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

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 2287

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

RESOLUTION
COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING JOURNALIST MARIA RESSA FOR
BEING THE FIRST FILIPINO AWARDEE OF THE PRESTIGIOUS NOBEL PEACE
PRIZE

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2021, Filipino journalist Maria Ressa and Russian journalist Dmitry
Muratov were awarded the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize "for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression,
which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace."

WHEREAS, the Nobel Peace Prize, first given out in 1901 and one of the world’s most prestigious
awards, recognizes individuals or groups for significant and remarkable contribution to “fraternity
between nations, the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses.”
The Nobel Peace Prize is also one of the five (5) awards given by the Nobel Foundation, which was
founded through the will of the late Industrialist Alfred Nobel, the Swedish inventor of dynamite
and other explosives;

WHEREAS, Ms. Ressa is the first Filipina and the first woman journalist to be awarded the
prestigious Nobel Prize;

WHEREAS, Ms. Ressa is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the online news website
Rappler, which has been under attack for publishing incisive several news and feature articles, many
of which are critical of the Duterte administration’s policies, particularly its bloody war on drugs;

WHEREAS, Ms. Ressa, Rappler and its staff have been the subject of incessant harassments,
including the now court-reversed revocation of its license by the Securities and Exchange
Commission and the filing of several libel and a plethora of other criminal and civil cases;

WHEREAS, the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP), in its statement,
commended the 2021 Peace Prize Laureates “for defending these freedoms in increasingly challenging
conditions — in Ressa’s case, these challenging conditions have included a raft of cases and legal proceedings — and are proud to be in the community of independent journalists ready to hold the line with them”;

WHEREAS, The International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT) Philippines said Ressa's Nobel win is a "vindication for many Filipino journalists who have been subjected to relentless attacks – those who have been harassed, red-tagged, slapped with libel and cyberlibel charges, arrested and killed";

WHEREAS, Ms. Ressa’s Nobel recognition has earned her the praises and recognition not only of her peers and fellow Filipinos, but even world personalities and leaders from the ASEAN, Europe, America, United Nations, including UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who commended her for “speaking truth to power amid rising anti-media rhetoric”;

WHEREAS, Ms. Ressa’s Nobel Peace Prize award has put the Philippines front and center in the continuous struggle for Press Freedom at a time when its suppression has become more creative – instead of outright censorship against media outfits critical of the present administration, it has resorted to red-tagging, harassment, fake news articles, troll attacks, cyber-attacks, and even weaponizing the law such as the case of Rappler’s initial revocation of its corporate license and ABS-CBN’s franchise denial.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives commend and congratulate journalist Maria Ressa for being the first Filipino awardee of the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize.

Adopted,