Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 2314


A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING AND CONGRATULATING THE 2021 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER MARIA ANGELITA RESSA

WHEREAS, Maria Ressa, Rappler’s CEO and co-founder, received the Nobel Peace Prize last 8 October 2021 for her ‘courageous fight for freedom of expression’;¹

WHEREAS, prior to her historic Nobel Prize awarding, Ressa has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades on the international stage, including Time Magazine’s Person of the Year, the Knight International Journalism Award, the Columbia Journalism Award and the Canadian Journalism Foundation’s Tribute Honor both in 2019, for her unwavering dedication to the defiant pursuit of truth through journalism;²

WHEREAS, critical and fundamental journalism in the Philippines has been a popular target of attacks, both institutional and personal, from organized trolls to the highest level of government;

WHEREAS, the country is a dangerous battleground for journalists who pay not only with their reputations and credibility, but also with their lives in speaking truth to power and exposing violence, corruption, and abuses by the State both past and present;

WHEREAS, the country has been ranked at the 7th most dangerous place to be a journalist in the world where 15 journalists and press members were murdered from

¹ https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2021/ressa/facts/
² https://www.rappler.com/author/maria-a-ressa
June 2016 to April 2020 alone and 11 media personnel and journalist killings remain unsolved;³

WHEREAS, despite the constant threat of closure of Rappler, the possibility of jail time, and the numerous cases lodged against her and the company she co-founded, her indefatigable courage and daring to continue holding the line for us all should serve as a reminder of the power and importance of journalism in a time of widespread and weaponized disinformation and as a renewed call for journalists to continue to uphold their sacred vow of speaking truth to power despite the risks and danger;

WHEREAS, the role of journalists in preventing the erosion of democracy through ‘A Thousand Cuts’ is more essential than ever and the complexity of their battle for truth and facts make the Nobel award of the embattled Rappler CEO Maria Ressa a much needed triumph and a beacon of hope to the tattered freedom of expression in the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, to express and congratulate Maria Angelita Ressa for being the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Adopted,

³ https://www.rappler.com/author/maria-a-ressa
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