

SENATE

'17 SEP 19 110 :26

P.S. Res. No. 504

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Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

**RESOLUTION**

**CONDEMNING IN THE STRONGEST SENSE THE DEATH OF FRESHMAN LAW STUDENT HORACIO TOMAS CASTILLO III AND DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO HOLD ACCOUNTABLE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SENSELESS ACT**

**WHEREAS**, Section 13, Article 2 of the 1987 Constitution affirms that "The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs";

**WHEREAS**, news reports on September 18, 2017 exposed the death of 22-year-old Horacio Tomas Castillo III, a freshman law student of the University of Santo Tomas (UST), who allegedly died of hazing;

**WHEREAS**, on September 17, 2017, Horacio Tomas Castillo III's body was found, wrapped in a thick blanket, lying on a pavement by a bystander in Balut, Tondo and was rushed to the hospital where he was declared dead on arrival;

**WHEREAS**, the Manila Police District through its spokesperson, Erwin Margarejo, said that Castillo's death was caused by a cardiac or respiratory arrest, triggered by traumatic injuries, while the Castillo family found bruises in both arms, cigarette burns and candle wax drippings all over the body of the deceased when they found him at the Archangel Funeral Home in Sampaloc, Manila;

**WHEREAS**, the Castillo family disclosed that Horacio III was recruited to join the Aegis Juris Fraternity and they believe that he died during an initiation rite as he asked permission from his parents on September 16, 2017 to attend the organization's welcoming rites at the UST campus but he never returned home;

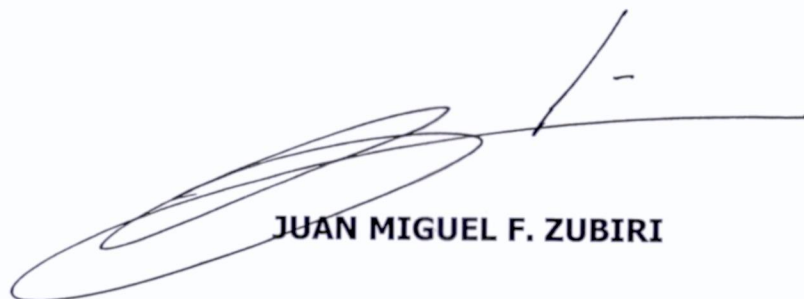
**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 8049, also known as the Anti-hazing Law, prohibits the infliction of physical harm or injury upon a recruit, neophyte or applicant of any fraternities, sororities, and other organizations and holds the officers and members of the fraternity, sorority or organization who actually participated in the hazing liable as principals in case of death and imposes the penalty of reclusion perpetua;

**WHEREAS**, there has been too many deaths from hazing and it is disappointing to note that these cases remain unresolved and they just become part of statistics;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to investigate this matter to bring justice to the senseless death of Horacio Tomas Castillo III, to hold accountable those responsible for this brutal act, and to put an end to this barbaric tradition and ritual;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate to condemn in the strongest sense the death of freshman law student Horacio Tomas Castillo III and direct the appropriate Senate committees to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, to hold accountable those responsible for this senseless act.

**Adopted,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right, ending in a small vertical tick mark.

**JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**