

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1548

Condemning the recent violence against members of the media in the
Philippines.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2010

Mr. ROYCE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Condemning the recent violence against members of the
media in the Philippines.

Whereas according to the Committee to Protect Journalists,
“sixty-five journalists have been murdered in the Phil-
ippines in the past two decades, a death toll trailing only
Iraq.”;

Whereas, on the morning of November 23, 2009, 30 journal-
ists and 2 media support workers were ambushed and
murdered by more than 100 heavily armed militiamen as
they accompanied a group to file candidacy papers for
Esmael Mangudadatu in what would become known as
the Maguindanao Massacre;

Whereas the primary suspects in the Maguindanao Massacre
have not been convicted of a crime, and additional sus-
pects remain at large;

Whereas, over the past 2 decades, Philippine authorities have obtained convictions in only 5 murder cases involving journalists;

Whereas, on June 14, 2010, Desiderio Camangyan of Sunrise FM, located in the southern Philippines, was shot and killed onstage while hosting a singing contest;

Whereas, on June 15, 2010, Joselito Agustin, a broadcaster with DZJC Aksyon Radyo, located in the northern Philippines, was ambushed and shot dead by 2 gunmen as he was returning home from work;

Whereas the reporters who were killed were known for their commentaries on corruption, illegal logging, and other political issues of interest in the Philippines;

Whereas the Committee to Protect Journalists finds that the culture of impunity that exists in the Philippines is unseen in any other peacetime democracy; and

Whereas a free press is a hallmark of free societies and is a vital tool in combating corruption: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns the recent violence against mem-
3 bers of the media in the Philippines;

4 (2) expresses its condolences to the families of
5 Joselito Agustin, Desiderio Camangyan, and others
6 who have been victims of violence against the media;
7 and

- 1 (3) calls on the Government of the Philippines
- 2 to fully investigate the murders of Joselito Agustin
- 3 and Desiderio Camangyan.

