

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 541

Introduced by Cong. Lorenzo R. Tañada III
4th District- Quezon

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS AND OTHER FORMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COMMITTED AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEZON

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution guarantees that human rights are inalienable and inviolable, and that it is a fundamental duty of the State to protect and preserve these rights;

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article III 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, it is the policy of the State to protect and rehabilitate the citizens, especially women and children, who are gravely threatened or endangered by circumstances which affect their survival and normal development, and over which they have no power or control;

WHEREAS, a continuous and systematic pattern of extra-judicial killings, torture, threat, harassment, intimidation, abduction, unlawful arrest, violation of children's rights, and destruction of properties have been perpetrated against the residents of Quezon Province, and have reached a total of forty-one (41) extra-judicial killings to date;

WHEREAS, the victims were reportedly forcibly taken by elements of the 74th and 76th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army;

WHEREAS, confirmed reports have shown that the towns of Macalelon, Lopez, Gumaca, Catanauan, Mulanay, and General Luna have always been the target of intense military operations, which are characterized by child abuse, exploitation and discrimination;

WHEREAS, the victims and their families have been forcibly evacuated from their homes and lands because of fear and armed conflict in the area, thus, resulting to economic and social displacement from their habitual abode;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the House Committee on Human rights conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the systematic pattern of human rights violations, such as extra-judicial killings, torture, threat, harassment, intimidation, abduction, unlawful arrest, violation of women and children's rights and destruction of real and personal properties, in the province of Quezon.

Adopted,