosives beside him and they even tried to bribe the child's mother;

**WHEREAS**, last April 17, 2019, in Barangay San Miguel, Las Navas, a minor named Armando Jay Raymunde, who was asked to buy from a variety store across a residence where elements of the 20<sup>th</sup> infantry battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines have been illegally camping, was killed. Results of fact-a finding mission revealed that a drunk soldier from the 20<sup>th</sup> IBPA released and threw a grenade that caused the death of Armando;

**WHEREAS**, the attacks on Lumad schools intensified under the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte with a total number of 126 Lumad community schools forcibly closed affecting 3633 Lumad students. Moreover, 14 documented incidents of indiscriminate firing of Lumad schools affected 930 students and teachers. Under the current administration, a total of 48 cases of Lumad community schools being used by the military as camps and barracks were documented;

**WHEREAS**, last July 22, the Department of Education Region 11 issued a suspension order against 55 schools of Salugpongan Ta Tanulganogon Community Learning Center Inc. (STTICLC), following a supposed report from Secretary Hermogenes Esperon Jr., the National Security Adviser and the vice chairman of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF ELCAC);

**WHEREAS**, Secretary Esperon accused the school of not teaching in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Department of Education and for allegedly teaching students to rebel against the government;

**WHEREAS**, the suspension order has resulted to the immediate closure of the campuses of Salugpongan Ta Tanulganogon Community Learning Center Inc. (STTICLC) and has further disenfranchised Lumad students of their right to free and quality education;

**WHEREAS**, Lester, a 14-year old witness-survivor of the Sagay Massacre, was illegally held by the Philippine National Police directed by officer-in-charge police chief, Robert Mansueto. The Philippine National Police pressured Lester's stepfather, Berhel Sumicad, to coerce the child to testify that it was the New People's Army who was behind the Sagay massacre;

**WHEREAS**, Ella, aged 17, and Rina, aged 11, were accosted and arbitrarily arrested by the seven elements of 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. They were harvesting rattan when state forces halted and interrogated them. The two were placed under extreme pressure by the military and were aggressively brought to another sitio and were eventually transferred to the military camp; they were detained for more than 24 hours. They were also made to sign a document even without the presence of their lawyer;

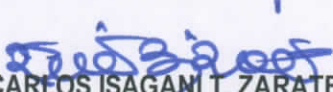
**WHEREAS**, last June 9, 2019, elements of 95<sup>th</sup> infantry battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> infantry battalion and Philippine Marines, which composed of an approximate of 500 people or one battalion, conducted a military operation and Community Support Programs (CSP) in the towns of Isabela: 15 barangays in San Mariano, 4 barangays in Benito Soliven and 3 barangays in Ilagan;

**WHEREAS**, the State shall respect the human rights of children at all times. It shall be recognized that children are entitled to dignity and respect as human beings in need of protection from degradation, humiliation, maltreatment, exploitation, and assault;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DOCUMENTED CASES OF GRAVE CHILD RIGHTS VIOLATIONS UNDER THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION, AND RECOMMEND MEASURES TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES.

Adopted,

  
**ARLENE D. BROSAS**  
Gabriela Women's Party

  
**CAREOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**  
Bayan Muna Partylist

  
**FERDINAND R. GAITE**  
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