

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1683

Introduced by
ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,
Rep. FERDINAND R. GAITE and Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
GABRIELA Women’s Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,
and **KABATAAN Party-List Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**

RESOLUTION

CONDEMNING THE ARREST, TRUMPED-UP CHARGES, TORTURE, AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COMMITTED AGAINST ROSANILLA “LAI” CONSAD, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF SAN VICENTE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND SECRETARY OF ALLIANCE OF CONCERNED TEACHERS REGION XIII UNION, AND URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE TO CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE SAME

WHEREAS, on the afternoon of March 17, 2021, Rosanilla Consad, or “Lai” as she is fondly called, was arrested by combined elements of Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and National Intelligence Coordinating Agency for multiple attempted homicide in connection to a November 21, 2020 ambush by the New People’s Army against government forces;

WHEREAS, having been a public school teacher for a long time, Teacher Lai is currently the Assistant Principal of San Vicente National High School, Agusan del Norte. She is also the Secretary of Alliance of Concerned Teachers-Region XIII Union;

WHEREAS, right after her arrest, the police and military officials denied Teacher Lai’s family, ACT CARAGA Union, her lawyer’s representative, and the paralegals assisting in her case immediate access to her person. They also were refused immediate access to the warrant of arrest, information, and other documents pertaining to her case, on the erroneous claim that only lawyers are entitled to such documents;

WHEREAS, despite this denial of access to Teacher Lai, the CARAGA PNP and AFP presented her to the media at their press conference the following morning. In violation of Republic Act 9745 or the *Anti-Torture Act*, a 2008 PNP Circular on the prohibition of media

presentation of suspects, and 2018 PNP Human Rights Affairs Office Advisory, the PNP and AFP practically paraded her at a “media firing line.” Also in violation of the law and the PNP’s own rules, the PNP and AFP went rabid in the media and social media in laying down a show trial for Teacher Lai, maltreating her family and representatives, and publicly humiliating her, namely through press releases and posts containing her mug shot and describing her as a “wanted public school assistant principal who is a communist and a member of underground group... Katipunan ng Gurong Makabayan (KAGUMA)”;

WHEREAS, during the time that the PNP and AFP were refusing access to the person of Teacher Lai, it turned out that she was being interrogated—without a lawyer—for several hours by PNP and AFP officials. She was also transferred to another detention facility without the knowledge of her family, counsel, and paralegals;

WHEREAS, the charges filed by the PNP are obviously fabricated. For one, it is based on flimsy allegations and incredible evidence, namely, that the complainant Police Captain Jesse Rey De Gracia merely name-dropped 15 individuals, among them Teacher Lai, as involved in the ambush, that accused are “known to be members of a rebel group”; and that police officials “were able to recognize herein respondents...[T]heir faces were familiar to them because they have repeatedly seen their pictures from the rogue gallery.” In his one-page complaint-affidavit—only one clause of which contained an account of the incident—De Gracia did not allege how Teacher Lai or any of the accused were involved in the ambush;

WHEREAS, as prelude to her arrest and trumped-charge, Teacher Lai had been the victim of repeated red-tagging and surveillance since 2018. She has reported being tailed on her travels to and from school and surveilled even at her home;

WHEREAS, the rights violations against Teacher Lai also occurred at the heels of the illegal profiling being ordered by the Department of the Interior and Local Government of members of progressive group Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE), via a memorandum maliciously labelling COURAGE and ACT as “communist terrorist front groups” and “known communist terrorist groups.” Three years after the PNP did its illegal profiling against teachers, the visits to schools and even homes of teacher-leaders and members of ACT by persons identifying themselves as agents of the PNP, AFP, NICA, and NTF ELCAC, the malicious vilification seminars and meetings, and other similar acts did not stop and are continuing with impunity up to the present;

WHEREAS, these acts of red-tagging, as well as the fabricated charge and torture against Teacher Lai, also amount to union busting courtesy of state security forces, against individuals and organizations which have long demonstrated their track record of fighting for the rights, interests, and welfare not just of their members but those of the entire sector of public school teachers and education personnel;

WHEREAS, the false charge also implicates several other activists and human rights defenders in CARAGA, namely, Julieta Gomez, Mary Jane Velasco, Judy Maisog, Silay Diaz, and Eutique Senabre, all of whom are from the peasant and indigenous peoples’ sectors. Also, human rights worker Renalyn Tejero, who was among those assisting in the

search for Teacher Lai and processing of requirements for her bail and defense, was also arrested on another trumped-up charge of murder a few days after Teacher Lai's arrest;

WHEREAS, Congress has to make interventions into these violations against education personnel, unionists, and progressives, as one of the means to stop more rights violations from being committed with impunity. Congress also has to act towards securing accountability from those responsible, through an investigation into how the legal processes are being used and abused as tools for political oppression and suppression and an inquiry towards the filing of charges against responsible military and police officials.

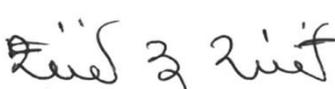
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives condemn the arrest, trumped-up charges, torture, and other human rights violations committed against Rosanilla "Lai" Consad, Assistant Principal of San Vicente National High School and Secretary of Alliance of Concerned Teachers-Region XIII Union;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the House Committee on Human Rights and House Committee on Justice conduct an immediate investigation in aid of legislation into the same.

Adopted,



Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-List



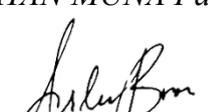
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