Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1633

Introduced by Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento

RESOLUTION
URGING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY TO
CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
SENSELESS MURDER OF MAYOR RONALDO AQUINO OF THE CITY OF
CALBAYOG, WESTERN SAMAR COMMITED BY MEMBERS OF THE
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE

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

1 WHEREAS, last March 8, 2021, a shooting incident occurred along Laboyao
2 Bridge, Brgy. Lonoy, Calbayog City in broad daylight which resulted in the death of
3 Mayor Ronaldo Aquino and his two companions;
4 WHEREAS, according to various witnesses, the perpetrators opened fire on the
5 vehicle of Mayor Aquino and his companions, which forced the companions of the
6 Mayor to retaliate and return fire;
7 WHEREAS, there are various reports from multiple sources that the
8 perpetrators who died because of the encounter were members of the police force.
9 Reports have stated that those who have opened fired and died were Captain Joselito
10 Tabada, Chief of the Samar Provincial Drug Enforcement Unit, and Staff Sergeant
11 Romeo Laoyon of the Provincial Intelligence Unit. Together with them was Staff
12 Sergeant Neil Cebu, a PNP member assigned at the K9 Unit of the Samar Police
13 Provincial Office.
14 WHEREAS, there are doubts on whether the incident was a legitimate police
15 investigation since the members of the uniformed service were not in their official
uniform when it happened. Moreover, if it indeed a special operation, there are also
doubts on the reason or justification behind it;

WHEREAS, there were previous instances where the leaders of the First
District of Samar were falsely accused of being involved in the illegal drug trade
without verified evidence. The accusations were immediately and vehemently denied;

WHEREAS, there were already previous incidents in our District where
political leaders were killed by gunmen. Just a week ago, two (2) Barangay Chairmen
perished as they were shot by unidentified assailants. Despite this, we have yet to hear
arrests being made and perpetrators being brought to justice;

WHEREAS, it is not acceptable for killings to occur in a civilized society. It is
even more impermissible when the members of our uniformed service are being
accused of involvement in these heinous acts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved that the
House of Representatives urge the Committee on Public Order and Safety to conduct
an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the senseless murder of Mayor Ronaldo
Aquino of Calbayog City, Samar committed by members of the Philippine National
Police to determine the circumstances behind the incident, procedure undertaken during
a legitimate police operation, if there are measures to be filed to curb illegal practices,
and recommend filing of appropriate charges against the perpetrators.

Adopted,

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EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO
1st District, Samar