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SENATE P.S.R. No. <u>30</u>9

RECEIVED BY:

INTRODUCED BY: SEN. ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS BARAQUEL

## RESOLUTION

## CALLING FOR THE CONTINUED SUSPENSION OF OPLAN TOKHANG/ PROJECT DOUBLE BARREL, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ITS COMPLETE CESSATION

WHEREAS, Oplan Tokhang and Project Double Barrel, key components of the Duterte Administration's War on Drugs, were suspended by Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Ronald "Bato" M. dela Rosa on January 30, 2017, following allegations that SPO3 Ricky Sta. Isabel and others members of the PNP's Anti-Illegal Drugs Group (AIDG) had murdered abducted Korean national Jee Ick-Joo within the grounds of the PNP's national headquarters at Camp Crame;

**WHEREAS**, this underscores the observation that Oplan Tokhang and Project Double Barrel have been used by corrupt and abusive policemen as a cover for, among others, acts of extortion, *e.g. tanim droga*, kidnapping, and murder;

WHEREAS, from the time Oplan Tokhang and Project Double Barrel were implemented nationwide, more than 7,000 Filipinos have died as a result of the Duterte Administration's so-called "War on Drugs", with 2,555 suspected drug personalities killed in police operations as of January 31, 2017 and 3,603 victims in cases of deaths under investigation as of January 9, 2017;

**WHEREAS**, most of the victims belong to the poorer sections of society, and many had in fact already surrendered to the government before they were slain;

WHEREAS, Oplan Tokhang and Project Double Barrel were suspended following statements by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte that nearly forty percent (40%) of the police force is engaged in illegal activities;

WHEREAS, President Duterte and PNP Chief dela Rosa have also issued directives disbanding the AIDG and revoking the PNP's authority to investigate and prosecute drug offenses;

**WHEREAS**, Oplan Tokhang and Project Double Barrel were suspended to give way to the cleansing of corrupt and abusive policemen from the ranks of the PNP through the creation of a Counter-Intelligence Task Force (CITF) charged with investigating scalawags in uniform;

WHEREAS, PNP Chief dela Rosa has recently announced that the PNP is currently preparing to resume Oplan Tokhang and Project Double Barrel;

WHEREAS, it has scarcely been one month since the CITF was formally organized, with no real gains reported by the PNP in the campaign against corruption and abuse within the police force other than the transfer of 54 policemen facing administrative cases to Basilan;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Human Rights has criticized the contemplated resumption of Oplan Tokhang and Project Double Barrel, citing the absence of concrete reforms in the PNP and the failure to seriously investigate drug-related extra-judicial killings in the country;

WHEREAS, evidence from all over the world has conclusively demonstrated that a public health approach to the drug problem, rather than a purely law and order approach, result in more optimal and sustainable outcomes for both the individual and the community;

**NOW THEREFORE**, **BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to express the sense of the Senate of Philippines that the resumption of Oplan Tokhang and Project Double Barrel be rejected, towards the complete cessation of these policies.

Adopted,

ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS-BARAQUEL
Senator