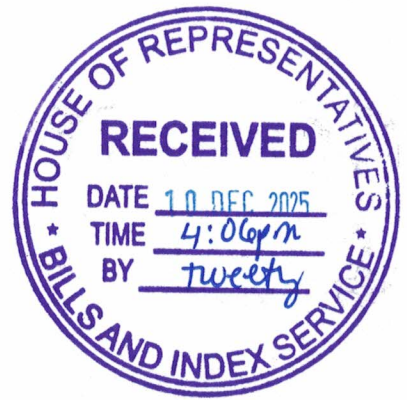


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 572

Introduced by

ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO,
Gabriela Women's Party Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO,
and KABATAAN Party-List Rep. RENEE LOUISE M. CO

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE RECENT SPATE OF VIOLATION OF WORKERS' RIGHTS, AND TO ENSURE THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE AGAINST RED-TAGGING, HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION

WHEREAS, Article 3, Chapter I of the Labor Code states that: "The State shall afford protection to labor, promote full employment, ensure equal work opportunities regardless of sex, race or creed, and regulate the relations between workers and employers. The State shall assure the rights of workers to self-organization, collective bargaining, security of tenure, and just and humane conditions of work";

WHEREAS, Article 263 of the Labor Code of the Philippines mandates the State to encourage free collective bargaining and free trade unionism, in which workers have the right to participate in coordinated activities for the advantage of collective bargaining or for their own mutual protection and benefit;

WHEREAS, Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights declares that: "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests";

WHEREAS, on August 30, 2023, President Marcos Jr. signed Executive Order No. 23, which created the Inter-Agency Committee for the Protection of the Freedom of Association and Right to Organize of Workers. One of the tasks of the Inter-Agency Committee is to investigate allegations of violence against members of workers' organizations with a view to establishing the facts, determining culpability and

1 punishing the perpetrators. However, more than a year has passed, the Filipino workers
2 have yet to see any results;

3
4 **WHEREAS**, on September 19, 2025, President Marcos Jr. signed Executive Order No.
5 97 adopting the Omnibus Guidelines on the Exercise of Freedom of Association and
6 Civil Liberties. The Omnibus Guidelines seeks to promote, respect, and protect the
7 freedom of association of workers and employers, which includes limits on police and
8 military intervention into labor matters. However, the Omnibus Guidelines fell short of
9 recognizing and addressing ground realities wherein labor groups and organizations
10 continue to be red-tagged and harassed by the National Task Force to End Local
11 Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) and the state security forces. Moreover, it
12 lacks penalties against perpetrators of workers' freedom of association;

13
14 **WHEREAS**, EO 97 was issued in response to the recommendations of the International
15 Labour Organization–High Level Tripartite Mission (ILO-HLTM) in 2023, which
16 investigated the widespread violations of workers' rights to freely organize from 2019
17 to 2023, as well as the broad and sustained campaign of labor unions and organizations
18 to stop the attacks on workers. The ILO-HLTM mission was prompted by severe human
19 rights violations—including harassment, arbitrary arrests, detention, and killings—
20 committed against workers under the administration of former President Rodrigo
21 Duterte, particularly by agencies led by the NTF-ELCAC;¹

22
23 **WHEREAS**, according to the ILO-HLTM and Workers Rights Watch, the following
24 human rights violations against trade unionists were documented: 105 killings; 7
25 abduction cases involving 11 victims; 122 victims of trumped-up charges; 23 arrests
26 and detentions of labor organizers and unionists; 90 cases of forced disaffiliation; 341
27 cases of red-tagging or terrorist-tagging; 127 incidents of threats, intimidation, and
28 harassment against union leaders and members; and 118 violations of the freedom of
29 assembly. In addition, 156 other cases of anti-union activities were recorded;²

30
31 **WHEREAS**, despite the guarantees from the 1987 Constitution, laws and executive
32 issuances, Filipino workers continue to suffer violations of their rights perpetrated by
33 suspected state security forces. In fact, on December 9, 2025, the International Human
34 Rights Day, the Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR) raised alarm and
35 demanded an investigation on the continuing harassment of labor activists in the country
36 under the Marcos Jr. administration;

37
38 **WHEREAS**, on December 5, 2025, Larry Argilles, leader of Transmission, the Davao
39 chapter of progressive transport group Pagkakaisa ng mga Tsuper at Operators
40 Nationwide (PISTON), was the subject of military surveillance in his community in

¹ "Report of the High-Level Tripartite Mission to the Philippines on Freedom of Association (Conclusions and Recommendations)." International Labour Organization, January 23 - 26, 2023. Retrieved. <https://www.ilo.org/resource/report/report-high-level-tripartite-mission-philippines-23-26-january-2023>

² "Philippines Retains Awful Spot as 1 of the 10 Worst Countries for Workers." Workers Rights Watch, 2024. Retrieved: <https://ctuhr.org/releases/philippines-retains-awful-spot-on-10-worst-countries-for-workers/>

