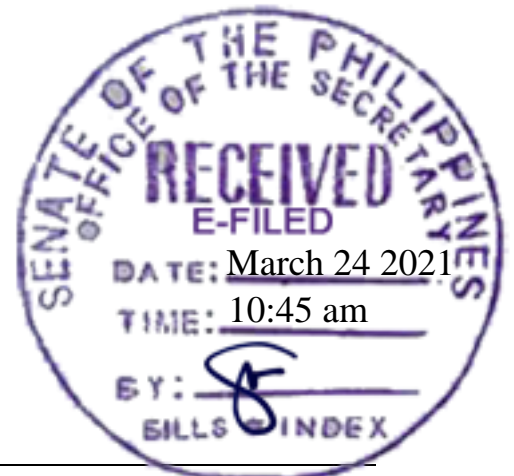


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 691

Introduced by Senators FRANKLIN M. DRILON, SONNY ANGARA, PIA S. CAYETANO,
LEILA M. DE LIMA, RICHARD J. GORDON, FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN, AQUILINO
"KOKO" PIMENTEL III, FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

RESOLUTION
STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE KILLING OF AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE
AGAINST JUDGES, PROSECUTORS AND LAWYERS AND URGING THE
PRESIDENT TO UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS IN ENSURING THE
SAFETY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Justice has revealed that since 2016 fifty-four
2 (54) members of the legal profession have been killed and that only five (5) cases
3 have reached the courts;

4 WHEREAS, the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) has reported that one
5 hundred (100) lawyers have been killed in the last twenty (20) years;

6 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution provides that "[t]he prime
7 duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people";

8 WHEREAS, the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers provides
9 in paragraphs 16 and 18 thereof, respectively, that (1) "[g]overnments shall ensure
10 that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without
11 intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference; (b) are able to travel
12 and to consult with their clients freely both within their own country and abroad; and
13 (c) shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economic or
14 other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties,
15 standards and ethics" and (2) "[l]awyers shall not be identified with their clients or
16 their clients' causes as a result of discharging their functions";

17 WHEREAS, our lawyers play a crucial role in the administration of justice in the
18 country, especially in representing the most marginalized members of the community;

1 WHEREAS, the brazen acts of violence against lawyers send a chilling message
2 to the members of the bench and the bar who, in the performance of their
3 responsibilities to the society as administrators of justice, should be able to exercise
4 their sworn duties and represent their clients or dispense justice without threats,
5 persecution and fear for their safety and their lives;

6 WHEREAS, the continuing flagrant and horrific attacks on the lawyers,
7 prosecutors, and judges and the failure to condemn, investigate, and prosecute these
8 acts of violence and bring the perpetrators to justice is an act of injustice in itself and
9 erode the public's trust and confidence in our justice system: Now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, to strongly condemn the killings of and acts of
11 violence against judges, prosecutors, and lawyers;

12 RESOLVED, further, to urge the President to undertake the necessary steps in
13 ensuring the safety of the members of the legal profession by laying out definitive
14 solutions and actions to address such rampant violence and killings, including the
15 prompt, impartial and efficient investigation and prosecution of the cases.

Adopted,



FRANKLIN M. DRILON



SONNY ANGARA



PIA S. CAYETANO



LEILA M. DE LIMA



RICHARD J. GORDON



FRANCIS "KIKO" PANGILINAN



AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III



FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO