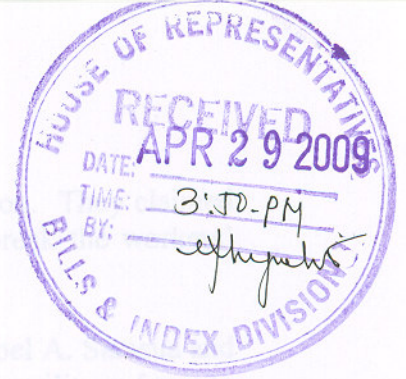


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City



**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

House Resolution 1125

**Introduced by**

**Gabriela Women's Party Representatives LIZA LARGOZA-MAZA  
and LUZVIMINDA ILAGAN, Anak Pawis Party List Representative List RAFAEL  
MARIANO and JOEL MAGLUNSOD, Bayan Muna Party List Representatives SATUR  
OCAMPO, TEODORO CASIÑO and NERI COLMENARES and Kabataan Party List  
Representative RAYMOND PALATINO**

**A RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEES ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION ON THE VIOLENT DISPERSAL OF THE CHONG WON FASHION INC. AND PHILS. JEON INC. WORKERS WHO WENT ON STRIKE AT THE CAVITE EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE (CPEZ) ALLEGEDLY BY PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY'S (PEZA) POLICE FORCE AND MEMBERS OF JANTRIO SECURITY AGENCY, AND THE SUBSEQUENT ISSUANCE OF WARRANTS OF ARREST AGAINST THEIR THIRTY-THREE (33) UNION LEADERS AND MEMBERS BY THE ROSARIO, CAVITE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT, AS WELL AS OTHER WORKERS' RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, IN A SEEMING ATTEMPT TO STOP THE WORKERS' STRIKE, AND RECOMMEND MEASURES TO PROTECT WORKERS AGAINST COMPANY COERCION AND VIOLENCE AND UPHOLD THEIR RIGHTS AS ENSHRINED IN THE PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Nagkakaisang Manggagawa sa Chong Won (NMCW), and the Kaisahan ng mga Manggagawa sa Phils. Jeon Inc. (KMPJI), trade unions of Chong Won Fashion Inc. and Phils. Jeon Inc. respectively, went on strike in September 2006 due to the refusal of their companies to negotiate for a collective bargaining agreement with the unions;

**WHEREAS**, the striking unionists of NMCW and KMPJI were allegedly dispersed violently and their picket lines destroyed by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority's (PEZA) police force and elements of the Jantro Security Agency;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority's (PEZA) police force led by P/Col Jose Joel A. Sarasua and by Chong Won Fashion Inc. Production Manager Antonio Felismino, filed a complaint on October 12, 2006 at the Rosario, Cavite Municipal Trial Court against the striking workers;

**WHEREAS**, the PEZA Police and Jantro Security Agency claimed that the strikers of KMPJI obstructed the passageway to prevent a truck of the Phils Jeon Inc. from coming out of the economic zone. They further charged that while the police force were about to push the workers back to the picket line, the workers allegedly armed with bladed weapons, ice picks, scissors and pointed sticks, hit and attacked the guards resulting to physical injury. Likewise, they complained that they were barred by the striking unionists of Chong Won Fashion from entering the premises of the company;

**WHEREAS**, in a counter-argument filed by the union members, they stated that the workers were not armed with any weapon, otherwise the security personnel would have arrested them at

the PEZA gate on the onset that deadly weapons were found in their possession. They claimed that the charges against them were fabricated and designed to harass and break the workers' strike;

**WHEREAS**, the workers claimed that PEZA police force led by P/Col Jose Joel A. Sarasua and Jantro Security Agency personnel assigned in the economic zone used brute military force to violently disperse the strikers. On June 11, 2007, armalite-wielding men wearing ski masks and military uniforms violently attacked at gunpoint the NMCW striking workers, and the same thing happened to the KMPJI strikers on August 5, 2007;

**WHEREAS**, the striking workers defended themselves from clubs, kicking and mashing of the breasts of the assaulting PEZA security forces by shielding their bodies and heads with their bare hands. Scores of striking workers sustained head and body injuries from the violent attack;

**WHEREAS**, three of the workers namely, Augustina Hayap, Ricardo Cahanap, and Jimmy Eder who sustained lacerated wounds as a result of the attack, underwent medical examinations and treatment;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) has apparently enforced a wave of violent dispersals and food blockade against on-strike garment factory workers within the 276 hectare Cavite Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) in Rosario, Cavite, leaving scores wounded and with almost nothing to eat. The PEZA police forces also set up checkpoints, instituted blacklisting of workers on strike, and confiscated workers' IDs and zone passes near the picket lines; and ordered all the striking workers banned from entering the Cavite Export Processing Zone;

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Trial Court in Rosario, Cavite issued warrants on March 17, 2009 for the arrest of thirty-three (33) unionists, who were among those who participated in the workers' strike against Chong Won Fashion Inc and Phils. Jeon Inc. They were charged by the Cavite Provincial Prosecutor's Office of cases involving charges of direct assault upon agents of persons in authority, grave coercion, three (3) counts of less serious physical injuries, and four (4) counts of slight physical injuries;

**WHEREAS**, the striking workers accused of direct assault and grave coercion were Resurreccion Ravelo, Florencia Arevalo, Alicia Tamio, Edna Estaloza, Marlene Gonzales, Manuel Garcia, Danilo Arandia, Fermin Geronimo, Ramil Salinas, Adelaida Bago, Ma. Victoria Buergo, Joel Ysulan, Joseph Hernandez, Jimmy Bebayo, Reynaldo Flichtetro, Monina Eugenio, Merly Grafe, Jimmy Eder, Normelita Galon, Alona Octavo, Gemma Garabato, Ricardo Cahanap, Cynthia Red, Cecille Sabela, Rosebie Remorin, Coleen Muyot, Elsa Bobis, Analy Diaz, Jocelyn Cubillo, Aurora Afable, Bessie Hernandez, Sellwyn Simpan, and Rolando Timuat. Majority of those who were issued warrants of arrest are women;

**WHEREAS**, according to Merly Grafe, spokesperson of the accused workers and also the chairperson of the SCW, they found the resolution of the Cavite Provincial Prosecutor void of any substance to merit the filing of criminal charges against them;

**WHEREAS**, the Workers Assistance Office (WAC) Executive Director Fr. Jose Dizon said that the filing of criminal charges against the workers is a clear case of government's undeclared policy of mobbing the rights of the workers;

**WHEREAS**, the state affirms labor as a primary social economic force; it shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare;

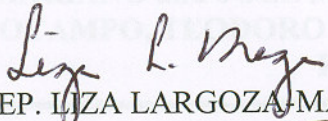
**WHEREAS**, Article XIII, Section 3 provides that "the State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized..." Further, "It shall guarantee the rights of all workers to self-organization, collective bargaining and negotiations, and peaceful concerted activities, including the right to strike in accordance with law..."


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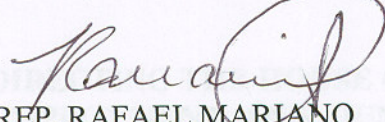
Republic of the Philippines


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives Committees on Labor and Employment and Human Rights conduct an investigation on the violent dispersal by Philippine Economic Zone Authority's (PEZA) police force and members of Jantro Security Agency of the Chong Won Fashion Inc. and Phils. Jeon Inc. workers, who went on strike at the Cavite Export Processing Zone (CPEZ), and the subsequent issuance of warrants of arrest against their thirty-three (33) union leaders and members by the Rosario, Cavite Municipal Trial Court, as well as other workers' rights violations in a seeming attempt to stop the workers' strike and recommend measures to protect workers against company coercion and violence and uphold their rights as enshrined in the Philippine Constitution

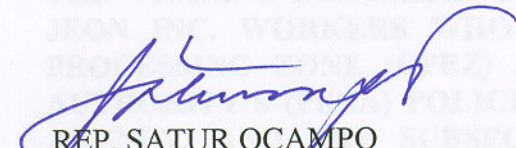
Adopted,

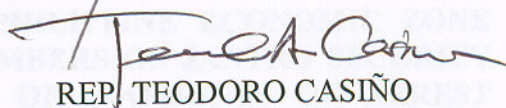
  
REP. LIZA LARGOZA-MAZA

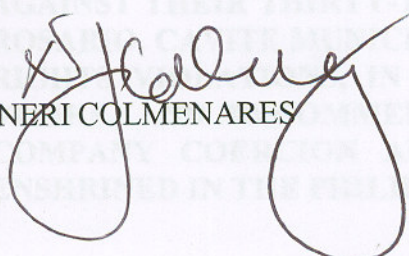
  
REP. LUZVIMINDA ILAGAN

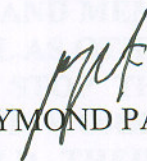
  
REP. RAFAEL MARIANO

  
JOEL MAGLUNSOD

  
REP. SATUR OCAMPO

  
REP. TEODORO CASIÑO

  
NERI COLMENARES

  
RAYMOND PALATINO

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WHEREAS, in a counter-argument filed by the union members, they stated that the workers were not armed with any weapon, otherwise the security personnel would have arrested them at