

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

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session



**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 855**

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Introduced by Honorable Representatives  
**ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women's Party),**  
**FRANCE L. CASTRO (ACT Teachers Partylist),**  
and **RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL (Kabataan Partylist)**

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### **RESOLUTION**

#### **URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE AERIAL BOMBINGS IN CAGAYAN VALLEY AND ITS IMPACT ON PEASANT COMMUNITIES**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 3 of the Customary International Humanitarian Law prohibits indiscriminate attacks that will hurt civilians. Rule 13 states that “attacks by bombardment by any method or means which treats as a single military objective a number of clearly separated and distinct military objectives located in a city, town, village or other area containing a similar concentration of civilians or civilian objects are prohibited;

**WHEREAS**, according to a statement from Taripnong Cagayan Valley, an aerial bombing ensued at Sitio Birao, Brgy. Hacienda Intal, in Baggao town, Cagayan last February 2, 2023. The said bombing runs were led by the 501st and 95<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade and the Tactical Operation Group of the Philippine Air Force in pursuit of alleged New People's Army (NPA) guerillas they had an encounter with;

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 150 families and villagers from subvillages of Regaay, Marus, Krosing, and Patina evacuated from their communities after subsequent bombings from T129 Attack Helicopters;

**WHEREAS**, the Danggayan dagiti Mannalon ti Cagayan Valley, the regional chapter of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) assailed the bombing runs of the in Hacienda Intal in the afternoon of February 2. They said this endangered the people's lives, homes, and sources of livelihood;

**WHEREAS**, Danggayan also pointed out that Hacienda Intal residents are mostly farmers whose farms are in the upland areas, and the bombings have forced them to leave their crops and livestock unattended;

**WHEREAS**, the farmers' group also said the soldiers have imposed checkpoints, controlled the residents' mobility in the village, and even went to their upland farms. Soldiers required residents to bring with them their valid IDs at all times;

**WHEREAS**, in September 2021, the 5th ID also launched an airstrike in Sta. Teresita and another on January 29, 2022, in Gonzaga. Both are in Cagayan province. These airstrikes were also part of the Philippine Army's pursuit of NPA rebels;

**WHEREAS**, in a separate statement, Karapatan Secretary General Cristina Palabay expressed alarm over the possibility of residents getting hurt due to indiscriminate bombings since the military rained bombs while the farmers were in the thick of side-dressing and spraying their crops;

**WHEREAS**, Karapatan said civilians always bear the brunt of military operations against NPA rebels, and such operations are often deliberately targeted, in brazen disregard of international humanitarian law (IHL) protocols because the military suspects civilians of supporting the NPA;

**WHEREAS**, Karapatan further added that the state forces' refusal to distinguish between combatants and non-combatants has resulted in mounting civilian casualties in the State's decades-long counter-insurgency war;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Social Welfare and Development Region 2 said they have distributed 256 family food packs and P5,000 cash assistance to affected residents. The agency recorded 103 internally displaced persons, with some staying with their relatives at night and checking their houses during the day;

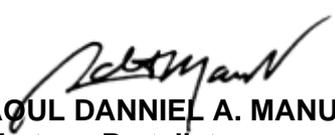
**WHEREAS**, Dangwayan pointed out that farmers are doubly affected as they are already suffering from the rise in prices of essential goods and farm inputs coupled with the drop in buying price of their crops. They also mentioned the successive calamities that devastated Cagayan and the country since last year;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives Committee on Human Rights conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the aerial bombings in Cagayan Valley and its impact on peasant communities.

Adopted,

  
**ARLENE D. BROSAS**  
Gabriela Women's Party

  
**FRANCE L. CASTRO**  
ACT Teachers Partylist

  
**RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL**  
Kabataan Partylist