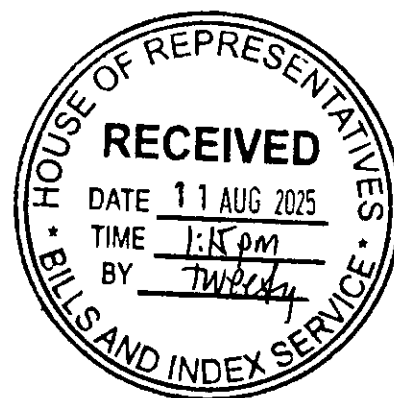


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Resolution No. **129**

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

A RESOLUTION

**URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT THE IMMEDIATE
RELOCATION OF THE 11TH REGIONAL COMMUNITY DEFENSE GROUP (RCDG)
FROM THE GROUNDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (UP)
MINDANAO AND TO STAND AGAINST ALL MANEUVERS TO MILITARIZE THE
ACADEMIC SPACES OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

WHEREAS, Article XIV, Section 5(2) of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines guarantees that “[a]cademic freedom shall be enjoyed in all institutions of higher learning”;

WHEREAS, Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9500, the University of the Philippines Charter of 2008, provides that “[t]he national university has the right and responsibility to exercise academic freedom” and maintain its institutional autonomy;

WHEREAS, Article 12 of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) reaffirms that the “[c]ivilian population shall have the right to be protected against the risks and dangers posed by the presence of military camps in urban centers and other populated areas”;

WHEREAS, universities and educational institutions are recognized under international humanitarian law as civilian objects that must be protected from military activities and should remain zones of peace conducive to learning, research, and intellectual discourse;

WHEREAS, the 11th Regional Community Defense Group (RCDG)—a unit of the Philippine Army Reserve Command—is currently stationed at Camp San Gabriel, Barangay Mintal, Tugbok District, Davao City, within the premises of the University of the Philippines (UP) Mindanao;

WHEREAS, the continued presence of armed military personnel on campus grounds and near academic facilities constitutes a violation of the principles ensuring that educational institutions remain as sanctuaries of peace and learning;

WHEREAS, the militarization of academic spaces creates an atmosphere of intimidation that undermines the free exchange of ideas, critical thinking, and democratic discourse essential to quality education;

WHEREAS, students, faculty, and staff of educational institutions have the right to pursue their academic endeavors without fear of surveillance, harassment, or intimidation by military forces;

WHEREAS, the UP Mindanao community—including its students, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders—have consistently and persistently called for the relocation of the 11th RCDG away from their campus grounds to preserve the civilian and academic character of their institution;

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Student Councils (GASC) of UP has adopted multiple resolutions addressing concerns related to the 11th RCDG, including: (1) “A Resolution to Oppose Intensified Campus Militarization and Collectively Defend Academic Freedom in the Country”, authored by the UP Mindanao University Student Council and the UP Mindanao College of Humanities and Social Sciences Student Council, adopted during the 54th GASC held in UP Cebu; and (2) “A Resolution Urging the 58th General Assembly of Student Councils to Collectively Urge the UP Board of Regents to Elevate the Demand on the Relocation of the 11th Regional Community Defense Group to the House of Representatives”, authored by the UP Mindanao College of Humanities and Social Sciences Student Council, adopted during the 58th GASC held in the UP Diliman Extension Program in Pampanga;

WHEREAS, the militarization of educational institutions forms part of a broader pattern of state-sponsored repression that seeks to stifle dissent, critical thinking, and progressive organizing among communities of the youth and the academe; and

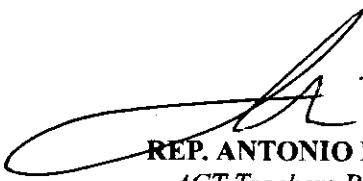
WHEREAS, the State has the constitutional duty to protect and promote academic freedom and ensure that learning environments remain free from military interference;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives support the immediate relocation of the 11th Regional Community Defense Group (RCDG) from the grounds of the University of the Philippines (UP) Mindanao; and

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that the House of Representatives stand against all maneuvers to militarize the academic spaces of higher education institutions and calls for the protection of educational institutions as zones of peace.

Adopted,


REP. RENEE LOUISE M. CO
KABATAAN Party-list


REP. ANTONIO L. TINIO
ACT Teachers Party-list