

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Resolution No. 519

Introduced by Rep. Vicente "Ching" S.E. Veloso

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEPLORABLE SPATE OF KILLINGS OF JUDGES, AND TO RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE MEASURES, PREVENTIVE OR OTHERWISE, TO PROTECT THEM FROM THREATS TO THEIR LIVES WHILE IN THE PURSUANCE OF THEIR DUTIES, INCLUDING THE CREATION OF JUDICIAL MARSHALLS

WHEREAS, members of the Judiciary are indispensable for the proper administration of justice in our judicial system;

WHEREAS, based on media reports, at least thirty-one (31) judges had been intentionally killed since 1999, including five (5) slain judges in the past three (3) years, or from 2016-2019;

WHEREAS, only a few days ago, i.e. on November 5, 2019, Judge Mario Anacleto Bañez of the Regional Trial Court in Ilocos Sur was shot and killed in an ambush by unidentified gunmen in San Fernando, La Union;

WHEREAS, in response to these deplorable killings of judges, Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta has publicly endorsed the creation of a security system patterned after the United States Marshall Service, which provides security principally for judges and other court officials in the United States;

WHEREAS, Section 5, Article II of the 1987 Constitution states 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, pursuant to this principle declared in our constitution, the State should ensure that the lives of judges are adequately protected in order for them to effectively perform their duties and functions without fear or favor;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the House of Representatives direct the Committee on Justice to conduct an inquiry,

in aid of legislation, on the deplorable spate of killings of judges, and to recommend appropriate measures, preventive or otherwise, to protect them from threats to their lives while in the pursuance of their duties, including the creation of Judicial Marshalls.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a checkmark-like flourish.

VICENTE "CHING" S.E. VELOSO III
3rd District, Leyte