



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

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SENATE
P.S.R NO. 645

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senators Pangilinan, Drilon, Trillanes, Aquino and Hontiveros

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO CALL FOR
SENATOR LEILA DE LIMA'S RELEASE FROM DETENTION**

WHEREAS, Senator Leila De Lima, as then Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights, caught the ire of then Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte when she investigated the Davao Death Squad, and when, as elected Senator, she embarked on an investigation on the spate of extra-judicial killings (EJKs) of civilians who may or may not have been involved in the drug trade, which EJKs appeared to have been inspired by, if not, directly committed in the pursuit of, the Duterte administration's bloody war on drugs;

WHEREAS, in a media interview in Davao City on 11 August 2016, President Duterte himself vowed that he will publicly destroy a female government official, who was later revealed to be Senator De Lima. The President, thereafter, repeated his threats and went on a series of attacks against Senator De Lima,

WHEREAS, as Secretary of Justice during the Aquino administration, she ordered the conduct of a series of raids at the New Bilibid Prison that exposed the drug trade inside, including one that she personally led, which was an unprecedented act by a Secretary of Justice;

WHEREAS, in what she called a "sham inquiry" in the House of Representatives, several high-profile inmates, most of whom were revealed as drug lords operating in Bilibid during the aforementioned raids and were, thus, among those who were most adversely affected by her anti-drug campaign, were pressured, or otherwise incentivized with better detention conditions, to testify against her by falsely linking her to the drug trade. As a result, the evidence presented to justify or corroborate the accusations against her are at best of doubtful credibility;

WHEREAS, the road to her incarceration was tormenting – revealing in public her intimate relationships, publicly shaming her by threatening to screen in the House of Representatives her alleged sex videos, and branding her an immoral woman;

WHEREAS, until now, she has been continually detained and deprived of her right to due process, particularly her right to be informed of the nature and cause of accusations against her;

WHEREAS, in a Resolution passed in March 2017, the European Parliament in Strasbourg called "for the immediate release of Senator De Lima" and asked that she be provided with "adequate security whilst in detention";

WHEREAS, the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) also made the call for her release in a report prepared by its human rights committee, saying there is no evidence to justify the criminal cases against her;

WHEREAS, various local and international groups have launched petitions seeking her freedom from incarceration;


WHEREAS, in November 2017, Senator De Lima was awarded the Liberal International's Prize for Freedom, the highest human rights honor given out by the global federation of liberal political parties;

WHEREAS, on 14 February 2018, Human Rights Watch, a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization advocating for changes in policy and practice that promote human rights and justice around the world, issued a statement calling for Senator De Lima's release;

WHEREAS, since being elected into office in 2016, Senator De Lima has authored and co-authored 64 bills and 78 resolutions. Of these, 40 bills and 58 resolutions were filed with her already in detention;

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2018, Senator De Lima will have spent one year in detention;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED to express the sense of the Senate of the Philippines to call for Senator Leila De Lima's immediate release from detention.


Ben Aquino Antonio Trillanes Juan Miguel