

A RESOLUTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH ANAKBAYAN AT UCLA AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

WHEREAS the recent July 2020 passage and signing of the Anti Terror Law in the Philippines has deeply alarmed the United Nations Human Rights council and emboldened the open fascism of the Duterte regime, leading to extrajudicial killings, red-tagging, the vilification of dissent, and unlawful detentions;¹

WHEREAS Karapatan, a leading Human Rights alliance in the Philippines has documented human rights violations for decades. Under President Duterte's term in office from July 2016-April 2020, they have documented over 300 Extra-judicial killings (not including those connected to President Duterte's War on Drugs), over 2,500 incidences of illegal arrest, 100,000+ incidents of harassment, surveillance and 45,000+ uses of churches, medical clinics, schools, and other public places for military purposes. All before the Anti Terror Law became effective²;

WHEREAS the human rights abuses encouraged and supported by the Anti Terror Law in the Philippines deeply affects the international Filipino community, including Filipino students across the UC and at UCLA, and has led to the targeting and attacks of members of UCLA's local Anakbayan chapter through social media attacks ³;

WHEREAS 50 congressional representatives across the United States have condemned the Anti Terror Law, including Representatives Ilhan Omar and Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, but barring local congressional representatives such as Ted Lieu and Karen Bass⁴;

WHEREAS in an open letter created by Anakbayan UCLA to Congressman Ted Lieu, over 275+ individuals and organizations with 115 from the UCLA community, including, but not limited to: Samahang Pilipino, the 580 Cafe, the Student Labor Advocacy Project, Students for Justice in Palestine, Students Against Hindutva Ideology, LCC Theatre Company, Pilipinx Pre-law Pipeline, Bruin Consent Coalition, UCLA Radio, UCLA Women's Rugby, and Union Centroamericana de UCLA⁵;

WHEREAS the human rights abuses encouraged by the Anti Terror Law and carried out by the Duterte regime are made possible through over half a billion USD in military aid from the US government and billions of dollars in arms sales from U.S. weapons manufacturers^{6,7};

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25924>

² <https://www.karapatan.org/Karapatan-Monitor-Jan-Apr2020>

³ https://www.rappler.com/technology/263120-i-dont-feel-safe-facebook-ghost-accounts-demand-better-account-protection?fbclid=IwAR3rltWMJmrSrfv6r4DoFN6bbyCXI5xtmUsQCgdHO_RbsB7D8Mo8ZhGFv8
https://www.rappler.com/technology/263120-i-dont-feel-safe-facebook-ghost-accounts-demand-better-account-protection?fbclid=IwAR3rltWMJmrSrfv6r4DoFN6bbyCXI5xtmUsQCgdHO_RbsB7D8Mo8ZhGFv8

⁴ <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ebd6cd50c128360664cb9bd/t/5f0f6776722c7d6c3e9df79a/1594845046597/7.15.2020+FI+NAL+Letter+to+Philippines+Ambassador+re+Anti-terrorism+Law+Concerns+w+letterhead.pdf>

⁵ https://drive.google.com/file/d/17sngDfZd9QCyt-RYZae_QC63xqNeG89b/view?usp=sharing

⁶ <https://www.businessinsider.com/philippine-official-defends-us-pact-after-duterte-threat-2020-2>

⁷ <https://www.verticalmag.com/news/philippines-attack-helicopter-approval/>

WHEREAS the University of California system and UCLA is a public institution, and through student funding and tuition utilizes the investments manager Blackrock and is therefore heavily invested in the military-industrial complex and various arms manufacturers such as Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Boeing, General Dynamics, and Northrop Grumman- from which the Duterte regime has previously bought arms⁸⁹¹⁰;

WHEREAS a grassroots coalition of people of faith, students, unions, and community groups have come together to draft and advocate for the introduction and the passing of the Philippine Human Rights Act in the United States Congress ¹¹;

WHEREAS The Philippine Human Rights Act would "suspend United States security assistance to the Philippines until such time as human rights violations by Philippine security forces cease and responsible state forces are held accountable" ¹²;

WHEREAS the AFL-CIO, the nationwide union that represents AFSCME 3299, AFT Local 1099, and the plethora of unions and workers represented by the UCLA Labor Coalition, strongly supports the passage of and advocates for the PHRA¹³;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the USAC stands in strong solidarity with Anakbayan at UCLA and their members in their student advocacy against U.S imperialism, human rights violations and extrajudicial killings in the Philippines.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the USAC endorses the Philippine Human Rights Act and calls upon local congressional reps (Representative Lieu and Representative Bass) to introduce the PHRA and call for a hearing on the Philippines Human Rights situation in the US House Foreign Affairs Committee.

LET IT BE FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the USAC calls upon the University of California to openly condemn the Anti Terror Law in the Philippines and express support for the Philippine Human Rights Act.

⁸ <https://www.codepink.org/blackrock>

⁹<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-05-30/blackrock-goes-to-college-to-bolster-private-equity-dealmaking>

¹⁰ https://afscme3299.org/documents/media/WhitePaper_MissingTheMark.pdf

¹¹ <https://humanrightsp.org/>

¹² <https://humanrightsp.org/about>

¹³ <https://aflcio.org/about/leadership/statements/congress-should-introduce-and-pass-philippines-human-rights-act>