


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

5 MAY 11 P3:43

SENATE

Resolution No 25 RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE SERIES OF DEATHS OF JOURNALISTS IN THE COUNTRY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FORMULATING POLICY MEASURES TO SOLVE AND END THESE KILLINGS TO RESTORE PEACE AND ORDER IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the state as enshrined in the Constitution to guarantee freedom of speech, expression and of the press and to maintain peace and order in the country;

WHEREAS, even with the country's espoused policy on press freedom, journalists continue to die in the country without prosecution;

WHEREAS, recent reports indicate that for this year alone, 6 journalists – namely: Arnulfo Villanueva, Marlyn Esperat, Alberto Martinez, Nestor Seguismundo, Klein Cantoneros, and Philip Agustin - were hunted down and murdered;

WHEREAS, most of the reasons for these killings were reported to have been in relation to their work particularly as watchdogs of the country against corruption, crime, illegal gambling and drug trafficking;

WHEREAS, while most of these murder cases have not been solved leaving their perpetrators scot-free, the lives of our practicing journalists remain under threats and in danger;

WHEREAS, as a democratic country, it does not live up to its advocacy of press freedom with the findings of the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), an international, non-partisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting freedom of the press, that the Philippines is already "the most murderous country for journalists" topping the war-torn Iraq,

WHEREAS, in the light of maintaining a democratic society, there is an immediate need for the government to take full responsibility by initiating actions to solve these murder cases, prosecute and punish the perpetrators and by providing concrete measures to assure the freedom and safety of journalists in the practice of their profession.

Now, therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, TO DIRECT THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE SERIES OF DEATHS OF JOURNALISTS AND POLITICIANS IN THE COUNTRY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTITUTING POLICY MEASURES TO SOLVE AND END THESE KILLINGS TO RESTORE PEACE AND ORDER IN THE COUNTRY

Adopted,


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.
Senator