

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

7 SEP -3 2007

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 112

RECEIVED BY: Jay

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEATH OF CRIS ANTHONY MENDEZ ALLEGEDLY DUE
TO FRATERNITY HAZING

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8049, otherwise known as the Anti-Hazing Law, Section 1, provides that "Hazing as used in this Act is an initiation rite or practice as a prerequisite for admission into membership in a fraternity, sorority or organization by placing the recruit, neophyte or applicant in some embarrassing or humiliating situations such as forcing him to do menial, silly, foolish and other similar tasks or activities or otherwise subjecting him to physical or psychological suffering or injury x x x";

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8049, Section 2, provides that "No hazing or initiation rites in any form or manner by a fraternity, sorority or organization shall be allowed without prior written notice to the school authorities or head of organization seven (7) days before the conduct of such initiation. The written notice shall indicate the period of the initiation activities which shall not exceed three (3) days, shall include the names of those to be subjected to such activities, and shall further contain an undertaking that no physical violence be employed by anybody during such initiation rites";

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8049, Section 3, provides that "The head of the school or organization or their representatives must assign at least two (2) representatives of the school or organization, as the case may be, to be present during the initiation. It is the duty of such representative to see to it that no physical harm of any kind shall be inflicted upon a recruit, neophyte or applicant";

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8049, Section 4, further mandates that "If the person subjected to hazing or other forms of initiation rites suffers any physical injury or dies as a result thereof, the officers and members of the fraternity, sorority or organization who actually participated in the infliction of physical harm shall be liable as principals x x x";

WHEREAS, UP Revised Rules and Regulations Governing Fraternities, Sororities, and Other Student Organizations explicitly state that "any member or officer who engages in any form of physical initiation or hazing resulting in or causing physical injury, along with the neophyte who allows himself/herself to be subjected to hazing shall be expelled, unless he or she agrees to become a witness for the university";

WHEREAS, last 27 August 2007, Cris Anthony Mendez, a student at the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman, was rushed to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC), where he was declared dead on arrival reportedly due to hazing; Mendez bore bruises all over his body, particularly on the back of the arms and thighs;

WHEREAS, according to Mr. Jonathan Garduce, duty guard of the VMMC, Cris was brought to the medical facility by a certain Dr. Francisco Cruz aboard a white Toyota Innova

with license plates ZXB-393, followed by two other vehicles: a Nissan Trooper (WGL-515) and an Isuzu van (XAS-548); after providing the hospital with Cris's personal information, the group hurriedly left the hospital; Chief Insp. Lino Banaag of the Quezon City Police was quoted by newspapers as saying that Dr. Cruz had allegedly gone into hiding after bringing Mendez to the VMMC;

WHEREAS, according to a certain Corporal Kalibo, desk officer of the UP police, they received a phone call from the VMMC which informed them that a student had died there after an incident inside the UP Diliman campus near the Bahay ng Alumni at the corner of Magsaysay and Balagtas Roads;

WHEREAS, according to media reports, Mendez allegedly told his friends that he was joining the Sigma Rho, a fraternity based in the UP College of Law, and that a certain Ariel Paolo Ante, chair of the National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) student council, was his "recruiter and initiation master";

WHEREAS, in a 29 August 2007 official statement, UP Diliman Chancellor Sergio S. Cao said that the university is "doing its best to ensure that those responsible for his death are made to face the bar of law";

WHEREAS, officers of the Sigma Rho fraternity have allegedly been placed under preventive suspension by the UP administration pending the investigation on Mendez's death;

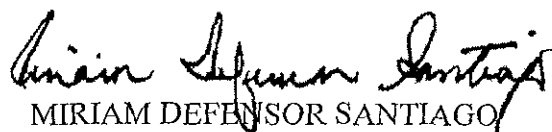
WHEREAS, no witness has come forward to shed light on Mendez's death; the police and the UP administration must exert all efforts to solve this case and prosecute those responsible for Mendez's death;

WHEREAS, the UP administration must explain the measures it has taken to monitor the hazing or initiation rites of fraternities, sororities, and other student organizations within the University, given the duty imposed by the Anti-Hazing Law on school authorities;

WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of the Anti-Hazing Law must be undertaken, given its failure to serve as a deterrent to hazing within fraternities and student organizations since it was enacted;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the death of Cris Anthony Mendez allegedly due to fraternity hazing.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/jab-dpm