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Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

938 HOUSE RESOLUTION No.

Introduced by

BAYAN MUNA Representatives EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT, CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE and FERDINAND R. GAITE, GABRIELA Women's Party Representative ARLENE D. BROSAS, ACT TEACHERS Party-List Representative FRANCE L. CASTRO, and KABATAAN Party-List Representative SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE KILLING OF PEASANT LEADER ALLAN "MANO BOY" AGUILANDO IN BRGY. RIZAL, CATARMAN, **NORTHERN SAMAR**

WHEREAS, on May 26, peasant leader Allan "Mano Boy" Aguilando, was gunned down by the 803rd Brigade-Peacemaker of the 8th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army in Brgy. New Rizal, Catarman, Northern Samar;

WHEREAS, Aguilando was a resident of New Rizal, Catarman, and Chairperson of Northern Samar Small Farmers Association (NSSFA), a province-wide local farmers' organization for the alleviation of peasants' economic situation. Mano Boy led campaigns forwarding the interest of farmers. He participated and led the 2017 Stand With Samar Lakbayan, which mobilized farmers from Samar to the national capital region to demand immediate aid from the national government;

WHEREAS, before the killing, Aguilando was consistently subjected to red-tagging and harassment for participating in the advancement of peasant rights and economic conditions. His organization, the NSSFA, an affiliate organization of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas has also been the target of police and military. On January 17 this year, another member of NSSFA, barangay councilor Jennifer Tonag, was shot dead while on her way home from a seminar sponsored by the Department of Interior and Local Government;

WHEREAS, the 43rd IBPA falsely claims that Aguilando was killed in an encounter between government troops and communist rebels, and presents Aguilando to the public as an alleged leader of the New People's Army;

WHEREAS, on May 12, just two weeks before Aguilando's killing, President Duterte offered a Php 2 Million bounty for the capture of any leaders of the New People's Army. Rights group Karapatan warned that the bounty would only pose a grave danger to innocent civilians and activists being labeled as members of the NPA;

WHEREAS, Aguilando is the 7th victim of extra-judicial killings in Samar Island and the 251st peasant EJK victim nationwide under the Duterte administration. Despite the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, and in the wake of the damage brought by Typhoon Ambo, the harassments and killings of peasants continue. Killings have intensified in Samar under Memorandum Order 32 which deployed additional military personnel to Negros, Samar, and Bicol region. The baseless red-tagging of activists and peasant leaders have also been relentless, especially upon the creation of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict under Executive Order 70, to justify the attacks and killings of members of progressive organizations; WHEREAS, it is imperative for members of Congress, as representatives of the people, to protect the rights of the people and seek justice and accountability for violations and abuses. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Committee on Human Rights conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the killing of peasant leader Allan "Mano Boy" Aguilando in Brgy. Rizal, Catarman, Northern Samar. Approved, REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT Bayan Muna Partylist R. GAITE Bayan Muna Partylist Bayan Muna Partylist REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO GABRIELA Women's Party ACT Tedchers Partylist REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

Kabathan Partylist