



City of Isabela

Province of Basilan

OFICINA DEL CONSEJO LOCAL

(Office of the Sangguniang Panlungsod)

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF THE CITY OF ISABELA, PROVINCE OF BASILAN, HELD AT THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD SESSION HALL, ISABELA CITY, BASILAN, ON OCTOBER 21, 2020.

PRESENT:

Hon. Jhul Kifli L. Salliman	Presiding Officer
Hon. Sara S. Ismael	Temporary Floor Leader
Hon. Jashim I. Tiplani	Asst. Floor Leader
Hon. Alan Ritchie Luis B. Biel	Member
Hon. Karel Annjaiza R. Sakkalahul	Member
Hon. Yusop I. Abubakar	Member
Hon. Khaleedsher M. Asarul	Member
Hon. Abdulkuddus A. Salihin	Member (IP Representative)
Hon. Tammy M. Ismael	Member (ABC Fed. President)

ABSENT:

Hon. Candu I. Muarip	Floor Leader
Hon. Ar-Jhemar K. Ajibon	Member
Hon. Ma. Jennesa S. Tubongbanua	Member
Hon. Haizer A. Salain	Member (SK Fed. President)

RESOLUTION NO. 20-6164

APPROVED: October 21, 2020

SPONSORED BY: HONORABLE KHALEEDSHER M. ASARUL

A RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES TO ENACT A HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS PROTECTION LAW

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Bill of Rights and establishes the Commission on Human Rights to protect human rights, investigate their violations, and monitor compliance with the country's international human rights commitments;

WHEREAS, the Philippines binds itself to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and eight out of nine other core international human rights instruments;

WHEREAS, over the years, the country has enacted significant human rights legislation that include Republic Act 9346 prohibiting the death penalty; Republic Act 9745 penalizing torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment; Republic Act 10353 penalizing enforced disappearance; and Republic Act 10368 recognizing and providing reparations to victims of human rights violations during the Martial Law period;

WHEREAS, recognizing the role of human rights defenders in promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and condemning aggression and violence against human rights defenders, the United Nations General Assembly adopted in December 1998 Resolution 53/144 on the "Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms," - often abbreviated as "The Declaration on Human Rights Defenders";

WHEREAS, despite the country's commitment to international human rights instruments and the enactment of domestic human rights legislation, Filipino human rights defenders and advocates, their families, relatives, friends, and associates have been subject to persecution, harassment, intimidation, trumped-up charges, red-tagging, torture, involuntary disappearance and extrajudicial killing due to their work as protectors of human rights, and as monitors, documenters, and disseminators of reports of human rights violations;

WHEREAS, the Philippines ranks as the most dangerous country in Asia for human rights defenders according to the Annual Report on Human Rights Defenders at Risk in 2016 published by Front Line, the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders;

WHEREAS, in addressing the proliferation of human rights violations against individuals, groups, and communities, it is imperative for the State to create and implement measures and mechanisms that aim to protect human rights defenders whose advocacy and work protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms;

WHEREAS, the proposed Human Rights Defenders Protection Law in the 17th Congress, as outlined in Senate Bill 1699, House Bill 1617, and House Bill 8128, guarantees the rights of human rights defenders, mandates public authorities to respect, protect, and promote these rights, and creates mechanisms to fully and strictly implement the law in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders;

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2019, the House of Representatives unanimously approved House Bill 9199 or the consolidated version of the Human Rights Defenders Protection Bill on third and final reading;

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Defenders Protection Bill was again filed in the 18th Congress through Senate Bill 179, House Bill 15, House Bill 161, and House Bill 240 as a response to continuing attacks against human rights defenders throughout the country;

WHEREFORE, on motion of Councilor Khaleedsher M. Asarul, duly seconded by all members present, **BE IT**

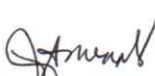
RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan, urges the Congress of the Philippines to enact a Human Rights Defenders Law.

RESOLVED, further, that the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the Philippines be furnished with copies of this Resolution.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:


RODELA AMORES-NUÑAL
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:


JHUL KIFLI L. SALLIMAN
City Vice-Mayor
Presiding Officer