

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

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SENATE

P.S. RES. NO. 1505

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

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**A RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE GRUESOME MAGUINDANAO MASSACRE THAT CLAIMED THE LIVES OF AROUND FIVE DOZEN INNOCENT CIVILIANS MOSTLY WOMEN AND JOURNALISTS**

**Whereas**, the Philippines has gained global attention as a result of what is considered one of the worst election-related violence in the history of the country;

**Whereas**, last 23 November 2009, Vice Mayor Esmael Mangudadatu was set to file his certificate of candidacy for governor of Maguindanao;

**Whereas**, after being threatened with harm if he pursued his candidacy, he opted to send his wife, Gina, to file his certificate of candidacy thinking that in a country such as ours where women's rights are respected and upheld, no harm would befall on his wife;

**Whereas**, to further ensure protection, Gina was accompanied by several other companions, mostly women, and journalists;

**Whereas**, the convoy of Gina and her companions were waylaid on the way to the Comelec office in Maguindanao;

**Whereas**, what was intended to be an exercise of the constitutional right of suffrage ended up as a gruesome mass murder when ruthless criminals with twisted minds brutally murdered innocent civilians, mostly women and journalists;

**Whereas**, 57 bodies have been retrieved so far, with more bodies being uncovered from the ground where they were buried together with the vehicles;

**Whereas**, to add insult to injury, there are reports that the bodies of the victims, especially the women, have been sexually abused, mutilated and dishonored;

**Whereas**, no person in his right mind can begin to fathom how such a hideous crime, which is considered an affront to our country's democracy, was committed;

**Whereas**, because of this disgusting and horrific transgression on the life of the victims, dozens of children will grow up without mothers;

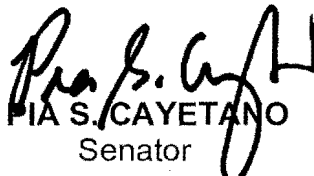
**Whereas**, after the recent passage of the Magna Carta of Women, which seeks to protect women's rights and ensure gender equality, this incident is a throwback to the dark ages where women's rights and dignity were not honored and recognized;

**Whereas**, it is likewise revolting how the government has not acted swiftly to uphold justice and put the masterminds behind jail;

**Whereas**, there is a need for the Senate to conduct an investigation on the matter to ensure that laws are in place to further protect innocent lives from being wasted, families from being broken, and children from growing up without a father or a mother;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the appropriate Senate Committee/s inquire, in aid of legislation, on the gruesome Maguindanao massacre.

*Adopted,*

  
PIA S. CAYETANO  
Senator