



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE
Senate Resolution No. 426

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY ON THE INCREASING INCIDENTS OF MEDIA KILLINGS

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution affirms that the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy;

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 4 of the Constitution strongly protects the freedom of the press;

WHEREAS, our country's state of press freedom and the lawful exercise of journalism have been tarnished by numerous reported cases of killings of media practitioners, who must be able to discharge their duty without fear of reprisal;

WHEREAS, the 2013 Reporters Without Borders press freedom index that reflects the attitude and intention of governments towards media freedom, ranked the Philippines 147th among 179 countries in the 2013 report;

WHEREAS, the Committee to Protect Journalists, an independent, nonprofit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide, reported that 72 journalists have been reported murdered and two killed on dangerous assignment in the Philippines since 1992;

WHEREAS, the Maguindanao massacre, which counts as victims 32 members of the media, remains unresolved and violence against media practitioners continue to persist;

WHEREAS, last November 29, 2013, radio broadcaster Joas Dignos was found dead in Valencia City, Bukidnon; on December 6, 2013, Michael Diaz Milo, broadcaster of Prime Radio FM in Tandag City, Surigao del Sur; on December 10, 2013, the shooting of Jonavin Villalbal occurred in Iloilo; and on December 11, the killing of Rogelio Butalid in Tagum City, Davao del Norte;

WHEREAS, the killing of journalists and media practitioners ought to be stopped and better measures sought to protect them while in the lawful exercise of their profession; *Now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights and the Committee and Public Information and Mass Media to conduct an inquiry on the rising incidents of media killings.

Adopted,


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator