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SENATE

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P. S. RES. NO. 419

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REUTERS REPORT ALLEGING THAT THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE USES HOSPITALS TO HIDE DRUG WAR KILLINGS BY SENDING ALREADY DEAD VICTIMS TO HOSPITALS TO AVOID CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS AND MEDIA ATTENTION

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, 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, the administration's war on drugs have already claimed thousands of lives and the statistics show no sign of decline;

WHEREAS, several complaints, reports and news articles have repeatedly tagged the Philippine National Police (PNP) in the executions of drug suspects in the conduct of so-called legitimate police operations;

WHEREAS, witnesses have claimed that the police staged crime scenes to support their claims that drug suspects resisted arrest and are therefore a threat to the safety of policemen; that some members of the PNP received rewards in exchange of executing drug suspects, and actually did the killings they have blamed on vigilantes¹;

WHEREAS, further investigations revealed a new *modus operandi* developed and employed by the PNP to destroy crime scenes and mask the fact that they were executing drug suspects;

WHEREAS, reportedly, the police are bringing dead drug suspects to the hospitals in an attempt to hide evidence of drug war killings;

WHEREAS, according to the Reuters' report, during the first eight months of the drug war, in Quezon City Police District and Manila Police district alone, 301 drug suspects were taken to

¹ Mogato, M. and Baldwin, C. (18 April 2017). *Special Report: Police describe kill rewards, staged crime scenes in Duterte's drug war*. Retrieved from <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-duterte-police-specialrep-idUSKBN17K1F4>

hospitals after police drug operations. Among those, only two survived and the rest were pronounced Dead on Arrival (DoA)²;

WHEREAS, according to police reports, suspects shot during police operations were immediately rushed to hospitals in an attempt to save their lives;

WHEREAS, however, according to witnesses and relatives of drug suspects, police manhandled the victims and showed no urgency in getting them medical treatment;

WHEREAS, this action by the police also puzzled neighbors and relatives of drug suspects because according to them, the bodies were taken to the hospital at least an hour or more after the shooting, and none of the victims showed signs of life;

WHEREAS, correspondingly, according to some doctors interviewed by Reuters, the bodies of the drug suspects delivered to the hospitals were already displaying rigor mortis, which sets in several hours after death. They also stated that the dead bodies arrive at hospitals piled on the flat bed of trucks, drenched in their own blood and excrement³;

WHEREAS, the doctors further noted that many drug suspects brought to their hospitals had been shot in the head and heart, sometimes at close range, inflicting precise and unsurvivable wounds;

WHEREAS, the doctors also observed that most suspects were shot in the head and chest with almost the same entry and exit wounds. According to Dr. Lawrence Laguno, "It's unusual to have the same...patients with almost the same injuries. It was a trained shooter. They knew what they were doing."⁴

WHEREAS, an unnamed police commander admitted to Reuters that his officers were instructed to shoot drug suspects at "sensitive areas" to ensure their death;

WHEREAS, this same police commander also admitted to Reuters that "in late 2016, police began sending victims to hospitals to avoid crime scene investigations and media attention" because it might reveal that they were executing drug suspects⁵;

WHEREAS, the number of drug suspects declared dead on arrival likewise shows an alarmingly upward trend;

WHEREAS, according to an agent of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), who has investigated allegations of police brutality, removing the bodies from the crime scene makes it harder to work out what really happened. He said, obliterating the crime scene destroys the evidence⁶;

² Baldwin, C. and Marshall, A. (29 June 2017). *Dead on Arrival*. Retrieved from <http://fingfx.thomsonreuters.com/gfx/rngs/PHILIPPINES-DRUGWAR/010041TN3Z8/index.html>

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

WHEREAS, Chief Superintendent Aurelio Trampe, chief of PNP Crime Laboratory, denies that the police are removing bodies to alter crime scenes. According to him, “the police may disregard crime scene investigation procedures just as long as they can save lives”⁷;

WHEREAS, the Scene of the Crime Operatives (SOCO) can still conduct investigations and collect evidence from the bodies even after they were brought to hospitals, but usually this task will be assigned to a police investigator who comes from the police station that conducted the drug operation⁸.

WHEREAS, this system, according to independent forensic scientist Raquel Fortun, is open to abuse since those who did the killing will be tasked to investigate on themselves⁹;

WHEREAS, this practice should be stopped since it effectively ruins the investigation process and therefore proliferates the system of impunity that some members of the PNP are enjoying in their pursuit of drug suspects;

WHEREAS, there is an immediate need to investigate this alleged *modus operandi* purportedly employed by the PNP to get away with executing drug suspects in light of the administration’s War on Drugs;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, *as it is hereby resolved* by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs and other appropriate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the Reuters report alleging that the Philippine National Police uses hospitals to hide drug war killings by sending already dead victims to hospitals to avoid crime scene investigations and media attention.

Adopted,


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

⁷ Baldwin, C. and Marshall, A. (29 June 2017). *Dead on Arrival*. Retrieved from <http://fingfx.thomsonreuters.com/gfx/rngs/PHILIPPINES-DRUGWAR/010041TN3Z8/index.html>

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*