



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

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

P.S. RES. NO. 358

Introduced by SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED RESIGNATION AND REVELATION OF PO1 VINCENT TACORDA THAT CATANDUANES SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS ALLEGEDLY ORDERED HIM TO KILL SUSPECTED PUSHER SAMUEL ROJAS AND TO COMMIT OTHER ILLEGAL ACTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE WAR ON DRUGS

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution provides that “[t]he maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy”;

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 27 of the Constitution also provides that “[t]he State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service...”;

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 1 of the same provides that “[n]o person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws”;

WHEREAS, Inquirer, on 30 April 2017, reported that PO1 Vicente Tacorda accused former Catanduanes Police Chief Senior Supt. Jesus Martirez and former Viga Officer-In-Charge Senior Inspector Nathaniel Jacob of ordering him to kill Samuel Rojas, tagged as the No. 1 pusher in Viga, Catanduanes¹;

WHEREAS, on 10 August 2016, Tacorda confessed that he shot Rojas but Rojas survived. Tacorda said that “Rojas had been marked for liquidation so the provincial police could present it as an accomplishment in the war on drugs” and, that “had he [Rojas] been killed, it could have been the first case of drug-related extrajudicial killing in the province”²;

¹ Inquirer.net. (2017, April 30). <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net>. Retrieved from Inquirer.net : <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/893059/catanduanes-cop-ordered-by-superior-to-kill-drug-suspect-quits>

² Ibid

WHEREAS, according to the same news report, the job was offered to eight (8) other policemen, but they declined. Tacorda said that he was forced to accept the mission since he could not refuse a direct order from a superior³;

WHEREAS, GMA News Online, on 28 April 2017, also reported that Tacorda narrated how Former Catanduanes Police Chief allegedly gave other orders to them “not to declare the amount and worth of seized illegal drugs during operations if it is too huge” and that “the undeclared cash would be used to augment the police organization's funds for its operations”⁴;

WHEREAS, Manila Bulletin, on 28 April 2017, also reported that Tacorda claimed that there were instances [when] he was ordered to plant evidence to support the arrest of certain individuals⁵;

WHEREAS, in the same Inquirer report, Tacorda also disclosed that when Manuel “Galog” Huit, Jr. was arrested, the seized shabu worth more than P1 Million was replaced with “tawas” upon turn over⁶;

WHEREAS, in the Inquirer report, Tacorda said “he was ready to reveal everything he knows about how the drug war was being abused, but preferred the National Bureau of Investigation to conduct the probe”⁷;

WHEREAS, days before his public confession, Tacorda submitted his letter of irrevocable resignation to Senior Supt. Jacinto Culver Sison, head of the PNP Regional Headquarters Support Group (RSHG). Tacorda said he was transferred by his superiors from the Provincial Police Force of Catanduanes to RSHG “despite his contributions to the war on drugs”⁸;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Philippine National Police to determine the culpability of the police officers involved in the reported irregularities;

WHEREAS, given the appalling numbers of extrajudicial killings and summary executions under this Administration, it is imperative to check if there are abuses and excesses in the exercise of authority of law enforcement units, and to ensure that due process and rule of law are always upheld;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate Committee to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the reported resignation and revelation of PO1 Vincent Tacorda that Catanduanes Senior Police Officers allegedly ordered him to kill suspected drug pusher Samuel Rojas and to commit other illegal acts in connection with the War on Drugs, with the end in view

³ Ibid

⁴ GMA News Online. (2017, April 28). <http://www.gmanetwork.com>. Retrieved from GMA News Online : <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/608829/order-to-commit-ejk-prompts-catanduanes-cop-to-resign/story>

⁵ Manila Bulletin. (2017, April 28). <http://news.mb.com.ph>. Retrieved from Manila Bulletin : <http://news.mb.com.ph/2017/04/28/disgruntled-policeman-resigns-reveals-irregularities-in-ppn/>


⁶ Supra foot note #1

⁷ Supra foot note #1

⁸ Supra foot note #1

of uncovering the possible abuses in the exercise of functions of the Philippine National Police and other law enforcement agencies, to recommend remedial legislative measures to improve the laws and standards affecting the conduct of PNP officers and members, and to strengthen mechanisms of accountability of public officials and employees engaged in law enforcement.

Adopted,


LILIA M. DE LIMA