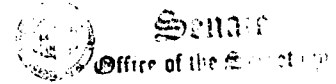


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



23 DEC -4 P12 :02

RECEIVED BY: _____

SENATE
P.S. RES. No. 875

Introduced by SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE STRONGLY CONDEMNING IN THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE TERMS THE RECENT BOMBING IN MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY IN MARAWI DURING THE CELEBRATION OF A CATHOLIC MASS THAT RESULTED TO THE DEATH OF FOUR PERSONS AND INJURING FORTY-FIVE, AND URGING THE MILITARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO BRING THE PERPETRATORS TO JUSTICE

WHEREAS, the freedom of religion and the practice of such is a right guaranteed by our constitution. Sec. 5, Art. III of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides: "No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion; or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed. No religious test shall be required for the exercise of civil or political rights.";

WHEREAS, on the morning of December 3, 2023, the First Sunday of Advent, a Catholic Mass was celebrated in the gymnasium of the Mindanao State University (MSU) in Marawi City attended by mostly students;

WHEREAS, at around 7am before the first reading of the Holy Bible, an explosion was heard to have occurred inside the gymnasium and disrupted the ongoing religious celebration¹;

WHEREAS, according to the initial investigation, it is yet to be confirmed if the blast came from a grenade that was thrown or an improvised explosive device (IED)²;

¹ <https://www.manilatimes.net/2023/12/04/news/11-dead-scores-hurt-in-msu-bombing/1922723>

² <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/several-killed-bombing-catholic-mass-philippines-marawi/>

WHEREAS, the horrific incident resulted to the death of four persons and injuring forty-five³;

WHEREAS, this act of violence against innocent civilians practicing their faith in a religious gathering is an act of terrorism that should be condemned in the highest possible terms;

WHEREAS, such barbaric acts have no place in our society that the government so long tried to become peaceful and accommodating to all religious beliefs;

WHEREAS, educational institutions, especially State Universities and Colleges, funded by taxpayers money should be a safe haven and sanctuary for students, professors and visitors;

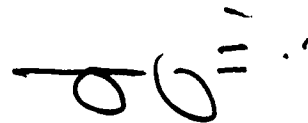
WHEREAS, innocent unarmed students who have nothing to do with clashing ideologies should not be caught between the crossfire of any armed conflict;

WHEREAS, no less than the President, Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. denounced the bombing in MSU and assured the public that the perpetrators will brought to justice⁴;

WHEREAS, the Senate would like to express its deepest condolences to the families of the victims of this senseless tragedy;

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, expressing its sense of strongly condemning in the highest possible terms the recent bombing in Mindanao State University in Marawi during the celebration of a Catholic Mass that resulted to the death of four persons and injuring forty-five, and urging the military and law enforcement agencies to undertake the necessary steps to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Adopted,



JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

³ <https://www.rappler.com/nation/mindanao/marawi-explosion-updates-december-3-2023/>

⁴ https://pco.gov.ph/news_releases/pbbm-we-will-bring-perpetrators-of-marawi-bombing-to-justice/