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SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. 496

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SEN. ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS BARAQUEL

A RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY RELATIONS AND GENDER EQUALITY, AND PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT A JOINT INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE SPATE OF KILLINGS THAT INVOLVE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall promote and protect children's physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being (Article II, Section 13) and is mandated to defend the right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development (Article XV, Section 3);

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which provides that the States Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life and that they shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child;

WHEREAS, consistent with the policy of the State to provide special protection to children from all forms of abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation and discrimination and other conditions, prejudicial to their development, the Philippines has passed different laws, to wit, Republic Act No. 7610 or the "*Special protection of Children against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act*," RA No. 9208, RA No. 9262 or the "*Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004*," RA 9344 or the "*Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006*," among others;

WHEREAS, just today, 14-year old Reynaldo de Guzman, the missing companion of Carl Angelo Arnaiz who was found in Gapan, Nueva Ecija with 31 stab wounds and his face heavily wrapped in tape, became the latest victim of extra-judicial killing involving a minor;

WHEREAS, de Guzman's death was not the first case of children being murdered in the War on Drugs --- Danica Mae Garcia, 5 years old was preparing to go school when two motorcycle-riding men barged into their home and open-fired at her grandfather hitting her on the head;

WHEREAS, on 1 September 2016, 4-year old Althea Fhem Barbon joined her father in his motorbike to buy popcorn when she died from a gunshot wound sustained during a buy-bust operation aimed at father on 1 September 2016 in Guhuilngan City, Negros Oriental;

WHEREAS, Five-year old Francis Manosca, who was sleeping with his mother and other siblings was hit by a bullet and died after a gunman fired through a closed window hoping to hit his father, who earlier surrendered to the Pasay police;

WHEREAS, San Nino Batucan, a 7-year old boy from Consolacion town in Northern Cebu was watching television with his parents inside their home on 3 December 2016 when he was killed by a stray bullet fired by one of two bonnet-wearing gunmen while they were chasing an older boy who was believed to be involved in illegal drugs;

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2017, in Caloocan, bonnet-clad gunmen abducted and killed 19-year-old Raymart Siapo, who – born with club feet – was first asked to run by his killers;

WHEREAS, 17-year old Kian Delos Santos was shown in a CCTV being dragged by police and was later found slumped in a vacant lot with several bullet wounds in different parts of his body;

WHEREAS, Carl Angelo Arnaiz, 19-years old was found dead with 4 gunshot wounds to his chest and one in his arm after he was gone missing for 10 days;

WHEREAS, these are just a few of fifty-five minor victims of extra-judicial killings (Children's Legal Rights and Development Center), and urgent action is necessary in order for this deplorable practice to end;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT, RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO URGE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY RELATIONS AND GENDER EQUALITY, AND PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT A JOINT INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE SPATE OF KILLINGS THAT INVOLVE CHILDREN AND YOUTH.


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