Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1815

Introduced by
KABATAAN PARTY-LIST Representative Sarah Jane I. Elago

RESOLUTION
URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO
CONDEMN AND CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE
UNJUST ARREST AND DETENTION OF YOUTH ACTIVISTS, AND CALL FOR
THEIR IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall value the
dignity of every human person, guarantee full respect for human rights, and recognize
the vital role of the youth in nation-building. The State shall promote and protect their
physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. Likewise, it shall inculcate in
the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and
civic affairs;

WHEREAS, the Constitution also provides that no person shall be deprived of liberty
without due process of law, and that no person shall be detained solely by reason of his
political beliefs and aspirations;

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights guarantees the right of the people to be secure in their
persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures of
whatever nature and for any purpose;

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2015, civilian and small-scale miner Jhunrey Yuhanon was
arrested in Purok Mabuaya, Sitio Kidaraan, Barangay Mascareg, Anitapan, Mabini,
Compostela Valley on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of firearms and
explosives;

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2015, Jirah Mae Gabao and Cherry Orendain, both peasant
organizers from Alyansa sa mga Mag-uuma sa Sidlakang Dabaw or ALMASID, were
arrested in Purok Lawaan, Sitio Malig, Brgy. Don Mariano, Lupon, Davao Oriental on
trumped-up charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives;
WHEREAS, on August 23, 2015, Peter John E. Cerojales was also arrested in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur on trumped-up charge of arson;

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2015, civilians and small-scale miners Arnel Anguiles, Eric Biloy, and Junel Calig-unan in Sitio Magante, Barangay Napnapan, Pantukan, Compostela Valley on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives;

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2016, civilian and small-scale miner Giovanni Gutierrez was arrested in Pantukan, Compostela Valley on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives;

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2016, James Broce Nacion and Jonel Luz Datulayta were arrested in Sitio Binugsayan, Barangay Napnapan, Pantukan, Compostela Valley on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives;

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2016, John Maniquez was arrested in Sitio Lahi, Barangay Magnaga, Pantukan, Compostela Valley on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives;

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2017, Arque Guiñares Arendain and Jamel Omegon Mampara were arrested in Brgy. Mamali, Mati, Davao Oriental on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of explosives;

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2017, Aquilino Eran Durens was arrested in Purok San Pedro, Brgy. Dawan, Mati, Davao Oriental on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of explosives;

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2017, civilian and small-scale miner Remon Rodela was arrested in Purok Buongon A, Poblacion, Maragusan, Compostela Valley on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of explosives;

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2017, Alex Salilama and Norhamin Taligapin were arrested in Amas Provincial Hospital, Brgy. Amas, Kidapawan City, North Cotabato on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of explosives and direct assault;

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2017, Joel Sabosap Perez and Nino Sabosap Perez were arrested in Purok 1-A, Brgy. Sta. Emelia, Veruela, Agusan del Sur on trumped-up charges of violations of illegal possession of firearms and explosives;

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2017, Randy Martin Magadan was arrested in Barangay LS Sarmiento, Municipality of Laak, Province of Compostela Valley on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of explosives;
WHEREAS, in February 2018, Jolita Tolino, a Dulangan Manobo volunteer teacher of the Center for Lumad Advocacy and Services, Inc. (CLANS), was arrested on trumped-up charges of murder and frustrated murder;

WHEREAS, youth leader Myles Albasin, a fresh graduate of University of the Philippines Cebu at the time of her arrest, and five other young activists--Randel Hermino, a native of Negros Oriental and from a family of sugarcane workers; Carlo Ybañes, an urban poor community in Cebu while Joemar Indico, Joey Vailoces, and Bernard Guillen, who were organizers of peasant communities and collectively known as the 'Mabinay 6,' were nabbed on March 3, 2018 in Barangay Luyang in Mabinay, Negros Oriental, and accused by the military as members of the New People’s Army; like many detained activists, the six were arrested on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives;

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2018, Raniel Lumiguid Samano was arrested in Sitio Banlag, Brgy. Liwanag, Monkayo, Compostela Valley on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of explosives;

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2018, Jessa Bernabe Lumana was arrested in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of explosives;

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2018, Jerome Lumonday was arrested in Brgy. Gambodez, Arakan, North Cotabato on trumped-up charges of multiple attempted murder;

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2018, Cherryllyn Dimaogan was arrested in Purok 3, Montevista, Compostela Valley on trumped-up charges of murder and frustrated murder;

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2018, Jimmy Duran Lucob and Raquelyn Sotto Muda were arrested in Purok 3, Barangay Langub, Maa, Davao City on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of firearms;

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2019, Reina Mae "Ina" Nacino, a community organizer, was arrested together with two activists, known collectively as the Tondo 3, in Manila City on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives;

WHEREAS, in November 2019, Karina Dela Cerna, a youth Negrense peasant advocate and the Deputy Secretary-General of National Network of Agrarian Reform Advocates - Youth (NNARA-Youth), was arrested together with 57 activists--18 of whom are youth for trumped-up charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives;

