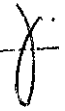


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



15 SEP 15 P4:11

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1586

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 A SCHOOL HEAD AND TWO LUMAD LEADERS WERE
KILLED BY PARAMILITARY GUNMEN IN SURIGAO DEL SUR

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

3 WHEREAS, the Constitution also provides, in Article 3, Section 1: “No person shall be
4 deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied
5 the equal protection of the laws”;

6 WHEREAS, the Constitution further provides, in Article 13, Section 15: “The State shall
7 respect the role of independent people’s organizations to enable the people to pursue and protect,
8 within the democratic framework, their legitimate and collective interests and aspirations through
9 peaceful and lawful means”;

10 WHEREAS, Rappler.com, in an article posted on 1 September 2015, said that, according
11 to a human rights group, a school director and two community leaders were killed by a
12 paramilitary group in Lianga, Surigao del Sur;

13 WHEREAS, according to human rights group Karapatan, Emerito Samarca, executive
14 director of the Alternative Learning Center for Agricultural and Livelihood Development
15 (Alcadev), was hogtied and stabbed inside a classroom in Barangay Diatagon by paramilitary
16 group Magahat;

17 WHEREAS, Alcadev is a privately operated learning institution that provides basic and
18 technical education to lumad or indigenous children in communities rarely reached by
19 government services;

20 WHEREAS, the group claimed that on the same day that the armed men killed Samarca,
21 they woke up the entire village, asked Dionel Campos and his cousin Aurelio Sinzo to come out
22 from their houses, and gunned them down in front of the terrified villagers;

1 WHEREAS, Campos is allegedly a community leader and the chairperson of the
2 indigenous people group Maluhutayong Pakigbisog Alansa sa Sumusunod (Mapasu), which is
3 known for its firm position on ancestral lands and its campaign against human rights violations
4 targeting lumads;

5 WHEREAS, the group further alleged that Magahat is a military-backed group formed to
6 hunt down government critics and to lead a low-intensity anti-communist witch-hunt in tribal
7 villages;

8 WHEREAS, more than 1,000 villagers have reportedly fled their homes in the Poblacion
9 area of Diatagon;

10 WHEREAS, the government should establish mechanisms to protect human rights
11 defenders, investigate cases of violations against land rights defenders, bring perpetrators to
12 justice, and ensure compensation for aggrieved parties;

13 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
14 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that a
15 school head and two lumad leaders were killed by paramilitary gunmen in Surigao del Sur.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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