
Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONDEMNING THE JANUARY 27,
2019 JOLO BOMBING INCIDENT AND ITS DEEP GRATITUDE FOR THE
SERVICE OF THE SOLDIERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AND SUFFERED
INJURIES DUE TO THE INCIDENT

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 5 of the 1987 Constitution states, "The 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, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9372, also known as the "Human Security Act of 2007," provides that "It is declared a policy of the State to protect life, liberty, and property from acts of terrorism, to condemn terrorism as inimical and dangerous to the national security of the country and to the welfare of the people, and to make terrorism a crime against the Filipino people, against humanity, and against the law of nations";

WHEREAS, a little over a week after the plebiscite for the Bangsamoro Organic Law was conducted, a major bombing incident occurred on January 27, 2019 in Jolo, Sulu; first, inside the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral; and second, in the parking lot of the same cathedral;

WHEREAS, the bombing incident resulted in the loss of human lives, six (6) of which are soldiers, fourteen (14) civilians; and caused life-threatening injuries to twenty-two (22) soldiers and ninety (90) civilians;

WHEREAS, these acts are indubitably acts of terrorism and should therefore be condemned; and which as a country, WE CANNOT and MUST NEVER ACCEPT; AND MUST TAKE RESOLUTE COUNTER MEASURES;

WHEREAS, the recurrence of bombing in Jolo despite the existence of martial law in the area necessitates a rethinking of the policies employed by the government to ensure peace and stability; martial law as implemented is insufficient to prevent these attacks;

WHEREAS, this incident brought to fore the need to reconvene the National Security Council to re-evaluate our internal defense strategy, and to have regular monitoring together with the members of both Houses of Congress;

WHEREAS, there is no monetary amount or medal or recognition that can equate to the loss of the lives of our soldiers and other innocent victims, only simple justice;

WHEREAS, simple justice requires a bolder and braver government backed up by the military and the police and supported by the local community to ensure that peace and the bounties of development are brought to the area;

Resolved by the Senate, as it is hereby resolved, expressing the sense of the Senate of the Philippines its condemnation against the dastardly attack made at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral, in Jolo, Sulu on January 27, 2019; for its deepest gratitude to the fallen heroes who died during the said incident; and strongly enjoins the whole of the Philippine government backed up by the military and the police to give due deference to the loss of these valuable lives by exacting simple justice; re-thinking its law-enforcement strategy in crucial areas and develop and implement bold and brave policies and programs to ensure justice, peace, stability and the benefits of development spread over the areas; reconvene the National Security Council to craft and carry-out concrete measures to solve our security issues and to have regular monitoring with members of both Houses of Congress so that in front of the altar of those who died in Jolo, the possibility of such events in the future will be greatly minimized.

Adopted,



RICHARD J. GORDON