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2020, five (5) youth activists known as the Tacloban 5, including Mira Legion of BAYAN-Eastern Visayas, Alexander Abinguna of KARAPATAN-Eastern Visayas, Frenchie Cumpio of Eastern Vista, Marielle "Maye" Domequiel of Rural Missionaries of the Philippines (RMP) - Eastern Visayas, and Marissa Cabaljo of People’s Surge, were arrested in two separate operations in
Tacloban City, Leyte on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of firearms, ammunition, and explosives;

WHEREAS, on April 18, 2020, 23 activists, mostly minors and students, were arrested and detained in Iloilo City for being alleged linked to the New People’s Army (NPA);

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2020, 42 activists in Iloilo City were arrested for holding an indignation protest caravan to condemn the brutal killing of Bayan Muna coordinator Jory Porquia,

WHEREAS, on August 31, 2020, Sampaguita Alcantara and Lance Santos were arrested in a public market in Tibal-og, Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives;

WHEREAS, on October 2, 2020, Wilmar "Verdy" Pongasi, a youth activist and convenor of Kabataan para sa Karapatan - Negros Oriental, and his three (3) companions, were arrested in Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental while on their way to conduct research in a peasant community;

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2020, Amanda Lacaba Echanis, a peasant organizer, daughter of slain peace consultant Randall Echanis, and mother to a newborn, was arrested on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives while conducting relief operations in Baggao, Cagayan;

WHEREAS, on December 10, 2020, International Human Rights Day, seven human rights defenders, collectively known as the #HRD7, were arrested in four separate but simultaneous raids during the wee hours, namely, journalist Lady Ann Salem, and trade union organizers Romina Astudillo, Rod Esparago, Dennise Velasco, Jaymie Gregorio, Mark Ryan Cruz, and Joel Demate. Most of them started as youth and student activists. They are currently facing trumped-up charges for alleged violations of Republic Act No. 10591 (Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Law) and Republic Act No. (Illegal Possession of Explosives) due to planted rifles, pistols, magazines, ammunition, and grenades in their respective residences;

WHEREAS, on December 31, 2020, 16 members of the indigenous cultural community Tumandok, who were all unarmed, were arrested and charged with trumped-up charges of illegal possession of explosives, namely, Marilyn Castor Chiva, Luisito Bautista, Carlito Diaz, Wilsio Chiva, Marivic Aguirre, Marilou Sumaria Catamin, Rolen Caro Catamin, Jucie Katipunan Caro, Eleutricia Calbo Caro, Rolando Caspillo, Aileen Catamin, Ferdinand Casipillo, Benny Lorana, Benito Caballero, Lauriano Castor, and Rodolfo Diaz;

WHEREAS, a 'bakwit' school in University of San Carlos Talamban Campus was raided on February 15, 2021 leading to the arrest of 25 Lumad students and teachers--Chad Booc, a Computer Science graduate from UP Diliman, and Lumad volunteer teacher Roshelle Porcadilla. The police falsely accused them of training "child warriors" when
they just volunteered to support the school, and contribute for the protection of the right to education and self-determination of the Lumad students and their tribal leaders;

**WHEREAS,** 11 members of the League of Filipino Students and their driver were arrested in Subic, on their way to join a May 1 mobilization on the pretense that they were violating physical distancing protocol and disobedience to persons in authority when they reportedly refused to disclose their identities to policemen manning a checkpoint;

**WHEREAS,** a workers’ caravan including youth delegates was blocked by Laguna police on their way to joining the May 1 mobilization;

**WHEREAS,** on May 3, Justine Mesias, a college student from Bicol University and Spokesperson for Youth Act Now Against Tyranny, and Sassah Sta. Rosa, spokesperson for Jovenes Anakbayan in the region, were arrested by the police based on trumped-up charges and on planted guns and explosives allegedly found in their homes;

**WHEREAS,** the searches, seizures, and arrests, were tainted with irregularity and illegality for being conducted during unusual hours, attended with an overwhelming number of combined forces of police and military, unnecessary and excessive physical force, planting of evidence, and their failure to apprise all of the accused of their constitutional rights;

**WHEREAS,** according to Karapatan, there are at least 646 political prisoners in the Philippines as of August 2020—five were minors, and 413 were arrested under the Duterte administration;

**WHEREAS,** these attacks are clearly part of the broader attempts to crackdown on dissent. These are brazen attempts of the Duterte administration to silence the youth, in the face of growing discontent and resistance stemming from the administration’s failure to solve the country’s real problems;

**WHEREAS,** in the course of our country’s history, the youth has not only remained resilient against fascist dictatorships, but it has also taken the lead in movements to advance the people’s demands. Looking back at the people power movements in the country, the youth and students were at the forefront of organizing the workers, peasants and other marginalized sectors, putting their lives at risk in joining mobilizations, reporting the truth, and creating big and small initiatives towards a system that truly protects the rights and welfare of its people;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** that the House of Representatives condemn and investigate, in aid of legislation, the unjust arrest and detention of youth political prisoners, and call for their immediate and unconditional release.
Adopted,

Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO  
*Kabataan Party-list*