


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

6 FEB 11 2008

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 301

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO HONOR THE LIFE  
OF FR. REY RODA, OMI, AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO BETTER THE LIVES  
OF HIS PARISHIONERS IN TABAWAN, TAWI-TAWI, AND TO CONDEMN HIS  
SENSELESS KILLING

WHEREAS, according to news reports from the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, Fr. Rey Roda, OMI, the parish priest of Tabawan, Tawi-Tawi, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen last 15 January 2008, following a kidnapping attempt;

WHEREAS, Fr. Roda was reportedly praying inside a chapel, along with some teachers of the Notre Dame of Tabawan, when about ten suspected Abu Sayyaf extremists barged in around 8:30 p.m and grabbed Fr. Roda;

WHEREAS, Fr. Roda reportedly struggled against his kidnapers until they reached a basketball court in front of the chapel when one of the suspects pulled out a hand gun and shot him in the head;

WHEREAS, it was reported that a teacher, one Omar Taup, who was with Fr. Roda during the incident, was taken by the armed men who fled aboard a waiting motorboat;

WHEREAS, Fr. Roda, who was born on 5 February 1954, joined the Oblate seminary in Cotabato City in 1970; he finished A.B. Philosophy at the Notre Dame University of Cotabato in 1975, and took his Theology studies at the Our Lady of Assumption Scholasticate and at the Ateneo de Manila University; he was ordained priest on May 1980 at the Cotabato Immaculate Cathedral;

WHEREAS, after ordination, Fr. Roda became the parish vicar of the Our Lady of Grace Park in Caloocan City; he successively became the parish vicar of the Sto. Nino Parish in Midsayap, North Cotabato, Notre Dame of Salaman school director and parish priest at Lebak, Sultan Kudarat, parish priest of Magpet parish in North Cotabato, chancellor of the Our Lady of Mediatrix parish in Kidapawan City, and parish priest of President Roxas, also in North Cotabato, under the Diocese of Kidapawan;

WHEREAS, Fr. Roda, as director of the Notre Dame of Tabawan, was in-charge of the mission station for the last ten years; he was at the forefront of development-oriented initiatives in Tabawan, exerting efforts to harness public and private resources for projects, particularly in the field of primary and secondary education;

WHEREAS, it can be recalled that in 1997, Bishop Benjamin de Jesus, OMI, was killed by unknown assassins in Sulu; three years later, Fr. Benjie Inocencio, OMI, was

also killed in the same province; Fr. Roda's violent death was the third for the OMI, a congregation working with the poor of central and western Mindanao;

WHEREAS, Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, OMI, DD, former president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, condemned the killing, describing Fr. Roda's death a loss in their campaign to bring peace in remotes areas in the country;

WHEREAS, the senseless killing of Fr. Roda is a tragic loss not only to his family, community, and religious order, but also to all peace-loving Filipinos;

WHEREAS, the senseless killing of Fr. Roda demonstrates the need to provide more security and protection for missionaries and humanitarian aid workers in Mindanao and remote areas in the country;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to express the sense of the Senate to honor the life of Fr. Rey Roda, OMI, and his contributions to better the lives of his parishioners in Tabawan, Tawi-Tawi, and to condemn his senseless killing.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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