



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON™

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PHILIPPINE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Sponsor: Maria Linares

Co-Sponsors: Janica Torres, Lauren Loeb, Skylar Soria, Marcus Reveles

WHEREAS, The Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates as an auxiliary organization of California State University, Fullerton; and

WHEREAS, ASI is governed by ASI Board of Directors, who set policy for the organization, approve all funding allocations to programs and services, and advocate on behalf of student interests on committees and boards; and

WHEREAS, California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) has a 4.2% Pilipinx student population¹ and is home to Pilipinx faculty, administration, and staff; and

WHEREAS, CSUF's Pilipinx American Student Association (PASA) Kaibigan is a recognized student organization at CSUF that provides community, belonging, and cultural and political education about the Pilipinx community in the Philippines and the diaspora. PASA is also the largest cultural group on campus with over 200 Pilipinx and non-Pilipinx members; and

WHEREAS, PASA annually hosts Friendship Games, one of the premier student events at CSUF and the largest west coast student event that draws roughly 5,000 Pilipinx and non-Pilipinx students from across California and the U.S., all of whom may be affected by the implications of the Anti-Terror Law; and

WHEREAS, The Anti-Terror Bill was introduced in the Philippines by President Rodrigo Duterte's administration to impose stricter guidelines on the 2007 Human Security Act, and was signed into law by President Duterte in July 2020, becoming the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020, widely known as the Anti-Terror Law; and

WHEREAS, The law expanded the definition of terrorism, allowing for various interpretations of who can be deemed a "terrorist" to the state. As a result, the law criminalizes government critique and political education that brings awareness to human rights violations, and vilifies dissent as "terroristic intent," which targets Filipinos in the Philippines and oversees, as well as non-Pilipinx human rights defenders, critical journalists, scholars, and students to be wrongfully suspected and convicted of terrorism; and

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_State_University,_Fullerton#cite_note-22; "Ethnicity Enrollment Profile". www.calstate.edu. Retrieved 2019-07-09

WHEREAS, Those deemed “terrorists” under the Anti-Terror Law may be subject to provisions that include but are not limited to: unwarranted surveillance, arrest without warrant, and detention up to 24 days; and

WHEREAS, These provisions eliminate due process safeguards put in place to protect citizens, restrict freedom of speech, and intimidate those who attempt to criticize the Philippine government, all of which are in complete violation of Philippine constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, On October 16, 2020, the Philippines’s Anti-Terrorism Council released the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR) and moved forward with the Anti-Terror Law; and

WHEREAS, The Philippines’ Foreign Ministry ²insists that what the Anti-Terror Law “signifies is the Philippine government’s strong resolve to combat terrorism and to implement a more effective and comprehensive approach to such a serious threat that knows no borders,” and

WHEREAS, The Anti-Terror Law has alarmed the United Nations Human Rights Council, and has brought to light the human rights violations committed by the Duterte administration, including extrajudicial killings ³of human rights defenders and labor organizers and the red-tagging of activists and allies through social media; and

WHEREAS, Since Duterte’s presidency in 2016, \$550 million U.S. tax dollars as military aid ⁴ has funded increased militarization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippines National Police (PNP). This has resulted in systematic human rights violations under the guise of the “Drug War” and a militarized response to the COVID-19 pandemic⁵; and

WHEREAS, Given the implications of the Anti-Terror Law and the vilification of dissent and critique of the Philippine government, there is concern that the Pilipinx student community at CSUF are unsure of the safety and security of their family and friends in the Philippines, as well as their safety here in California within the diaspora; and

WHEREAS, Across the 23 CSU campuses and the California State Student Association (CSSA), students have voiced their concerns regarding human rights violations in the Philippines, actively condemning the Anti-Terror Law, endorsing the Philippine Human Rights Act (PHRA), and educating their peers and communities on the injustice in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, The Pilipinx community at CSUF and their allies have expressed concern and opposition to the Anti-Terror Law and human rights violations, and have called for action to endorse the PHRA; and

