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SENATE  
P.S. Res. No. 1133

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Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

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**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO  
CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
INTO THE CONTINUING INCIDENTS OF EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS OF AND  
ARBITRARY ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST JOURNALISTS**

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a State Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 6 of which ensures the protection by law of the inherent right to life of every human being and mandates that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life;

WHEREAS, the Constitution affirms that the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy;

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights zealously guards the freedom of the press and no less than our national hero, Jose Rizal, had expressed this liberty as *sine quibus, non*, one that is absolutely indispensable or essential;

WHEREAS, journalists must be able to investigate and present fair reports of the myriad of issues and other newsworthy matters without fear of reprisal and unlawful acts of violence against them;

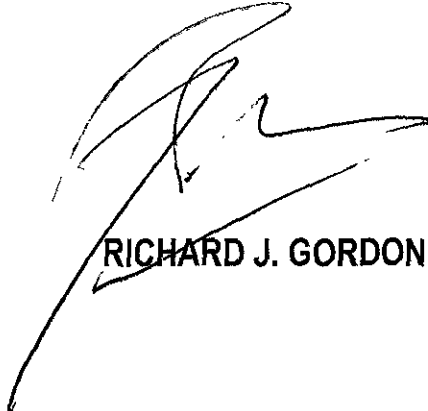
WHEREAS, *five journalists have been slain in the first half 2009 alone: Badrodin Abbas and Ernie Rullen, radio commentators for dxCM Radio Ukay, and dsXY, respectively, Jojo Trajano, a reporter for the tabloid Remate who was caught in a crossfire between the police and suspected drug traffickers, Atty. Crispin Reyes, the host of the radio program, Sa Totoo Lang aired on dwDO Heart FM, and more recently, Antonio Castillo, a correspondent of the tabloid Bigwas;*

WHEREAS, on account of the cycle of violence against journalists, the killing of at least 24 media personnel for reasons related to their journalistic work in the last decade, and an impunity index rating of 0.273 *unsolved journalist murder for every one (1) million inhabitants*, the Philippines ranks sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) in the 2009 Impunity Index of the Committee to Protect Journalists, an independent, non-profit international organization founded in 1981;

WHEREAS, this representation has consistently appealed to this august chamber to expeditiously take measures to defend the fundamental human rights of our people and fortify the rule of law by preventing the escalation of impunity and lawlessness in our country;

*Resolved by the Senate, as it is hereby resolved,* To conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into these incidents of extrajudicial killings of and arbitrary acts of violence against media personnel.

Adopted,



**RICHARD J. GORDON**