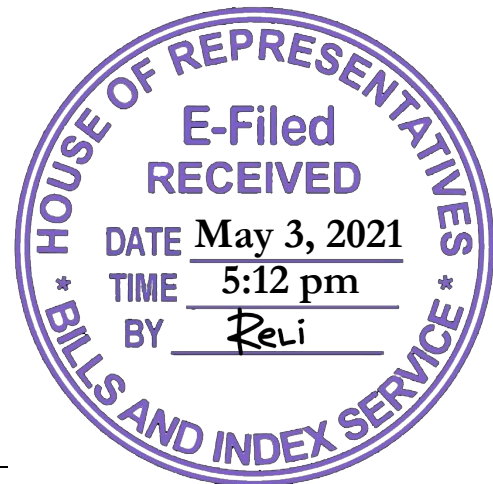


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2 Republic of the Philippines
3 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
4 Quezon City

5 EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
6 Second Regular Session

7
8 HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1740
9



10 Introduced by

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

16
17
18 RESOLUTION

19 URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH THE COMMITTEE
20 ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF
21 LEGISLATION, ON THE KILLING OF JOHN HEREDIA, PILAR TOWN
22 MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR, CULTURAL WORKER, AND FORMER
23 CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS OF THE
24 PHILIPPINES (NUJP) CAPIZ CHAPTER, IN ROXAS CITY, CAPIZ

25
26 WHEREAS, on May 2, 2021, municipal administrator of Pilar town John Heredia was shot dead
27 by motorcycle-riding gunmen in Barangay Lawaan, Roxas City as he was about to board his vehicle.
28 Heredia sustained multiple gunshot wounds including a fatal shot in the head. He was pronounced
29 dead-on-arrival at the Capiz Doctors' Hospital;

30
31 WHEREAS, Heredia was formerly the first and longest-sitting Chairperson of the National
32 Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) – Capiz chapter. He was also a former member of
33 NUJP's national board of directors. He was the host and producer of the television program "Abri
34 Aga" and wrote for community newspapers. Heredia was also the Secretary-General of AMBON-
35 Panay, a progressive cultural organization. He was a cultural worker who performed musical
36 presentations in Iloilo and Roxas City;

37
38 WHEREAS, the NUJP strongly condemned the killing of John Heredia, stating that it was a
39 symptom of the culture of impunity in the country. The National Union of People's Lawyers
40 (NUPL) also condemned the killing and called for a prompt investigation. They stated that this
41 was not the first attack against the Heredia family. In September 2019, John's wife Atty. Criselda
42 Heredia who is a member of the NUPL survived an ambush with her daughter and a client on
43 board her vehicle in Panit-an, Capiz. Atty. Criselda is a human rights lawyer and anti-mining
44 advocate who is also active in helping political prisoners with trumped-up cases. According to
45 NUJP-Panay, Atty. Criselda was also red-tagged in posters distributed in Iloilo City before the
46 attack. John's wife Atty. Criselda Heredia who is a member of the NUPL. Along with several other
47 lawyers, they were tagged as "minions of the Communist Party of the Philippines". In a report by
48 Panay News, Atty. Criselda was also threatened by a military agent who visited her office and
49 warned her to slow down on her human rights advocacy;

1 **WHEREAS**, there have been numerous attacks against activists and members of progressive
2 organizations in Panay. Before the extrajudicial killing of Heredia, in April, posters red-tagging
3 eight (8) activists were seen in Iloilo. In March, unidentified attackers brutally stabbed NUPL-
4 Panay Secretary-General Atty. AK Guillen. In February, whistleblower Brgy. Captain Julie Catamin
5 was killed by unidentified gunmen. In January, human rights officer Vernel Mondreal was killed in
6 Sibalom, Antique. In December 2020, nine (9) red-tagged indigenous leaders from the Tumandok
7 tribe were killed by police in pre-dawn raids while 16 others were arrested;

8
9 **WHEREAS**, the extrajudicial killing of former journalist John Heredia comes only a day before
10 the celebration of World Press Freedom Day. This highlights the culture of impunity and
11 worsening state of press freedom in the country. The Philippines recently dropped two places
12 down, ranking 138th out of 180 nations in the World Press Freedom Index for 2021 compiled by
13 Reporters Without Borders. According to the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility
14 (CMFR), as of November 2020, 19 journalists have been killed under the Duterte administration;

15
16 **WHEREAS**, it is imperative for members of Congress, as representatives of our people, to defend
17 the rights of our people and check on excesses and violations committed against them, especially
18 in this time of crisis. Laws and rules should serve the interest of our people, and should not be
19 weaponized to suppress their rights and oppress them;

20
21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the
22 House of Representatives, through the Committee on Human Rights, conduct an investigation, in
23 aid of legislation, on the killing of John Heredia, Pilar town Municipal Administrator, cultural
24 worker, and former Chairperson of National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) –
25 Capiz Chapter, in Roxas City, Capiz.

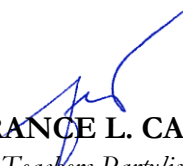
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28 *Adopted,*

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32 **REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**
33 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

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37 **REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**
38 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

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41 
42 **REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE**
43 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

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45
46 
47 **REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS**
48 *GABRIELA Women's Party*

49

REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Partylist


REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist