EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session

P.S.R. No. 489

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1:15 p.m.

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

BILLE INDE

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE CASE OF RANNIE LUDOVICA, HEAD OF THE QUEZON CITY TASK FORCE DISIPLINA, AS WELL AS ALL OTHER CASES RELATING TO ABUSIVE CONDUCT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE COURSE OF ENFORCING COMMUNITY QUARANTINES

WHEREAS, on August 3, Monday, the head of the Quezon City Task Force Disiplina Rannie Ludovica, posted an announcement in social media to this effect: "*Mula bukas, shoot to kill na ang lalabag sa MECQ*";

WHEREAS, Ludovica heads the Task Force Disiplina of Quezon City, which is a civilian force that is supposed to be force multipliers of both social workers and police personnel, and has been tapped to patrol neighborhoods to enforce quarantine regulations;

WHEREAS, this is not the first time the Task Force Disiplina has been embroiled in controversy, as members of this Task Force were previously caught on camera beating a fish vendor who failed to wear a mask;

WHEREAS, there have been, in the course of this pandemic, numerous other accounts of abusive local government officials enforcing quarantine rules, including locking quarantine violators into dog cages¹ or keeping them under the heat of the intense midday sun², or even forcing them to kiss each other and dance in a lewd manner³ --conduct which is not only violative of Republic Act No. 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, but also of the Constitutional proscription against cruel and inhuman punishment;

WHEREAS, the Filipino people are already suffering intensely from the health and economic impacts of this pandemic – local government officials must act with even greater fealty to their obligations as public servants;

WHEREAS, punitive and militarized responses to a public health pandemic serve no purpose but to punish the already suffering;

¹ https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/03/26/philippines-curfew-violators-abused

² https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/03/25/2003270/paraaque-curfew-violators-tortured

https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/08/philippines-uses-humiliation-covid-curfew-punishment

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the Committee on Local Government to conduct an Inquiry in Aid of Legislation into the case of Rannie Ludovica, head of the Quezon City Task Force Disiplina, as well as all other cases relating to abusive conduct of local government officials in the course of enforcing community quarantines.

Adopted,

RISA HONTIVEROS