

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE }
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
First Regular Session }



'17 JAN 17 P3:25

RECEIVED BY: _____

SENATE
P.S. RESOLUTION NO. 265

Introduced by SENATOR PANFILO M. LACSON

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE VARIOUS REPORTED INCIDENTS OF KIDNAP FOR RANSOM PERPETRATED BY MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) IN THE GUISE OF ENFORCING "PROJECT TOKHANG", WHICH IS A CENTERPIECE PROGRAM OF THE WAR ON DRUGS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO DUTERTE, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF EXPEDITING THE SEEMING SLOW AND SOFT ACTION OF THE PNP ON THE PERPETRATORS OF SAID DREADFUL AND APPALLING ACTIVITIES AND ULTIMATELY PROVIDING REMEDIAL LEGISLATIONS THAT WILL HASTEN THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS.

WHEREAS, true to his campaign promises, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte launched a massive and bloody war against the illegal drug problem besetting our nation;

WHEREAS, trying to replicate its success in Davao City, the Philippine National Police (PNP) initiated and executed the so-called OPLAN DOUBLE BARREL throughout the country and made it as the centerpiece program on the war on illegal drugs;

WHEREAS, as part of the said OPLAN, PNP personnel are implementing so-called "PROJECT TOKHANG" whereby police personnel knock on the doors of an alleged drug user or pusher, warning and persuading him/her to stop his/her illegal drug activities;

WHEREAS, though its constitutionality and legality may be questionable and its effectiveness is deemed contentious, the PNP reported that as of January 14, 2017, the number of persons who surrendered has gone up to 1,425,473;

WHEREAS, numerous reports however showed how some members of the PNP had abused this OPLAN where most, if not all of its alleged victims turned out dead;

WHEREAS, adding controversy to the program was the revelation of MS. CHOI KYUNG JIN that last October 18, 2016, her husband, JEE ICK-JOO, a 53-year-old Korean businessman and former director of a South Korean heavy industry firm was seized, at the pretext of conducting TOKHANG at his home in Angeles City by a group of armed men led by an officer of the PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Group;

WHEREAS, this incident was captured by a security camera of the house across the street which showed that at around 2:00 in the afternoon when MR. JEE was about to leave his house to head back to work, two (2) men took him and forced him into his black SUV and that when he tried to resist, several other men from a black Toyota Hilux parked in front of their house rushed to help the perpetrators;

WHEREAS, according to MS. CHOI, she received a text message on 30 October 2016 from the persons who abducted her husband demanding a ransom of eight million pesos (PhP 8,000,000.00). The following day, she negotiated the payoff, without involving the police, and delivered the amount of five million pesos (PhP 5,000,000.00) in a shopping mall in Pampanga. On November 2, she received another text message imposing further an additional amount of four million five hundred thousand pesos (PhP 4,500,000.00) for her husband's release which she failed to comply.

WHEREAS, according to reports, MS. CHOI, out of desperation and helplessness even appealed to President Duterte and to PNP Director General Ronald dela Rosa, to wit: *"I am not after the kidnapppers. I am just after my husband. I hope President Duterte uses his public power to find my husband. If my husband comes back to us alive, I will not file any case against the kidnapppers, stop all cases that is ongoing and I will go back to my country, Korea, with my husband;"*

WHEREAS, PNP Chief Dela Rosa, in a meeting with MS. CHOI and the South Korean ambassador was quoted as saying that he believed the victim is likely dead and promised to resolve the case immediately. He likewise emphasized that linking "TOKHANG" to kidnapping tarnishes the efforts of the Duterte Administration in countering the problem of illegal drugs;

WHEREAS, this is not the first time that "TOKHANG" was used as cover for kidnap for ransom activities. Last August 2016, a friend of this representation was also taken from the premises of his own warehouse in Bulacan on the pretext of his fabricated drug activities;

WHEREAS, had this representation not interceded by literally pleading with his family to cooperate fully with a guarantee that he would be safe, he could have suffered the same fate as that of the recent Korean victim;

WHEREAS, said victim was released only after ransom was paid by the family. Through cooperation with the victim's family, the PNP was able to monitor the payment of ransom money which resulted to the apprehension of all suspects appearing to have been led by a Police Chief Inspector. Most of the suspects were positively identified and subsequently relieved, and are now undergoing preliminary investigation by the Department of Justice;

WHEREAS, considering the criticisms being thrown at the PNP in the implementation of its PROJECT TOKHANG, its leadership should show strong resolve in dealing with its members who engage in 'hulidap' and kidnap-extortion thereby taking advantage of the government's no-nonsense efforts against drug offenders as they destroy the image and credibility of the entire police force;

WHEREAS, the investigation and prosecution of such activities should be expedited in order for the PNP to regain the trust and confidence of our people;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, to direct as it hereby directs, the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs to inquire, in aid of legislation on the reported kidnap-for-ransom activities of some unscrupulous members of the Philippine National Police using as a cover, the relentless anti-drug war of the administration of President Duterte, with the end in view of hastening its investigation and providing remedial legislations that will empower the PNP and its Internal Affairs Service to act more decisively against erring policemen in the investigation and prosecution of similar incidents.

Adopted,


PANFILO M. LACSON
Senator