



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 128

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED "RUBOUT" OF TWO OZAMIZ GANG LEADERS BY MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 3, Section 1 provides: "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws";

WHEREAS, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, of which the Philippines is a state party, provides: "Article 6.1 Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life";

WHEREAS, according to the 24 July 2013 news headline of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, entitled "PNP chief admits gang leaders' killing a rubout," Director General Alan Purisima of the Philippine National Police (PNP) reportedly confirmed that policemen intentionally killed Ozamiz Gang leader Ricky Cadavero and his henchman, Wilfredo Panogalinga Jr. last 15 July 2013;

WHEREAS, Purisima reportedly approved the filing of administrative charges against a police superintendent and 13 others for the deaths of Cadavero and Panogalinga; the police officers will reportedly be charged with grave misconduct which could carry a maximum penalty of dismissal from the service;

WHEREAS, Cadavero was sentenced to serve 67 years for a string of robberies in Metro Manila in 2011 and 2012; he escaped in December 2012 and was rearrested last July 12;

WHEREAS, after their arrest, Cadavero and Panogalinga were presented to the media at Camp Crame last July 15, and a ceremonial turnover by the PNP to the Bureau of Corrections was led by Interior Secretary Manuel Roxas II;

WHEREAS, after the news conference, the two suspects were supposed to be turned over to the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City; however, their police escorts drove them to Dasmariñas City, Cavite supposedly for an inquest;

WHEREAS, according to the police escorts, the vehicle carrying Cadavero and Panogalinga took a long route via Laguna, where gunmen on motorcycle allegedly ambushed the police vehicle and killed the suspects;

WHEREAS, contrary to the testimonies of the police escorts, the PNP internal investigating team led by Director Catalino Cuy found that “there was no firefight in the incident”;

WHEREAS, when asked by media if Cadavero and Panogalinga were deliberately killed by their police escorts, Purisima reportedly said, “It appears that way”;

WHEREAS, according to Purisima, the PNP has yet to finish its investigation on the motive for the killing of Cadavero and Panogalinga;

WHEREAS, Cadavero allegedly had a number of policemen in his pay; his criminal group was also allegedly behind the escape of two convicted Chinese drug traffickers in Trece Martires City, Cavite early this year;

WHEREAS, in media interviews, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said that the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Cadavero and Panogalinga were “suspicious”; she reportedly said that the circumstances tended to show that there were policemen involved in crime syndicates who wanted to silence Cadavero;

WHEREAS, President Benigno S. Aquino III, during his state of the nation address last July 22, issued a strong warning to hold liable policemen and government officials involved in the killing of Cadavero and Panogalinga;

WHEREAS, the brazen killing of Cadavero and Panogalinga in what appears to be the hands of the police is very alarming, especially since it comes at the heels of the Atimonan killings, wherein police officers and soldiers killed a group of armed men in Atimonan, Quezon, and made it appear to be a shootout;

WHEREAS, the involvement of police officers in “rubouts” and summary executions fosters a culture of impunity and disregard for the rule of law; incidents like the killing of Cadavero and Panogalinga erode public confidence in the PNP and perpetuate the image of our police officers as criminals in uniforms instead of protectors of the people;

WHEREAS, a reexamination and revamp of our laws and regulations relating to the PNP and police methods and procedures, especially in crime investigations and the handling of suspects, is long due, in order to prevent human rights violations committed by members of the PNP, modernize and improve the service, and restore public confidence in our police force;

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 alleged “rubout” of two Ozamiz Gang leaders by members of the Philippine National Police.

Adopted,

/j/b

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO