

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 116

Introduced by
ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO
and **KABATAAN Party-List Rep. RENEE LOUISE M. CO**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, TO CONDUCT A JOINT INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE SYSTEMIC HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, RETALIATORY ACTIONS, AND ABUSIVE PRACTICES OF THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS, INCLUDING THE “PERMANENT BAN” IMPOSED ON FIDES LIM, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF HOLDING ACCOUNTABLE THOSE RESPONSIBLE, PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY, AND ENSURING THAT THE OPERATIONS OF THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS CONFORM WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF TRANSPARENCY, LEGALITY, AND HUMAN DIGNITY

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), an agency under the Department of Justice (DOJ), is mandated to ensure the safekeeping and rehabilitation of persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) in accordance with national and international human rights standards, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (also known as the “Mandela Rules”);

WHEREAS, various reports and testimonies have pointed to recurring patterns of abuse, denial of basic necessities, arbitrary restrictions, inhumane conditions, and violations of due process and visitor rights in BuCor-administered facilities, particularly in the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) and the Correctional Institution for Women (CIW);

WHEREAS, BuCor has been repeatedly criticized for its failure to provide adequate access to humanitarian aid and medical care for elderly and ill PDLs, its use of degrading strip and body cavity searches on women visitors, its refusal to engage in dialogue with legal aid groups, human rights monitors, and civil society organizations, and its impounding of donations and basic amenities such as water dispensers, rice cookers, and electric fans;

WHEREAS, these actions of BuCor disproportionately affect political prisoners—detainees imprisoned due to their political beliefs or affiliations—who are already vulnerable and marginalized within the penal system, and also deprive them of basic food, water, and other necessities;

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2025, the Bureau of Corrections announced a so-called “permanent ban” on Fides Lim, spokesperson of Kapisanan para sa Pagpapalaya ng mga Bilanggong Pulitikal sa Pilipinas or KAPATID, a support group for families and friends of political prisoners, citing vague and disputed allegations of “arrogance” and “disruptive behavior”;

WHEREAS, Fides Lim, who is also the wife of detained political prisoner Vicente Ladlad, has been a vocal and consistent advocate for the humane treatment of political prisoners, and has followed lawful protocols in her visits, including submitting formal requests, undergoing searches, and complying with regulations;

WHEREAS, the ban on Ms. Lim appears to be retaliatory and punitive in nature, targeting her lawful humanitarian activities, and constitutes a suppression of constitutionally guaranteed rights to free expression, association, and advocacy;

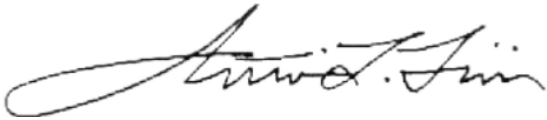
WHEREAS, the use of public shaming tactics such as posting at CIW premises Ms. Lim’s photograph and name, the refusal to recognize political prisoners, and the inconsistent application of detention policies, such as the placement of convicted Gen. Jovito Palparan in Minimum Security despite his grave offenses, highlight BuCor’s arbitrary and discriminatory practices;

WHEREAS, preventable deaths of political prisoners such as Rommel Arquillo and Sonny Tambalque, along with the refusal to perform forensic autopsies despite DOJ mandates, point to serious lapses in health care and custodial accountability under BuCor’s watch;

WHEREAS, Congress, in the exercise of its oversight functions, must urgently investigate these patterns of abuse and the retaliatory measures against human rights defenders, especially in light of the upcoming budget deliberations concerning the Department of Justice and its attached agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives urge the Committee on Human Rights and the Committee on Justice to conduct a joint investigation, in aid of legislation, into the systemic human rights violations, retaliatory actions, and abusive practices of the Bureau of Corrections, including the “permanent ban” imposed on Fides Lim, with the end in view of holding accountable those responsible, protecting the rights of PDLs, and ensuring that BuCor operations conform with the principles of transparency, legality, and human dignity.

Adopted,



Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO
ACT Teachers Party-List



Rep. RENEE LOUISE M. CO
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