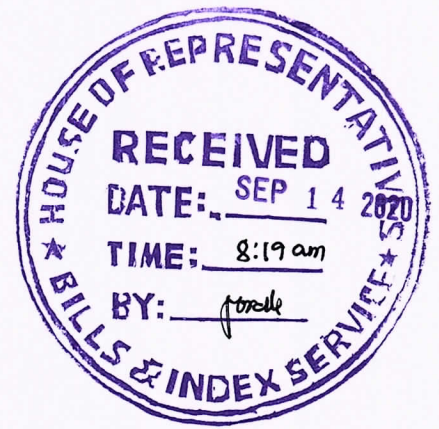


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1206



Introduced by

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

A RESOLUTION

**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE
PRESIDENTIAL PARDON OF CONVICTED MURDERER EX-US MARINE JOSEPH SCOTT PEMBERTON**

WHEREAS, section 7 of the 1987 Constitution stated that, "the State shall pursue an independent foreign policy. In its relations with other states the paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and the right to self-determination";

WHEREAS, on September 7, 2020, President Rodrigo Duterte has granted "absolute pardon" to former US Marine Lance Cpl. Joseph Scott Pemberton amid public fury over an Olongapo City court order for the American's release before completing his prison term of six to ten years for the 2014 killing of Filipino transwoman Jennifer Laude;

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Justice, there are 14 required documents that need to be submitted, including either a notice or a comment from the offended party – in this case, the family of slain Jennifer Laude;

WHEREAS, but Pemberton, protected by the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), was spared from this long process as claimed by the Department of Justice;


WHEREAS, according to the provisions of the VFA, in Article V(l)(a), Philippine authorities shall have jurisdiction over United States personnel with respect to offenses committed within the Philippines and punishable under the law of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, while Article V (6) of the VFA allows for the United States to request for custody over any US personnel over whom the Philippines is to exercise jurisdiction, the Philippines may opt to refuse in cases such as murder;

WHEREAS, the murder of Jennifer Laude is unforgivable and should be considered as a heinous crime more so because it is compounded with a hate motive. There is no other way to honour the memory of Jennifer Laude that to continue the fight for all victims of gender-based violence and remain steadfast in calling for the pull out of US troops in Philippine territories;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives expresses its sense to strongly condemn the presidential pardon of convicted murderer ex-US Marine Joseph Scott Pemberton.

Adopted,


ARLENE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women's Party


CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist


FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist


EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
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FRANCE L. CASTRO
Act Teachers Partylist


SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
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