Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1111

Introduced by
BAYAN MUNA Representatives EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE and FERDINAND R. GAITE,

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH THE
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO PROBE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT’S
MEMORANDUM ON “KNOWING THE ENEMY” WEBINAR CONDUCTED BY
THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE TO END LOCAL COMMUNIST ARMED
CONFLICT

WHEREAS, on July 9, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) issued a
memorandum for a four-week, 10-session webinar entitled “Knowing the Enemy” (KTE)
training to be conducted by the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict
(NTF-ELCAC) open for all DSWD personnel beginning July 7 through 28. According to the
memorandum, certification would be given to participants who complete the said training;

WHEREAS, the NTF-ELCAC, created through Executive Order 70 issued by President
Rodrigo Duterte in 2018 has been repeatedly criticized for its constant and baseless “red-
tagging” of human rights groups, civil society organizations, and individuals as members or
supporters of the rebel organizations Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People’s
Army (CPP-NPA). These organizations are the targets of bloody anti-insurgency operations of
the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other defense bodies for decades, and has brought
forth countless violations of human rights;

WHEREAS, the propaganda tactic of “red-tagging” of individuals or organizations critical of
the government tagging them as “communists” or “terrorists” endanger the life and liberty of
people. Extra-judicial killings or incarceration of activists, unionized workers, organized urban
poor, indigenous peoples, and peasants, civil rights lawyers, among others, are preceded by a
campaign of red-tagging;

WHEREAS, in a statement on 22 May 2020, in response to reports of red-tagging against civil
society organizations and individuals including those made by the NTF-ELCAC, the
Commission on Human Rights (CHR) reminded the government that expressions of dissent and
freedom of speech are guaranteed by the 1987 Constitution. The CHR cautioned the
government on the dangers of red-tagging which may trigger human rights violations;

WHEREAS, the right to political beliefs and persecution are protected by the Philippine
Constitution. To wit, in Article III Section 18. of the Constitution it is stated that “No person
shall be detained solely by reason of his political beliefs and aspirations.”;
WHEREAS, on 3 July 2020, President Duterte approved the Anti-Terror Law which was widely-opposed by various civil society groups and Filipino citizens. It is criticized for ostensibly giving the government more powers to act against individuals and organizations critical of the government under its dangerous and vague definition of terrorism;

WHEREAS, the shift to anti-insurgency by the agency mandated to protect the welfare of Filipinos is callous and irresponsible as the country is beset by an epidemic and economic downturn. The release of the memorandum for the “Knowing the Enemy” training was made amid urgent call for the DSWD to speed up its distribution of aid under its social amelioration program (SAP) for poor families. On 9 July 2020, the DSWD was reported to have distributed cash aid to only about 1.3 million families out of the 18 million families worst impacted by the pandemic, as instructed by the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act;

WHEREAS, the DSWD should focus on distributing cash aid or the second tranche of the social amelioration to affected Filipinos due to the Covid-19 pandemic, instead of anti-insurgency measures which is outside its primary responsibility especially in the face of a national crisis;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for members of Congress, as representatives of our people, to defend the rights and welfare of our people. Congress is duty-bound to conduct investigations to be able to uphold justice and protect the people against abuses especially during extraordinary times such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Committee on Human Rights probe in aid of legislation, the Department of Social Welfare and Development’s memorandum on “Knowing the Enemy” webinar conducted by the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict.

Approved,

[Signature]

REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist

[Signature]

REP. CARLOS ISAQANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist

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REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
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