Republic of the Philippines

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1934

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

RESOLUTION
URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ARREST OF KATIPUNAN NG MGA SAMAHANG MAGBUBUKID SA TIMOG KATAGALUGAN (KASAMA-TK) PEASANT ORGANIZERS DANA MARIE MARCELLANA AND CHRISTIAN RELAO IN SAN PABLO, LAGUNA

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2021, human rights watchdog Karapatan -Timog Katagalugan reported that at around 1 AM of the same day, suspected elements of Philippine National Police (PNP) Regional Mobile Force Battalion – Region 4A, San Pablo Police, and military forces arrested peasant organizers Dana Marie Marcellana and Christian Relao inside their residence in San Diego, San Pablo, Laguna. No search warrant or arrest warrant was presented during the arrest according to the report. The two were taken to the San Pablo Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) and were reportedly charged with rebellion, illegal possession of firearms, kidnapping, and murder;

WHEREAS, Marcellana and Relao are provincial organizers of Katipunan ng mga Samahang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan (KASAMA-TK) in Quezon and Laguna. Marcellana is also the eldest daughter of KASAMA-TK peasant organizer Orly Marcellana and the late activist and human rights worker Eden Marcellana, who was abducted and brutally murdered on April 23, 2003, in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro under the Arroyo administration;

WHEREAS, KASAMA-TK is a progressive organization of farmers in the Southern Tagalog Region. It is active in campaigning for farmers rights and genuine agrarian reform;

WHEREAS, rights groups have condemned the pattern of arrests against peasant organizers and activists over fabricated charges. Marcellana is the 64th among peasant women victims of illegal arrests and detention under the Duterte administration according to the Amihan National Federation of Peasant Women. There are currently 81 peasant women political prisoners in the country. According to rights watchdog Karapatan, there are at least 609 political prisoners nationwide as of March 2020;

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, especially in this time of crisis. It
must bring perpetrators to account to put a stop to the killings and rights violations against its people. 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, arrest of Katipunan ng mga Samahang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan (KASAMA-TK) peasant organizers Dana Marie Marcellana and Christian Relao in San Pablo, Laguna.

*Adopted,*

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REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT  
*Bayan Muna Partylist*

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

REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE  
*Bayan Muna Partylist*

REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS  
*Gabriela Women’s Party*

REP. FRANCIS L. CASTRO  
*ACT Teachers Partylist*

REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO  
*Kabataan Partylist*