

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 1503

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA TO CONDUCT AND INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE MASSACRE OF JOURNALISTS IN SHARIFF AGUAK, MAGUINDANAO, AND THE GROWING NUMBER OF UNRESOLVED KILLINGS OF MEDIA PERSONS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING POLICIES FOR THE STRONGER PROTECTION OF OUR GUARDIANS OF FREE SPEECH AND EXPRESSION**

Whereas, Last November 23, 2009, fifty-seven innocent civilians, non-combatants, including journalists, women and lawyers, were abducted and massacred in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao;

Whereas, The massacre was reported to be related to the coming 2010 elections in our country between feuding political clans;

Whereas, Whatever the motive is behind the massacre, we condemn this brutal and barbaric acts, all the more that it was committed against vulnerable sectors of society, namely, journalists who were only doing their jobs in upholding the freedom of expression and of the press, and women, some of whom were reportedly raped before being executed;

Whereas, there is a need to put a stop into the ever-growing number of unresolved killings perpetrated against journalists as this is an affront to our valued constitutional rights to information, free expression, and of the press;

Whereas, there is also the urgent necessity to call on the law enforcement agencies of the government to expedite the investigation of the carnage and immediately apprehend those responsible in order not to embolden criminals;

Now, therefore, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committee on Public Information and Mass Media to conduct and inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the massacre of journalists in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, and the growing number of unresolved killings of media persons, with the end in view of formulating policies for the stronger protection of our guardians of free speech and expression.

Adopted,

  
**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator