

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )



'18 OCT 30 P 1 :32

SENATE  
P.S. RES. NO. 928

REC'D

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Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND OPERATIVES ON THE REPORTED NUMBER OF LAWLESSNESS COMPLEXED WITH DRUGS ISSUE IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU, WITH THE END GOALS OF REVIEWING PERTINENT LAWS REGARDING POLICE OPERATIONS, TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON PEOPLE'S SAFETY AND SECURITY AND TO ADOPT MEASURES GEARED TOWARDS LARGER ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY**

**WHEREAS**, the significance of individual lives, society and orderliness are embodied fundamentally in the main diktat of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, in its Preamble:

*"We, the sovereign Filipino people, imploring the aid of almighty God, in order to build a just and humane society and establish a Government that shall embody our ideals and aspirations, promote the common good, conserve and develop our patrimony, and secure to ourselves and our posterity, the blessings of independence and democracy under the rule of law and a regime of truth, justice, freedom, love, equality, and peace, do ordain and promulgate this Constitution."*

Section 4, Article II of the supreme law declares that "the prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people";

**WHEREAS**, Section 5, Article II of the Constitution further declares that "the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy;

**WHEREAS**, from February to July this year, from reports published and based on government data: gun-related violence had claimed one hundred twelve (112) human lives in the Province of Cebu, ninety two (92) of which were gunned down by unknown assailants, mostly "men on motorcycles"<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the victims of the above-mentioned killings involved village officials, barangay captains, councilors, lawyers, a vice mayor, a couple, two (2) agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Authority (PDEA), active policemen, civilians, four (4) minors, including a four (4)-year old child hit by a stray bullet, among others<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña in a statement said, "there are people here (in Cebu) with police protection who are going around killing people"<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the above-mentioned situation in the Province of Cebu is definitely not the society enshrined and promised to be provided by the 1987 Philippine Constitution and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines; as Filipinos, particularly Cebuanos, do not deserve that kind of a society. Such state of lawless violence and impunity has to stop in the name of the laws of men and of God;

**WHEREAS**, as Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma had said, "it's as if life no longer has any value";

**WHEREAS**, the Government and the State, pursuant to the Constitution, must mightily charge into the fray and bring back order, bring back the rule of law, denounce the violence in the Province of Cebu and hunt down and prosecute the murderers and their coddlers, protectors and cohorts and lock them behind bars;

**WHEREAS**, this problem must be addressed immediately to help the citizens and the Cebuanos: safety and security efforts made by government agencies,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1018362/cebu-gun-attacks-claim-112-lives-in-6-months>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/nation/209302-killings-in-cebu-increased-after-new-police-chiefs-arrived> and <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1018362/cebu-gun-attacks-claim-112-lives-in-6-months>

<sup>3</sup> <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1018362/cebu-gun-attacks-claim-112-lives-in-6-months>

operatives and of private organizations must be transformed to actual guides or transparent materials/references – to help also business, economy and tourism and eventually, employment opportunities, peace and orderliness in the Province and the Visayas as a whole;

**BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Senate of the Philippines, to urge the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs and Public Information and Mass Media to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the efforts of the government agencies and operatives on the reported number of lawlessness complexed with drugs issue in the province of Cebu, with the end goals of reviewing pertinent laws regarding police operations, to disseminate information on people's safety and security and to adopt measures geared towards larger accountability and transparency

*Adopted,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Grace Poe" in a cursive style. To the right of the name, there are some small, illegible scribbles or initials.