

media. They also said that journalists were properly warned to leave the Manila Peninsula hotel before troops and police stormed it in a flurry of gunfire and tear gas;

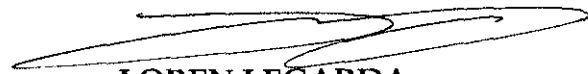
WHEREAS, the police explanation that the “processing” is part of SOP has been questioned as no journalist has been taken to police station for “processing” in past coup d’etats since the time of President Aquino;

WHEREAS, Philippine and foreign media groups slammed the arrests, saying security forces “simply went overboard.” Furthermore, media groups have roundly condemned what they said were the illegal arrests of journalists who covered the Makati standoff, saying that such actions by the government posed a serious threat to press freedom and the public’s right to know.

WHEREAS, legislation may be needed to guide actions of law enforces in crisis situations to ensure that the rights of media practitioners to responsibly inform the public on events of national significance is not abridged;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, for the Senate Committee on Public Information and Mass Media to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the arrest of journalists during the siege of renegade soldiers at the Manila Peninsula Hotel, with the end in view of recommending remedial measures to protect the rights of media practitioners in the performance of their profession.

Adopted



LOREN LEGARDA

Senator