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Senate  
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SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. 1491

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED ESCALATING POLITICAL REPRESSION AND HARASSMENT AMONG PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONISTS AND ACTIVISTS**

**Whereas**, Article III Section 8 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "The right of the people, including those employed in the public and private sectors, to form unions, associations, or societies for purposes not contrary to law shall not be abridged."

**Whereas**, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, Executive Order No. 180, "Providing Guidelines for the Exercise of the Right to Organize of Government Employees, Creating a Public Sector Labor-Management Council, and for Other Purposes" was issued in 1987 which provides that "all government employees can form, join or assist employees' organizations of their own choosing for the furtherance and protection of their interests. They can also form, in conjunction with appropriate government authorities, labor-management committees, work councils and other forms of workers' participation schemes to achieve the same objectives";

**Whereas**, the promotion of free and responsible exercise of the right to organize by all employees in the government was assured in the "Amended Rules and Regulations Governing the Exercise of the Right of Government Employees to Organize" which was issued in 2004;

**Whereas**, the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE) is recognized as the leading umbrella organization of public sector unions in the country;

**Whereas**, in the recent months, reports of harassment of union leaders has been escalating, threatening them and their families by through letters sent to their homes, their offices, and even while on public transport;

**Whereas**, the letters reportedly link the union leaders to the communist movement and ask them to change their ways;

**Whereas**, military and police personnel, particularly intelligence officers, are allegedly the perpetrators of such harassment;

**Whereas**, according to COURAGE, they have observed that such harassment follows a pattern which starts with stalking by unidentified persons followed by illegal arrest and eventually charging of trumped up cases;


**Whereas**, there are at least twenty (20) members of COURAGE who are recent victims of harassment and threat and who, accordingly, filed a complaint at the Commission on Human Rights (CHR);

**Whereas**, it is important to address this issue especially in the light of allegations that the police and the military, the forces who are supposed to protect the rights of our people, are the culprits of misdoings;

**Whereas**, unions and other associations, both in private and public sector, serve as watchdogs of our government, hence their activities should be respected, their leaders should be recognized and their rights as provided in the Constitution should be upheld at all times;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Senate**, that the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights, conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged escalating political repression and harassment among public sector unionists and activists

*Adopted,*

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator