

**THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**

Bill Number: Senate Resolution #2021-02
Title: Support for the Philippine Human Rights Act (PHRA)
Sponsored by: Vice President Maythe Alderete Gonzalez, Senator-at-Large Sumaiyah Hossain
Co-Sponsored by: Chief Government Relations Officer Mateo Maya
Date Submitted: October 2, 2020
Date Approved: October 14, 2020

WHEREAS the California State University (CSU) encourages CSU campuses to “embrace the culture and heritage of their surrounding regions as sources of individuality and strength” and “protect the University as a forum for the discussion and critical examination of ideas, findings, and conclusions;”¹ and

WHEREAS the Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) Board of Directors at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) is the recognized voice for over 38,000 students; and

WHEREAS that it is the responsibility of the ASI Board of Directors at CSULB and the State of California to advocate for the safety of public university facilities and those occupying them; and

WHEREAS that the 2010 U.S. Census reported an approximate Filipino population of 463,626 in the Los Angeles Metropolitan area that includes Long Beach;² and

WHEREAS the CSULB Fall 2006 data shows that Filipinos and Pacific Islanders made up 7.1% of the total 28,600 student population;³ and

WHEREAS that under Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte the number of killings from the war on drugs rose to approximately 30,000, and over 456,103 civilians have been forcefully displaced as a result of the Philippine Armed Forces bombing of civilians;⁴ and

WHEREAS that the following lists the ongoing human rights violations under President Rodrigo Duterte:

- the House of Representatives approved a bill that lowered the minimum age of criminal responsibility from age 15 to 12, thus endangering the youth rather than reducing crime
- the government’s anti-drug, physical, and mental health resources are largely unavailable and inaccessible
- freedom of speech and expression, especially by those critical of the government, continues to be threatened

¹ <https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/about-the-csu/Pages/mission.aspx>

² https://archive.vn/20200212200157/http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/DEC/10_SF2/SF2DP1/0100000US.31000/popgroup~038?slice=GEO~310M100US31100#

³ <http://web.csulb.edu/divisions/students/beachchoices/about/#:~:text=CSULB%20consists%20of%20a%20diverse,0.7%20percent%20Native%20American%20students.>

⁴ <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/cut-us-aid-to-the-philippines-support-philippine-human-rights-act>

**THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**

- the Department of Education closed approximately 50 schools that served the indigenous Lumad children under the pretense that students were being taught to rebel against the government
- the President declined to certify the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) Equality Bill
- the workers have gone on strike on several occasions to speak against unfair working conditions and lack of benefits; these strikes and protests often result in violence against, arrests, and deaths of protestors;⁵ and

WHEREAS the Philippine government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in extreme cases of highly militarized police brutality for not abiding with lockdown restriction, such as shooting, detaining, caging, and abusing individuals who violated lockdown and curfew rules;⁶ and

WHEREAS President Rodrigo Duterte recently signed the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020, or Republic Act (RA) No. 11479, on July 3, 2020 that amends the Philippines' counterterrorism law;⁷ and

WHEREAS the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 allows suspects of terrorism to be detained without an issued warrant, prolongs length of detainment without a court charge, and removes the due process that previously allowed suspects to be presented before a judge who assessed whether the suspect had been subject to physical or mental torture;⁸ and

WHEREAS the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 defines terrorism as:

- Engaging in acts intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to any person or endangers a person's life;
- Engaging in acts intended to cause extensive damage or destruction to a government or public facility, public place, or private property;
- Engaging in acts intended to cause extensive interference with, damage, or destruction to critical infrastructure;
- Developing, manufacturing, possessing, acquiring, transporting, supplying, or using weapons; and
- Releasing dangerous substances, causing fire, floods or explosions with the intent of intimidating the general public, creating an atmosphere or message of fear, provoking the government or any international organization, destabilizing or destroying the fundamental political, economic, or social structures in the country, creating a public emergency or undermining public safety;⁹ and

⁵ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/asia-and-the-pacific/philippines/report-philippines/>

