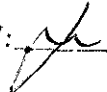


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'11 AUG 18 P 2:43

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 571

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO CREATE MEASURES AND STRICTER
PENALTIES TO PREVENT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS FROM INFLECTING
VIOLENCE ON SUSPECTS, PRISONERS, AND DETAINEES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 3, Section 12 mandates: "(2) No torture, force, violence, threat, intimidation, or any other means which violate the free will shall be used against him. Secret detention places, solitary, incommunicado, or other similar forms of detention are prohibited."

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, in its 17 August 2011 issue reported that four policemen reportedly beat up and poured hot cooking oil on two men accused of robbing jeepney passengers in Manila on Monday, 15 August 2011;

WHEREAS, the victims' live-in partners alleged that the victims were picked up by the police on the suspicion that they were among the men who robbed passengers of a Monumento-bound jeepney at the corner of Rizal Avenue and Pampanga Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila, after which, they were brought to the Manila Police District (MPD) Station 3 in Sta. Cruz, Manila, where the alleged torture happened;

WHEREAS, according to the live-in partners of the victims, four policemen beat up their partners and then doused the pair with hot cooking oil to force them into confessing;

WHEREAS, after the incident, the live-in partners of the victims immediately reported the alleged torture to the Commission on Human Rights (CHR);

WHEREAS, it was reported that Carmelita Rosete, chief of the CHR National Capital Region protection and monitoring division, immediately sent investigators to the police station to look into the complaint and check on the pair's health;

WHEREAS, it was alleged that when one of the victims was interviewed by reporters at the police station, he admitted that he took part in the robbery, but also showed burn marks on his shoulder and back;

WHEREAS, MPD Station 3 commander Superintendent James Afalla reportedly said that five members of the MPD Station 3 would be summoned to take part in a police lineup today so that their accusers could identify them;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of law enforcement agencies to protect their constituents; however, such protection should not be dispensed with an iron hand that equates justice with torture;

WHEREAS, despite existing laws punishing torture and violence by law enforcers, it is imperative that stricter measures should be enacted by the legislature to curb such violent practices by law enforcement agencies;

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 need to create measures and stricter penalties to prevent law enforcement agents from inflicting violence on suspects, prisoners, and detainees.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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