



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

'14 MAY -5 P4 :04

SENATE  
P.S. Res 629

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

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Introduced by Senator Poe

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**RESOLUTION**

**COMMENDING FILIPINO JOURNALIST ROWENA PARAAN FOR BEING INCLUDED IN THE '100 INFORMATION HEROES' BY THE PARIS-BASED PRESS FREEDOM WATCHDOG REPORTERS SANS FRONTIERES FOR HER ACTIVE ROLE IN DEFENDING MEDIA WORKERS' RIGHTS AND UPHOLDING PRESS FREEDOM**

Whereas, Reporters Sans Frontières or Reporters Without Borders is a France-based non-profit, non-governmental international organization founded in 1985 that promotes and defends freedom of information and freedom of the press and has consultant status at the United Nations;

Whereas, for the first time, Reporters Without Borders published a list of profiles of "100 Information Heroes," an initiative that aims to show that the fight for freedom of information requires not only active support for the victims of abuses but also the promotion of those who can serve as models;

Whereas, the 100 Information Heroes was published ahead of the celebration of the World Press Freedom Day last May 3;

Whereas, Rowena Paraan, currently the chairperson of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) and head of ABS-CBN's citizen journalism arm Bayan Mo iPatrol Mo, is the only Filipino journalist to be included in the 100 Information Heroes;

Whereas, Rowena Paraan, formerly the head of research at the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, was cited for running the NUJP's safety program which is "a major issue in a country where 32 journalists were massacred in Ampatuan in Maguindanao province in November 2009, a scar on the national psyche which is unlikely to heal";

Whereas, Rowena Paraan, a journalist for more than 25 years who started writing since high school, was also cited for leading a fact-finding mission to try to establish the circumstances of the massacre and constantly pressing the

authorities for justice for the victims and their families and an end to impunity, and as a result, now faces a charge of contempt;

Whereas, the list comprises of men and women from 65 nations and honors those who "through their courageous work or activism... help to promote the freedom enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the freedom to 'seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers';

Whereas, the list includes Glenn Greenwald and Laura Poitras, journalists who revealed the massive surveillance by US and British intelligence agencies and revelations made by whistleblower Edward Snowden;

Whereas, the global press freedom watchdog also said that the information heroes are a source of inspiration to all women and men who aspire to freedom;

Whereas, Rowena Paraan is a living legacy to a profession widely considered as a dangerous profession, but is highly regarded for her active role in defending press freedom and upholding the rights of media practitioners;

Now, therefore be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate of the Philippines congratulate Filipino journalist Rowena Paraan for being included in the '100 Information Heroes' by the Paris-based press freedom watchdog Reporters Sans Frontières or Reporters Without Borders for her active role in defending media workers' rights and upholding press freedom.

Adopted,

  
GRACE POE