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SENATE

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P.S.R. NO. 848

Introduced by Senator Risa Hontiveros

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO DECLARE THE 16TH DAY OF AUGUST AS A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE TO COMMEMORATE THE INNOCENTS WHO HAVE BEEN FELLED BY THIS ADMINISTRATION'S WAR ON DRUGS

WHEREAS, on August 16, 2016, Kian de los Santos, a 17-year-old student, was brutally killed by agents from the Caloocan police force during a late-night drug raid in his barangay;

WHEREAS, CCTV footage and witness testimony during the crime scene showed that Kian was punched and slapped before being dragged to a dark alley where he was shot while in fetal position, and that moments before his death he was pleading to the policemen to stop as he had school exams the next day ("tama na po, may exam ako bukas");

WHEREAS, Kian's death sparked national and international outrage, and underscored the human rights atrocities committed in the name of the administration's bloody War on Drugs, even to innocent youth and children;

WHEREAS, according to the Children Legal Rights and Development Center (CLRDC), at least 74 minors have been killed in police operations and vigilante-style attacks from July 2016 to December 2017, and that in many cases such as Kian's, were not mere "collateral damage" but actual targets;

WHEREAS, the Philippine National Police's own statistics state that anti-drug operations by police agents have resulted in more than 4,000 deaths since President Rodrigo Duterte came into power, and the evidence demonstrates that a vast majority of these victims were poor, small-time drug-users;

WHEREAS, despite these numbers, President Duterte continues his verbal attacks on drug users and his expressions of disdain on principles of human rights and due process -- thereby directly and indirectly endorsing these killings in the name of the War on Drugs;

WHEREAS, tragically, the police officers allegedly involved in Kian's death were even rewarded with promotions with Senior Superintendent Chito Bersaluna appointed as the new Bulacan Provincial Police chief and Chief Superintendent Roberto Fajardo appointed as the new head of the PNP Highway Patrol Group;

WHEREAS, in contrast, the victims are rendered nameless, invisible and forgotten, with many of the corpses not even given the dignity of a proper burial;

WHEREAS, by choosing to remember those who have been felled by the War on Drugs, we state our clear rejection of this culture of impunity and brazen disregard for due process and human rights;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines, in standing on the side of truth and human rights, to declare the 16th of August as a National Day of Remembrance of the felled innocents in the War on Drugs.

Adopted,

Risa Hontiveros
SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS