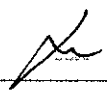


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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1255

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE KILLINGS OF JOURNALISTS/MEDIA
PRACTITIONERS WITH A VIEW TOWARDS A MORE EFFECTIVE
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN AID OF THE VICTIMS

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution states: 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, Article II, Section 11 of the Constitution states: The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights;

WHEREAS, according to a report dated 23 March 2009 released by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), the Philippines ranked number six (6) among countries where journalists are murdered on a recurring basis and governments are unable or unwilling to prosecute the killers;

WHEREAS, the CPJ reported that witnesses were allegedly threatened, attacked and killed while cases were being tried in local courts;

WHEREAS, in the same report, local judges were allegedly reluctant to proceed with cases involving public figures;

WHEREAS, according to an article by PinoyPress published on 28 March 2009, six (6) journalists/media practitioners were killed in the year 2008;

WHEREAS, another radio broadcaster, Godofredo Linao, was killed yesterday, 27 July 2009, outside his office in Surigao del Sur province;

WHEREAS, according to the published report of the CPJ, the Philippines has twenty-four (24) unsolved cases (i.e. no convictions have been obtained) of killings of journalists/media practitioners covering the period 1999-2008;

WHEREAS, based on the dismal 2008 statistics, the killings have apparently become more alarming with the increasing number of journalists killed every year;

WHEREAS, the possible chilling effect on the press of these killings which remained unsolved cannot be denied inasmuch as statistics have shown that the journalists who were killed were those reporting or investigating alleged anomalies in government;

WHEREAS, the freedom of the press is one of the cherished hallmarks of our democracy;

WHEREAS, hard steps must be taken by the State in order to put a stop to these killings starting with dispensing justice to the journalists/media practitioners killed in the line of duty;

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 killings of journalists in the Philippines with the view towards more effective administration of justice in aid of the victims.

Adopted,

cc 
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/ctr