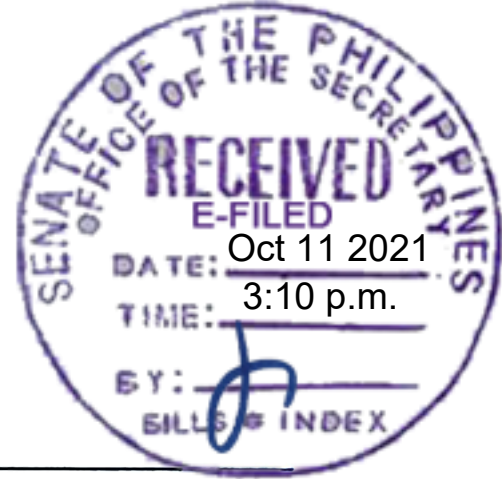


**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)**



SENATE

P.S.R. No. 927

**INTRODUCED BY SENATORS RISA HONTIVEROS, FRANKLIN M. DRILON,
FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN, and LEILA M. DE LIMA**

**RESOLUTION
CONFERRING THE PHILIPPINE SENATE MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE TO NOBEL
PRIZE WINNER MARIA RESSA**

WHEREAS, pursuant to adopted Senate Resolution No. 110, Filipinos who receive recognition from major international award giving bodies are set to receive the Philippine Senate Medal of Excellence for setting the "highest standards of excellence, nationalism, and virtue that their fellow countrymen can aspire for";ⁱ

WHEREAS, in accordance with adopted Senate Resolution No. 110, the Philippine Senate Medal of Excellence shall be automatically "conferred upon Filipinos who are awarded the Nobel Prize, Pulitzer Prize, the A.M. Turing Award, the Ramon Magsaysay Award, or an Olympic Medal";

WHEREAS, Maria Ressa, Rappler's CEO and co-founder, is the Philippines' first ever Nobel laureate, receiving the Nobel Peace Prize last 8 October 2021 for her 'courageous fight for freedom of expression';ⁱⁱ

WHEREAS, prior to her historic Nobel Prize awarding, Ressa has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades on the international stage, including Time Magazine's Person of the Year, the Knight International Journalism Award, the Golden Pen of Freedom Award, and the Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award, all in 2018 and the Columbia Journalism Award and the Canadian Journalism Foundation's Tribute Honor both in 2019, for her unwavering dedication to the defiant pursuit of truth through journalism;ⁱⁱⁱ

WHEREAS, critical and fundamental journalism in the Philippines has been a popular target of attacks, both institutional and personal, from organized trolls to the highest level of government;

WHEREAS, the country is a dangerous battleground for journalists who pay not only with their reputations and credibility, but also with their lives in speaking truth to power and exposing violence, corruption, and abuses by the State both past and present;

WHEREAS, the country has been ranked as the 7th most dangerous place to be a journalist in the world^{iv} where 15 journalists and press members were murdered from June 2016 to April 2020 alone^v and 11 media personnel and journalist killings remain unsolved^{vi};

WHEREAS, despite the constant threat of closure of Rappler, the possibility of jail time, and the numerous cases lodged against her and the company she co-founded, her indefatigable courage and daring to continue holding the line for us all should serve as a reminder of the power and importance of journalism in a time of widespread and weaponized disinformation and as a renewed call for journalists to continue to uphold their sacred vow of speaking truth to power despite the risks and danger;

WHEREAS, the role of journalists in preventing the erosion of democracy through a 'thousand cuts' is more essential than ever and the complexity of their battle for truth and facts makes the Nobel award of the embattled Rappler CEO Maria Ressa a much needed triumph and a beacon of hope to the tattered freedom of expression in the country;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to confer the Philippine Senate Medal of Excellence to Nobel Prize Winner Maria Ressa.

Adopted,


RISA HONTIVEROS


FRANKLIN M. DRILON


FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN


LEILA M. DE LIMA

¹ http://legacy.senate.gov.ph/press_release/2021/0824_tolentino1.asp

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/09/world/asia/rappler-philippines-nobel-peace-prize.html>

³ <https://ifex.org/faces/maria-ressa-holding-the-line-for-media-freedom-and-truth/>

⁴ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/29/20/ph-out-of-top-5-deadliest-countries-for-journalists-after-10-years-but-still-7th-most-dangerous>

⁵ <https://pcij.org/article/4009/state-of-media-freedom-in-ph-2>

⁶ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/29/20/ph-out-of-top-5-deadliest-countries-for-journalists-after-10-years-but-still-7th-most-dangerous>