

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 203



Introduced by
ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,
and **KABATAAN Party-List Rep. RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL**

RESOLUTION
COMMENDING ATTY. ANGELO KARLO GUILLEN FOR BEING AWARDED THE
2022 ROGER N. BALDWIN MEDAL OF LIBERTY FOR HIS WORK AS A HUMAN
RIGHTS DEFENDER AND COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

WHEREAS, on August 8, 2022, Human Rights First, a non-profit, nonpartisan international human rights organization based in the United States, announced that it has awarded the 2022 Roger N. Baldwin Medal of Liberty to a Filipino lawyer, Atty. Angelo Karlo Guillen;

WHEREAS, “For more than 30 years, the Baldwin Medal has brought recognition and support to extraordinary activists who are advancing the protection of human rights at great personal risk,” explained Michael Breen, President and CEO of Human Rights First. “Angelo Guillen is a courageous and effective advocate whose work has made a difference in the lives of his fellow Filipinos and put a spotlight on abuses and calling for accountability”;

WHEREAS, Atty. Guillen provides legal defense for indigenous peoples, like members of the Tumandok community, farmers, workers and unionists, and other marginalized sectors in various trumped-up cases, like the activists arrested in the illegal Bacolod raids in 2019. He also represents activists and other human rights defenders like himself in various public interest cases, such as the petition assailing the constitutionality of the Anti-Terrorism Act. He is also Secretary General of the Panay Chapter of National Union of Peoples’ Lawyers (NUPL);

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2021, Atty. Guillen survived an attempt on his life in Iloilo City, after two unidentified assailants stabbed him in his head and shoulder. This, after he, the NUPL, their clients, and other human rights defenders were red-tagged and labelled, for years, as “terrorists” by officials and agents of witch-hunting body the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC), military, police, and unknown actors, villified for their human rights advocacy. Prior to that, on May 1, 2020 in Jaro, Iloilo City, he was arrested along with 41 protesters, including members of the local community media and humanitarian and relief

operations volunteers, to whom he was providing a quick-response legal assistance against harassment and illegal arrest;

WHEREAS, the retaliatory vilification and assassination attempt against Atty. Guillen occurred in the context of attacks against human rights defenders, lawyers and paralegals among them. This prompted the Supreme Court to issue in March 2021 a strongly worded statement: “[I]n the strongest sense every instance where a lawyer is threatened or killed and where a judge is threatened and unfairly labelled. x x x To threaten our judges and our lawyers is no less than an assault to the judiciary. The assault on the judiciary is to shake the very bedrock on which the rule of law stands. This cannot be allowed in a civilized society like ours. This cannot go un denounced on the court’s watch”;

WHEREAS, awarded by Human Rights First and the American Civil Liberties Union every other year, the Roger N. Baldwin Medal of Liberty is given to individuals or organizations in recognition of “a lifetime of contributions to civil liberties or, in exceptional cases, a single outstanding contribution”;

WHEREAS, this recognition to Atty. Guillen is an acknowledgment not just of the dedication and vital functions of human rights defenders towards the protection and promotion of a functioning democracy. It is also an acknowledgment of the heightening impunity and the dire human rights situation in the country, in which farmers, workers, indigenous peoples’ and minorities, and other marginalized and underrepresented sectors are the victims, as well as their social, economic, and political rights. The Baldwin Medal of Liberty to Atty. Angelo Karlo Guillen is an additional reminder to the Philippine government that it must address—and *soon*—the appalling human rights situation in the country, including by ceasing all its policies and acts which contribute to it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives commend Atty. Angelo Karlo Guillen for being awarded the 2022 Roger N. Baldwin Medal of Liberty for his work as a human rights defender and commitment to human rights advocacy.

Adopted,



Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-List



Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women’s Party



Rep. RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL
KABATAAN Party-List