

Violent arrest of Akbayan! Partylist representative in women's day rally!

Wednesday 8 March 2006, by [Akbayan](#) (Date first published: 8 March 2006).

AKBAYAN! Citizen's Action Party
Manila, Philippines
March 8, 2006

Today, Akbayan! Representative Risa Hontiveros was violently arrested by plainclothes men in the middle of the rally while negotiating with police to allow her and the women members of the Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL) to conduct their peaceful march in celebration of the International Women's Day. Also arrested was APL Sec. Gen. Joshua Mata who along with Rep. Risa Hontiveros filed charges against those arresting police officers in civilian clothes in the police headquarters in Camp Karingal.

On March 6, 2006 Jessie Dimaisip, another Akbayan Leader was also brought to Camp Karingal for reasons of illegal assembly during a women's mobilization to kick off the women's month celebration.

The series of arrest in all peaceful assemblies' only shows that even after the March 3, 2006 lifting of Proclamation 1017(declaration of "state of emergency"), the use of state terror by the Arroyo government against the people and the opposition increases the level of repression! Therefore, the crime of Gloria continues.

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Let us all strongly unite for the protection of our civil liberties and for the promotion of democracy, freedom and justice.

PRESS RELEASE

March 8, 2006

Akbayan! Citizen's Action Party

AKBAYAN Solon violently arrested by policemen during women's march

AKBAYAN Rep. Risa Hontiveros was arrested violently by police officers in civilian clothes while she was marching with women members of the Alliance for Progressive Labor for the celebration of the International Women's Day. The solon said that they were peacefully marching from Sto. Domingo church when they were blocked by policemen. She was negotiating for the continuation of the march when she was literally hauled by policemen in civilian clothes to a police car and brought to Camp Caringal.

The solon said that her arrest is a veritable proof that despite the lifting of Proclamation 1017, the

President is bent on violating civil liberties to silence those who simply wish to have the truth exposed. "It is not enough to say that women are ashamed of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Her underhanded draconian tactics betray her capacity to be the next Marcos. Does this arrest mean that protesting against her anti-women policies is tantamount to rebellion?"

The solon also challenged Congress to speak out against this blatant disregard for the independence of Congress. "That a member of this institution had been arrested despite parliamentary immunity shows the disregard of GMA with the independence of Congress. The government now feels that it may pluck out members of the opposition from Congress, prevent them from performing their duties to their constituents, and silence whatever democratic opposition there is in the country.

The solon said that she would file charges against the policemen who arrested her. "Under the Revised Penal Code, this arrest is already in violation of parliamentary immunity. They are overstepping their boundaries already, and this is precisely why we are saying that the unconstitutional and illegal draconian measures from Malacanang are giving the police a sense of impunity," Rep. Hontiveros said

Party-list representative arrested in Women's Day rally

First posted 12:06pm (Mla time) Mar 08, 2006

By D.J. Yap

Inquirer

AKBAYAN party-list Representative Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel was arrested during a Women's Day rally at the Mabuhay Rotonda in Quezon City on Wednesday morning, reports said.

Baraquel was with about 1,000 other members of the Akbayan and the Alliance of Progressive Labor when arrested by anti-riot policewomen and taken to a van. She was to be taken to police headquarters in Camp Karingal, according to reports.

The arrest came during a police dispersal of the protesters who failed to produce a permit to hold a rally, reports said.

The protesters were planning to march to Mendiola, near Malacañang, to call attention to women's issues, including trafficking, the Subic rape case, and child pornography, reports said.

The ralliers were also calling for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Joshua Mata of the Alliance of Progressive Labor was also arrested, according to reports.

Police decided to disperse the crowd after an hour-long negotiation, which started at 10:30 a.m., according to reports.

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/storypage.aspx?StoryId=32069>

Police arrest another partylist lawmaker

Members of the anti-riot police of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) on Wednesday arrested Akbayan Rep. Ana Theresia Hontiveros-Baraquel, DZMM reported.

The arrest came after negotiations failed between police and demonstrators at the Welcome Rotonda in Quezon City Wednesday morning. Baraquel is one of the leaders of the groups holding protest to mark the International Women's Day.

The report said Baraquel was taken to the QCPD headquarters in Camp Karingal.

Another leader of the protesters, Johsua Mata of the Alliance of Progressive Labor, was also arrested along with Baraquel.