



Pilipino American Collegiate Endeavor of

San Francisco State University

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STATEMENT ON THE ANTI-TERROR LAW

Organization: Pilipino American Collegiate Endeavor

Sunday, July 12th, 2020

We, the Pilipino American Collegiate Endeavor, condemn the signing of the Anti-Terror Bill into law on July 3rd, 2020 by the Duterte administration.

The Anti-Terror Law gives a vague description about what terrorism looks like and who the terrorists are according to the Duterte administration. Under this law, any individual can be in suspicion of being a terrorist even through the simplest actions such as participating in a protest, criticizing the actions of Duterte on social media, or gathering with a few people talking about the wrongdoings of the government. People who are in suspicion could face dire consequences such as being arrested without a warrant, or being detained for up to 24 days, and the assigned council, or military, or police would have the ability to conduct unknown surveillance, access databases, and freeze assets.

The Anti-Terrorism Bill will allow the Philippine government to label and treat any Filipino citizen, including those living abroad, a “terrorist” for expressing dissent and criticism against the Philippine government, and especially the Duterte administration. With this law put into place, it will exclude Duterte from taking responsibility for all the cruelties he has done such as extra judicial killings, using militarization as a response to the pandemic, infringing the rights of Indigenous people, and so much more. In addition, due to the vague interpretations of this written legislature, the effects of this law could possibly extend towards Filipino-Americans and Filipinos born outside of the Philippines. This law is a measurement being used by the Duterte administration to shut down the voices of people who are against the iniquity of Duterte. It is violating the freedom of speech and democracy of millions of Filipinos all around the world. Duterte signed the Anti-Terror Law, abusing his power, to strategically put people in fear when it comes to mobilizing and taking action against his fascist leadership. In other words, the law will enforce the permanence of martial law on the Philippine people.

Our organization stands with Filipinos who are standing up against and challenging the Duterte administration.

The following statements are what we stand for:

- We highly denounce the passing of the Anti-Terror Law.
- We stand with the social and political activists that are fighting against the injustices of the Duterte administration.
- We call on lawmakers, legislatures, and representatives to overturn and fight against the passing of the Anti-Terrorism Law.
- We call on all Filipinos, Filipino-Americans, and allies to stand against this cruel attack of freedom of speech and human rights.
- We call on the Duterte administration to ratify the Anti-Terror Law and to prioritize the public health and safety of the people of the Philippines, especially in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To our kababayans and barkadas, both nationally and internationally: This law is an attack on the Philippine people and on our human rights. We urge everyone to use their platforms, to speak up, and to raise awareness of the injustices being committed against our community. The discrimination will not end here and it will not end soon. Resist and fight against it.

In solidarity,

The 54th Kore of the Pilipino American Collegiate Endeavor