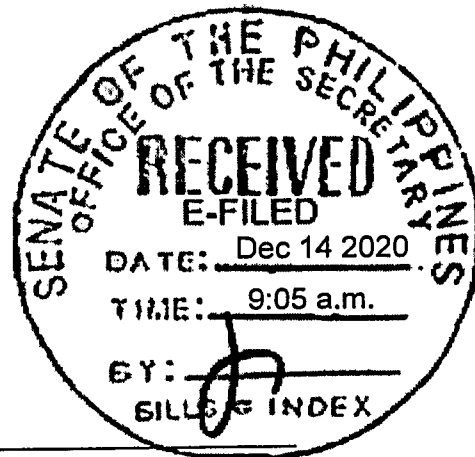


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. 593



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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING RATE OF CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST JUDGES, LAWYERS, AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE COURT, THEREBY INSTILLING FEAR IN THE ENTIRE LEGAL COMMUNITY AND UNDERMINING THE EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN THE COUNTRY**

***WHEREAS***, Article II, Section 5 of the 1987 Constitution affirms *that "the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy"*;

***WHEREAS***, in recent months, the entire legal community has been shocked by the successive assaults committed against members of the bar, leading to serious harm, disappearances, and, for some, their untimely death;

***WHEREAS***, on January 9, 2020, the charred remains of former congressman of the second district, province of Batangas and lawyer Edgar Mendoza, his driver, Ruel Ruiz and his bodyguard, Nicanor Mendoza were found in a burned vehicle in Tiaong, Quezon;

***WHEREAS***, investigators uncovered that the motive of the gruesome crimes is a money dispute between Atty. Mendoza and his client, Sherwin Punzalan, an inmate of the National Bilibid Prison, who is identified as the mastermind;

***WHEREAS***, last 20 October 2020, Judge Jeaneth Gaminde-San Joaquin, Presiding Judge of Regional Trial Court Branch 56 of Libmanan, Camarines Sur, and

Rocelle Martinez, were in their service vehicle heading towards Naga City when unknown individuals ambushed them in Barangay Puro Batia, Libmanan, Camarines Sur;

**WHEREAS**, while the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) Camarines Sur strongly condemned this incident and are in close coordination with the authorities, there is no lead yet as to the perpetrators of this vicious assault to the life of Judge Gaminde-San Joaquin and her secretary;

**WHEREAS**, on 24 October 2020, the car of former Court of Appeals Justice Normandie Pizarro was found abandoned along a road in San Simon, Pampanga;

**WHEREAS**, to date, the former Justice remains to be missing and the police investigators are still at a loss as to his possible whereabouts;

**WHEREAS**, on 11 November 2020, Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Ma. Theresa Abadilla was shot by her clerk of court inside her own chambers, while the latter committed suicide shortly thereafter;

**WHEREAS**, according to Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra, although Judge Abadilla's death appears to have arisen from an internal issue with her clerk of court, he has nonetheless directed the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to conduct a parallel probe, considering that the incident has implications on the personal security of our judges and justices;

**WHEREAS**, on 17 November 2020, Atty. Eric Jay Magcamit was on his way to a hearing in Quezon, Palawan, when two unidentified men flagged his vehicle and shot him in broad daylight;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine National Police (PNP) filed murder charges against nine suspects in relation to the killing of Atty. Magcamit, one of whom is a police officer, Senior Master Sgt. Ariel Pareja, who has been moonlighting as a bodyguard for another suspect;

**WHEREAS**, last 21 November 2020, in Cebu City, Atty. Joey Luis Wee was shot and killed by two armed men who were seen fleeing on a motorcycle;

**WHEREAS**, while PCol. Josefino Ligan, Cebu City Police Office chief, said they are looking into the controversial cases handled by the lawyer for possible motives, they have yet to identify a lead suspect in the killing;

**WHEREAS**, also on 21 November 2020, Atty. Ryan Oliva, a professor at the University of the Philippines College of Law and the chief of the Department of Tourism's Legislative Liaison Unit, had gone missing;

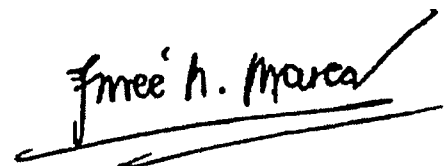
**WHEREAS**, despite efforts to locate him and a monetary reward to be given to those who could provide credible information that would help in finding Atty. Oliva, there remains to be no leads as to his whereabouts;

**WHEREAS**, the entire legal community, in various fora, have expressed their dismay, condemnation, and fear in these rampant and vicious attacks against members of the bar and other court officers who seem to escape with impunity;

**WHEREAS**, while these are independent cases, there is a need to look at the common threads that make one interconnected with the others, as these involve individuals who are tasked with the administration of justice and in upholding the rule of law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alarming rate of crimes committed against judges, lawyers, and other officers of the court, thereby instilling fear in the entire legal community and undermining the effective administration of justice in the country.

*Adopted,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Imee R. Marcos", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

**IMEE R. MARCOS**