WHEREAS, on April 3, 2021, 28-year-old Darren Manaog Peñaredondo, a resident of General Trias, Cavite died after being made to do 300 body pumping exercises by police after being arrested for curfew violation;

WHEREAS, according to his live-in partner Reichelyn Balce in news reports, on the night of April 1, Peñaredondo went outside to buy mineral water but was arrested by village watchmen of Barangay Tejero for violating curfew and was brought to the General Trias Police Station. According to Balce, Peñaredondo, along with other persons arrested, was brought to the town plaza in front of the Municipal office. There they were ordered to do pumping exercises 100 times. They were made to repeat the exercise until they did almost 300 rounds. Peñaredondo returned home at 8 AM the next day barely able to walk;

WHEREAS, in a video posted by Balce of Darren Peñaredondo upon arriving home, the victim was seen sitting on the floor and using his hands to move as he was having difficulty standing. The victim reportedly suffered seizures and was rushed to the hospital where he eventually died;

WHEREAS, General Trias Police chief Lt. Col. Marlo Solero has denied the allegation stating that community service was the only punishment they gave for quarantine violators but was open to investigations on the incident;

WHEREAS, in Peñaredondo’s death certificate, the causes of death were due to cerebrovascular infarct midbrain and hypertensive cardiovascular disease. Although his death was ruled to be due to a stroke caused by hypertension, physical activities may have been a factor and an underlying condition may have also triggered the stroke according to medical professionals;

WHEREAS, rights group Karapatan has called for an investigation into the incident citing possible violations to the Anti-Torture Law;
WHEREAS, complaints against police abuse over quarantine violations are not new. During the first few months of lockdown in March of last year, rights groups have raised concerns over unjust punishment used by police against quarantine violators. Reports range from curfew violators locked inside a dog cage in Laguna to quarantine violators made to sit under the heat of the midday sun in Parañaque. In Bulacan, a man who allegedly avoided a checkpoint was killed by police in an alleged shootout. Police officers claim the victim shot at pursuing officers. More than 100,000 people have been arrested from March to September 2020 for violations;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for members of Congress, as representatives of our people, to defend the rights of our people and check on excesses and violations committed against them, especially in this time of crisis. Laws and rules should serve the interest of our people, and should not be weaponized to suppress their rights and oppress them;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives through the Committee on Human Rights conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the death of Darren Manaog Peñaredondo after allegedly being forced to do 300 body pump exercises by police as punishment for curfew violation in General Trias, Cavite.

Adopted,

REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist