



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BENGUET

La Trinidad

SANGGUNIAN PANLALAWIGAN OFFICE

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Telefax: (074) 422-6530

REGULAR MEETING, October 6, 2008

PRESENT: HON. ALBERT T. BASILIO, SCOFAD Vice Governor & Presiding Officer
HON. CASTILLO C. BESWENG, SCOFAD Board Member
HON. TERESITA A. SINONG, SCOFAD Board Member
HON. GEORGE A. CIBANGAY, SCOFAD Board Member
HON. ARTHUR B. HADSAN, SCOFAD Board Member
HON. FELIMON G. BORAS, SCOFAD Board Member
HON. ALEJANDRO E. CASILLA, SCOFAD Board Member
HON. PRIMITIVA B. BINAY-AN, SCOFAD Board Member
HON. LARRY N. TINOYAN, SCOFAD Board Member
HON. DOROTHEA S. LICTAG, SCOFAD Board Member
HON. FLORENCE A. CAYAT, SCOFAD Board Member
HON. CERILO B. LAGMAN, SCOFAD PCL Chairman, Ex-Officio Member
HON. JAMES L. EMOCK, SCOFAD Liga ng mga Barangay President, Ex-Officio Member
HON. MANAY S. PLAN, SCOFAD SKF President, Ex-Officio Member

ABSENT: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 08 - 14

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. JAMES M. BALAO, FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE CORDILLERA PEOPLES ALLIANCE (CPA) AND CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE SURFACING AND RELEASE OF MR. JAMES M. BALAO BY HIS CAPTORS

WHEREAS, this body was informed that Mr. James M. Balao was forcibly taken at Lower Tomay, Bahong, La Trinidad, Benguet on 17 September 2008, around 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM by men believed to be elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police's military intelligence and security units;

WHEREAS, Mr. James M. Balao is a member of Kankanaey and Ibaloi tribes of Benguet province, tracing his roots from Sayangan, Atok and is the eldest of four siblings born to Mr. Arthur Balao and Ms. Jane Moy Balao, currently residents of Pico, La Trinidad, Benguet;

WHEREAS, Mr. James M. Balao is an active member of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) since its founding in 1984, has contributed his research and education skills to advocate people's issues, made invaluable contributions to elucidating the problem of national oppression and the rights of indigenous peoples to ancestral land and to self-determination, particularly through services

provided among people's organizations in CPA's chapters in Itogon, Mankayan, La Trinidad that included socio-economic projects (waterworks and construction of multipurpose building in Mankayan, gym construction in Tawang, scholarship programs, and the Standby Medical Fund for Indigent Patients in the Benguet General Hospital from 2005-2006) facilitated through CPA and its NGO partners and partylist Bayan Muna;

WHEREAS, Mr. James M. Balao has invaluablely devoted his skills to the OCLUPAN Clan Association, of which he is currently the President, and was responsible for the documentation and registration of the clan's properties;

WHEREAS, this body was further informed that, starting last week of April 2008, Mr. Balao reported regular surveillance to his family and the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA), which increasingly heightened until his disappearance last week and that he had often observed white and blue vans tailing him from his residence to his daily chores,

WHEREAS, his enforced disappearance is perceived to be a persecution of activists and civilians critical of government,

WHEREAS, this enforced disappearance is alarming as it clearly curtails and threatens democratic rights in this province and in the Philippines in general;

WHEREAS, enforced disappearances is contrary to the customs and traditions of the Benguet indigenous peoples that advocate peace;

WHEREAS, the officials of the City of Baguio likewise condemned the said disappearance of Mr. James Balao on September 29, 2008 and have extended full assistance to the Balao Family, the CPA and CHRA in search of Mr. James M. Balao;


NOW THEREFORE, on motion duly seconded, be it


RESOLVED, as it is hereby done, to condemn the enforced disappearance of Mr. James M. Balao, founding member of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA), and to call for the immediate surfacing and release of Mr. James M. Balao by his captors;

RESOLVED, FURTHER, to furnish copies of this resolution to Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), Department of National Defense (DND), Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Justice (DoJ), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Commission of Human Rights (CHR), the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), and the Joint Monitoring Committee on CARHRIHL (GRP-NDFP).


CARRIED.






CASTILLO C. BESWENG
SCOFAD Board Member

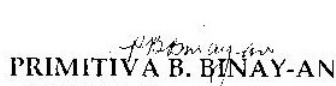

TERESITA A. SINONG
SCOFAD Board Member



GEORGE A. TIBANGAY
SCOFAD Board Member



ARTHUR B. HADSAN
SCOFAD Board Member



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SCOFAD Board Member

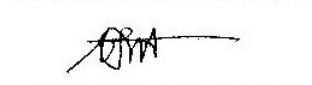

ALEJANDRO E. CASILLA
SCOFAD Board Member



PRIMITIVA B. BINAY-AN
SCOFAD Board Member

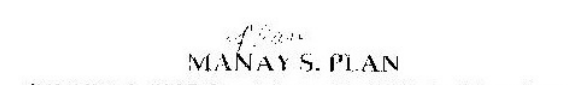

LARRY N. TILOYAN
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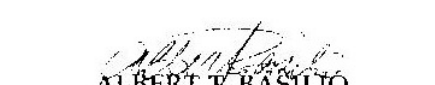

JAMES L. EMOCK
SCOFAD Liga ng mga Barangay
President, Ex-Officio Member


MANAY S. PLAN
SCOFAD SKF President, Ex-Officio Member

CERTIFIED CORRECT


FRENZIL A. AYONG
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:


ALBERT F. BASILTO
SCOFAD Provincial Vice Governor