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2 Republic of the Philippines
3 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
4 Quezon City

5 EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
6 Second Regular Session

7 HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1445



9
10 Introduced by

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

16
17 RESOLUTION

18 URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE
19 ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO CONDEMN THE KILLINGS OF MOTHER AND SON
20 SONYA RUFINO GREGORIO AND FRANK ANTHONY GREGORIO BY POLICE
21 SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT JONEL NUEZCA IN PANIQUI, TARLAC, AND,
22 TO INVESTIGATE CONTINUING POLICE BRUTALITY IN THE COUNTRY

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24
25 WHEREAS, on December 20, 2020, Police Senior Master Sergeant Jonel Nuezca brutally shot
26 dead Sonya Rufino Gregorio, 52 years old, and her son Frank Anthony Gregorio, 25 years old,
27 after an argument between the two parties in Paniqui, Tarlac;

28
29 WHEREAS, the incident, captured on video, showed mother Sonya hugging her son Frank to
30 prevent him from facing police officer Nuezca. The argument, however, ended with Nuezca
31 drawing his gun and cold-bloodedly shot both victims in the head;

32
33 WHEREAS, Police Lieutenant Colonel Noriel Rombaoa, chief of Paniqui Police Station
34 reportedly said the argument started when Nuezca confronted his neighbors, the Gregorios, on a
35 supposed explosion of a PVC cannon or "boga". The argument allegedly led to the discussion of
36 their previous disagreement on a right-of-way in their neighborhood;

37
38 WHEREAS, this incident is not the first time the country witnessed PNP members killing
39 unarmed civilians. Last April 21, police officers shot dead Winston Ragos, an army veteran who
40 was struggling with mental illness, following an argument with police over quarantine rules in
41 Quezon City. On June 4, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) filed charges of murder,
42 perjury, and planting of evidence against Police Master Sergeant Daniel Florendo, Jr. and his
43 companions for the murder of Ragos;

44
45 WHEREAS, rights groups have called out intensifying police brutality especially under the
46 pandemic. On April 26, a cop tackled to the ground a Spanish citizen over alleged breach of
47 pandemic protocols. On April 27, Quezon City officials beat up a fish vendor for failure to wear
48 a face mask. In April, police violently dispersed protesters demanding food aid in San Roque,

1 Quezon City and arrested twenty-one (21) protesters. On the same month, six (6) volunteers for
2 Tulong Anakpawis were detained while on their way to deliver relief goods in Bulacan. In June,
3 police also violently dispersed protesters in the annual Pride March in Manila and arrested twenty
4 (20) LGBTQ+ activists and allies collectively called the "Pride 20". In the same month, police
5 arrested seven (7) jeepney drivers collectively known as the "Piston 7" who were protesting the
6 loss of their livelihood amid a government ban on passenger jeepneys;

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8 **WHEREAS**, police brutality refers to human rights violations committed by the police which
9 include beatings, racial abuse, unlawful killings, torture or indiscriminate use of riot control
10 against protesters¹;

11
12 **WHEREAS**, the Philippine National Police also has a notorious record of killing civilians and
13 suspects, especially under the Duterte administration's War on Drugs. In a report released on
14 June 2020, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
15 criticized the war on drugs which killed thousands of people "with near impunity" and cited
16 President Duterte's rhetoric as "permission to kill". On December 15, 2020, the International
17 Criminal Court released a report which found "reasonable basis" to believe that crimes against
18 humanity were committed in the Philippines under the anti-illegal drug war campaign. According
19 to the Commission on Human Rights, official records showed that 8600 people were killed
20 under the War on Drugs starting 2016. The United Nations OHCHR estimates that the real
21 figure could be three (3) times this number;

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23 **WHEREAS**, the brazen killing of unarmed civilians Sonya Gregorio and her son Frank
24 Anthony by an armed police officer highlights the continuing violence perpetrated by state
25 armed forces against innocent civilians. There is a need to put a stop to police brutality enabled
26 by the culture of impunity plaguing our country;

27
28 **WHEREAS**, it is imperative for members of Congress, as representatives of our people, to
29 defend the rights of our people and check on excesses and violations committed against them,
30 especially in this time of crisis. Laws and rules should serve the interest of our people, and
31 should not be weaponized to suppress their rights and oppress them;

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33 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives, through the
34 Committee on Human Rights, to condemn the killing of mother and son Sonya Rufino Gregorio
35 and Frank Anthony Gregorio by Police Senior Master Sergeant Jonel Nuezca in Paniqui, Tarlac,
36 and to investigate continuing police brutality in the country.

¹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/police-brutality/>

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Adopted,


REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
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