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Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 67



*Introduced by* **RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA**  
*Representative, Trade Union Congress Party*

**A RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON POSSIBLE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COMMITTED AGAINST MR. PATRICIO M. TAGO, JR., A LABOR LEADER BASED IN CAPAS, TARLAC.**

**WHEREAS**, the labor movement expresses its grave concern about the alleged illegal arrest and continuing detention without bail of Mr. PATRICIO M. TAGO, JR., on what labor believes are trumped-up and spurious charges motivated solely by the desire of the management of D' Luxe Bags Philippines based in Capas, Tarlac, to neutralize and defeat efforts initiated by Mr. Tago, Jr. as Vice President of D' Luxe Workers' Association-Associated Labor Unions – Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP), to organize a union in the said workplace;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Tago, Jr., has been detained since 25 September 2016 and is now at the Tarlac Provincial Jail, facing charges of violating Republic Act No. 9165 or the Dangerous Drugs Act (Criminal Case No. CT16-6303 to 6304);

**WHEREAS**, the attempt to organize a union by its workers is apparently viewed with hostility by the management of D' Luxe Bags Philippines of Capas, Tarlac and said company is alleged to be utilizing all means with anti-labor elements in the local government to ensure that the Constitutional right of workers to organize is undermined and defeated;

**WHEREAS**, in July 2016, while Mr. Tago, Jr. was actively campaigning for a Certification Election of D' Luxe Workers' Association-ALU-TUCP scheduled for that same month, Mr. Tago, Jr., together with union officers and members, was allegedly summoned by Capas Mayor Reynaldo Catacutan. The Mayor allegedly questioned them on their union activities at D' Luxe and told them to "better stop their union activities..." The clear implication was that their job was at stake;

1 **WHEREAS**, on 25 September 2016, Mr. Tago, Jr. alleges that he was publicly  
2 beaten up in his neighborhood by a group of officers of the Philippine National  
3 Police. PO3 Del Antonio Talifa, PO2 Roger Canlas and companions found Mr.  
4 Tago, Jr. at their community's basketball court and allegedly roughed up Mr.  
5 Tago, Jr., Said officers also allegedly interrogated Mrs. Aileen A. Tago and Mr.  
6 Patricio D. Tago, Sr., wife and father of Mr. Tago, respectively;

7  
8 It is further alleged that the same police officers followed Mrs. Tago who went  
9 looking for Mr. Tago, Jr., who was then with their child at the basketball Court.  
10 One from the group allegedly punched Mr. Patricio, Jr., placed him in an armlock  
11 by the neck and said: "...nag-uunyon 'ka pa kasi!'. Mr. Patricio Jr., was then forced  
12 into the police car and was brought to the PNP – Capas Police Station;

13  
14 Upon arrival at the Police Station, the same police officers allegedly coerced Mr.  
15 Tago, Jr., to hold on to two sachets of shabu and a 500-peso bill in the presence of  
16 Barangay Chairperson Aurora Bumanlag. Mr. Tago, Jr., refused to hold the shabu  
17 sachets and vehemently denied he was using illegal drugs or was in any way  
18 involved in peddling illegal drugs. Mr. Tago, Jr. made known to the authorities  
19 before him that a recent drug test in D' Luxe Bags found him negative from use of  
20 any illegal substance;

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Tago was subsequently detained for alleged violation of R.A. No.  
23 9165. The arresting officers claimed that a buy-bust operation transpired which  
24 was denied by Mr. Tago, Jr., as well as by his family members and neighbors who  
25 witnessed the illegal arrest;

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, a drug test conducted on the day of the arrest by the PNP Regional  
28 Crime Laboratory Office 3 of the Tarlac Provincial Crime Laboratory Office found  
29 Mr. Tago, Jr. negative of Metamphetamine (shabu) and THC-Metabolites. Said  
30 drug results were certified by Police Chief Inspector Angelito S. Angel;

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, an inquest was conducted by the Assistant City Prosecutor of Capas,  
33 Tarlac City last 26 September 2016 and the case was filed before the Regional  
34 Trial Court of Capas, Tarlac;

