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SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 353

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED SYSTEMIC PROBLEM PLAGUING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) IN CONNECTION WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S WAR ON DRUGS, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE TESTIMONIES OF SEVERAL WITNESSES AND A POLICE OFFICER TAGGING MEMBERS OF THE PNP IN THE PERPETUATION OF EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF COMING UP WITH REMEDIAL LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THAT THE WAR ON DRUGS IS NOT USED BY THE PNP AND OTHER STATE ACTORS AS LICENSE TO COMMIT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND OTHER ILLEGAL ACTS, AND THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE AND THE PEOPLE CONCERNED ARE AFFORDED THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS AND/OR THAT THEIR RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS OF LAW IS RESPECTED

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 11, as well as Article III, Section 11, of the 1987 Philippine Constitution guarantees the protection of, and full respect for, human rights;

WHEREAS, the United Nation's Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that *everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of a person*;

WHEREAS, according to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which the Philippines ratified in 1986, *every human being has the inherent right to life; this right shall be protected by law; and no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life*;

WHEREAS, media reports show an alarming incidence of almost consistent pattern of killings allegedly carried out by some members of the Philippine National Police (PNP);

WHEREAS, a 7 December 2016-New York Times article entitled "*They are slaughtering us like animals*" cited several testimonies of witnesses claiming that some suspected drug personalities were summarily executed by members of the PNP under the guise of legitimate police operations in connection with Operation Tokhang;¹

¹ See D. Berehulak. 07 December 2016. They are Slaughtering Us Like Animals. New York Times. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/12/07/world/asia/rodrigo-duterte-philippines-drugs-killings.html?_r=0

WHEREAS, on the other hand, in a special report by Reuters, two senior officers of the PNP detailed how they staged crime scenes, received rewards in exchange of executing drug suspects, and actually did the killings they have blamed on vigilantes;²

WHEREAS, more recently, a certain PO1 Vincent Tacorda claimed that he resigned from the PNP because he cannot stomach the corruption and other illegal activities committed by several ranking officials in Catanduanes. According to Tacorda, two of his superiors ordered him to kill an alleged drug personality so that PNP Catanduanes could submit an accomplishment report regarding the war on drugs. Tacorda also asserted that he has knowledge about the practice of some police officers to plant evidence and said he is ready to substantiate his claims;³

WHEREAS, these reports corroborate the accounts gathered by Rappler on the deaths of Joshua Cumilang, Rex Aparri, Mario Rupillo and Danilo Ducillo. All four were drug suspects killed in Tondo, Manila. Testimonies of eye witnesses on their deaths starkly differ from the PNP spot reports. Police reports stated that they fought back and were killed in an encounter while witnesses claimed that evidences were only planted and all four were killed, defenseless, by the ‘demon’ of Delpan – PO3 Ronald Alvarez;⁴

WHEREAS, these killings allegedly involving members of the PNP can no longer be ignored as they are clearly not isolated cases but are manifestations of a bigger, systemic problem afflicting the PNP;

WHEREAS, there is an immediate need to investigate the incidence of these apparently consistent pattern of extrajudicial killings and seeming perpetuation of impunity by which these killings are carried out in order to come up with remedial legislation to ensure the protection of basic human rights, improve the legal mechanisms for the accountability of state actors, strengthen the mandate and responsibilities of relevant government agencies like the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), and ultimately, end this phenomenon of summary executions, human rights violations and other illegal acts;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, *as it is hereby resolved by the Philippines Senate*, to direct the Senate Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs and other appropriate committee/s to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged systemic problem plaguing the Philippine National Police (PNP) in connection to the Administration’s War on Drugs, taking into consideration the testimonies of numerous witnesses and a police officer tagging members of the PNP in the perpetuation of extrajudicial killings, with the end in view of coming up with remedial legislation to ensure that the War on Drugs is not used by the PNP and other state actors as license to commit human rights violations and other illegal acts, and that those responsible will be held accountable and the people

² See M. Mogato and C. Baldwin. 18 April 2017. Special Report: Police describe kill rewards, staged crime scenes in Duterte's drug war. Reuters. Retrieved from <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-duterte-police-specialrep-idUSKBN17K1F4>

³ M. Basmayor. 27 April 2017. Cop resigns, laments corruption in PNP Catanduanes. The Philippine Star. Retrieved from <http://www.philstar.com/nation/2017/04/27/1694469/cop-resigns-laments-corruption-ppn-catanduanes>

⁴ P. Evengelista and C. Gabuco. N.D. Where the Drug War Began. Rappler News Break. Retrieved from <http://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/investigative/beginning-war-on-drugs-philippines>

concerned are afforded their human rights and/or that their right to due process of law is respected.

Adopted,


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator