

1 Republic of the Philippines
2 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
3 Quezon City, Metro Manila

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5
6 **TWENTIETH CONGRESS**
7 First Regular Session
8



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10 House Resolution No. 137
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12
13 **Introduced by**
14 **ACT Teachers Party-list Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO and**
15 **KABATAAN Party-list Rep. RENEE LOUISE M. CO**
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18 **RESOLUTION**

19 **URGING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN**
20 **INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MILITARIZATION OF**
21 **PEASANT COMMUNITIES IN NEGROS AND ITS RESULTING HUMAN**
22 **RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW VIOLATIONS**
23
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution mandates the State to protect the life, liberty, and security
26 of every Filipino, and uphold human rights and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in
27 accordance with the Geneva Conventions and other treaties to which the Philippines is a
28 party;
29

30 **WHEREAS**, Negros Island remains one of the most militarized areas in the country, with
31 the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) continuing the Duterte-era "counter-
32 insurgency" campaign under Memorandum Order 32, resulting in frequent military
33 operations, human rights abuses, and violations of IHL against peasant communities and
34 activists;
35

1 **WHEREAS**, in March and April 2024, the Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC)
2 of Negros Occidental¹ and Negros Oriental² passed resolutions declaring the provinces in
3 a state of Stable Internal Peace and Security (SIPS). In 26 July 2024, Negros Occidental
4 Governor Eugenio Lacson signed and approved Resolution 805, series of 2024 concurring
5 with the said declaration;³

6
7 **WHEREAS**, according to Maj. Mervin Rosal, 303rd Infantry Battalion civil-military
8 operations chief, provinces declared in a state of SIPS are considered cleared and
9 unaffected by communist insurgents and relatively peaceful. It also means that the local
10 government unit and the Philippine National Police acknowledge that only law
11 enforcement operations are needed—an indication that the province is "normalized;"⁴
12 However, despite the declaration of the state of SIPS in Negros, peasant communities
13 continue to suffer under militarization;

14
15 **WHEREAS**, human rights watchdog KARAPATAN have documented numerous cases of
16 violations of IHL and rights abuses linked with the militarization of peasant communities
17 in Negros during the first quarter of 2025;

18
19 **WHEREAS**, on 7 March 2025, farmer Alberto Piaduche and his brother were arrested by
20 soldiers of the 94th IBPA in Barangay Caradio-an, Negros Occidental. The civilians were
21 taken to a military camp where Alberto was tortured, his head wrapped in a plastic bag and
22 repeatedly kicked in front of his brother to force a confession of alleged NPA involvement.
23 Alberto sustained head injuries requiring a CT scan and medical treatment. The brothers
24 were released under threat that their families will be killed if they told anyone about what
25 happened;

26
27 **WHEREAS**, on 7 March 2025, in Cadiz City, Negros Occidental, Noynoy Ponteras and
28 Marisa Pobresa, both of whom are *hors de combat* members of the New People's Army
29 (NPA), were abducted, tortured, and executed by elements of the PNP-CIDG, according to
30 reports of alternative news outfit *Paghimutad*.⁵ Their bodies were dumped in Sitio Paraiso,
31 Barangay Caduhaan, and later falsely claimed by the military to have been killed in a

¹ Lambatin, L. Jr. "Council declares Negros Occ. peace and security stable." Philippine Information Agency, 25 March 2024. Retrieved from <https://pia.gov.ph/council-declares-negros-occ-peace-and-security-stable/>

² Tilos, J. "Declaration of 'stable internal peace and security' in Negros Oriental pushed." Philippine Information Agency, 22 April 2024. Retrieved from <https://pia.gov.ph/declaration-of-stable-internal-peace-and-security-in-negros-oriental-pushed/>

³ "Resolution No. 805, Series of 2024." SP Archives of Provincial Government of Negros Occidental, 2024. Retrieved from <https://sparchives.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/resolution-805-series-2024.pdf>

⁴ Bayoran, G. "'Stable internal peace and security' declared in Negros Occidental." PhilStar, 6 March 2024. Retrieved from <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/03/06/2338459/stable-internal-peace-and-security-declared-negros-occidental>

⁵ "Abduction, not encounter: NPA Negros slam "war crime" in death of two officials." Paghimutad, 18 March 2025. Retrieved from: <https://paghimutadnegros.wordpress.com/2025/03/18/abduction-not-encounter-npa-negros-slam-war-crime-in-death-of-two-officials/>

1 gunfight, all to claim the bounty for Ponteras. Military agents later harassed their families
2 when the latter tried to recover their loved ones' remains. This case reflects a broader
3 pattern of fake encounters and bounty-driven extrajudicial killings;

4
5 **WHEREAS**, on 14 January 2025, in Sitio Palosais, Barangay Mahalang, Himamaylan in
6 Negros Occidental, charcoal maker Dado Sanchez was forced by elements of the 94th IBPA
7 to guide them in a military operation. He is still missing. The following day, in Sitio
8 Nahulop, three residents, namely, Aira Gonzales, Joseph Gonzales, and Alfred Hilado were
9 beaten and arbitrarily arrested. Two others remain missing. Firearms were planted on
10 them, and their community was subjected to surveillance and threats;

11
12 **WHEREAS**, on 10 January 2025, Rodney "Ka Wanny" Lumanog, a captured NPA
13 guerrilla rendered *hors de combat* after an armed encounter in Sipalay City, was summarily
14 executed by members of the 15th IBPA. This act violated not only IHL provisions
15 protecting persons rendered "out of combat" but also the Comprehensive Agreement on
16 Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), which
17 mandates humane treatment of captured combatants;

18
19 **WHEREAS**, these multiple incidents highlight the systematic use of red-tagging,
20 abduction, torture, and summary execution by State forces in Negros, under the pretext of
21 "counter-insurgency," with impunity and in direct violation of domestic and international
22 legal standards;

23
24 **WHEREAS**, the military's "whole-of-nation" approach has been used to justify the
25 deployment of combat units in civilian areas, red-tagging, encampments in peasant
26 communities, and the use of psychological warfare against community leaders and
27 activists, all in direct violation of IHL and the CARHRIHL;

28
29 **WHEREAS**, these are just a few of the many documented cases in Negros which
30 exemplify a broader national pattern of rights violations wherein tactics against
31 "insurgency" are used to suppress dissent, silence peasant resistance to destructive
32 development projects, and erode civilian authority in favor of military control;

33
34 **WHEREAS**, Congress must uphold its duty to protect marginalized and vulnerable
35 communities by investigating and stopping the militarization that leads to civilian
36 casualties, displacement, trauma, and loss of livelihood, and ensure that the laws it passed
37 and the Constitution on respect for human rights and international humanitarian law are
38 implemented to the spirit and letter.

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40 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Human Rights of the
41 House of Representatives immediately conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on
42 the militarization of peasant communities in Negros, and its resulting human rights and
43 international humanitarian law violations allegedly committed by State security forces.

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Adopted,


REP. ANTONIO L. TINIO
ACT Teachers Party-list


REP. RENEE LOUISE M. CO
KABATAAN Party-list

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