

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

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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**HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 259**

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Introduced by **ACT Teachers Party-List**  
**Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO** and **Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO**,  
**Gabriela Women's Party Rep. EMMI A. DE JESUS**,  
**BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**,  
**Gabriela Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS**,  
**ANAKPAWIS Party-List Rep. ARIEL B. CASILAO**,  
and **KABATAAN Party-List Rep. SARAH JANE L. ELAGO**

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OPPOSE THE USE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AMID PRES. RODRIGO DUTERTE'S INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN TO END THE ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE, AND TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, MOUNTING COMPLAINTS OF ALLEGED DRUG-RELATED EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS AND VIGILANTE KILLINGS**

WHEREAS, national and international laws hold the highest regard for the rights to life and due process and strictly prohibit the use of lethal force by agents of the State, unless strictly unavoidable in order to protect life;

WHEREAS, there has been a surge of killings nationwide of suspected criminals, mostly identified by the police as suspected drug dealers, pushers, or even mere users, all occurring amid the new administration's vow to rid the country of illegal drugs;

WHEREAS, as of 22 August 2016, drug-related killings have reached 684 since President Rodrigo Duterte assumed office (731 since May 10), according to a compilation of a major newspaper;

WHEREAS, this list includes 134 who remain unidentified and 58 who are identified only by aliases;

WHEREAS, amid the intensified anti-illegal drugs campaign of Pres. Duterte – the pattern of executions, the now-exposed massive involvement of police and other public officials in the illegal drug trade, the unreformed abusive methods of police officials – complaints are mounting that an alarming number of extrajudicial killings and vigilante executions are taking place and not the official police line of “*nanlaban kaya napatay*”;

WHEREAS, most of these killings occurred during or after raids and buy-bust operations, during the service of arrest and search warrants against drug suspects, and, some on the occasion of *Oplan Tok-Hang (Toktok-Hangyo*, or knock and plead) in communities;

WHEREAS, the intensified raids, searches and seizures, arrests, and killings have been carried out by some police units with all-out violence and disregard for due process;

WHEREAS, the victims, however, include youth—even minors—women, mere house companions of the suspects, and rehabilitated users; also killed are those who have no history of drug dealing, use, or any other involvement with drugs, including a high school teacher known for his anti-drug advocacy;

WHEREAS, on the other hand, ringleaders of drug cartels, big-time drug lords, and their protectors in government have so far escaped the heightened anti-drug campaign, as only small-fry dealers and victim users have been targeted in these killings;

WHEREAS, drug trafficking could not have become widespread and deeply entrenched into our society—and illegal drugs could not have victimized millions of Filipinos—without the aid of enablers and protectors who are government and police officials;

WHEREAS, the daily raids against drug dens and pushers in communities nationwide also imply that the police and local government officials already have detailed and actionable knowledge of drug syndicates there;

WHEREAS, these are worrisome indicators of the possibility that police officers involved in the drug trade could be resorting to a rubout or liquidation spree of current and possible witnesses and rival drug operators;

WHEREAS, in his first State of the Nation Address, President Duterte said that “the fight against criminality and illegal drugs and corruption will be relentless and sustained...There will be no let-up in this campaign”;

WHEREAS, further, he said, “To our police officers and other officials...Abuse your authority, and there will be hell to pay, for you will have become worse than criminality itself”;

WHEREAS, the President himself and the PNP hierarchy acknowledged the possibility that some of the killings are due to drug syndicates, as well as crooked police officers and public officials eliminating those who might expose them;

WHEREAS, there should be no compromise on the necessity to rid the country of crime and narcotics; an intensified campaign against illegal drugs is laudable and, in fact, long-overdue;

WHEREAS, this relentless campaign must, nonetheless, be waged with the highest regard for the protection of life and respect for human rights; its methods must be conducted in such ways that will spare casualties among innocents, and accord due process to suspects;

WHEREAS, instituting safeguards are vital to prevent the anti-drug and anti-crime campaigns from being discredited as a result of due process and human rights violations;

WHEREAS, vigilante killings, whether emboldened by the heightened anti-drug offensive or committed for political or personal motivations, must be prevented and condemned;

WHEREAS, a police force that has claimed for itself the unchecked power of life and death over the citizenry poses as much of a danger to society as the proliferation of illegal drugs;

WHEREAS, given the President’s acknowledgment of the aforementioned possibilities and the need for adherence to human and civil rights standards by all law enforcement agencies in the anti-drug campaign, an inquiry into the spate of drug-related extrajudicial killings is of utmost importance and urgency;


NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the House of Representatives oppose the use of extrajudicial killings by law enforcement agencies amid Pres. Rodrigo Duterte's intensified campaign to end the illegal drug trade, and investigate, in aid of legislation, mounting complaints of alleged drug-related extrajudicial killings.

*Adopted,*



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**Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO**  
*ACT Teachers Party-List*



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**Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO**  
*ACT Teachers Party-List*



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**Rep. EMMI A. DE JESUS**  
*Gabriela Women's Party*



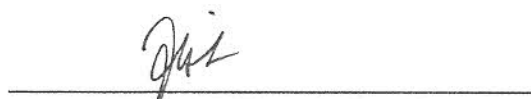
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**Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**  
*BAYAN MUNA Party-List*




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



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**Rep. ARIEL B. CASILAO**  
*ANAKPAWIS Party-List*



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**Rep. SARAH JANE L. ELAGO**  
*KABATAAN Party-List*