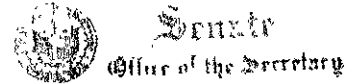


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



15 JUL 15 P 3 :09

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1430

RECEIVED BY: J

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT THAT THE PHILIPPINES
HAS A MAJOR PROBLEM IN HUMAN RIGHTS

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

4 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 11 also provides: “The State values the
5 dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights”;

6 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star* on 27 June 2015 reported that the U.S. State Department
7 raised concerns about impunity in the Philippines amid the government’s poor performance in
8 investigating and prosecuting human rights cases;

9 WHEREAS, *Star* quoted the U.S. 2014 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices
10 which said that insufficient personnel, inefficient processes and long procedural delays continued
11 to hinder the judicial system in the country;

12 WHEREAS, the situation allegedly led to widespread scepticism that the criminal justice
13 system could deliver due process and equal justice;


14 WHEREAS, the U.S. report also highlighted the violent activities attributed to terrorist
15 organizations such as the Abu Sayyaf Group, Jemaah Islamiya (JI) and the New People’s Army
16 (NPA), as well as elements associated with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)
17 and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF);

18 WHEREAS, security forces and police also allegedly abused and sometimes tortured
19 suspects and detainees by electric shock, cigarette burns, and suffocation;

20 WHEREAS, the government must review the Philippines’s criminal justice system to
21 expedite the investigation and prosecution of human rights cases;

1 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
2 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the U.S. State
3 Department report that Philippines has a major problem in human rights.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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/ctrs