


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



15 DEC 16 P5:34

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1687

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON JOURNALIST KILLINGS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RECENT ALLEGED
MURDER OF A RADIO REPORTER IN QUEZON CITY

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

4 WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin* on 2 November 2015 reported that Jose Bernardo, radio
5 reporter of DWBL 1042Khz and columnist of Banderang Pilipino Weekly newspaper, was shot
6 dead by suspected hitmen riding on a motorcycle in Quezon City on October 31;

7 WHEREAS, initial investigation allegedly showed that Bernardo was shot dead while he
8 was about to park his motorcycle in front of a fastfood outlet, by an unidentified male, who later
9 left the crime scene aboard a motorcycle driven by a cohort;

10 WHEREAS, the victim's relatives allegedly believe that he was killed due to his work as
11 media practitioner, but could not confirm whether Bernardo has been receiving death threats;

12 WHEREAS, according to the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, if proven to
13 have been killed because of his work as a journalist, Bernardo would be the 150th media
14 practitioner killed in the line of duty since 1986, and the 29th under the Aquino administration;

15 WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation must end the culture of impunity by
16 facilitating the enforcement of the full extent of the law against persons or groups who commit
17 crimes against the press;

18 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
19 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on journalist killings,
20 taking into account the recent alleged murder of a radio reporter in Quezon City.

21 Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
7P