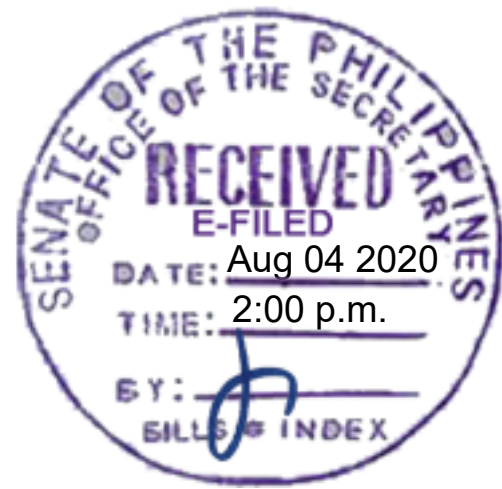


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE
P.S.R. No. 490

Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

RESOLUTION
TO DIRECT THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE GROWING DISREGARD
FOR BASIC CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AMONG OUR LAW
ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL AS EVIDENCED BY THE UNLAWFUL
SEIZURE OF PROTEST MATERIALS DURING A MASS AT THE QUIAPO
CHURCH

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution, Art. III, Sec. 1 and 2 provides that “[n]o person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws” and that “that the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures of whatever nature and for any purpose shall be inviolable;”

WHEREAS, Sec. 4 of the same states that “[n]o law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances;”

WHEREAS, Sec. 18(1) of the same further provides that “[n]o person shall be detained solely by reason of his political beliefs and aspirations;”

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2020, at the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo, Manila, while the Liturgy of the Word was being celebrated, two members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) clad in fatigue uniforms entered the church and forcibly took the personal property of a church-goer, including, among others, placards and other materials intended for use at a mass activity during the State of

the Nation Address (SONA) later in the day;

WHEREAS, the policemen failed to present a warrant, court order, or any other lawful process authorizing the seizure of the aforementioned personal property;

WHEREAS, aside from being an *ipso facto* violation of the Bill of Rights, the above-mentioned seizure, being attended by violence against or intimidation of persons, quite possibly constitutes robbery as defined by the Revised Penal Code;

WHEREAS, considering that the above act interrupted a religious ritual as it was being celebrated at one of the holiest sites of Philippine Catholicism, also constitutes a crime against religious worship;

WHEREAS, this follows the pronouncement of NCRPO Chief PM/Gen. Debold Sinas in which he said that individuals or groups who would show placards along Commonwealth Avenue amid President Rodrigo Duterte's 5th SONA would immediately be arrested and processed in Camp Karingal where the lawyers would determine which charges would be lodged against them;

WHEREAS, Sinas' instructions were directly controverted by those of Department of Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra in which he said that placards containing one's expressions on national issues is covered by the constitutionally guaranteed freedom of expression;

WHEREAS, this incident is the latest outrage committed by agents of the administration during the quarantine period, following the massacre of army intelligence personnel by policemen in Sulu, and the threatened deportation of an Overseas Filipino Worker in Taiwan who criticized the government on social media;

WHEREAS, these acts evidence a growing disregard for basic civil and political rights among our law enforcement personnel;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the growing disregard for basic civil and political rights among our law enforcement personnel as evidenced by the unlawful seizure of protest materials during a mass at

the Quiapo church.

Adopted,



LEILA M. DE LIMA