

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

5 APR 27 13:45

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

P. S. R. No. 237

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE REPORTED KILLINGS
OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF ACTIVIST PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATIONS
AND OF MILITANT PEOPLE'S AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

WHEREAS, in the past three months alone, 32 officers and members of activist party-list organizations and of militant people's and human rights organizations have been gunned down in a series of suspected assassinations across the country;

WHEREAS, according to a statement issued by party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo (Bayan Muna), Liza Maza (Gabriela), and Crispin Beltran (Anakpawis), in Central Luzon alone, 13 members of activist party-list organizations and of militant people's and human rights organizations have allegedly been summarily executed and five have been abducted and are still missing;

WHEREAS, some of the victims of the recent killings were Tarlac City councilor and Bayan Muna leader Abelardo Ladera, radio broadcaster and Bayan Ilocos secretary general Romy Sanchez, Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI) priest and Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR) member William Tadena, human rights lawyer and Bayan Muna coordinator Felidido Dacut, and Anakpawis member and Aguman da reng Maglalautang Capampangan (AMC) secretary general Victor Concepcion;

WHEREAS, since 2001, 49 coordinators of Bayan Muna and 19 from Anakpawis have been slain, and 10 have been abducted and are still missing;

WHEREAS, the slaying of officers and members of activist party-list organizations and of militant people's and human rights organizations during the recent months has reached such an alarming level that it almost equals the frequency of killings during the martial law period;


WHEREAS, according to Rep. Ocampo, the number of officers and members of party-list organizations and of militant people's and human rights organizations who have been killed in recent months is shocking and point to a very dangerous situation;

WHEREAS, Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño said that as early as 2001, Congressional hearings and Department of Justice (DOJ) findings all point to the military as the alleged killers of human rights advocate Eden Marcellana and of human rights lawyer and Naujan, Oriental Mindoro Vice Mayor Juvy Magsino;

WHEREAS, in a gathering at the University of the Philippines Asian Center, civil libertarians, human rights advocates, and political activists vowed to protect and defend civil and political liberties; they appealed to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to act swiftly to put a stop to the atrocities

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the reported killings of officers and members of party-list organizations and of militant people's and human rights organizations

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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