

**SENATE**

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**P.S.R. No. 742**

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Introduced by **Senator Risa Hontiveros**

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**RESOLUTION**

**CALLING FOR AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE MURDER OF SEVENTEEN-YEAR OLD JEMBOY BALTAZAR; THE UNABATED USE OF EXCESSIVE AND LETHAL FORCE BY THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE; THE LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS ON POLICE ENGAGEMENT AND USE OF FIREARMS; AND THE LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING ACCOUNTABILITY AND CRIMINAL LIABILITY OF POLICE OFFICERS.**

**WHEREAS**, Article II, Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution declares that “[t]he the prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people,” while the Bill of Rights guarantees that “[n]o person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law”;

**WHEREAS**, on this very day five (5) years ago, seventeen (17) year old student Kian delos Santos was shot and murdered with impunity by three (3) police officers, agents of the State whose very duty it was to serve and protect him- even as he was begging for his life;

**WHEREAS**, today we again mourn and condemn the death of seventeen (17) year old Jemboy Baltazar; on August 2, 2023, Jemboy was allegedly killed by members of 6-man police team in Navotas City who fired bullets at him without provocation, hitting his head and hand and abandoning his lifeless body for hours to later be found by his own family;

**WHEREAS**, the police officers claimed it was a case of “mistaken identity,” but even if the victim had been a suspect, the circumstances fail to justify such excessive use of force;

**WHEREAS**, it is alleged that a dismissal order was already issued against of the police officers involved, who should not have been part of the operations; their body-worn cameras were turned off so no evidence of the attack is readily available; and the Navotas City Police Chief Colonel Allan Umipig ordered the removal of eleven (11) police officers’ names in the police report on Baltazar’s killing;

**WHEREAS**, the police officers involved are currently facing criminal charges only for reckless imprudence resulting in homicide, while the Navotas City Police Chief is facing only administrative charges for “dishonesty”;

**WHEREAS**, these circumstances cast serious doubt on the transparency of the Philippine National Police and its capacity to exact accountability and seek justice against its own members;

**WHEREAS**, in *Yapyuco v. Sandiganbayan* (G.R. Nos. 120744-46, June 25, 2012), the Supreme Court ruled: “Law enforcers thrust their lives in unimaginable zones of peril. Yet resort to wanton violence is never justified when their duty could be performed otherwise. A ‘shoot first, think later’ disposition occupies no decent place in a civilized society. Never has homicide or murder been a function of law enforcement. The public peace is never predicated on the cost of human life”;

**WHEREAS**, the senseless taking of a young man’s life is one too many, and the government must do all it can to prevent the repeat of this tragic incident, in the guise of law enforcement;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO URGE THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE MURDER OF SEVENTEEN-YEAR OLD JEMBOY BALTAZAR; THE UNABATED USE OF EXCESSIVE AND LETHAL FORCE BY THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE; THE LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS ON POLICE ENGAGEMENT AND USE OF FIREARMS; AND THE LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING ACCOUNTABILITY AND CRIMINAL LIABILITY OF POLICE OFFICERS.**

Adopted.

  
**RISA HONTIVEROS**  
Senator