⁶ https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/4/29/Philippines-COVID-19-quarantine-police-military.html?fbclid=IwAR00B8UB3DDirFjdTqW9jG2H0aCjBv_y3cVDWmEcnaRuGNuI0SL6PfJnZDM

⁷ <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2020/07/03/republic-act-no-11479/>

⁸ <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/03/world/asia/duterte-antiterrorism-law-philippines.html>

⁹ <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2020/06jun/20200703-RA-11479-RRD.pdf>

**THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**

- WHEREAS** that several civil rights groups have voiced concerns of the dangers and infringement of rights this broader definition of terrorism allows;¹⁰ and
- WHEREAS** the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 has been condemned by 50 congressional representatives throughout the United States, including local Representative Alan Lowenthal, Ilhan Omar, and Alexandria Ocasio Cortez;¹¹ and
- WHEREAS** that the U.S. has provided over \$550 million taxpayer monies in military assistance to the Philippines from 2016-19;¹² and
- WHEREAS** that the taxpayer money could have been re-distributed to fund public education, healthcare services, and other necessary social services rather than support the Anti-Terrorism Act; and
- WHEREAS** the concerns of the profound distress on the international Filipino community, particularly Filipino student members of UCLA’s local Anakbayan chapter, national Filipino leaders of BAYAN-USA, GABRIELA-USA, and MIGRANTE INTERNATIONAL that have experienced targeted social media attacks by fake accounts linked to the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines;^{13 14} and
- WHEREAS** the Philippine Human Rights Act looks “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;”¹⁵ and
- WHEREAS** the ASI Board of Directors at CSULB does not operate in isolation and strives to be aware of local, state, national, and global issues that affect CSULB students, faculty, and staff; now therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the ASI Board of Directors at CSULB stands in solidarity with Anakbayan Long Beach in condemning Duterte’s Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that ASI Board of Directors at CSULB endorses the Philippine Human Rights Act and calls upon our local representatives to request a hearing with the U.S. House of Foreign Affairs Committee to discuss the PHRA; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that ASI Lobby Corps shall advocate for the PHRA during its lobbying visits at the local, state, and federal level and shall include the PHRA in its 2020-21 policy agenda; and

¹⁰ <https://www.npr.org/2020/07/21/893019057/why-rights-groups-worry-about-the-philippines-new-anti-terrorism-law>

¹¹ <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ebd6cd50c128360664cb9bd/t/5f0f6776722c7d6c3e9df79a/1594845046597/7.15.2020+FINAL+Letter+to+Philippines+Ambassador+re+Anti-terrorism+Law+Concerns+w+letterhead.pdf>

¹² <https://www.npr.org/2020/02/11/804751958/philippines-says-it-will-end-u-s-security-agreement>

¹³ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1338799/embargo-until-3am-fake-accounts-traced-to-ph-police-military-shut-down-by-facebook>

¹⁴ <https://www.rappler.com/technology/i-dont-feel-safe-facebook-ghost-accounts-demand-better-account-protection>

¹⁵ <https://humanrightsp.org/>

**THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**



be it finally

RESOLVED that an electronic copy of this resolution, upon approval by the ASI President, be distributed to California Governor Gavin Newsom, CSU Chancellor Joseph Castro, Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, Long Beach City Council Members, CSULB President Jane Conoley, Provost Brian Jersky, Vice President of Student Affairs Beth Lessen, Chair of Academic Senate Jessica Pandya, Dean of Students Piya Bose, the Cal State Student Association, all current and future ASI Officers, the Daily 49er, and 22 West Media.

DocuSigned by:
Maythe Alderete Gonzales
D50CAB5126DF405...

Maythe Alderete Gonzales, Vice President &
Chair, Associated Students Board of Directors

Delivered to the President of the Associated Students on:

10/27/2020

DocuSigned by:
Omar Prudencio Gonzalez
8059C88DA91940D...

Omar Prudencio Gonzalez, Associated Students President

Date
10/27/2020

###