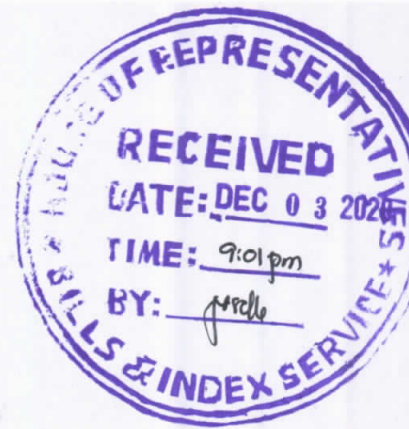


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Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1399**



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Introduced by

**BAYAN MUNA** Representatives **EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**,  
**CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE** and **FERDINAND R. GAITE**,  
**GABRIELA Women's Party** Representative **ARLENE D. BROSAS**,  
**ACT TEACHERS Party-List** Representative **FRANCE L. CASTRO**,  
and **KABATAAN Party-List** Representative **SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE  
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN  
AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ILLEGAL ARREST OF PEASANT ORGANIZER  
AMANDA ECHANIS IN BAGGAO, CAGAYAN**

**WHEREAS**, farmers' organization Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas reported that on December 2, 2020, combined elements of PNP-Cagayan, CIDG and AFP arrested peasant organizer Amanda Echanis along with her one-month-old baby in Barangay Carupian, Baggao, Cagayan. Echanis was accused of being a ranking member of the New People's Army in Cagayan and was charged with fabricated cases of illegal possession of firearms and explosives. The arrest was made while Amanda was rearing her one-month-old baby;

**WHEREAS**, Amanda Echanis is an organizer Amihan, an organization of peasant women and federation of peasant women organizations advocating for genuine agrarian reform and women's rights. Amanda is also the daughter of Randall Echanis, National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) peace consultant and Anakpawis chairperson who was brutally killed in August 2020 suspected to have been committed by state forces;

**WHEREAS**, peasant women's organization Amihan asserts that Echanis' arrest was made based on fabricated charges and planted evidence. Farmers' organization Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas questioned the claim of police that firearms were in Amanda's possession, underscoring the fact that Amanda Echanis had just given birth and was rearing her child;

**WHEREAS**, Amanda Echanis was arrested just a day after a Senate hearing on red-tagging where Amihan, along with other peasant groups, was accused of being a front organization of the Communist Party of the Philippines in a presentation by Ret. Col. Allen Capuyan, the head of the National Task Force to End Local Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC);

1 **WHEREAS**, attacks against farmers and land defenders have intensified since the establishment  
2 of the NTF-ELCAC under Executive Order 70 issued by President Duterte in 2018. The task  
3 force has been notorious for terror-tagging farmers, indigenous people, and activists to justify  
4 harassment, illegal arrests, and even extra-judicial killings. According to rights group Karapatan,  
5 from July 2016 to August 2020, there have been at least 264 victims of extrajudicial killings of  
6 peasants and peasant advocates. There have also been at least 973 illegal arrests and detention  
7 against farmers and other sectors. Most of these arrests were made on charges of illegal possession  
8 of firearms and explosives;

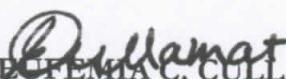
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10 **WHEREAS**, the arrest of Amanda Echanis and her month-old baby comes only a few months  
11 after public outcry over the death of Baby River, daughter of political prisoner Reina Mae Nasino,  
12 an activist also detained on fabricated charges of illegal possession of firearms. Reina Mae was  
13 forcibly separated from her infant and was denied visits when her newborn child fell ill in the  
14 hospital. Amanda Echanis and her one-month-old baby are now put in a similar position and are  
15 in danger of being subjected to the same conditions. Echanis and her baby are both highly  
16 vulnerable to illnesses, especially in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic. To detain Echanis, a  
17 mother who has just given birth, in our highly congested prisons with poor living conditions is to  
18 put her life and the life of her month-old baby at risk;

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, it is imperative for members of Congress, as representatives of our people, to defend  
21 the rights of our people and check on excesses and violations committed against them, especially  
22 in this time of crisis. Laws and rules should serve the interest of our people, and should not be  
23 weaponized to suppress their rights and oppress them;

24  
25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the  
26 House of Representatives conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the illegal arrest of  
27 peasant organizer Amanda Echanis in Baggao, Cagayan.

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*Adopted,*

  
**REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**  
*Bayan Muna Partylist*

  
**REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**  
*Bayan Muna Partylist*

  
**REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE**  
*Bayan Muna Partylist*

  
**REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS**  
*GABRIELA Women's Party*

  
**REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO**  
*ACT Teachers Partylist*

  
**REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**  
*Kabataan Partylist*