HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2469

Introduced by Honorable Representatives
ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women's Party);

RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED RAPE, ILLEGAL DETENTION AND TORTURE OF A FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL IN QUEZON PROVINCE IN THE HANDS OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY AND CITIZEN ARMED FORCE GEOGRAPHICAL UNIT (CAFGU)

WHEREAS, Section 11 Article III of the 1987 Constitution provides that the "State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights";

WHEREAS, Republic Act. No. 8353 or the Anti-Rape Law states that rape as committed by a person of authority is considered as a heinous crime punishable by reclusion perpetua;

WHEREAS, Republic Act. No. 9745 or the Anti-Torture Law penalizes physical acts by persons in authority or their agents that cause "severe pain, exhaustion, disability or dysfunction" on detainees as well as mental or psychological acts "calculated to affect or confuse the mind or undermine a person's dignity and morale";

WHEREAS, 15-year-old girl "Belle" (not her real name as she is still a minor) claimed in a press conference held on Jan. 21, 2022 that she was raped and tortured while in illegal detention under the hands of the Philippine Army from July 27 to August 13, 2020 in Quezon Province;

WHEREAS, "Belle" said she was abducted via a white van on July 27, 2020 after going to a store by elements of the 59th Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army (IBPA);

WHEREAS, Belle's family had filed charges of kidnapping and serious illegal detention with rape, violence against women and children, and child abuse against Leoven Julita, a Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) member, who allegedly raped the minor multiple times;

WHEREAS, her family also filed charges of torture against former SOLCOM Chief Lt. Gen. Antonio Parlade, 2nd Infantry Division Maj. Gen. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos, Jr., 59th IBPA commander Lt. Col. Edward Canlas, and other members of the military;

WHEREAS, the victim alleged that she was detained in a small room in the camp and experienced interrogation, red-tagging, and threats by soldiers and members of CAFGU.

WHEREAS, Belle said seven armed soldiers forced her and her parents to surrender as insurgents while in the custody of the military, and that she was illegaly detained in a police officer's house before she was released to her family;

WHEREAS, Belle claimed that the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) forced her to statement saying that she voluntarily surrendered and not to take her back to her mother, which she said is against her will;

WHEREAS, the victim also claimed that she experienced continued harassment even after her release from military custody;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House Committee on the Welfare of Children and Committee on Women and Gender Equality conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the alleged rape, illegal detention and torture of a 15-year-old girl in Quezon Province in the hands of the 56th Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army and elements of CAFGU.

Adopted,

ARLENE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women's Party