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SENATE

P.S.R. No. 186

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Ana Theresia "Risa" Hontiveros-Baraquel

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED RECENT INCIDENTS OF
VIOLENCE, INTIMIDATION, AND REPRESSION AGAINST LABOR
LEADERS AND ACTIVISTS.

WHEREAS, during the September 28, 2016 hearing of the Senate's Committee on Labor, Employment & Human Resources Development, serious concerns were raised by NAGKAISA, a coalition of 47 labor federations and workers' organizations in the Philippines, regarding recent incidents of violence, intimidation, and repression against labor leaders and activists;

WHEREAS, it was reported that on September 3, 2016, inside the Fort Magsaysay Military Reservation in Barangay San Isidro, Laur, Nueva Ecija, four farmers - Elejo Barbado, Emerencia 'Baby' dela Rosa, Violeta Mercado and Gaudencio Bagalay - were shot and killed by armed men who were seen arriving in a helicopter;

WHEREAS, another reported incident of violence occurred on September 7, 2016, in Delfin Albano, Isabela, when Ariel Diaz, head of the *Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Danggayan Dagiti Manalon* chapter, was killed on his farm by three armed men;

WHEREAS, it was likewise revealed during the hearing that on September 17, 2016, in Barangay Maghaway, Talisay City, Cebu, Orlando Abangan, a community organizer of the *Partido ng Manggagawa*, was shot dead riding home on his motorcycle;

WHEREAS, it was also narrated that on September 23, 2016, in Quezon City, Edilberto Miralles, president of the R&E Taxi Transport union, was gunned down as he was about to attend a hearing at the National Labor Relations Commission;

WHEREAS, the most recent report cites an incident on September 25, 2016, in Capas, Tarlac, one day before a certification election was to be held, when Patricio M. Tago, Jr., Vice-President of the De Luxe Workers' Association-ALU-TUCP, was allegedly abducted by policemen from his home;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Philippines, as a signatory thereto, is obligated to protect the right to

life of every human being;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Philippines, as a signatory thereto, is obligated to protect the right of workers to form and join trade unions;

WHEREAS, the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work requires all member-states, including the Philippines, to respect, promote, and realize the right of workers to freedom of association and collective bargaining;

WHEREAS, incidents of violence, intimidation, and repression against labor leaders and activists threaten not only the right of workers to free association and collective bargaining, but their right to life and to security of person as well; and

WHEREAS, it is the Philippines' obligation to protect workers by taking positive steps to respect, promote, and realize the aforementioned rights.

NOW THEREFORE,

RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the Committee on Labor, Labor, Employment & Human Resources Development, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on recent incidents of violence, intimidation, and repression against labor leaders and activists.

Adopted,

ana theresia risa baraquel
**ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS-
BARAQUEL**