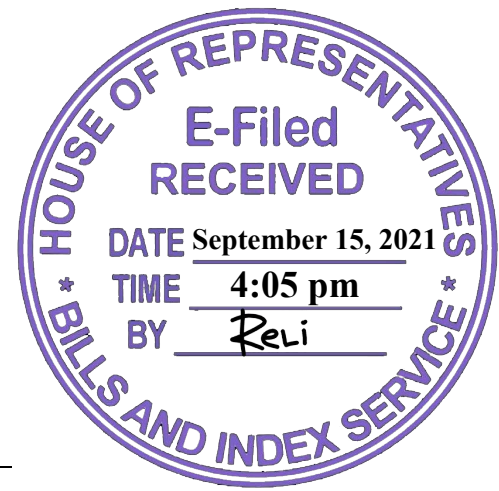


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1 Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 2220



Introduced by

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

RESOLUTION

URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE
ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO CONDEMN AND INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, THE COLD-BLOODED MURDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS
LAWYER ATTY. REX JESUS MARIO FERNANDEZ

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2021, human rights lawyer Rex Jesus Mario Fernandez was shot dead in broad daylight at Duterte St., Barangay Guadalupe, Cebu City by a hooded gunman. His driver Darvie survived but was brought to the hospital in critical condition;

WHEREAS, Atty. Fernandez was one of the founding members of the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers (NUPL). He was also the legal counsel for several public interest and human rights cases. As former counsel of Human Rights group, Karapatan he has handled cases for victims of human rights violations, including that of torture survivor Raymond Manalo against convicted criminal Jovito Palparan, Jr.;

WHEREAS, Atty. Fernandez recently handled public interest cases in Cebu such as the opposition to the Joint Venture Agreement between the Cebu City Government and Megawide Corporation to modernize the Carbon Market in Cebu City, which will potentially displace small-scale market vendors. Their petition was filed before the Cebu City Regional Trial Court on August 25 – a day before his death;

WHEREAS, Atty. Fernandez also represented individuals who were illegally arrested in an Anti-Terror Bill protest on June 5, 2020 at University of the Philippines – Cebu campus;

WHEREAS, according to the NUPL, Atty. Fernandez's death makes him the 57th among the lawyers and judges who were killed since June 2016. In December 2020, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, the NUPL, and various legal groups raised concerns over the increasing and alarming incidents of attacks on lawyers before the Supreme Court;

WHEREAS, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines – Cebu Chapter, in a statement issued on the same day of the murder, says that "*an attack on our brother-lawyer for case-related motives is an attack on the justice system and the rule of law we promised to protect*";

1 **WHEREAS**, the murder of Atty. Fernandez is highly alarming. It is an affront to all rights
2 defenders and to the legal profession. A thorough and impartial investigation should immediately
3 be conducted on the cold-blooded murder against him;
4

5 **WHEREAS**, it is imperative for members of Congress, as representatives of our people, to
6 defend the rights of our people and check on excesses and violations committed against them,
7 especially in this time of crisis. We are a government of laws and not of men, as legislators, we
8 must always uphold the rule of law and must condemn this state of impunity engulfing our
9 country today that that wantonly victimizes not just human rights defenders and lawyers, but
10 innocent civilians as well.

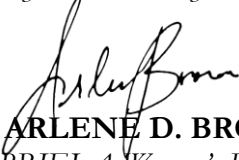
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12 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the
13 House of Representatives, through the Committee on Human Rights, condemn and conduct an
14 investigation, in aid of legislation, on the cold-blooded murder of human rights lawyer Atty. Rex
15 Jesus Mario Fernandez.

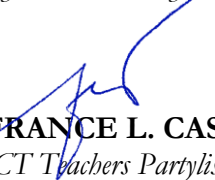
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17
18 *Adopted,*



REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women's Party


REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Partylist


REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist