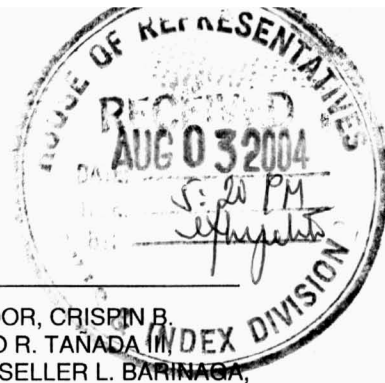


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2074



Introduced by Reps. SATUR C. OCAMPO, TEODORO A. CASIÑO, JOEL G. VIRADOR, CRISPIN B. BELTRAN, RAFAEL V. MARIANO, LIZA L. MAZA, ABRAHAM B. MITRA, LORENZO R. TANADA, EDUARDO C. ZIALCITA, EMILY U. TALIÑO-SANTOS, BAI SENDIG G. DILANGALEN, ROSELLER L. BARINAGA, LEOVIGILDO B. BANAAG, FLORENCIO G. NOEL, MANUEL E. ZAMORA, PROSPERO S. AMATONG, DOUGLAS RA. CAGAS, ALIPIO V. BADELLES, MA. ANGELICA M. AMANTE, MUNIR M. ARBISON, GLENDA B. ECLEO, ELADIO M. JALA, EDUARDO R. GULLAS, ANTONIO V. CUENCO, EDGAR T. ESPINOSA, CARMEN L. CARI, REMEDIOS L. PETILLA, ORLANDO A. FUA JR., HERMINIO G. TEVES, TRINIDAD "EBBIE" G. APOSTOL, GERARDO J. ESPINA JR., ALFREDO D. MARANON, ERICO A. FABIAN, EDGARDO M. CHATTO

Explanatory Note

In 1948, as the horrors of the Holocaust had become apparent to the world, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10 to affirm the inherent dignity of each human being.

The Philippines is a signatory to that historic document. It is also one of the few nations of the world which has the singular distinction of enshrining in its fundamental law the supreme duty of the State to protect human rights.

However, the unbroken pattern of human rights violations in the Philippines indicates that human rights are often recognized more on paper than in practice. Although respect for human rights is a state policy and constitutional mandate, the repeated involvement of state agents in torture, arbitrary arrest, summary executions and enforced disappearances reveals the wide gap between policy and reality.

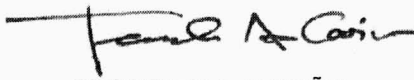
This bill seeks to officially establish "Human Rights Day" on December 10 of every year to instill awareness and foster promotion and respect for basic rights and individual freedoms. It affirms the fundamental responsibility of government to guarantee human rights and its accountability for the commission of abuses.

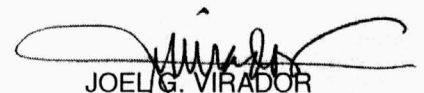
The official observance of Human Rights Day provides an opportune occasion to review and assess the state of human rights in the country and determine what steps or actions must be undertaken by both government and citizenry to fully promote and protect the rights of the people and redress human rights violations.

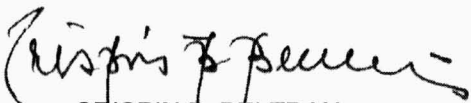
The objective is to send the message across that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Bill of Rights and other covenants are not mere words preserved on paper. The protection of human rights is a living commitment whose annual commemoration must lead to a corresponding growth in implementation.

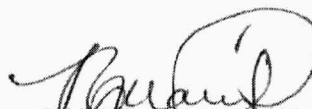
Immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

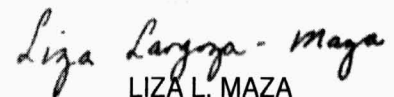

SATUR C. OCAMPO
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TEODORO A. CASIÑO
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LIZA L. MAZA
Gabriela, Party-List

Hon. MURKIN W. ARBIVON
District 2nd District, Sulu

AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 10 OF EVERY YEAR AS "HUMAN RIGHTS DAY"

Hon. Immanuel G. Ecleo

District Wishiet I SDN

Hon. Eladio Jata

District 3rd. Bohol

Hon. EDUARDO R. GULLAS

District 1st D. Cebu

Hon. ANTONIO V. CUENCO

District CEBU CITY - SOUTH

Hon. EDGAR T. ESPINOSA

District L.D. GUIMARAS

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Hon. Trinidad "Eddie" L. Apostol

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District

Hon. ALFREDO A. NARANJO

District 2ND DIST. NEGROS OCC.

Hon. FABIAN

District 2-C

Hon. EDGAR CHATO

District 1ST D. - BOHOL

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AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 10 OF EVERY YEAR AS "HUMAN RIGHTS DAY"

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Human Rights Day Act."

SECTION 2. In line with the worldwide commemoration of the annual observance of the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in order to instill awareness and foster promotion and respect for basic rights and individual freedoms, December 10 of every year is hereby declared as a special working holiday to be known as "Human Rights Day."

SECTION 3. Government offices, the military establishment, schools, and other agencies and establishments in both the public and private sectors shall celebrate this observance with appropriate activities, ceremonies and programs that demonstrate the national commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Bill of Rights and the promotion and protection of human rights.

SECTION 4. To ensure the meaningful observance of the holiday as herein declared, all heads of government and private facilities, offices and instrumentalities shall encourage and afford sufficient time and opportunities for their employees, personnel or students to engage and participate in any activity to mark Human Rights Day and Human Rights Week.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,