² <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-security/philippines-defends-anti-terror-law-before-u-s-congress-idUSKBN24J06T>

³ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/philippines>

⁴ <https://thediplomat.com/2020/09/us-bill-aims-to-end-aid-to-philippines-military-and-police/>

⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/09/08/killings-philippines-50-percent-during-pandemic>

WHEREAS, In response to the innumerable human rights violations ⁶ committed by the Duterte administration, the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP-US), Malaya Movement, and Kabataan Alliance have come together to put forth the Philippine Human Rights Act; and

WHEREAS, the PHRA “seeks to suspend United States security assistance to the Philippines until such time as human rights violations by Philippine security forces cease and the responsible state forces are held accountable”; and

WHEREAS, Congressional representative Susan Wild, representing the 7th congressional district of Pennsylvania, introduced and sponsored the PHRA as a bill (H.R. 8313) ⁷ to Congress, while asserting that the U.S. will not participate in the repression [of the Filipino people]; and

WHEREAS, BILL H.R. 8313 currently has 29 congressional co-sponsors including Representatives Ilhan Omar and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez; and therefore let it be

RESOLVED, that Associated Students Inc. at California State University, Fullerton stands in solidarity with the Pilipinx American Student Association (PASA) Kaibigan and Bayanihan Kollektive at CSUF, our Pilipinx community in California, and Filipinos around the world in their fight for human rights, safety amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and against the implications of the Anti-Terror Law; and let it be further

RESOLVED, That Associated Students Inc. at California State University, Fullerton condemns the reprehensible human rights violations conducted by the Duterte administration, including, but not limited to the passing of the Anti-terror Law; and let it be further

RESOLVED, That Associated Students Inc. at California State University, Fullerton stands in solidarity with our Pilipinx students and the broader Pilipinx population and in support of the principles and concepts of the Philippine Human Rights Act, Bill H.R.8313, as it currently sits in the 116th Congress, whose term is coming to a close, and will consider extending support for the bill in its new form in the next legislative term when the 117th Congress convenes in January 2021; and let it be further

RESOLVED, That Associated Students Inc. will support campus efforts in educating students on the issues and human rights violations happening in the Philippines and how the PHRA can help stop the oppression of the Filipino people; and let it be further

⁶ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020/country-chapters/philippines>

⁷ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8313/text?r=6&s=1>

RESOLVED, That Associated Students Inc. at California State University, Fullerton calls upon the CSUF Academic Senate to consider passing a resolution in support of the PHRA when the bill is reintroduced in the 117th Congress in 2021; and let it be further

RESOLVED, That Associated Students Inc. at California State University, Fullerton calls upon the Cal State Student Association (CSSA) and the California State University Chancellor's Office to openly condemn the human rights violations committed by the current Philippine presidency and the Anti-Terror Law, and endorse the PHRA; and let it be further

RESOLVED, That Associated Students Inc. calls upon Congressional Representative Young Kim of California's 39th Congressional district to join Representative Susan Wild and the additional 29 congressional representatives in sponsoring Bill H.R. 8313; and let it be further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution will be distributed to: the students of CSUF; University President Framoze Virjee; Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs; Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Tonantzin Oseguera; President of Student Life & Leadership Alisa Flowers; the Office of the Dean of Students; the CSUF Academic Senate; the California Faculty Association (CFA); the Cal State Student Association (CSSA) and all 23 CSU Student Governments; Chief Raymund Aguirre of the University Police Department (UPD); CSU Chancellor Timothy White; CSU Chancellor-select Joseph Castro; Congressional Representative Young Kim; and the California State University Board of Trustees.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Associated Students Inc., California State University, Fullerton on the first day of December in the year two thousand and twenty.


MARIA LINARES (Dec 2, 2020 14:47 PST)

Maria Linares
Chair, Board of Directors


Selene Hanna (Dec 2, 2020 14:48 PST)

Selene Hanna
Treasurer/Secretary, Board of Directors