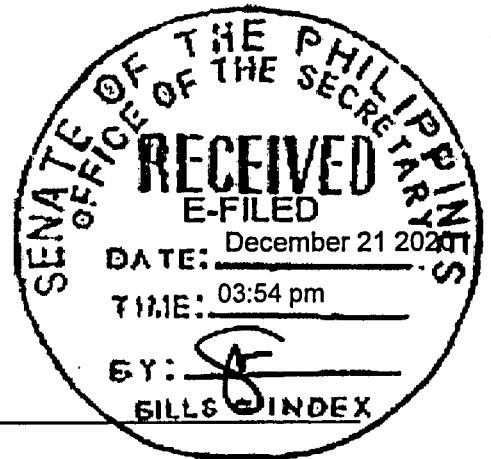


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 600



Introduced by Senators Joel Villanueva, Sonny Angara, Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, Grace Poe, Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, Sherwin Gatchalian

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S OF THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SERIES OF UNLAWFUL KILLINGS OF CITIZENS, INCLUDING DOCTORS, LAWYERS, JOURNALISTS AND MEMBERS OF OTHER PROFESSIONS, WITH THE END VIEW OF IDENTIFYING THE GAPS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT, ATTAINING JUSTICE FOR ALL VICTIMS, AND BREAKING THE CULTURE OF IMPUNITY, ESPECIALLY AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

WHEREAS, in a span of six months from July to December this year, at least fifteen doctors, lawyers, journalists, and other members of the community were unlawfully killed;¹

¹ Manila prosecutor Atty. Jovencio Senados was killed on July 7, 2020 (<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1110173>); Anakpawis chair Randy Echanis and his apartment mate Louie Tagapia were killed on August 10, 2020 (<https://thediplomat.com/2020/08/killing-of-philippines-peace-consultant-sparks-scrutiny-of-government-investigations/>); former campaign and education director of KARAPATAN Zara Alvarez was killed on August 17, 2020 (<https://www.rappler.com/nation/zara-alvarez-petition-writ-amparo-habeas-data-court>); DWPR radio commentator Virgilio Maganes was killed on November 10, 2020 (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/10/journalist-virgilio-maganes-shooting-killed-philippines>); Masbate journalist Ronnie Villamor was killed on November 14, 2020 (<https://www.rappler.com/nation/masbate-journalist-ronnie-villamor-shot-dead-november-2020>); Palawan lawyer Atty. Eric Jay Magcamit was killed on November 17, 2020 (<https://www.rappler.com/nation/palawan-lawyer-shot-on-way-to-hearing-november-2020>); Cebu lawyer Atty. Joey Luis Wee was killed on November 23, 2020 (<https://www.rappler.com/nation/nbi-arrests-suspect-cebu-lawyer-joey-luis-wee-killing>); former NDF consultants Agaton Topacio and Eugenia Magpantay were killed on November 25, 2020 (<https://www.rappler.com/nation/son-slain-ndf-consultants-agaton-topacio-eugenia-magpantay-demands-justice>); Guihulngan city health officer Dr. Mary Rose Sancelan and her husband Edwin Sancelan were killed on December 15, 2020 (<https://www.rappler.com/nation/red-tagged-doctor-others-killed-separate-shootings-negros-oriental-december-15-2020>); and Cebu lawyer Atty. Baby Maria Concepcion Landero-Ole was killed on December 17, 2020 (<https://www.rappler.com/nation/lawyer-shot-dead-danao-city-cebu-december-17-2020>).

WHEREAS, one of these most recent killings involves the health officer of Guihulngan, Negros Oriental, who is the head of the COVID Task Force in the locality.² Her death decreased the number of physicians in Central Visayas, which has a doctor to population ratio of 2.43 for every 10,000 population;

WHEREAS, this is not the first time that a doctor on the front lines of providing health service to Filipinos in far-flung areas was shot;

WHEREAS, in March 2017, Dr. Dreyfuss Perlas, a volunteer doctor under the Doctors to the Barrio Program of the DOH in Sapao, Lanao del Norte, was shot dead, allegedly due to work-related reasons.³ His death meant that there will be less doctors serving in the Northern Mindanao Region, which has a doctor to population ratio of 1.93 is to 10,000;

WHEREAS, in April 2017, Dr. Shahid Sinolinding, was shot dead inside his clinic in Cotabato City.⁴ Cotabato City is located in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, which only has a doctor to population ratio of 0.74 for every 10,000 population;

WHEREAS, just two months after in July 2017, another doctor serving as the provincial health officer of Cavite, Dr. George Repique, was shot dead while on his way home.⁵ Currently, Region 4-A, where Cavite is located, only has a doctor to population ratio of 1.7 for every 10,000 population according to data from the DOH;

WHEREAS, just last year in February 2019, another doctor serving under the Doctors to the Barrio program was killed by a speeding vehicle in Santiago, Agusan del Norte. Agusan del Norte is a province in CARAGA Region with only a 1.61 doctor to 10,000 population ratio;⁶

WHEREAS, all the doctor to population ratio in the regions where these slain doctors were killed are very low, and are way below the ideal ratio of 10 doctors to 10,000 population;

