

1  
2 Republic of the Philippines  
3 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
4 Quezon City

5 EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
6 Second Regular Session

7 HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1449



8  
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 TO CONDUCT AN  
19 INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE KILLING OF NINE (9)  
20 TUMANDOK INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S LEADERS AND THE ARREST OF  
21 EIGHTEEN (18) OTHERS DURING SYNCHRONIZED OPERATIONS OF  
22 POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES IN CAPIZ AND ILOILO

23  
24  
25 WHEREAS, on December 30, 2020, local media outlets reported that nine (9) leaders of the  
26 Tumandok tribe were killed and at least eighteen (18) other Tumandok were arrested after  
27 synchronized military and police operations in Calinog, Iloilo and Tapaz, Capiz. The Synchronized  
28 Enhanced Managing of Police Operations (SEMPO) was reportedly carried out by Philippine  
29 National Police (PNP) Regional Office 6, PNP-CIDG, 12th Infantry Battalion Philippine Army,  
30 and Tapaz Municipal Police to serve search warrants for illegal possession of firearms and  
31 explosives;

32 WHEREAS, the nine (9) Tumandok leaders killed were the following:

- 33 1. Eliseo Gayas, Jr. of Brgy. Aglinab, Tapaz, Capiz  
34 2. Mauro Diaz of Brgy. Tacayan, Tapaz  
35 3. Arcelito Katipunan of Brgy. Acuña, Tapaz  
36 4. Mario Aguirre of Brgy. Lahug, Tapaz  
37 5. Roy Giganto, barangay kagawad and former punong barangay of Brgy. Lahug, Tapaz,  
38 and Chairperson of indigenous people's organization Tumanduk nga Mangunguma nga  
39 Nagapangapin sa Duta kag Kabuhi (TUMANDUK)  
40 6. Jomer Vidal of Brgy. Daan Sur, Tapaz  
41 7. Dalson Catamin, Punong Barangay of Nayawan, Tapaz  
42 8. Reynaldo Katipunan of Barangay Lahug, a Barangay Council Member  
43 9. Rolando Diaz, Sr. of Barangay Nayawan, Tapaz  
44

45 WHEREAS, eighteen (18) Tumandok indigenous people were also arrested. Seven (7) were  
46 from different barangays in Calinog, Iloilo and ten (10) were from Tapaz, Capiz. There were  
47 identified as the following:

- 48 1. Marilyn Castor Chiva of Brgy. Alibunan, Calinog, Iloilo  
49 2. Luisito Bautista, Chief Tanod of Brgy. Garangan, Calinog, Iloilo from whom a 45-caliber

- 1 pistol and 2 hand grenades were allegedly recovered
- 2 3. Glen Legario, from whom a 45-caliber pistol and 2 rifle grenades were allegedly
- 3 recovered
- 4 4. Wilsie Chiva, 60 years old
- 5 5. Marevic Aguirre of Brgy. Lahug, Tapaz
- 6 6. Marilou Sumaria Catamin, 54 years old, of Brgy. Roosevelt, Tapaz
- 7 7. Rolen Caro Catamin, 21 years old, of Brgy. Roosevelt, Tapaz
- 8 8. Jucie Katipunan Caro, 44 years old, of Brgy. Roosevelt, Tapaz
- 9 9. Fleutricia Calbo Caro, 62 years old, of Brgy. Roosevelt, Tapaz
- 10 10. Rolando Caspillo, 56 years old, of Brgy. Tacayan, Tapaz
- 11 11. Aileen Catamin of Brgy. Tacayan, Tapaz, former TUMANDUK Secretary General,
- 12 former Tacayan Barangay Captain, and a current municipal government employee
- 13 12. Glen Legario
- 14 13. Benny Lorana
- 15 14. Benito Caballero
- 16 15. Lauriano Castor
- 17 16. Rodolfo Diaz
- 18 17. Ferdinand Casipillo
- 19 18. Carlito Diaz

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, according to the family of Aileen Catamin, one of the eighteen (18) arrested,  
22 Aileen was reportedly tied, tortured, and carried by armed operatives. Her family suspect that  
23 Aileen was also tortured while inside the Tapaz Police Station due to the wounds on her body  
24 which bear signs of torture;

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, Marevic Aguirre, one of those arrested, was last seen by witnesses being taken by  
27 military forces in a helicopter. Marevic is still missing. Also missing is Raul Catamin from Daan  
28 Sur, Tapaz, Capiz. According to his family, Catamin was also subject to a Search Warrant and  
29 operations by the police and military in the early morning of December 30, 2020;

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, according to Police Lieutenant Colonel Gervacio Balmaceda, CIDG Region 6  
32 Chief, the troops served search warrants to 22 persons in Tapaz, Capiz and 3 in Calinog, Iloilo  
33 said to be "high value personalities" of the Communist Party of the Philippines and were  
34 allegedly in possession of firearms and explosives. The families of those arrested and killed deny  
35 these allegations;

36 **WHEREAS**, according to human rights group Karapatan, family members of Eliseo Gayas, Jr.  
37 were reportedly told by police to go out of their house. After which, armed operatives entered  
38 their home and killed Elisio Gayas, Jr. with four gunshots. Meanwhile, armed operatives forcibly  
39 entered the homes of Mario Aguirre and Roy Giganto and shot them dead inside their home  
40 while they were lying down asleep, in the presence of their families. In an interview with the  
41 media, the wives of Giganto and Katipunan, who were present during the operations, stated that  
42 police and military officers forcibly entered their homes at around 4 AM and "planted" the  
43 firearms allegedly recovered in their homes;

