

Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Metro Manila  
Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

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Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-second day of July, two thousand nineteen.

RESOLUTION NO. 25

RESOLUTION COMMENDING ACT TEACHERS PARTY-LIST  
REPRESENTATIVE FRANCE L. CASTRO FOR BEING  
AWARDED THE 2019 ARTHUR SVENSSON  
INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR TRADE UNION RIGHTS

WHEREAS, a public school teacher for twenty (20) years prior to being a Member of the Philippine Congress, Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) Teachers Party-List Representative France L. Castro has fought for the rights and welfare of public and private school teachers for a nationalist, scientific, and mass-based education, and for the economic and political rights of marginalized sectors of Philippine society in general;

WHEREAS, Representative Castro served as Secretary General of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT), a militant, nationalist, and progressive organization of teachers and education workers of the country. She was the founding President of the first ever union of public school teachers, the ACT National Capital Region Union which, under her term,

secured the first collective negotiation agreement between teachers and government, mandating economic and noneconomic benefits for the former;

WHEREAS, during her first term as a Member of the House of Representatives, Representative Castro has consistently stood up for substantial salary increases for public school teachers and other government employees as well as the national minimum wage for workers in the private sector. She filed various measures seeking adequate benefits for teachers, and against delays or withholding thereof. She was also among those who spearheaded the passage of the law providing for an expanded maternity leave for all women workers and who scored the passage of anti-people laws and policies including the regressive taxes brought by Republic Act No. 10963 or the "Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN)" law;

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2019, in Oslo, Norway, the Svensson Foundation honored ACT Teachers Party-List Representative France L. Castro with the Tenth Svensson International Prize for Trade Union Rights, admitting her into "an exclusive community of ten (10) strong union heroes and organizations";

WHEREAS, the Svensson International Prize is presented to "a person or organization that has worked predominately to promote trade union rights and/or strengthen trade union organizing around the world." In his remarks during the awarding ceremony, the Chairman of the Prize Committee Frode Alfheim said that Svensson laureates are "fighting for basic trade union rights and to organize workers under harsh conditions...The Arthur Svensson award is a reminder that no worker should stand alone";

WHEREAS, the Svensson International Prize Committee recognized Representative Castro's "struggle throughout many years to organize teachers and to fight for basic workers' rights in the Philippines," which the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) lists as among the ten (10) worst countries in the world for workers and trade unionists;

WHEREAS, it also cited her steadfast advocacy for the rights of children, especially those of indigenous peoples, for

free and culturally sensitive education that enables their self-determination - an advocacy which led to her illegal detention, arrest, and harassment (via red-tagging and trumped-up charges courtesy of the Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Armed Forces of the Philippines), along with seventeen (17) of her fellow members of the National Solidarity Mission for the Lumad in Talaingod, Davao del Norte;

WHEREAS, this international recognition of Representative Castro is likewise an international recognition of the severe climate affecting Philippine teachers and education support personnel. They are underpaid yet overworked, forced to struggle for their rights and interests but are responded to with intensified oppression and fascism;

WHEREAS, the Svensson International Prize also comes in the context of the ongoing illegal profiling, intelligence gathering, and harassment by the PNP against progressive organizations representing public school teachers and academic personnel such as the ACT and its regional unions, and the All-UP Academic Employees Union: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, To commend ACT Teachers Party-List Representative France L. Castro for being awarded the 2019 Arthur Svensson International Prize for Trade Union Rights.*

Adopted,



ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO  
*Speaker*

This Resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives on December 11, 2019.

  
JOSE LUIS G. MONTALES  
*Secretary General*