SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session

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S E N A T E P. S. Resolution No.

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Introduced by SENATORS GREGORIO B. HONASAN II and VICENTE C. SOTTO III

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS AND THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO LOOK INTO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE RECENT INSTANCES OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS REPORTEDLY PERPETRATED BY CERTAIN OFFICERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING AND UPGRADING THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE WITH THE ULTIMATE END OF ENSURING ADHERENCE TO ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES, AVOIDING PREMATURE AND PREJUDICIAL TRIAL BY PUBLICITY AND PROTECTING THE LIVES, PROPERTY AND HONOR OF OUR CITIZENS, INCLUDING OUR RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS

WHEREAS, Article II, Declaration of Principles of the 1987 Constitution provides that:

The prime duty of the government is to serve and protect the people". (Section 4)

"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." (Section 5)

"The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights." (Section 11)

WHEREAS, the recent incidents of alleged human rights violations reportedly perpetrated by certain officers of the PNP are as follows:

On 06 January 2013, the incident involving the joint PNP and AFP checkpoint in Atimonan, Quezon resulted in the alleged rubout of thirteen (13) individuals;

On 12 July 2013, the recapture of convicted drug traffickers namely Li Lan Yan, Alias "Jackson Dy", and Wang Li Na, reportedly tarnished by the alleged robbery of P15million to P20 million in cash and eighty (80) kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu" which were claimed to have been confiscated but were not officially declared and turned over by the raiding team; and

On 15 July 2013, Ozamis gang members Ricky Cadavero and Wilfredo Panogalinga, Jr. were killed while in police custody after they were supposed to have already been turned over to the custody of the Bureau of Corrections officers.

WHEREAS, PNP Chief Director General Alan Purisima has been quoted saying that he does not rule out the possibility that some complaints are attempts to discredit the PNP. "They want to destroy the reputation of those involved in the operation because if there are no more operatives, who else would work against them... We will find out the truth. And where the offense is, let the great axe fall."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Senate, to direct the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs and the Committee on Justice and Human Rights to look into, in aid of legislation, the recent instances of alleged human rights violations reportedly perpetrated by certain officers of the Philippine National Police (PNP), for the purpose of reviewing and upgrading the rules of engagement and operational procedures of the PNP with the ultimate end of ensuring adherence to established procedures, avoiding premature and prejudicial trial by publicity and protecting the lives, property and honor of our citizens, including our responsible officers.

ADOPTED,

VICENTE C. SOTTO III

GKEGORIO B. HONASÁN 🗗