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Introduced by Senators Hontiveros, Aquino, Pangilinan, Trillanes, and Drilon

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**RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA FOR BEING CONFERRED THE PRESTIGIOUS “PRIZE FOR FREEDOM” AWARD BY LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL IN RECOGNITION OF HER UNWAVERING AND STEADFAST DEVOTION TO THE DIGNITY AND RIGHTS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE**

**WHEREAS**, on 28 July 2018 in an awarding ceremony held in Manila, Liberal International (LI), the global federation of liberal political parties aimed at strengthening liberalism around the world,<sup>1</sup> conferred upon Senator Leila M. De Lima its highest human rights honor -- the Prize for Freedom -- as announced in November 2017 during LI's 199<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting;<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, since 1985, the Prize for Freedom has been awarded annually by LI to “honor an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to the advancement of human rights and political freedoms” and who has “made outstanding efforts for the defense of freedom and human rights during the year;<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Senator De Lima is one of only two (2) Filipinos to have received the prestigious award thus far, the other being then President Corazon Aquino, an icon of Philippine democracy. They belong to a privileged list of honorees that includes the imprisoned Saudi liberal blogger Raif Badawi (2016), South African anti-apartheid activist and liberal politician Helen Suzman (2001), and Hong Kong's “Father of Democracy” Martin Lee (1996);

**WHEREAS**, Senator De Lima has also been honored this year as the recipient of the first ever “Ignite for Human Rights Award” by Amnesty International (AI) - Philippines as the Most Distinguished Human Rights Defender;<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS**, apart from the aforementioned awards from LI and AI, several other accolades and recognitions for her work and advocacies have been given to Senator De Lima by other reputable international organizations, thus:

- a. She was named as one of the world's “50 Greatest Leaders” in 2018 by the New York-based Fortune magazine;<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Liberal International, *Our Mission*. Available at <https://liberal-international.org/who-we-are/our-mission/>. <last visited on 28 July 2018>

<sup>2</sup> Dela Peña, Kurt Adrian and Sy, Marvin. (02 November 2017). Philstar Global. *Group to confer freedom award on De Lima*. Available at <https://www.philstar.com:8080/headlines/2017/11/02/1754838/group-confer-freedom-award-de-lima>. <last visited on 28 July 2018>

<sup>3</sup> Liberal International. *Prize for Freedom*. Available at <https://liberal-international.org/what-we-do/awards-and-prizes/prize-for-freedom/>. <last visited on 28 July 2018>

<sup>4</sup> Lalu, Gabriel Pabico, (29 March 2018). Inquirer.net. Available at <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/995252/ai-confers-de-lima-most-distinguished-human-rights-defender-award> <visited last on 25 July 2018>

<sup>5</sup> Fortune editors, *The World's 50 Greatest Leaders*. Available at <http://fortune.com/longform/worlds-greatest-leaders-2018/> <last visited on 28 July 2018>

- b. She made it in Time Magazine's list of 100 Most Influential People in the World for 2017;
- c. She won, for two (2) years in a row (2016 and 2017), the "Global Thinker" award of Washington DC-based Foreign Policy magazine;<sup>6</sup>
- d. She was mentioned as a global woman human rights defender by Amnesty International;<sup>7</sup>
- e. She was listed as one of the "Women to Watch" in Southeast Asia by the Asia-Pacific regional magazine "The Diplomat";<sup>8</sup> and
- f. She was counted as one of only five "Power Women" of Southeast Asia by the regional newspaper "Asian Correspondent" dubbing her as "the flagbearer of human rights in the Philippines and beyond."<sup>9</sup>

**WHEREAS**, through these global platforms, Senator De Lima has been tremendously contributing to the struggle of the Filipino people to end gross violations of human rights in the country, including the rampant extrajudicial killings related to the present administration's "war on drugs";

**WHEREAS**, due recognition of Senator De Lima's achievements and accomplishments is in order as she continues to champion the fundamental freedoms of the Filipino, and exemplifies the strength of character and spirit of our people despite her unjust detention and the continued vilification and personal attacks against her;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Senate of the Philippines congratulates and commends Senator Leila M. De Lima for being awarded the Liberal International's "Prize for Freedom" and other accolades in recognition of her unwavering and steadfast devotion to the cause of human rights and dignity of the Filipino people.

Adopted,

*Continence - Carapuel*

*Bam Aquino*

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*

<sup>6</sup> Uy, Jocelyn and Tubeza, Philip. (06 December 2017). Inquirer.net. *International magazine names De Lima anew as a Leading Global Thinker*. Available at <https://news.info.inquirer.net/950171/intl-magazine-names-de-lima-anew-as-a-leading-global-thinker>. <last visited on 28 July 2018>

<sup>7</sup> Amnesty International, May 2017, Human Rights Defenders Under Threat, <http://www.amnesty.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/HRD-briefing-12-May-FINAL.pdf> <last visited on 25 July 2018>

<sup>8</sup> The Diplomat, 10 March 2018, ASEAN's Women to Watch: Part I, <https://thedi diplomat.com/2018/03/aseans-women-to-watch-part-i/> <last visited on 25 July 2018>

<sup>9</sup> Asian Correspondent, 8 March 2018, The power women of Southeast Asia, <https://asiancorrespondent.com/2018/03/leaders-women-southeast-asia/#5TVgOZ71mOufkkSm.97> <last visited on 25 July 2018>