44 **WHEREAS**, in an interview with local media outlet Bombo Radyo Iloilo, Julie Catamin, the  
45 barangay captain of Roosevelt, Tapaz, Capiz stated that police and military officials did not  
46 coordinate with the barangay in serving the search warrants. She further stated that those named  
47 in the search warrant were residents in the barangay and were not members of the New People's  
48 Army (NPA) as the military and police alleged;

1 **WHEREAS**, the nine (9) Tumandok people killed were well-known indigenous leaders in their  
2 respective barangays. They were consistent in opposing militarization and rights violations in  
3 their communities. They were also active in the resistance against land grabbing and the  
4 construction of the Jalaur Mega Dam in Calinog, Iloilo threatening to inundate ancestral lands  
5 and displace thousands of indigenous peoples and peasants. For these reasons, they were red-  
6 tagged by the military, prior to the series of arrests and killings;

7 **WHEREAS**, the Tumanduk nga Mangunguma nga Nagapangapin sa Duta kag Kabuhi  
8 (TUMANDUK) is an organization of Tumandok indigenous people in Panay which has for  
9 years, been in the forefront of the resistance against the construction of the Jalaur River  
10 Multipurpose Project – Stage II (JRMP II) in Calinog, Iloilo. The indigenous peoples are  
11 reportedly being forced to accept Php 50,000 per hectare for holders of a Certificate of Ancestral  
12 Domain Title (CADT), and less for those without a title. Tumanduk farmers in Alibunan,  
13 Agcalaga, Sumuroy, and Barangan villages in Calinog, Iloilo are threatened with the construction  
14 of the P11.2 B megadam. Their resistance has reportedly delayed the construction for several  
15 years;

16 **WHEREAS**, according to Pamanggas, an alliance of farmers' organizations in Panay, those  
17 arrested were previously red-tagged by the military and were being pressured to surrender. Of  
18 those who were red-tagged, a few were reportedly called to report to the 12<sup>th</sup> IBPA and were  
19 interviewed by the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC)  
20 in order to "clear" their names;

21 **WHEREAS**, according to Karapatan, just last month, a community leader from Brgy. Lahug  
22 sought the help of the Commission on Human Rights because residents were reportedly  
23 threatened by the Philippine Army and the PNP deployed in their barangay. Residents were  
24 tagged as members of the NPA and were forced to sign papers to clear their names. The  
25 residents refused to sign the papers. As a result, they were reportedly threatened with soldiers  
26 saying they could be charged under the Anti-Terrorism Act and that what happened in Negros  
27 and Samar could happen to them;

28 **WHEREAS**, the mass killings and mass arrests in Panay is reminiscent of the SEMPO in  
29 Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental that led to the killing of six (6) individuals and the arrest of (15)  
30 others on December 26, 2018 under then PRO-7 Director PGen. Debold Sinas. It is also similar  
31 to simultaneous police operations in Negros Oriental to serve search warrants against alleged  
32 rebels which left fourteen (14) people dead on March 30, 2019. Rights groups assert that those  
33 killed were leaders of local peasant organizations;

34 **WHEREAS**, activists and rights groups have condemned this seeming pattern of arrests and  
35 killings wherein police serve search warrants against activists in the wee hours of the morning,  
36 allegedly recovering firearms and explosives in the area, or killing suspected rebels who allegedly  
37 fought back. This seeming modus operandi of police planting evidence against suspects has been  
38 called out several times by progressive groups;

39 **WHEREAS**, the planting of evidence by police was also noted by the United Nations in a June  
40 2020 report on police anti-drug operations in the Philippines. According to the report, the Office  
41 of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) "identified seven handguns with unique  
42 serial numbers. Each handgun appeared in at least two separate crime scenes, while two of them  
43 re-appeared in five different crime scenes. The pattern suggests planting of evidence by police  
44 officers and casts doubt on the self-defence narrative, implying that the victims were likely  
45 unarmed at the time of [the] killing";

46 **WHEREAS**, the recent mass arrests and mass killings of indigenous farmers in Panay, in the  
47 middle of a pandemic no less, is highly alarming. Their deaths add to the already long list of farmers  
48 extrajudicially killed under this administration. According to peasant organization Kilusang

1 Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, there have been more than 300 farmer victims of extrajudicial killings  
2 under the Duterte administration;

3 **WHEREAS**, this mass killings and arrests of indigenous peoples in Panay, in the middle of a  
4 pandemic no less, is highly condemnable, and has no place in society. The brazen killing of the  
5 poor and marginalized indigenous peoples is an indicator of the state of human rights in the  
6 country as well as the raging impunity that seems to reign over our land. It is imperative for  
7 members of Congress, as representatives of our people, to defend the rights of our people and  
8 check on excesses and violations committed against them. Laws and rules should serve the interest  
9 of our people, and should not be weaponized to suppress their rights and oppress them;

10  
11 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives to conduct an  
12 investigation, in aid of legislation, on the killing of nine (9) Tumandok indigenous people's  
13 leaders and the arrest of eighteen (18) others during synchronized operations of police and  
14 military forces in Capiz and Iloilo.

15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21 *Adopted,*

22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28   
29 **REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**  
30 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

31  
32  
33   
34 **REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**  
35 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

36  
37  
38   
39 **REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE**  
40 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

41  
42   
43 **REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS**  
44 *GABRIELA Women's Party*

45  
46   
47 **REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO**  
*ACT Teachers Partylist*

48  
49   
50 **REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**  
*Kabataan Partylist*