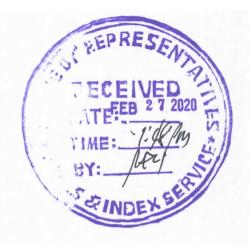
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 745



Introduced by KABATAAN PARTY-LIST Representative Sarah Jane I. Elago,
ACT TEACHERS PARTY-LIST Representative France L. Castro,
BAYAN MUNA PARTY-LIST Representatives Carlos Isagani T. Zarate,
Ferdinand Gaite and Eufemia C. Cullamat,
and GABRIELA WOMEN'S PARTY Representative Arlene D. Brosas

RESOLUTION

URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDEMN AND INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ALL KINDS OF PROFILING AND DISCRIMINATION TARGETING SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS BASED ON, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, AGE, APPEARANCE, POLITICAL BELIEFS, RELIGION, ETHNICITY, RACE, GENDER IDENTITY OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND TO DIRECT THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES TO ISSUE AN UNEQUIVOCAL DIRECTIVE PROHIBITING PROFILING AND OTHER SIMILAR PRACTICES THAT VIOLATE ONE'S RIGHT TO PRIVACY AND SAFE SPACES

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article III Sections 1, 2, and 4 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the State assures the people that no person shall be deprived of life and liberty, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws, that all people have the right to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures of whatever nature, and that no law shall be passed abridging their freedom of speech and of expression;

WHEREAS, however, Manila Police District (MPD) issued a bothersome memorandum, ordering all its station commanders to "submit the updated list of Muslim students in high school, colleges and universities in your respective areas of responsibility following the attached format" (a table to be filled up for details such as the grade level, gender and total number of its Muslim students);

WHEREAS, this memorandum had already been presented by police officers to the Timoteo Paez Integrated School in Tondo, Manila, where they pressed teachers with questions about Muslim students;

WHEREAS, Muslim leaders in Mindanao on Friday, February 22, expressed outrage on the profiling of Muslim students by the Manila Police District (MPD) "in line with the efforts to counter violent extremism," stressing the move reeks of Islamophobia and discrimination. Naguib Sinarimbo, Minister for the Interior and Local Government of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), castigated the profiling as "wrong." "Instead of aiding our effort against violent extremism, it pushes people towards it as it discriminates, profiles and reinforces prejudices against a specific religion," said Sinarimbo;

WHEREAS, there also had been a so-called "Oplan X-Men" of Makati City Police, an alleged profiling of transgender women in Makati City, caught especially in a viral video that circulated online last February 14, where two cops, Patrolman Timmy Paez and Police Corporal Juliel Atal, can be seen accosting Anne Pelos and inviting her to go to their headquarters for "profiling" while she was stopped along Makati Avenue on her way home;²

WHEREAS, in a now-deleted Facebook post, Makati City Police dubbed their alleged profiling of transgender women in the city as "Oplan X-Men" in a bid to "rescue ladyboys" from exploitation and human trafficking, but was clearly a form of targeted harassment and discrimination against transgender persons which entails intimidation and stigmatization; the name of the police operation itself banks on a very derogatory tone that invites further discrimination and marginalization of trans people. We want this police operation probed and immediately stopped;

WHEREAS, several cases involving profiling of teachers and students and surveillance in campuses have been reported and exposed over the past years; the Philippine National Police (PNP) did this also to students and teachers in late 2018 with the police and the military's imagined Red October plot, now they are using the same modus with Muslim students and even transgenders in Makati. These developments along with the attack on ABS-CBN, raids and trumped-up charges against critics as well as the push of the Duterte administration for amendments on the Human Security Act (HSA) puts the country closer to a de facto police state;

WHEREAS, the same practice of intimidation and profiling are being done by the military to our Lumad brethren in the ancestral lands in Mindanao, prior to harassing, attacking, and even killing them;

WHEREAS, profiling of teachers and students in schools or profiling, in general, is another tyrannical measure of suppressing fundamental freedoms of expression, organization, and association to quell dissent and intimidate assertion of rights and welfare;

¹ https://www.mindanews.com/top-stories/2020/02/muslim-leaders-deplore-profiling-of-muslim-youths-in-manila/

² https://www.rappler.com/move-ph/252127-lgbtq-groups-hit-oplan-x-men-targeted-harassment-trans gender-women

WHEREAS, the state forces' life-endangering allegations and police profiling borders on grave abuses that even innocent law-abiding citizens have been and could be wrongly arrested or accused of crimes;

WHEREAS, during the deliberations for the amendments to the Human Security Act, police, military, and intelligence agencies stressed the 'need to monitor' institutions like Madrasah schools as part of 'peace-building' and to counter violent extremism. That's why police, military, and intelligence agencies are asking for vast powers to surveil people and arrest without warrant, even close schools on the mere suspicion of terrorism. The bill being cooked now in Congress will target and discriminate against certain classes of people;

WHEREAS, the abysmal record of the PNP, AFP, and the defense and security establishments of the Duterte administration make this all the more alarming. Their 'intelligence reports' pertaining to the presence of terrorists among students, of recruitment for 'Red October', for example, are all unfounded allegations. No evidence at all except for their say-so;

WHEREAS, instead of making excuses, we dare the AFP and PNP to issue an unequivocal directive prohibiting profiling and similar practices of gathering personal information from communities and institutions, especially schools and workplaces. We challenge the AFP and the PNP to take the correct action by rectifying and denouncing their own violations.

WHEREAS, all these acts are highly condemnable and discriminatory. This may also be a prelude to an intensified vilification and attack on the youth, the LGBTQIA+ and the Muslim community in general. This was the same pattern used against progressives and the opposition. We must oppose and resist this condemnable profiling;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives condemn and investigate, in aid of legislation, all kinds of profiling and discrimination targetting specific individuals or groups based on, but not limited to, age, appearance, affiliations, political beliefs, religion, ethnicity, race gender or sexual orientation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives direct the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to issue an unequivocal directive prohibiting profiling and other similar practices that violate one's right to privacy and safe spaces.

Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO Kabataan Party-list

Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-list

Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS Gabriela Women's Party Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE

Bayan Muna Party-list

Rep. FERDINAND GAITE Bayan Muna Party-list

Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT

Bayan Muna Party-list