


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

5 NOV 16 P3 38

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 378

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE  
KILLINGS OF MILITANT LEADERS IN CENTRAL LUZON

WHEREAS, in an article in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, it was reported that gunmen shot dead two militant peasant leaders and two other men over a 48-hour period in the provinces of Tarlac and Pampanga in what an activist described as a continuing "festival of killings" in the region;

WHEREAS, Ricardo Ramos, 47, president of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union (CATLU), was shot and killed on 25 October 2005 while drinking with friends in his backyard in Barangay Mapalacsiao, five hours after the union received at least P8 million from the Hacienda Luisita Inc. as settlement for back wages;

WHEREAS, the 5,000-hectare hacienda in Tarlac is owned by the family of former President Corazon Aquino;

WHEREAS, on November 6 last year, CATLU members walked off their jobs, while 5000 farm workers belonging to the United Luisita Workers Union staged a strike; during the strike, at least seven people were killed when the police and military dispersed the group of strikers;

WHEREAS, on 26 October 2005, two men shot Francisco Rivera, local chair of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan); his companions Dr. Angel David and Von John Maniti were also killed in the attack as they were talking in front of Rivera's house in Barangay Pulong Bulo;

WHEREAS, the gunmen reportedly emerged from a parked van near Rivera's house;

WHEREAS, Rivera had at least nine bullet wounds; witnesses' accounts gathered by Bayan showed that a gunman approached the fallen Rivera and shot him in the head;

WHEREAS, Tarlac Representative Benigno "Noy" Aquino III, scion of the family that owns Hacienda Luisita, condemned the killing of Ramos and urged law enforcers to put a stop to killings and other human rights violations in the province; Aquino said he had talked to the police to ensure that the killings and the harassment of militant groups in Tarlac would not happen again;

WHEREAS, Federico de Leon, president of the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng Tsuper at Opereytor Nationwide (Piston) in Bulacan province, was also shot dead on 26 October 2005 at around 5 p.m.; De Leon was also the provincial chair of the militant group Anakpawis;

WHEREAS, De Leon was shot in the head and chest by two persons who both posed as passengers in his jeepney;

WHEREAS, De Leon was the second transport leader killed in Bulacan; the first was Leodegario Punzal of Norzagaray town who was murdered on 13 September 2005, a day after Piston launched a region-wide strike;

WHEREAS, according to the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, the killings brought to 19 the number of activists killed in Central Luzon since 2 September 2005;

WHEREAS, Roman Polintan, Bayan-Central Luzon chair, blamed the military for the "festival of killings" in the region, a charge the military has denied;


WHEREAS, Major General Jovito Palparan Jr., chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division based in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija, is being linked to the killings;

WHEREAS, Palparan, who is assigned to Central Luzon, has denied involvement in the killings of leaders and members of militant groups;

WHEREAS, the Philippine National Police (PNP) has already created a task force to investigate the killings; PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao has ordered Senior Superintendent Perfecto Palad to head the task force

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Human Rights to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the killings of militant leaders in Central Luzon.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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