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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1578

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE REPORT THAT ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE REMAINS A PROBLEM IN THE
COUNTRY DESPITE THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION AGAINST IT

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution provides in Article 2, Section 11, and Article 3, Section 1:

2 Article 2. Section 11. The state values the dignity of every human person
3 and guarantees full respect for human rights.

4 Article 3. Section 1. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or
5 property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal
6 protection of the laws.

7 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star* on 1 September 2015 reported that according to the
8 Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearance (AFAD), around 2,300 people in the
9 Philippines remain missing since the 1970s when martial law was declared in the country;

10 WHEREAS, AFAD claimed that in the past five years alone, 26 people were reported
11 missing in the Philippines;

12 WHEREAS, the Philippines is the first country in Asia to enact an anti-enforced
13 disappearance law, but no perpetrator has allegedly been convicted under the law;

14 WHEREAS, the *Star* reported that the United Nations Committee on Enforced
15 Disappearances and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances called on
16 states to establish and activate protocols for the immediate search of disappeared persons, in a
17 systematic way, across the world;


18 WHEREAS, the experts allegedly called on governments to take action as soon as a case
19 of disappearance is reported to the authorities and to implement all necessary measures to seek
20 and find the disappeared person and to avoid irreparable harm;

21 WHEREAS, the State should not disregard the growing number of victims of enforced
22 disappearances;

1 WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, must strengthen the implementation
2 of the anti-forced disappearances law with the goal of effectively convicting perpetrators;

3 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
4 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that
5 enforced disappearance remains a problem in the Philippines despite the passage of a law against
6 it.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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