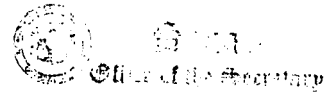


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



'18 JUN 19 A11 :15

SENATE
P. S. RES. No. 765

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senators Paolo Benigno Aquino IV, Leila De Lima,
Franklin M. Drilon, Francis N. Pangilinan, Antonio F. Trillanes IV

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF AND ATTACKS AGAINST THE RELIGIOUS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CONDUCTING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PEACE AND ORDER SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY AND AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 6975, AS AMENDED

1 WHEREAS, the Philippine National Police is mandated under Republic
2 Act No. 6975 to "enforce all laws and ordinances relative to the protection of
3 lives and properties; maintain peace and order and take all necessary steps to
4 ensure public safety; investigate and prevent crimes, effect the arrest of
5 criminal offenders and bring offenders to justice and assist their prosecution";

6 WHEREAS, last 10 June 2018, Father Richmond Nilo, 43 years old, was
7 shot by 2 unknown assailants as he was walking towards the altar to preside
8 over Sunday mass at Nuestra Señora dela Nieve, a small chapel in Barangay
9 Mayamot in Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija. Father Nilo was the parish priest of St.
10 Vincent Ferrer Church in Zaragoza. He sought to make mass more accessible
11 to as many of the faithful, celebrating 7 to 10 masses each Sunday, and at
12 least 6 masses on week days, to accommodate as many barangays as he
13 could. Before his parish assignment, Father Nilo served as the president of
14 the College of the Immaculate Conception in Cabanatuan City;

15 WHEREAS, on 29 April 2018, Father Mark Ventura, 37 years old, was
16 shot by assailants riding-in-tandem as he was blessing children after
17 celebrating mass in a gymnasium in Barangay Piña Weste in Gattaran,

1 Cagayan. Father Ventura was the director of the San Isidro Labrador Mission
2 Station in Mabuno village, also in Gattaran. He was an anti-mining advocate
3 who worked closely with the indigenous peoples in the province. Tuguegarao
4 Archbishop Sergio Utleg described him as a zealous and dedicated priest;

5 WHEREAS, on 4 December 2017, Father Marcelito Paez, 72 years old,
6 was slain while driving home after facilitating the release of political prisoner,
7 Rommel Tucay, in Cabanatuan City. He was shot 9 times. An activist priest,
8 Father Paez was known for defending the rights of the oppressed. At the time
9 of death, he was the coordinator of the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines in
10 Central Luzon;

11 WHEREAS, the killing of the three priests happened in a span of 6
12 months. In the same period, Father Rey Urmeneta, 64 years old, a priest at
13 the St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Calamba City, was also shot twice
14 while he was inside a vehicle on his way to a church meeting. Father
15 Urmeneta was the retired chaplain of the regional police in Calabarzon.
16 Fortunately, he survived the ambush;

17 WHEREAS, the deaths of Fathers Richmond Nilo, Mark Ventura, and
18 Marcelito Paez have distressed, frightened and brought about deep anguish
19 and pain to the faithful whom they have served, upon the broader community
20 of the Filipino Catholic Church, and upon all concerned citizens of this nation;

21 WHEREAS, these heinous acts against religious leaders by emboldened
22 assassins fly in the face of government's articulated promise to address
23 criminality and promote peace and order in the country;

24 WHEREAS, this recent spate of deadly attacks against religious leaders
25 underscores the growing culture of impunity and escalating violence that
26 threatens to permeate Philippine society today;

27 WHEREAS, the DILG and the PNP have the duty to provide the public
28 with the true state of peace and order in the country: Now, therefore, be it

29 **RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Committee on Public
30 Order and Dangerous Drugs to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into
31 the assassination of and attacks against the religious with the end in view of

conducting an assessment of the peace and order situation in the country and amending Republic Act No. 6975, as amended.

Adopted,


SENATOR PAOLO BENIGNO AQUINO IV

SENATOR LEILA DE LIMA


SENATOR FRANKLIN M. DRILON


SENATOR FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN


SENATOR ANTONIO F. TRILLANES IV

*I condemn the
senseless culture
of violence against
our clergy.*

Perla de Fio
LEILA M. DE LIMA