

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 826**



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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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**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SERIES OF MASS ARRESTS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS PERPETRATED BY LAW ENFORCERS SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE, AND TO RECOMMEND MEASURES TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THE CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS OF FILIPINOS IN THE MIDST OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**WHEREAS**, since the implementation of enhanced community quarantine due to COVID-19 pandemic, law enforcers have aggressively used excessive force to threaten and harass the poor, to criminalize dissent, and to arrest people who conduct relief operations and bayanihan initiatives;

**WHEREAS**, on March 28, Lieutenant Colonel Reynaldo Magdaluyo, the commander of the Sta. Cruz police station was caught on a video hitting an alleged quarantine violator in Golden Mosque, Manila with a stick while bawling cursed words;

**WHEREAS**, on April 1, residents of Sitio San Roque in Quezon City who demanded food and financial assistance as they did not receive anything from the national and local government were violently dispersed and arrested by Quezon City Police District. Residents were dragged, pushed and hit by the police force;

**WHEREAS**, on April 2, a citizen received a subpoena from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) after posting grievances online about the government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, on April 8, sixteen Coca-Cola workers in Sta. Rosa, Laguna were illegally nabbed by elements of the Police Regional Office 4A and the Philippine Army's 202<sup>nd</sup> Brigade and were presented to the media as "rebel surrenderees". It was reported that Coca-Cola workers experienced harassment before the incident. Armed police officers visited the workers' houses and coerced them to concede as members of New People's Army;

**WHEREAS**, on April 19, seven volunteer workers of Sagip Kanayunan and TulongAnakpawis, including former Anakpawis Party-list Representative Ariel Casilao, were accosted by police officers in Norzagaray, Bulacan while on their way to deliver relief goods to farmers, fisher folks, and urban poor communities in Norzagaray. They were red-tagged and harassed by police officials;



**WHEREAS**, the volunteers were able to present a food pass issued by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, allowing them to buy vegetables directly from farmers and distribute as relief goods. Nevertheless, they were detained in Norzagaray Police Station, and eventually released on bail;

**WHEREAS**, on April 21, at a checkpoint in Barangay Pasong Putik, Quezon City, Winston Ragos, a retired army colonel and a man who had been suffering from schizophrenia and post-traumatic stress disorder, was shot twice by a police officer without any consideration;

**WHEREAS**, on April 27, Michael Rubuia, a fish vendor in Panay Avenue, Quezon City, was dragged and beaten by local government authorities for not wearing a mask and failing to show a quarantine pass. In a recorded video of a witness, Rubuia was dragged by four men while another man constantly hit him with a wooden stick;

**WHEREAS**, on April 30, activist and Bayan Muna coordinator Jory Porquia was shot dead in his coffee shop in Iloilo by four unidentified men wearing masks. A week before the incident happened, Porquia received harassment by Molo PNP for conducting feeding programs and relief operations for poor communities in Iloilo City;

**WHEREAS**, forty-two people – including priests, lawyers, activists, journalists and daughter of slain Bayan Muna coordinator – who held an indignation caravan in Iloilo City to seek justice for Jory Poquia were blocked by policemen and were unlawfully arrested after negotiating with police officers to light candles and lay wreath where Porquia was gunned down;

**WHEREAS**, on Labor Day, ten volunteer relief workers, composed of seven jeepney drivers, two pre-school teachers and one volunteer of Gabriela, were arrested by Marikina police while distributing cooked food to their neighbors. They are volunteers of Bayanihan Marikena at Marikena, Citizen's Urgent Response to End COVID (Cure COVID), and Lingap Gabriela who have been conducting community kitchen feeding program and giving relief packs for the poor since the implementation of enhanced community quarantine. In fact, they have a permit from the LGU for the conduct of relief operations;

**WHEREAS**, four relief workers of Tulong Kabataan – a network of different youth organizations who conducts relief operations and feeding program – and fourteen beneficiaries including drivers and residents of Barangay Central, Quezon City were summoned by barangay officials and were later detained in Camp Karingal after distributing face shields and conducting Kusinang Kabataan. They were accused of participating in Labor Day activities;

**WHEREAS**, two labor activists from Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino in Rodriguez, Rizal were arrested by Rizal police officers for just holding placards on Labor Day;

**WHEREAS**, a member of Kilos na Homeless and three members of Liga ng Manggagawasa Valenzuela City were apprehended by police officers for conducting protest from home and posting pictures of placards that called for ending of contractualization and higher hazard pay for workers on social media;

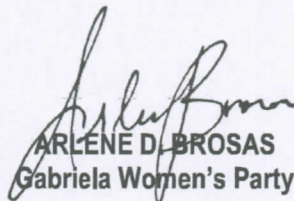
**WHEREAS**, the mass arrests of relief volunteers, of activists and government critics, and of the more than 100,000 ordinary citizens for violating the curfew and other quarantine restrictions, are very alarming. The United Nations has specifically named Philippines as among the countries with alleged human rights violation in the guise of coronavirus restrictions. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet even said that detaining people for curfew violation is unnecessary and unsafe for jails and prisons are high risk environments;

**WHEREAS**, concerned government agencies should investigate all reports and complaints of abuses and the officers responsible for committing human rights violations must be made accountable;


**WHEREAS**, the Duterte administration should reconsider its highly militarist approach of addressing the pandemic, drop the unnecessary and unreasonable charges against the arrested persons, and focus instead on educating the public about the COVID-19 pandemic, and on addressing the basic needs of its citizen while under the different levels of community quarantine. The spirit of bayanihan should also be encouraged provided that physical distancing and proper protection is observed;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House Committee on Human Rights conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the series of mass arrests and other human rights violations perpetrated by law enforcers since the implementation of the enhanced community quarantine, and to recommend measures to ensure the protection of the civil and political rights of Filipinos in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adopted,



ARLENE D. BROSAS  
Gabriela Women's Party



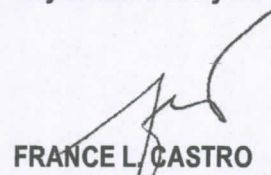
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