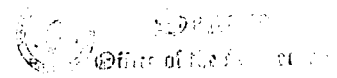


**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)**



23 SEP -4 P4:53

SENATE

P.S.R. No. 776

RECEIVED BY: _____

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY RELATIONS AND GENDER EQUALITY, AND ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE SPATE OF KILLINGS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH, THE LATEST INVOLVING FIFTEEN-YEAR OLD JOHN FRANCES OMPAD, AND THE MOUNTING FEAR AND DISTRUST OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ENGENDERED BY UNRELENTING ABUSES COMMITTED BY OFFICERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE.

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution declares that "[t]he prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people" and guarantees that "[n]o person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law";

WHEREAS, the fundamental law further provides that the State shall protect the "physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being" of the nation's youth, and defend all children "from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development";

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory to the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child, which provides that States Parties recognize every child's inherent right to life and shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child;

WHEREAS, in line with the above policies, the Philippines has enacted laws ensuring the safety of children, including R.A. No. 7610 or the "Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act," R.A. No. 9262 or the "Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004," and R.A. No. 9344 or the "Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006";

WHEREAS, based on independent reports, at least 129 children were killed between 2016 and 2020, with almost 40% of child killings carried out by police officers, while the rest were killed by unknown assailants, "some of them with direct links to the police";

WHEREAS, even as the country is still reeling from the recent murder of seventeen (17) year old Jemboy Baltazar In Navotas, another unarmed teenager- fifteen (15) year old John Frances Ompad- was shot in the abdomen and killed by Rizal police officer Cpl. Arnulfo Sabillo;

WHEREAS, the killing of John Frances was again claimed to be "accidental," the second "accidental" death of a youth at the hands of police in a matter of weeks, and, echoing Jemboy's murder, Cpl. Sabillo had likewise been found guilty of administrative offenses- having been previously suspended twice and arrested for "alarm and scandal";

WHEREAS, the Commission on Human Rights has stated that it is "seriously concerned over this incident, especially that this is the second instance this month when the perpetrator of the alleged arbitrary deprivation of life involves a police officer and the victim is a minor";

WHEREAS, the violent killings of society's most vulnerable- our children and youth- many perpetrated by officers of the Philippine National Police, has resulted in a creeping culture of fear and distrust of law enforcement in our communities;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO URGE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY RELATIONS AND GENDER EQUALITY, AND ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE SPATE OF KILLINGS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH, THE LATEST INVOLVING FIFTEEN-YEAR OLD JOHN FRANCES OMPAD, AND THE MOUNTING FEAR AND DISTRUST OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ENGENDERED BY UNRELENTING ABUSES COMMITTED BY OFFICERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE.


RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator