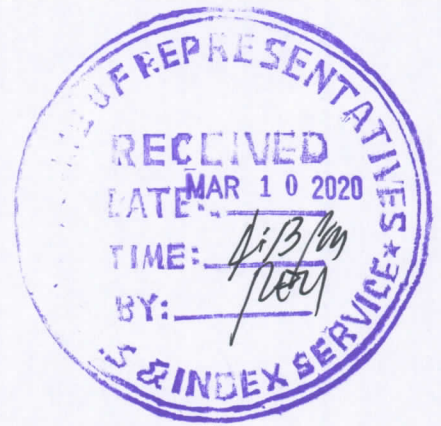


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. **779**



Introduced by
**REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE, REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE and REP.
EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT (Bayan Muna Partylist)**

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL
INTERMEDIARIES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON
THE ALLEGED HARRASMENT AGAINST RURAL MISSIONARIES OF THE
PHILIPPINES (RMP) BY THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING COUNCIL (AMLC)**

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution affirms that "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws;"

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution affirms that "No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances;"

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 5 of the 1987 Constitution affirms that "No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed. No religious test shall be required for the exercise of civil or political rights;"

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 7 of the 1987 Consitution provides that "The right of the people to information on matters of public concern shall be recognized. Access to official records, and to documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decisions, as well as to government research data used as basis for policy development, shall be afforded the citizen, subject to such limitations as may be provided by law;"

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 22 of the 1987 Constitution states that "No ex post facto law or bill of attainder shall be enacted."

WHEREAS, The Rural Missionaries of the Philippines (RMP) is a national organization, inter-congregational and inter-diocesan in character, of women and men religious, priests and lay. The organization works with the peasants, fisherfolks, indigenous peoples and agricultural workers;

WHEREAS, Founded in 1969, the RMP is a mission-partner of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines, and is known in rural areas for services it provides to poor communities;

WHEREAS, RMP has been on the front line against injustice, has raised its voice against the killings of the poor by the police or the military for various reasons and violations of human rights. On the 50th anniversary of RMP last year, Bishop Deogracias Iniguez stressed the effort,

1 commitment, and contribution of RMP, whose members “are willing to work hard to bring the
2 Church closer to people”;
3

4 **WHEREAS**, RMP facilitates integration and seminarians and men and women religious to carry
5 out their evangelizing mission alongside the poor in rural areas. It carries out campaigns regarding
6 problems of rural areas; provides support services to schools on topics such as evangelization,
7 disaster risk reduction, health services, defense of human rights, sustainable agriculture and climate
8 change mitigation; contributes to building alliances and networks of a pastoral and social nature;
9

10 **WHEREAS**, On December 26, 2019, the AMLC issued Resolution TF-18 which ordered a 20-
11 day freeze for three (3) RMP accounts with the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI). It then
12 ordered BPI to submit details of RMP-related bank accounts;
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the AMLC filed thru the Office of the Solicitor General, a petition to extend the
15 freeze order to six (6) months with the Court of Appeals. This was based on the very vague
16 reasoning that there is “probable cause that the BPI accounts of RMP are related to terrorism
17 financing;”
18

19 **WHEREAS**, On January 9 and 13 this year, RMP was notified by several BPI branches that its
20 bank accounts have been suspended: two (2) for the National Office and nine (9) for the Northern
21 Mindanao Sub-Region. These accounts were created and maintained for completed and on-going
22 projects of RMP, as well as for its internal operations;
23

24 **WHEREAS**, On January 14, 2020, the AMLC filed its Verified Petition for Extension of Freeze
25 Order on the subject accounts covered by the AMLC Resolution;
26

27 **WHEREAS**, The AMLC belatedly filed its Motion to Admit Attached Verified Supplemental
28 Petition and Verified Supplemental Petition for Extension on the Freeze Order to include
29 additional accounts on February 13, 2020, beyond the 20-day freeze order period required by law;
30

31 **WHEREAS**, Except for the three subject accounts in the AMLC Resolution, all the BPI accounts
32 frozen were not identified as subject accounts as of the date of the issuance of AMLC Resolution
33 TF-18, Series of 2019;
34

35 **WHEREAS**, the Bank of the Philippine Islands has frozen BPI Accounts of the RMP which were
36 not subject accounts in the AMLC Resolution;
37

38 **WHEREAS**, RMP avers that donations and funding received by the RMP are used to implement
39 projects and programs to help the marginalized and oppressed. The organization is firm that it has
40 mission and community partners to confirm such;
41

42 **WHEREAS**, Due to the freezing of aforementioned bank accounts, several ongoing projects of
43 the RMP such as health missions, indigenous schools, community building, etc. have been
44 hampered;
45

46 **WHEREAS**, RMP denies involvement in any form of financing terrorism and avers that in
47 freezing their bank accounts, the AMLC is only depriving the rural poor of the help and services
48 they deserve;
49

50 **WHEREAS**, the Anti-Money Laundering Act could be used to paralyze organizations which are

1 contributing to society just because said groups are critical of government policies;

2
3 **WHEREAS,** The inclusion of “targeted financial sanctions” in the Anti-Money Laundering Act
4 may be considered as an act of a legislature declaring a person or group of persons guilty of some
5 crime and punishing them, often without a trial. This might violate the prohibition under the 1987
6 Constitution that no bill of attainder shall be enacted.
7

8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS**
9 **AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF**
10 **LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED HARRASMENT AGAINST THE RURAL**
11 **MISSIONARIES OF THE PHILIPPINES IN LIEU OF THE EXPANSION OF THE**
12 **ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING COUNCIL’S POWERS UNDER HOUSE BILL 6174.**

13
14 *Adopted,*

15
16
17
18 
19 **FERDINAND R. GAITE**
20 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

21
22
23
24 
25 **CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**
26 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45

27 **EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**
28 *Bayan Muna Partylist*