

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2224

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by HONORABLE ZAJID G. MANGUDADATU

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The entire world was alarmed when fifty-eight (58) people, including thirty-two (32) media men were massacred on the ill-fated day of November 23, 2009 in Southern Maguindanao. About 100 armed men ambushed the convoy of vehicles on a lonely stretch of highway and drove them to the top of a hill before killing them all. Several women were raped before they were killed. The International Crisis Group described the massacre as "one of the worst acts of political violence in modern Philippine history, and the largest number of journalists slain on a single day ever, anywhere in the world."

Our country and the entire human race are facing terrorism, and it should be inculcated in everyone's mind that the threat is real and apparent. What happened in November 23, 2009 is a concrete example of how easily some people can perpetrate horrendous crimes.

As such, the Author finds wisdom in the constant remembrance and commemoration of the lost lives of the victims in the carnage. First, remembering the Maguindanao Massacre otherwise known as Ampatuan Massacre will help us to be always on guard that there are indeed threats to our security and peace. Second, it will give justice to those innocent people who were brutally murdered. Third, it will help instill in the minds of the Filipinos that such a tragic terroristic occurrence will never be allowed and should not happen again.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of the bill is earnestly sought.


REP. ZAJID G. MANGUDADATU
2nd District, Maguindanao

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Introduced by **HONORABLE ZAJID G. MANGUDADATU**

**AN ACT DECLARING
NOVEMBER 23 OF EVERY YEAR AS A NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING
TO REMEMBER THE INNOCENT LIVES LOST IN THE 2009
MAGUINDANAO MASSACRE**

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. November 23 of every year is hereby declared as a National Day of Mourning.

SECTION 2. As a National Day of Mourning, the entire Philippines shall dedicate November 23 of every year to remember the lives of all those who passed away in the 2009 Maguindanao Massacre.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,