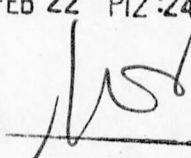




SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 300

Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT KILLINGS OF
LAWYERS, WITH THE END VIEW OF ENACTING MEASURES TO
SECURE THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
PHILIPPINE BAR

Whereas, Article II, Section 5 of the 1987 Constitution provides that “[t]he maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy”;

Whereas, Article II, Section 11 of the Constitution also provides that “[t]he State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights”;

Whereas, paragraph 16 of the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, provides, in part, that “[g]overnments shall ensure that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference...”;

Whereas, paragraph 17 of the same provides that “[w]here the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of discharging their functions, they shall be adequately safeguarded by the authorities”;

Whereas, CNN Philippines, on 24 August 2016, reported the death of Atty. Rogelio Bato, lawyer of Mayor Rolando Espinosa, who was killed in an ambush in the town of Albuera, province of Leyte¹;

¹ CNN Philippines (24 August 2016) . <http://cnnphilippines.com/regional/2016/08/23/Lawyer-Albuera-town-mayor-killed-ambush.html>.

Whereas, ABS-CBN News, on 16 September 2016, reported the death of Atty. Melver Tolentino, who was shot several times by two (2) men on a motorcycle while he was refueling his vehicle at a gasoline station in Ilocos Sur²;

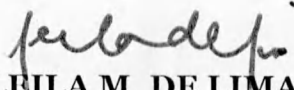
Whereas, Inquirer, on 22 December 2016, reported that Atty. Goering Paderanga was killed while his son was wounded when they were shot by a security guard as they stepped out of his office in Barangay Sta. Cruz, Cebu City³;

Whereas, Rappler, on 17 February 2017, reported that Mia Manuelita Mascariñas-Green, a known environmental lawyer who is noted to be part of the volunteer lawyers' network of the Environmental Legal Assistance Center and handled cases involving property disputes and criminal cases, was also ambushed and shot dead by four (4) motorcycle-riding gunmen, with her children and nanny in the vehicle, near her home on the central island of Bohol⁴;

Whereas, this recent spate of killings victimizing members of the Bar, makes it imperative for the government to enact measures for the personal and professional safety of Filipino lawyers and to effectively prevent attacks on their independence and safety;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the recent killings of lawyers, with the end view of enacting measures to secure the safety and welfare of the members of the Philippine Bar.

Adopted,


LEILA M. DE LIMA

² ABS-CBN News (16 September 2016). <http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/09/16/16/lawyer-shot-dead-in-ilocos-sur>

³ Mayol, Ador (22 December 2016). <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/855848/lawyer-shot-dead-son-wounded-by-guard-in-cebu-city>.

⁴ Rappler (17 February 2017). <http://www.rappler.com/nation/161782-environmental-lawyer-murdered-philippines>.