

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

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SENATE
P. S. Resolution 767

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Introduced by Senator LOREN LEGARDA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY ON THE INCREASING INCIDENTS OF MEDIA KILLINGS

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 5 of the 1987 Constitution affirms that the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy;

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 4 of the Constitution strongly protects the freedom of the press;

WHEREAS, our country's state of press freedom and the lawful exercise of journalism have been tarnished by numerous reported cases of killings of media practitioners, who must be able to discharge their duty without fear of reprisal;

WHEREAS, the 2013 Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Index which monitors the attitude and intention of governments towards media freedom, ranked the Philippines 147th among 179 countries covered by the report;

WHEREAS, the London-based International News Safety Institute which provides security training for journalists working in dangerous situations noted that the Philippines is the 3rd most dangerous country for journalists after Syria and Iraq after 14 media workers were killed in 2013;

WHEREAS, Nilo Baculo, who worked as a radioman at DWIM Radyo Mindoro and was known as a hard-hitting host of the radio program "Isumbong Mo Kay Ka Nilo" was shot on 9 June 2014 near his home;

WHEREAS, despite receiving a favorable response from the Supreme Court on his petition for the issuance of a writ of amparo amidst reported death threats over his exposés on the local drug trade, this request was later denied by the Court of Appeals due to lack of evidence;

WHEREAS, the unresolved killings of media practitioners in the country will remain a threat to the constitutionally-guaranteed freedoms of expression and of the press — two elements which are critical for genuine democracy to flourish;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committees on Justice and Human Rights and on Public Information and Mass Media to conduct an inquiry on the increasing incidents of media killings in the country.

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA
Senator