

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Senate

Manila City

Seventeenth Congress

Second Regular Session



RESOLUTION No. 69

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMEN OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO MAKE PUBLIC THE TESTIMONY OF MR. JOHN PAUL SOLANO GIVEN DURING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN CONNECTION WITH THE SENATE INVESTIGATION ON THE DEATH OF HAZING VICTIM HORACIO "ATIO" T. CASTILLO III

WHEREAS, Horacio "Atio" T. Castillo III was a freshman law student at the Faculty of Civil Law at the University of Santo Tomas who died as a result of the

hazing and initiation rites conducted by the Aegis Juris Fraternity of which he was an applicant;

WHEREAS, following the death of Atio Castillo, Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri filed PSR No. 504 and delivered a privilege speech on the matter on 20 September 2017;

WHEREAS, the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs and the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights, to which the abovementioned Proposed Senate Resolution was referred, together with the privilege speech of Senator Zubiri and other related Senate Bills, including SB Nos. 27, 199, 223, 1161 and 1591, jointly conducted an inquiry in aid of legislation on 25 September 2017;

WHEREAS, during the inquiry, one (1) of the resource persons, Mr. John Paul Solano, a member of the Aegis Juris Fraternity and also a principal suspect in the case, refused several times to divulge vital information in the case based on his rights against self-incrimination;

WHEREAS, on the same hearing, Mr. Solano assailed the inquest proceedings conducted by the Department of Justice and said that he is prepared to divulge all personal knowledge he has on the case through a sworn statement if a preliminary investigation will be conducted;

WHEREAS, during the course of the hearing, Mr. Solano has agreed to divulge all personal knowledge he has on the death of Atio Castillo in an executive session;

WHEREAS, following the accession of Mr. Solano to an executive session, the Presiding Chairman of the joint hearing, Senator Panfilo Lacson, immediately called for an executive session;

WHEREAS, the executive session was attended by Senators Panfilo Lacson, Juan Miguel Zubiri, Sherwin Gatchalian and Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV, and Mr. Solano and his counsel, Atty. Paterno Esmaguél;

WHEREAS, Mr. Solano, during the executive session and in the presence of counsel, divulged vital information that will help the authorities solve the case, prosecute the culprits and give justice to the death of Atio Castillo;

WHEREAS, despite the two (2) preliminary investigations conducted by the prosecutors of the Department of Justice and since the Senate hearing on 25 September 2017, Mr. Solano has yet to execute a sworn statement and make public all personal knowledge he has on the death of Atio Castillo;

WHEREAS, Section 11 (3) of the Senate Rules of Procedure Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation states that: "Testimony taken or material presented in an executive session, or any summary thereof, shall not be made public, in whole or in part, unless authorized by the Committee";

WHEREAS, Section 128 of the Senate Rules also provides that "The President as well as the Senators and the officials and employees of the Senate shall absolutely refrain from divulging any of the confidential matters taken up by the Senate, and all proceedings which might have taken place in the Senate in connection with the said matters shall be likewise considered as strictly confidential until the Senate, by two-thirds (2/3) vote of all its Members, decides to lift the ban of secrecy";

WHEREAS, after careful consideration of the issues, the undersigned Members of the Senate have decided to authorize the Chairmen of the said Committees to make public the testimony of Mr. John Paul Solano given in an executive session as specified in the Senate Rules Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, as it is hereby resolved, To authorize the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs and Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights to make public the testimony of Mr. John

Paul Solano given during an executive session in connection with the Senate investigation on the death of hazing victim Horacio "Atio" T. Castillo III.

Adopted,


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III
President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on October 11, 2017.


LUTGARDO B. BARBO
Secretary of the Senate