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SENATE
P.S. RES. No. 349

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S OF THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED SHOOTOUT, WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF THREE TEENAGERS IN BARANGAY DIDTARAS, MUNICIPALITY OF LAMBAYONG, SULTAN KUDARAT WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING THE TRUTH AND CREATING POLICIES THAT WILL STRENGTHEN PEACE AND PROTECTION MECHANISMS FOR THE MORO PEOPLE

1 WHEREAS, no less than the 1987 Constitution mandates that “[t]he State
2 values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human
3 rights” (Section 11, Article II) and affirms that “[t]he prime duty of the Government is
4 to serve and protect the people” (Section 4, Article II);

5 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 6985, or the “Department of Interior and Local
6 Government Act of 1990” was enacted, with the goal of promoting peace and order,
7 ensuring public safety and further strengthening local government capability aimed
8 towards the basic services to the citizenry through the establishment of a highly
9 efficient and competent police force that is national in scope and civilian in character;

10 WHEREAS, in June 2021, about 30 civil society groups (CSOs) called on the
11 Commission on Human Rights to investigate the alleged widespread and systematic
12 killings in four years of at least 80 Moro civilians by vigilantes and police officers in the
13 province of South Cotabato and provinces in Region 12 which includes Sultan Kudarat;

14 WHEREAS, just recently, several news outlets reported that three teenagers
15 were shot dead by the local police in an alleged shootout in Lambayong, Sultan
16 Kudarat, around midnight of 01 December 2022;

1 WHEREAS, in his statement, the Chief of Lambayong Police, Police Major
2 Jenahmeel Toñacao reported that three teenagers, later identified as Samanoden Ali,
3 Horton Ansa, Jr., and Arshad Ansa, riding a motorcycle headed towards the town
4 proper, were stopped for inspection by the law enforcers manning a checkpoint in
5 Purok 4, Barangay Didtaras when the three teenagers sped away;

6 WHEREAS, Police Chief Toñacao claimed that the teenagers fired at the
7 policemen who cornered the former in a 'brief chase,' thus provoking a gunfight
8 between two groups;

9 WHEREAS, the police reportedly rushed the teenagers to Evangelista Medical
10 Clinic and Hospital for emergency treatment, but they were pronounced dead on
11 arrival by the attending physician;

12 WHEREAS, police forensic experts allegedly recovered two .45-caliber pistols, a
13 hand grenade, and a sachet of shabu from the fatalities;

14 WHEREAS, relatives of the victims reportedly have witnesses who refuted the
15 assertions made by Police Chief Toñacao about the shootout and the subsequent
16 recovery of weapons and illegal substances;

17 WHEREAS, there was a claim from the relatives that one of the casualties was
18 strangled first by policemen using his own shirt while another one sustained gunshot
19 wounds in both palms, insinuating that while they were in the act of surrender, they
20 were still shot at close range;

21 WHEREAS, there was a clamor from the families for the Lambayong Municipal
22 Police Station - Police Regional Office XII to show and surrender the footage from the
23 installed CCTV cameras of the Community Police Assistance Center (COMPAC) in the
24 town;

25 WHEREAS, this latest atrocity proves that this is not an isolated case nor a
26 mistake, as it only reflects the worsening situation in Region XII following the spate
27 of killings of Moro people over the past years;

28 WHEREAS, despite the outcry of civil society organizations against the
29 widespread and systematic killings in the region, there was no reported
30 comprehensive action to bring the perpetrators to justice against the transgressions
31 inflicted upon Moro people as shown by the recent death of three Moro youth;

1 WHEREAS, the unabated killings among Moro people and the recent alleged
2 rub-out of three teenagers bring to light the question of gaps in the enforcement of
3 the law and the purported targeting of Moro people: Now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, To direct the appropriate
5 committee/s of the senate to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged
6 shootout, which resulted in the death of three teenagers in Barangay Didtaras,
7 Municipality of Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat with the end in view of determining the
8 truth and creating policies that will strengthen peace and protection mechanisms for
9 the Moro people.

Adopted,



ROBINHOOD PADILLA
Senator