

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 478

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NUMEROUS REPORTS OF SECURITY LAPSES IN THE NEW BILIBID PRISON, RESULTING TO INJURY AND DEATH OF INMATES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 provides: "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";

WHEREAS, on 8 January 2014, the *Philippine Star* reported that a grenade was lobbed at the roof of a mosque inside the NBP that hurt 3 inmates in the maximum security compound on 31 December 2013; another grenade-related incident was reported by the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 16 November 2012, where six inmates were hurt when a grenade was lobbed at them;

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported on 25 April 2013 that a stabbing incident took place inside the NBP's Calvary Church, resulting in a gang war that caused the death of two inmates and injury to two others;

WHEREAS, on 9 October 2013, the *Manila Times* reported that a quarrel over the coin game 'Cara y Cruz' triggered a riot at the maximum security area of the NBP that led to the death of an inmate and injury of 12 others;

WHEREAS, on 30 April 2013, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* newspaper reported that a raid conducted by NBP officials in the penitentiary compound yielded some 300 deadly weapons, including a .40-cal. Handgun, and improvised weapons such as knives and shotguns;


WHEREAS, on 16 February 2012, the *Sun Star* reported that a basketball game inside the NBP maximum security compound turned violent as players quarreled over a bad call by the referee, killing an inmate and hurting four others;

WHEREAS, these news reports expose the recurring problem of security breaches in the country's prisons, and the reports of violence escalating from these lapses are not unique in the NBP;

WHEREAS, Congress should strengthen and amend existing laws on the administration and maintenance of the country's penal system to ensure security and safety in our prisons for the safety of the prisoners and corrections officials;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct and inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the numerous reports of security lapses in the New Bilibid Prison, resulting to the injury and death of inmates.

Adopted,

*as*  
  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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