



SENATE  
P.S.R. No. 295

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RECEIVED BY: 

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED POOR FORENSIC  
INVESTIGATION BY PHILIPPINE AUTHORITIES

WHEREAS, according to the London-based rights group Amnesty International (AI), poor forensic investigation by Philippine authorities is a major stumbling block in getting justice for victims of extrajudicial killings;

WHEREAS, AI Philippine director Aurora Parong reportedly said that even if cases had been filed against alleged perpetrators of summary executions, justice remained elusive; she said that it's because forensic investigations of human rights violations are not done with due diligence, either because of unwillingness to do so or because of incompetence to do good investigations;

WHEREAS, she also reportedly decried the alleged slow prosecution of cases of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and other human rights violations; she likewise said that the officials of the Department of Justice and the judiciary should give focus on rendering justice to victims of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances;

WHEREAS, AI noted that while incidents dipped last year, extrajudicial killings and disappearances continued; Parong allegedly said that while families of victims of killings and abductions could resort to filing for writs of Amparo and habeas data to get justice, these were hardly known to most people; the AI official also reportedly urged lawmakers to "work fast" in crafting legislation improving the witness protection program and malting extrajudicial killing a crime different from murder;

WHEREAS, AI had earlier warned that killings and abductions of activists could surge again this year unless the government effectively prosecuted the perpetrators; in its 2008 report on worldwide human rights, AI noted that cases dropped due to international pressure, but said that "few prosecutions" were brought against the perpetrators;

WHEREAS, according to AI, there were 33 victims of extrajudicial killings in 2007, down from 61 to 96 cases the previous year, while there were only several victims of disappearance last year;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged poor forensic investigation by Philippine authorities.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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