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Introduced by Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED EXISTENCE OF THE DAVAO DEATH SQUAD

**Whereas**, Davao City is noted for a very good peace and order situation, reports also abound about the alleged existence of a vigilante group that conducts summary executions of criminals such as drug pushers, petty thieves and the like;

**Whereas**, This vigilante group, also known as the "Davao Death Squad" is a shadowy vigilante group whose mission is supposedly to make Davao City crime-free;

**Whereas**, Reports on the existence of the Davao Death Squad have also reached the attention of no less than the United Nations as well as other international human rights groups;

**Whereas**, According to reports, since 1998, a total of 814 deaths have been attributed to vigilantes who usually ride in motorcycles in groups of two and use high-powered guns to kill their victims;

**Whereas**, The same report also stated that out of the 814 victims, 73 victims are minors;

**Whereas**, in the 103 page report entitled "You Can Die Any Time: Death Squad Killings in Mindanao," the Human Rights Watch tackled the alleged involvement of police and local government officials in the targeted killing of alleged drug dealers and petty criminals, street children and others who they perceive continue to besmirch the reputation of the city;

**Whereas**, The same report also cited the lack of any effort by the authorities to investigate the killings and bring those responsible to justice;

**Whereas**, Alarmed by the rising incidence of summary executions in Davao City, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has also stepped in to investigate the problem;

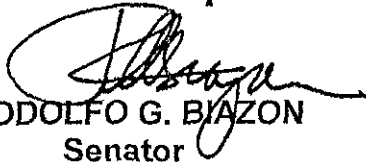
**Whereas**, The existence of a death squad is an indication of a lawless society. It is also a manifestation of the apparent ineffectiveness of police authorities and local government officials in maintaining law and order;

**Whereas**, There is therefore a need to look at existing laws, policies, rules and regulations to determine their effectiveness in preventing such lawless groups as the Davao Death Squad from doing their nefarious activities and if need be, offer legislative

solutions to remedy the problem; ***Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, As It Is Hereby Resolved,***

***By the Senate,*** To Direct the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security To Conduct An Inquiry, In Aid Of Legislation, On the Alleged Existence of Davao Death Squad.

**Adopted,**

  
RODOLFO G. BIAZON  
Senator