

13<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Republic )  
of the Philippines )  
Second Regular Session )

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SENATE  
S. Res. No. 479

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Introduced by Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr.**

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS DURING THE REPORTED ARREST OF ELEVEN (11) YOUNG HITCHHIKERS IN SAGADA

Whereas, Section 1, Article III of the 1987 Constitution provides that “No 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, Section 12(2), Article III of the 1987 Constitution states that, “No torture, force, violence, threat, intimidation or any other means which vitiate the free will shall be used against him. Secret detention places, solitary, incommunicado, or other similar forms of detention are prohibited;”

Whereas, on 14 February 2006, eleven hitchhikers, Rundren Berloise Lao, 18; Anderson Tabocanon Alonzo, 18; Aldo Christian Madroza, 18; Ron Baquiran Pandino, 20; Ray Lester Esguerra Mendoza, 16; Jethro Villagrancia, 21; Neil Russel Sarmiento Balajadia, 25; Darwin Padilla Alagar, 21; Arvie Molmog Nunez, 21; Jefferson dela Cruz dela Rosa, 20; and Franciss Ann Galdonez Bernal, 15, were hitching a ride in a dump truck along the Halsema Highway on their way to Sagada, when they were stopped and apprehended by elements of the Philippine National Police Provincial Mobile Group and Regional Mobile Group;

Whereas, the hitchhikers were reportedly subjected to physical, emotional and mental torture and were forced to admit that they were the ones who staged the raid on the military camp in Cabiten, Mankayan, Benguet on 10 February 2006;

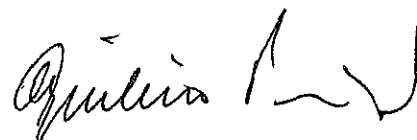
Whereas, they were later brought to the Benguet Provincial Jail where they are still detained and subsequently charged with robbery and homicide;

Whereas, various groups urge the Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao to immediately investigate the incident to ascertain if any violation against the rights of the young hitchhikers was committed;

Whereas, regardless of the guilt of the detained hitchhikers, their constitutionally safeguarded rights to due process and protection against torture must be respected;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved,** to direct the Appropriate Senate Committee to inquire, in aid of legislation, into the alleged violation of constitutional rights during the reported arrest of eleven (11) young hitchhikers in Sagada.

Adopted,



**AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.**