


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
Republic of the Philippines )  
Second Regular Session )

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SENATE  
PSR NO. 554

RECEIVED BY: 

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT  
AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SPATE OF  
KILLINGS OF FARMERS ALLEGEDLY RELATED TO AGRARIAN REFORM  
IMPLEMENTATION IN THE PROVINCE OF MASBATE**

**WHEREAS**, on December 22, 2007, Mark Anthony "Botsoy" Vale, a Barangay Captain of Sawang, Batuan in Masbate was shot and killed by armed men allegedly by New People's Army members;

**WHEREAS**, on July 6, 2008 Junrie Pagaspas and Rene Llabres, both from the village of Royroy, Batuan, Masbate, were dragged from their homes against their will by armed men in front of their family members and were tortured and later killed;

**WHEREAS**, these farmers were active members of the peasant group named Samahan ng mga Magsasaka ng Hacienda Batuan (Samahaba);

**WHEREAS**, on July 20, 2008, Alberto Yusi, President of the Ticao Farmers Federation and the Samahang Anak ng Magsasaka ng Famosa, Inc. (SAMFAI) and provincial chairman of Ugnayan ng Mga Nagsasariling Organisasyon sa Kanayunan (UNORKA) in Masbate was killed by armed men;

**WHEREAS**, at the time of their death, these farmers fought for the peasants' rights, and the abolition of the one-sided sharing system, where they are allotted 33 percent instead of 75 percent of the produce under the leasehold system;

**WHEREAS**, the spate of killings of the farmers undermine the implementation of agrarian reform program in the Province of Masbate;

**WHEREAS**, the government is not doing enough to stop killings of farmers and the violation of their human rights continues unabated;

**WHEREFORE,** BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper committees to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the spate of killings of farmers allegedly related to agrarian reform implementation in the Province of Masbate.

*Adopted,*

  
**JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**  
Senator