WHEREAS, this statistics show that the death of even one doctor in the Philippines would drastically affect the quantity as well as quality of medical service that could be provided to Filipino citizens;

WHEREAS, there have been no news yet on the progress of the cases, if any, filed against the perpetrators of these reprehensible crimes perpetuated against members of the medical profession;

WHEREAS, aside from the killings of doctors, members of other profession and activists have also been mercilessly killed in the past months;

² <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1372625/red-tagged-doctor-husband-slain-in-negros>

³ <https://cnnphilippines.com/regional/2017/03/06/Volunteer-doctor-slain-Lanao-del-Norte.html>

⁴ <https://www.rappler.com/nation/rural-doctor-shot-dead-cotabato>

⁵ <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2017/07/15/DOH-killing-doctor-George-Repique-Dreyfuss-Perlas-Shahid-Jaja-Sinolinding.html>

⁶ The doctor was Dr. Zurielle Arambulo. <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/08/19/doh-seeks-justice-for-barrio-doctor-killed-in-hit-and-run>

WHEREAS, on July 7, 2020, Manila Chief Inquest Prosecutor Jovencio Senados was shot dead on his way to work. Initial investigations show that the gunmen followed him from his home in Laguna all the way to Manila, where he was gunned down;⁷

WHEREAS, a month after on August 10, Randy Echanis, the peace consultant for the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, was shot dead in his own home in Quezon City;⁸

WHEREAS, several days later on August 17, Zara Alvarez, another activist living in Bacolod City, received three fatal bullets on her back;⁹

WHEREAS, on November 14, journalist Ronnie Villamor died after an altercation with members of the military while covering a land dispute in Masbate;¹⁰

WHEREAS, on November 17, another fatal shooting claimed the life of 35-year old lawyer Eric Jay Magcamit in the province of Palawan;¹¹

WHEREAS, on November 20, another journalist, Virgilio Maganes, died in Pangasinan after receiving six bullet wounds from unidentified gunmen riding in motorcycles;¹²

WHEREAS, on November 23, Joey Luis Wee, a 51-year old lawyer based in Cebu was shot dead in broad daylight.¹³ Fortunately, a suspect for his murder was already arrested as of December 8;¹⁴

WHEREAS, on November 25, elderly couple Agaton Topacio and Eugenia Magpantay, both former National Democratic Front of the Philippines consultants, were fatally shot in a police encounter in Angono, Rizal;¹⁵

WHEREAS, on December 17, another lawyer in Cebu, Baby Maria Concepcio Landero-Ole, was shot dead while inside her vehicle. She is the second lawyer in Cebu who was fatally shot in a span of one month;¹⁶

WHEREAS, on December 20, two members of the community, Sonya Gregorio and Frank Anthony Gregorio, were mercilessly shot execution-style by a neighbor who is working as a policeman;¹⁷

WHEREAS, the series of killings in the past six months of at least fifteen people from members of various professions, including lawyers and journalists, and other members of the community, exacerbated by the fact that justice remains elusive for the victims

⁷ <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1110173>

⁸ <https://thediplomat.com/2020/08/killing-of-philippines-peace-consultant-sparks-scrutiny-of-government-investigations/>

⁹ <https://www.rappler.com/nation/zara-alvarez-petition-writ-amparo-habeas-data-court>

¹⁰ <https://www.rappler.com/nation/masbate-journalist-ronnie-villamor-shot-dead-november-2020>

¹¹ <https://www.rappler.com/nation/palawan-lawyer-shot-on-way-to-hearing-november-2020>

¹² <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/10/journalist-virgilio-maganes-shooting-killed-philippines>

¹³ <https://www.cnn.ph/regional/2020/11/24/Lawyer-Joey-Luis-Wee-Cebu-ambush.html>

¹⁴ <https://www.rappler.com/nation/nbi-arrests-suspect-cebu-lawyer-joey-luis-wee-killing>

¹⁵ <https://www.rappler.com/nation/son-slain-ndf-consultants-agaton-topacio-eugenia-magpantay-demands-justice>

¹⁶ <https://www.rappler.com/nation/lawyer-shot-dead-danao-city-cebu-december-17-2020>

¹⁷ <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/12/21/Paniqui-Tarlac-police-shooting-Jonel-Nuezca-Sonya-Frank-Gregorio.html?fbclid=IwAR3R2BYCBMFI CEjmxKI5PzKNthiZ-yCTxzLzInO2SuDF6wpif7-IOsEWFmqA>

and their families, highlight the need to launch an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to identify the gaps in law enforcement;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to direct the proper Committee/s of the Senate, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the series of unlawful killings of citizens, including doctors, lawyers, journalists, and members of other professions, with the end in view of identifying gaps in law enforcement, ensuring the attainment of justice for all victims, and breaking the culture of impunity, especially among law enforcement agencies.

Adopted,



JOEL VILLANUEVA



SONNY ANGARA



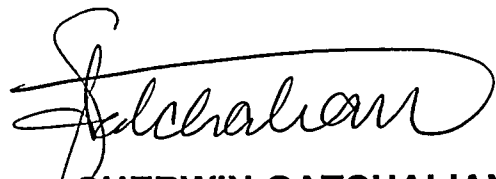
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