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

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1714

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

RESOLUTION
URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATIONS AND THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO CONDEMN AND INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE RECENT RED-TAGGING OF SANDIGAN NG MGA EMPLOYADONG NAGKAKAISA SA ADHIKAIN NG DEMOKRATIKONG ORGANISASYON (SENADO), COURAGE-AFFILIATED GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' UNIONS AND OTHER PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES' UNION BY THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COORDINATING AGENCY (NICA) AND NATIONAL TASK FORCE TO END LOCAL COMMUNISTS ARMED CONFLICT (NTF ELCAC) VIOLATING THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL AND WORKERS' RIGHTS AND PUTTING AT RISK THE LIVES AND SAFETY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, the Sandigan ng mga Empleyadong Nagkakaisa sa Adhikain ng Demokratikong Organisasyon (SENADO) is a legitimate union of employees in the Senate, registered with the Department of Labor and Employment and recognized by the Civil Service Commission since 1993. SENADO has three (3) Collective Negotiations Agreement (CNA) concluded with the Senate management since 2010 to the present from the time of Senate Presidents Juan Ponce Enrile, Franklin Drilon, and Koko Pimentel proving their track record and legitimacy as a union that stands for employees’ rights, interest, and welfare;

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2021, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) Director General Alex Paul Monteagudo on his Facebook account accused SENADO as “the eyes and ears of the CPP-NPA-NDF to hijack the government plans and programs” inside the Senate of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the National Task Force to End Local Communists Armed Conflict (NTF ELCAC) spokesperson Undersecretary Lorraine Marie Badoy on her Philippine News Agency (PNA) column dated April 7, 2021, accused Rosel Eugenio, President of SENADO and Erwin Ocson, President of the Supreme Court Employees Association (SCEA) and the Judiciary Employees Association (JUEA) as leaders of underground organization Makabayang Kawaning Pilipino.
WHEREAS, Usec. Badoy on April 7, 2021 PNA article accused Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) and Alliance of Health Workers (AHW) of being infiltrators in the public education system and public health system respectively, and recruiters of Kalipunan ng mga Gurong Makabayan (KAGUMA) and Makabayang Samahang Pangkalusugan (MASAPA);

WHEREAS, on April 12, 2021, the NTF ELCAC released another statement further accusing Eugenio as a CPP-NPA-NDF operative placed in the Senate to weaken the institution and has the goal of destroying the government. In the statement, Usec. Badoy said, “Rosel Eugenio is no different from Erwin Ocson, President of the SCEA and the JUDEA nor from Robert Mendoza and Benjamin Santos, National President and Secretary General respectively of the Alliance of Health Workers nor from Manuel Baclagon and Santiago Dasmariñas, Secretary General and National President respectively of COURAGE. COURAGE, like ACT and AHW, are above-ground organizations created by the CPP NPA NDF precisely to infiltrate government, weaken it and then at the go-signal of the Father of Terrorists, Joma Sison and other members of the Central Committee, cause it to collapse.”;

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2021, SENADO in a statement said that “such blatant attacks against the union as a legitimate organization of Senate employees is a response to our statement denouncing the memorandum issued by the Department of Interior and Local Government on the red-tagging of legitimate and progressive organizations and unionists, and for supporting COURAGE as an affiliate member”; 

WHEREAS, SCEA-JUDEA released a statement on April 8, 2021 condemning and denouncing the red-tagging of Erwin Ocson and the Supreme Court unions by Usec. Badoy and the NTF ELCAC;

WHEREAS, earlier on March 10, 2021, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued a memorandum on the membership of employees of the Department in Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE) signed by Assistant Secretary for Public Safety and Security Alexander Macario;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, a day after the DILG issued the memorandum, SENADO President Eugenio reportedly received a call from a person who introduced herself as “Lyn” from the “HOUSE” asking for the union’s current president without disclosing her full identity and the purpose of the query;

WHEREAS, SENADO released a statement dated March 24, 2021 condemning the issuance of the DILG Memorandum red-tagging and profiling members of COURAGE, concerned that leaders of their union will be the next target of attacks among unionists;

WHEREAS, red-tagging by officials of NICA and NTF-ELCAC constitute violations of Constitutional rights, local, and international laws on unionism and union rights. Article III Section 8 of the Philippine Constitution provides that “the right of the people, including those employed in the public and private sectors, to form unions, associations, or societies for the purposes not contrary to the laws shall not be abridged”;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 180 series of 1987 Article II, Section 6 likewise provides that "Government authorities shall not interfere in the establishment, functioning or administration of government
WHEREAS, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed the ratification of the International Labor Organization Labor Relations (Public Service) Convention 151 (C151) on May 1, 2017. The C151 first adopted in 1978, protects public employees’ right to organize, against anti-union discrimination and undue interference, and guarantees public employees’ organizations appropriate facilities to enable them to carry out their functions promptly and efficiently;

WHEREAS, the spate of red-tagging by government officials such as Director General Montecagudo and USEC Badoy against SENADO, COURAGE affiliates, and other government employees’ unions caused anxiety and fear, and put at risk the lives and safety of government employees;

WHEREAS, many union leaders, human rights workers and activists were red-tagged by government authorities before or after being arrested for trumped-up charges while others were even killed ostensibly due to their union activities. On November 12, 2010, Carlos Rodriguez, President of the Nagkakaisang Lakas ng Manggagawa - Calamba Water District was gunned down by unknown motor-cycle riding assailants as he was leaving his office. It was believed that his union activities and exposing corruption in the office was the reason for his assassination. Another particular case is Antonietta “Tonet” Dizon, a former government employee and National Council member of COURAGE who was arrested on September 17, 2019, in Laguna. Before her arrest, Tonet Dizon were among those who petitioned the Supreme Court for a writ of amparo and writ of habeas data following the several incidents of tailing and surveillance by suspected military intelligence operatives in 2015. More recently, other illegal arrests occurred such as that of Ramir Corcolon, President of the San Pablo City Water District Employees Association (SPCWDEA) on March 4, 2021, and Eugenio Eugenio of Antipolo City Local Government and COURAGE-Rizal on March 7, 2021, or the Bloody Sunday incident;

WHEREAS, several Senators condemned the red-tagging of SENADO and denounced the continued baseless labeling, branding, vilification, and harassment of individuals and organizations such as SENADO as state enemies and subversives;

WHEREAS, some Senators are pushing for the passage of Senate Bill No. 2121 that will criminalize red-tagging;

WHEREAS, members of Congress, as elected Representatives of the people, are duty-bound to ensure that the Constitutional rights of the people are protected and upheld, including the labor rights of our public sector workers and employees. The Congress must not allow government officials in their red-tagging spree which not only violates union rights but more importantly endangers the safety and lives of government employees and activists. Congress should study and pass measures to prohibit and put an end to red-tagging, arrests and killings of government employees and other individuals who are providing services and standing up for the rights and welfare of the people;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives, through the Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulations and the Committee on Human Rights, condemn and conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the recent red-tagging of Sandigan ng mga Empleyadong Nagkakaisa sa Adhikain ng Demokratikong Organisasyon (SENADO), COURAGE-affiliated government employees’ unions and other public sector employees’ union by the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) and National Task Force to End Local
Communists Armed Conflict (NTF ELCAC) violating their Constitutional and workers’ rights and putting at risk the lives and safety of government employees.

Adopted,

REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Partylist

REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women’s Party

REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist