

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 375



**INTRODUCED BY GABRIELA WOMEN'S PARTY REPRESENTATIVES
LIZA LARGOZA-MAZA AND LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN, BAYAN MUNA PARTY-
LIST REPRESENTATIVES SATUR C. OCAMPO AND TEODORO A. CASIÑO
AND ANAKPAWIS PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE CRISPIN B. BELTRAN**

RESOLUTION
**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT
AUTHORITIES EXERT ALL EFFORT AND EXHAUST ALL MEANS
NECESSARY TO LOCATE AND IMMEDIATELY SURFACE THE WOMEN
VICTIMS OF INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCE UNDER THE PRESIDENCY
OF GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article 3 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws.";

WHEREAS, Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.";

WHEREAS, according to *KARAPATAN*, an alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights, during the presidency of Mrs. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the number of victims of involuntary disappearance totaled to 179. Out of this number, 29 are women;

WHEREAS, among the women victims of involuntary disappearance are: Ma. Luisa Posa-Dominado, Juliet Fernandez and the two (2) University of the Philippines (UP) students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño;

WHEREAS, Ma. Luisa Posa-Dominado, spokesperson of the Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at para sa Amnestiya (SELDA-Panay) was abducted on April 12, 2007 while on her way home from Antique. She has just attended an assembly when the incident took place. According to witnesses, a van blocked their way then three (3) armed men got off from it and started shooting at them. The witnesses further alleged that Posa-Dominado was dragged by the armed men inside a green Mitsubishi Delica van. At present, Posa-Dominado is still missing;

WHEREAS, Juliet Fernandez was reportedly abducted on May 11, 2007. According to reports, while Juliet, her husband and another companion were riding on a van along Maharlika highway in Brgy. Nabong, Pinabacdao, Samar another van blocked their way. Several men, believed to be military elements boarded their van, blindfolded and brought them to a military detachment in Brgy. Botoc of the same town. They were later transferred to 62nd Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army Camp in Brgy. Polangi, Calbiga, Samar. Fernandez was allegedly raped. On June 2007, children of a resident of Sitio Caman-ilao who knew the spouses told their parents that they saw them on board a pick-up vehicle accompanied by military elements. The pick-up vehicle was positively

identified to be owned by the military. Since then, Fernandez and her husband were no longer seen;

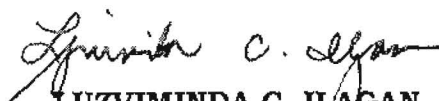
WHEREAS, on June 26, 2007, Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan, both students of University of the Philippines and volunteers of Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Bulacan (AMB) were abducted in San Miguel, Hagonoy, Bulacan. According to reports, at around 2 o'clock in the morning, someone knocked at the door of the house where Empeño and Cadapan were staying. When Cadapan opened the door several men entered the house and forcibly took Empeño and Cadapan outside. Sherlyn's blouse was even used to blindfold them before taking them out of the place. The two (2) were allegedly tortured and raped; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that authorities exert all effort and exhaust all means to locate the victims of involuntary disappearance because as long as they remain missing, the people's belief that military elements have direct/indirect participation to the crime and that enforced disappearance is a policy of the state will continue to prevail.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives express its sense that the authorities exert all effort and exhaust all means necessary to locate and immediately surface the women victims of involuntary disappearance under the Presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Adopted,


LIZA LARGOZA-MAZA
GABRIELA Women's Party


LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN
GABRIELA Women's Party


SATUR C. OCAMPO
BAYAN MUNA Party-list


TEODORO A. CASIÑO
BAYAN MUNA Party-list


CRISPIN B. BELTRAN
ANAKPAWIS Party-list