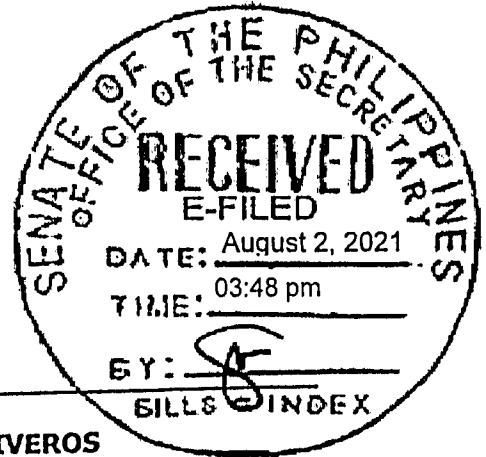


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 810



INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE MURDER OF TWO URBAN POOR LEADERS FROM THE TALA ESTATE SETTLERS' FEDERATION (TESSEF) IN NOVALICHES, QUEZON CITY ON JULY 21, 2021

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2021, spouses Marlon and Fe Unido, two urban poor leaders from the Tala Estate Settlers' Federation (TESSEF) in Novaliches, Quezon City were murdered in their own homes by two unknown assailants dressed as delivery riders;

WHEREAS, the killings were witnessed by their minor son, who saw his parents die before his eyes;

WHEREAS, before their deaths, Marlon and Fe were at the forefront of a 24-year-old land struggle between their community and Biyaya Corporation, a corporate entity claiming portions of the estate, including those portions inhabited by members of TESSEF;

WHEREAS, prior to their deaths, the spouses had been receiving death threats from anonymous phone numbers and had gotten into disputes with individuals in relation to the land dispute that ultimately stems from the unresolved legal battle between the community and the corporation;

WHEREAS, their deaths can have a chilling effect on efforts of the community to mobilize and assert its rights, including the right to be heard and to exist in urban spaces, as well as to shape urban development;

WHEREAS, while the Supreme Court is resolving the land dispute pending before it, there is a need for other agencies of government to abstain from acts that increase tensions in the area – including the granting of land titles over the disputed land by the Land Registration Authority;

WHEREAS, it is imperative as well for local governments to increase protections to settlers in disputed areas and to cease issuing building and fencing permits or clearances, or permitting activities in these areas;

WHEREAS, finally, it is necessary to investigate on a structural level patterns of violence against urban poor dwellers asserting their rights against aggressive development, in order to institutionalize measures in legislation to protect them

NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO DIRECT THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE MURDER OF TWO URBAN POOR LEADERS FROM THE TALA ESTATE SETTLERS' FEDERATION (TESSEF) IN NOVALICHES, QUEZON CITY ON JULY 21, 2021.

Adopted.


RISA HONTIVEROS