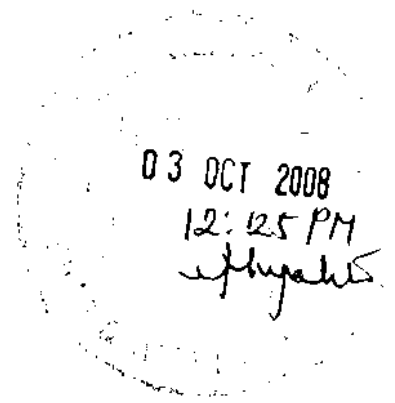


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session
822
House Resolution - _____



Introduced by
Gabriela Women's Party Representatives
LIZA LARGOZA-MAZA and LUZVIMINDA ILAGAN

RESOLUTION

CALLING ON THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ILLEGAL ARREST AND DETENTION OF GABRIELA NEGROS VOLUNTEER STAFF MARY GRACE DELICANO AND RECOMMEND MEASURES TO PROTECT WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND POLITICAL ACTIVISTS FROM POLITICAL PERSECUTIONS AND OTHER FORMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

WHEREAS, Mary Grace Delicano, member and volunteer staff of Gabriela-Negros was arrested without warrant by the combined forces of Negros Occidental Provincial Police Office (NOPPO) and the Intelligence Unit of 303rd Infantry Brigade (IB) on September 25, 2008 at around 3:30 in the afternoon at the Bacolod City public plaza. Delicano was on her way home after purchasing some medicines for her child;

WHEREAS, Delicano said that she was arrested without warrant, and that the arresting officers who refused to identify themselves insisted that the basis for her arrest was her alleged involvement in the raid by the New People's Army of the Community Police Assistance Center (COMPAC) in Sitio Binabuno, Barangay Malasibog, Escalante City in 2006. Furthermore, the arresting officers insisted that she is the "Alias Kim" implicated for robbery in band in the warrant of arrest issued by Judge Moises Nifras of San Carlos City Regional Trial Court;

WHEREAS, Delicano was arrested not on the basis of her name, but of an "alias" written in the warrant. Negros Occidental Police Director Senior Supt. Rosendo Franco said in a report that the arrest was made after they conducted surveillance on Delicano. He further claimed that Delicano, "Alias Kim" is the finance officer of the Komiteng Rehiyunal-Negros of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA);

WHEREAS, the arresting officers dragged Delicano to Bacolod City Police Station 1, searched her bags and took her belongings without consent. Thirty minutes later, she was forced to board an unmarked car and was brought to Camp Alfredo Montelibano, Sr. She was subjected to interrogations without her counsel. Moreover, the arresting officers refused to allow her to communicate with her family and lawyer. Members of Gabriela Negros and the victim's legal counsel Atty. Cesar Beloria, Jr came to visit Delicana later that day, but were refused by the policemen from entering the premises of the station where the victim was detained. On the other hand, Atty. Beloria waited for almost an hour before he was allowed to talk to Delicano;

WHEREAS, on September 26, Delicano was transferred and detained in Escalante City;

WHEREAS, Delicano has been a volunteer staff of Gabrielo Negros since 1993 and volunteer of Gabriela Women's Party in the 2007 elections. She graduated cum laude from Central Philippine University in Iloilo City;

WHEREAS, more than 20 other activists are currently detained in various jails in Negros Island due to their political beliefs, membership in partylist groups like Gabriela Women's Party, and participation in protest activities against the Arroyo administration;

WHEREAS, Section 18 of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution clearly states that, "No person shall be detained solely by reason of his political beliefs and aspirations;"

WHEREAS, the unlawful arrest of Delicano reflects the continuing attack on the rights of women human rights defenders and activists, and the systematic persecution and harassment of legitimate organizations fighting for democratic rights and welfare of the people;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives Committee on Human Rights and Committee on Women conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the illegal arrest and detention of Gabriela Negros volunteer staff Mary Grace Delicano and recommend measures to protect women human rights defenders and political activists from political persecutions and other forms of human rights violations.

Adopted,


REP. LIZA LARGOZA-MAZA

REP. LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN