

1 WHEREAS, the Task Force is mandated to conduct an inventory of all cases of
2 violence against Media Workers, receive reports of such incidents from citizens,
3 investigate and prosecute those culpable, aid in the protection of witnesses, and
4 monitor and report on the cases filed;

5 WHEREAS, last 20 July 2018, Mr. Joey Llana, a local radio broadcaster for
6 DWZR 828 KHz Zoom Radio Legazpi, in Daraga, Albay, was declared dead after
7 being shot at by unknown assailants while en route to his show;

8 WHEREAS, according to various reports, Mr. Llana sustained multiple
9 gunshots and was declared dead at around 6:05 in the morning;

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Llana's death is a tragic blow to those working in the media,
11 as it marks the loss of another talented and passionate member of the radio
12 broadcasting profession;

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Llana's death is but the latest in a long spate of media-related
14 killings, attacks, violence and threats under the present administration, as he was
15 the was the thirteenth journalist to be killed under the present administration,
16 according to a report by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP);

17 WHEREAS, also according to the NUJP, Mr. Llanas death was the fifth
18 journalist to be killed this year, following the deaths Edmund Sestoso, Carlos Matas,
19 Dennis Denora, and Manuel Lacsamana;

20 WHEREAS, in addition, there have been at least 85 cases of killings, violence,
21 attacks and threats against journalists since 2016, according to a report by the NUJP
22 with the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), the Center for Media
23 Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR), and the Philippine Press Institute (PPI);

24 WHEREAS, the freedom of the press is a sacred part of democracy, and is
25 enshrined as a basic guarantee under the Bill of Rights of our Fundamental Law;

26 WHEREAS, an independent media serves as the main conduit of information
27 on the government, its performance, and on the issues of the day, thereby aiding in
28 the formation of a well-informed public, which is an indispensable component of a
29 functioning democracy;

30 WHEREAS, the government must thus exert all efforts to prevent and/or
31 punish attempts by various parties to stifle the freedom of the press through

1 violence and coercion, as these attacks threaten the very core of democratic
2 governance;

3 WHEREAS, the performance of the Task Force must thus be reviewed,
4 especially in light of the death of Mr. Llana and the high incidence of killings,
5 violence, attacks, and threats towards media workers under the present
6 administration;

7 WHEREAS, the Task Force has been given sufficient time to perform its
8 mandate, and must now report to the people on its efforts;

9 **NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate
10 of the Philippines, to direct the Senate Committees on Public Information and Mass
11 Media and Public Order and Dangerous Drugs, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of
12 legislation, on the performance of the Presidential Task Force on Violence Against
13 Media Workers in implementing its mandate under Administrative Order No. 1, s.
14 2016, in light of the reported high incidence of killings, violence, attacks, and threats
15 towards media workers under the present administration, particularly the recent
16 death of Mr. Joey Llana, a local journalist based in Daraga, Albay, last 20 July 2018.

Adopted,


GRACE POE