

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

SECRETARY
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SENATE
S. B. No. 914

RECEIVED


Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA


EXPLANATORY NOTE

Some members of the local and national media continue to callously lambast the Muslim religious culture of describing criminals and suspects with terms such as "Muslim Criminals", "Muslim Terrorists", "Muslim Drug Pushers", "Muslim Sea Pirates", "Muslim Bandits" or "Muslim Holduppers".

The use of words "Muslim" and "Islamic" in association with suspected or convicted criminals and unlawful acts are offensively biased against Muslims. This practice is highly prejudicial and extremely injurious to the Islamic religious culture, Muslim individuals and their collective image, and the Muslim's social well being as respectable citizens of the country.

Outlawing this culturally and religiously biased practice would definitely contribute and result in increased positive social space and understanding between and among Muslims and Non-Muslims, and help drive the path towards a just, culturally-sensitive, fair, and lasting peace and development in our country.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


EDGARDO J. ANGARA
Senator

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7 44 -3 P6:28

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**AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF THE WORD "MUSLIM" OR
"ISLAMIC" IN PRINT, RADIO, TELEVISION AND OTHER FORMS
OF BROADCAST MEDIA TO REFER TO OR DESCRIBE ANY
PERSON CONVICTED OF ANY CRIME, OR SUSPECTED OF
COMMITTING ANY UNLAWFUL ACT, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES
THEREFOR**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the
Philippine in Congress assembled:*

1 **SECTION 1. *Prohibited Act.*** - It shall be unlawful for any person to
2 use the word "Muslim" or "Islamic" in print, television and other forms of
3 broadcast media to refer to or describe any person convicted of a crime or
4 suspected of committing any unlawful act.

5
6 **SECTION 2. *Penalties.*** - The penalty of *arresto mayor* or a fine
7 ranging from One thousand pesos (Php 1,000.00) to Ten thousand pesos (Php
8 10,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court, shall be imposed upon any
9 person found guilty of violating Section 1 hereof.

10 The publisher, in the case of print media, and the president of the
11 juridical entity, in the case of radio, television and other forms of broadcast
12 media, shall be imposed a fine not lower than Fifty thousand pesos (Php
13 50,000.00).

14 The juridical entity violating this Act shall be imposed a fine not lower
15 than Fifty thousand pesos (Php50,000.00) for every violation, or cancellation
16 of its license or franchise, or both, at the discretion of the court.

17
18 **SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, orders, issuances, rules
19 and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
20 are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

21

1 **SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.*** - If any party of this Act is held
2 invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions thereof not affected
3 thereby shall remain valid and effective.

4

5 **SECTION 5. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
6 from its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
7 circulation.

8

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10 *Approved,*