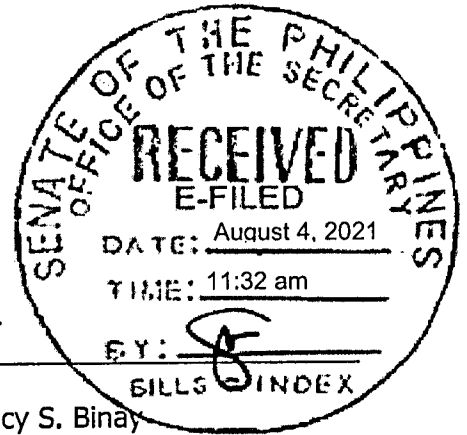


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE
P. S. Res No. 824



Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE SHOOTING OF TWO
MASUNGI GEORESERVE FOREST RANGERS IN BARAS, RIZAL

1 WHEREAS, according to news reports, on July 24, 2021, two forest rangers of
2 the Masungi Georeserve were shot in the head and neck by unidentified assailants
3 while guarding the reforestation site in Baras, Rizal;

4
5 WHEREAS, the Masungi Georeserve is cared for, protected, and loved by a
6 group of passionate individuals for the environment and the place. Initiatives are led
7 and funded by Blue Star Construction & Development Corporation and the foundation
8 body of Masungi Georeserve. They do their conservation efforts, alongside the
9 communities of Pinugay, Baras, Cuyambay, and Tandang Kutyo¹;

10
11 WHEREAS, it was reported that the shooting happened at a ranger station near
12 GSB resort in Sitio San Roque in Brgy. Pinugay. The resort is one of the infrastructures
13 said to be illegally occupying forestland in the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected
14 Landscape²;

15
16 WHEREAS, it was reported that the incident happened more than a week after
17 the Department of the Interior and Local Government recommended the filing of
18 criminal and administrative charges against several local officials and establishments
19 over encroachment in the Upper Marikina Watershed³;

20
21 WHEREAS, according to news reports, Masungi Georeserve Foundation had
22 previously butted heads with quarrying companies and private firms that claimed

¹ Masungi Georeserve website, About Us, <https://www.masungigeoreserve.com/getting-here-masungi-georeserve/about-us-our-story-commitment-community-masungi-georeserve/>.

² Philstar Global, Masungi Georeserve calls for action, protection after shooting of 2 forest rangers, July 25, 2021, <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/25/2115089/masungi-georeserve-calls-action-protection-after-shooting-2-forest-rangers>.

³ Ibid.

1 ownership over parts of the watershed, sounding the alarm on environmental
2 violations, such as illegal logging⁴;

3

4 WHEREAS, it was reported that the Philippines has earned the dubious title of
5 being the deadliest place for earth warriors in Asia, and the second deadliest in the
6 world next to Colombia. In a report, the watchdog Global Witness (GW) stated that
7 43 defenders were killed in the country in 2019, mostly in the resource-rich islands of
8 Mindanao and Negros. Since 2016, scores of indigenous leaders, farmers, and state
9 workers charged with protecting the environment have been the victims of incidents
10 allegedly involving armed forces or paramilitary groups⁵;

11

12 WHEREAS, the country has a current ratio of one park ranger for every 4,000
13 hectares of land nationwide⁶;

14

15 WHEREAS, it is imperative for the government to put a stop to the unceasing
16 harassment against and killings of forest rangers and environmental defenders;

17

18 WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Senate to inquire into this matter, review and
19 re-examine existing laws and policies regarding crimes against environmental forest
20 rangers and environmental defenders considering the recent violent attacks against
21 them;

22

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the
24 Senate, to direct the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of
legislation, on the shooting of two Masungi Georeserve forest rangers in Baras, Rizal.

Adopted,



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

⁴ Inquirer.net, Still no gov't protection for Marikina watershed guards, August 02, 2021, <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1467500/still-no-govt-protection-for-marikina-watershed-guards>.

⁵ Inquirer.net, Violence in the forest, July 31, 2021, <https://opinion.inquirer.net/142629/violence-in-the-forest>.

⁶ Ibid.