1 Davao City. Military personnel asked community leaders about Argilles and his family,
2 and accused his wife of being a member of New People's Army (NPA);

3
4 **WHEREAS**, in October 2025, Sylva Attala Fortuno, education and research program
5 officer of the Sugarfolks' Unity for Genuine Agricultural Reform – Batangas (SUGAR
6 Batangas) and secretariat member of the with the Alyansa ng Magsasaka para sa
7 Kompensasyon (AMK), experienced repeated harassment from state agents, claiming
8 to be led by Sgt. Alarde. The military personnel disclosed that many military units are
9 assigned to surveil her, and that Fortuno is just one of many people under surveillance
10 in Oriental, Mindoro. Furthermore, they asked Fortuno to “surrender;”³

11
12 **WHEREAS**, on August 29, 2025, Ayrene Marasigan, leader and spokesperson of the
13 AMK, was summoned by military personnel to the barangay hall of Santol village in
14 Balayan, Batangas. During the meeting, the military personnel accused Fortuno,
15 Marasigan, Louie Quiroz (also a leader of AMK), and Hailey Pecayo (spokesperson of
16 Tanggol Batangan and AMK volunteer) of being NPA rebels;

17
18 **WHEREAS**, in September 2025, Tina Alomia of the Organized Labor Associations in
19 Line Industries and Agriculture-Kilusang Mayo Uno (OLALIA-KMU), faced
20 surveillance and harassment from state agents, including the distribution of comics-
21 style flyers in various parts of Laguna that contain fabricated stories, personal details,
22 and malicious insinuations. Moreover, OLALIA-KMU was red-tagged as a “front
23 organization of the CPP-NPA-NDF.” Alomia had filed numerous complaints before the
24 Commission on Human Rights;”⁴

25
26 **WHEREAS**, in September and October 2025, two unidentified men riding in-tandem
27 on a motorcycle passed by KMU-Southern Mindanao Region's office and took photos
28 and/or videos of the office premises. This follows the harassment experienced by KMU-
29 SMR organizers Marvin Dacanay and Jeffrey Uypala in July and August, respectively;⁵

30
31 **WHEREAS**, KMU-SMR reported that other labor organizers and activists in the region
32 were also subjected to threats and red-tagging since 2023, namely Carl Olalo, PJ Dizon,
33 and Jeffry Uypala, among others;

34
35 **WHEREAS**, on August 14, 2025, after being red-tagged together with his wife Ronilla
36 Consad of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT), Felixberto Consad (member of

³ “Harassment vs Batangas sugarcane workers' organizer must be stopped, probed.” Center for Trade Union and Human Rights, 2 November 2025. Retrieved from <https://ctuhr.org/releases/harassment-vs-batangas-sugarcane-workers-organizer-must-be-stopped-probed/>

⁴ “Southern Tagalog labor organizer's harassment, test for Marcos Jr order.” Center for Trade Union and Human Rights, 4 November 2025. Retrieved from <https://ctuhr.org/releases/southern-tagalog-labor-organizers-harassment-test-for-marcos-jr-order/>

⁵ “Davao labor group's harassment should be stopped, probed.” Center for Trade Union and Human Rights, 25 October 2025. Retrieved from <https://ctuhr.org/releases/davao-labor-groups-harassment-should-be-stopped-probed/>

PISTON), was arrested and charged with non-bailable trumped-up charges in Sogod, Southern Leyte;

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2025, Pauline Joy Banjawan, organizer of informal workers group Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap Southern Tagalog (Kadamay-ST), was abducted and later on incarcerated after being slapped with trumped-up charges of falsification of public documents, illegal possession of firearms, ammunitions and explosives after being red-tagged by the NTF-ELCAC and the 59th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army;

WHEREAS, workers groups believe that the government, through the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC), is behind the continued efforts to label, brand, vilify, and harass individuals and organizations as state enemies and subversives. These acts have endangered workers' lives, as many other workers and labor advocates have been violently attacked, arrested, or killed after being red-baited, or tagged as communist rebels or supporters;

WHEREAS, since 2017, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) has consistently placed the Philippines on the list of Top 10 Worst Countries for Workers. According to the ITUC scorecard, while there may be legislations concerning certain rights, Filipino workers remain to have effectively no access to those rights. This situation is marked by harassment, violence and murders, arrests during strikes, red-tagging and state repression;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that fundamental labor rights—freedom of association, right to collective bargaining and right to strike—be recognized, protected, and even strengthened, especially in the face of further labor exploitation and repression. The government must put a premium on workers' rights and welfare, especially since they continue to contribute to economic and social development in spite of all the hardships and challenges.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives, through the Committee on Human Rights, investigate, in aid of legislation, the recent spate of violations of workers' rights, and to ensure the rights and welfare against red-tagging, harassment and intimidation.

1 *Adopted,*
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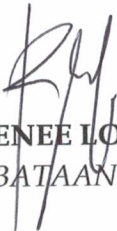
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