

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1077

-----  
Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago  
-----

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED PERSISTENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
VIOLATIONS, ESPECIALLY BY STATE AGENTS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 11 provides: "The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, in an article on 10 December 2014, reported that the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) called on all sectors of the bureaucracy to draw up policies that would promote a culture of human rights, from the national government down to the barangays;

WHEREAS, the call came from CHR Chair Loretta Ann Rosales, who was quoted as saying that ordinary folks still file complaints on the abuse of authority by the state, including local officials, prison officials, the police, and the military;

WHEREAS, Rosales reportedly said enforced disappearances and arbitrary killings of antigovernment critics and criminals may have been reduced but still remain a threat;

WHEREAS, the CHR chair also claimed the persistence of human rights violations is seen in the impunity with which gun-for-hire gangs carry out assassinations onboard motorcycles, as well as in the human trafficking and sexual abuse of women and children;

WHEREAS, Rosales also reportedly underlined the problem of torture, which she said reflects the failure of authorities to instill discipline among lawmakers, as well as the school authorities' inability to protect students against hazing and other forms of degrading treatment;

WHEREAS, Marc Titus Cebreros, chief of the CHR human rights information division, was also quoted in the news as saying that the legal backbone for the protection of human rights had become stronger with the passage of several laws, many challenges remain in promoting a culture of human rights;

WHEREAS, Cebreros cited what he said was a worrying trend in Mindanao, where there has been an increase in extrajudicial killings of criminals in Cagayan de Oro, Butuan, Koronadal and Tacurong cities;

WHEREAS, Cebreros further claimed that the state is still the number one violator of human rights, with the allegedly huge number of torture complaints against policemen, and cases of enforced disappearance or extrajudicial killings filed against the military;

WHEREAS, the government must intensify efforts against human rights violations, especially amid evolving trends in criminal activity;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for Congress to ensure that all citizens are afforded their human rights despite the government's exercise of its police power;

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 reported persistence of human rights violations, especially by state agents.

Adopted.

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
78

/cerd