35  
36 **WHEREAS**, on 03 October 2016, a Petition for Bail was filed before the RTC  
37 Branch 66, Capas, Tarlac. Since October 2016, the hearings for said Petition has  
38 been rescheduled seven times (07 October 2016; 06 February 2017; 16  
39 November 2017; 14 December 2017; 29 May 2018; 26 June 2018; and 14 August  
40 2018). To date, no substantial progress has been made in the proceedings of the  
41 case. Workers suspect this is so as Capas is widely promoted as a "no union,  
42 strike-free zone;"

43  
44 **WHEREAS**, justice delayed is justice denied. Three years of detention without  
45 bail has caused damage to the health, family life and livelihood of Mr. Tago, Jr.,  
46 This has dragged on far too long, without judicial resolution in sight;



1 **WHEREAS**, D' Luxe bags is part of the global chain of Luen Thai Holdings Limited  
2 – a multi-national corporation based in Hong Kong. Luen Thai produces the  
3 world-famous Coach bags through D' Luxe Bags Philippines;  
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5 **WHEREAS**, workers believe that Mr. Tago, Jr. was merely acting within the  
6 bounds of his Constitutionally-guaranteed rights. Further, workers feel that his  
7 continuing detention has a "chilling effect" on continuing efforts to freely  
8 establish a union at D' Luxe;  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, if these trumped-up illegal drugs charges against Mr. Tago, Jr. are  
11 untrue, then it will be a disservice to the anti-illegal drugs campaign, even as it  
12 destroys the individual's human rights and lays waste to labor's fundamental  
13 rights. Such schemes have no place in a democratic society such as ours;  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, the 1947 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) sets  
16 out fundamental human rights to be universally protected and that through the  
17 UDHR, members of the United Nations reaffirmed their faith in fundamental  
18 human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal  
19 rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and  
20 better standards of life in larger freedom;  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the following articles of the UDHR are appropriate to highlight, in the  
23 face of what may be the use of the anti-drug war to camouflage what is a clear act  
24 of union-busting;  
25

26 **FIRST**, Article 3 guarantees everyone's "right to life, liberty and security of  
27 person;"  
28

29 **SECOND**, Article 5 of the Declaration explicitly protects any individual from  
30 barbarous acts and that "no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel,  
31 inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment";  
32

33 **THIRD**, Articles 7 to 12 of the Declaration guarantees an individual's rights to  
34 equality before the law, to equal protection, the right to remedy before  
35 competent national tribunals, that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest,  
36 detention or exile, and that he or she has the right to be heard, has an inherent  
37 right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, and that there should be no  
38 attacks to his or her honor and reputation;  
39

40 Article 20 guarantees everyone's "right to freedom of peaceful assembly and  
41 association" even as "no one may be compelled to belong to an association;"  
42

43 Article 22 of the Declaration guarantees one's right to social security and his or  
44 her rights to economic, social and cultural rights as indispensable to his or her  
45 dignity;  
46

47 **FOURTH**, intertwined with human dignity, is one's right to decent work  
48 enshrined in Articles 23 to 25 of the Declaration which guarantees and protects  
49 workers' fundamental rights that include the right to work, to free choice of

1 employment, to just and favorable conditions of work, to protection against  
2 unemployment, the right to reasonable working hours, the right to a living wage,  
3 the right to unemployment security or insurance, and the rights of women  
4 workers and their children;

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6 **FIFTH**, Paragraph 4 of Article 24 guarantees workers' right to form and to join  
7 trade unions for the protection of his or her interests,  
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9 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 3, Article XIII of the Constitution, the State shall  
10 afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized,  
11 and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all.  
12 It shall guarantee the rights of all workers to self-organization, collective  
13 bargaining and negotiation, and peaceful concerted activities, including the right  
14 to strike in accordance with law. They shall be entitled to security of tenure,  
15 humane conditions of work, and a living wage. They shall also participate in  
16 policy and decision-making processes affecting their rights and benefits as may  
17 be provided by law. The State shall regulate the relations between workers and  
18 employers, recognizing the right of labor to its just share in the fruits of  
19 production;  
20

21 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the House  
22 of Representatives to direct the Committees on Human Rights and Labor and  
23 Employment of the House of Representatives to conduct an inquiry, in aid of  
24 legislation, on the human rights violations committed against Mr. Patricio M.  
25 Tago, Jr., a labor leader in Capas, Tarlac.  
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28 **Adopted,**  
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RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA  
TUCP Partylist