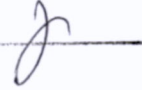


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

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SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 668

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

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALARMING
KILLINGS AND ATTACKS AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE BAR AND
JUSTICE SECTOR OFFICIALS

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution states 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, paragraph 16 of the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers adopted by the Eighth United Nations (UN) 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, the succeeding paragraph of the same emphasizes 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, in recent years, there has been a spate of killings victimizing members of the Bar;

WHEREAS, Alternative Law Journal reported 114 legal professionals were killed between 01 January 1999 and October 2014 – four were Judges, eight were Prosecutors and the rest were lawyers¹;

WHEREAS, on August 2016, Atty. Rogelio Bato, lawyer of the late Mayor Rolando Espinosa and suspected drug lord Kerwin Espinosa Jr., was killed in an

¹ Alternative Law Journal. Retrieved from <http://www.altlj.org/news-and-views/the-last-word/833-attacks-on-lawyers-a-threat-to-democracy>. Accessed 22 February 2018.