

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1458



Introduced by Honorable Representatives

ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women's Party),
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, **FERDINAND R. GAITE**, **EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT** (Bayan Muna),
FRANCE L. CASTRO (ACT Teachers Partylist) and **SARAH JANE I. ELAGO** (Kabataan Partylist)

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE'S MISHANDLING OF CHRISTINE ANGELICA DACERA'S CASE, AND RECOMMEND MEASURES FOR THE CONCERNED AGENCIES TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION TO ENSURE THE FAIR AND COMPETENT RESOLUTION OF THE CASE

WHEREAS, Christine Angelica Dacera, a 23-year-old flight attendant working for Philippine Airlines, along with her friends and colleagues, celebrated New Year's eve at City Garden Hotel in Makati City.

WHEREAS, at noontime of January 1, 2021, Dacera was found unconscious in an empty bath tub of their hotel room. She was rushed to the hospital and was later declared dead on arrival;

WHEREAS, on Monday, although there was still an ongoing investigation, the Makati City police filed a "provisional" charge of rape with homicide against 11 individuals who were with her during the celebration;

WHEREAS, Dacera's body had been embalmed before thorough examination, making it hard for medico-legal procedures to yield conclusive results;

WHEREAS, while waiting for autopsy findings and toxicology report, the Philippine National Police prematurely claimed that Dacera's case is a rape slay case because she allegedly had lacerations and sperm in her genitalia. Moreover, there were bruises and scratches on her arms and legs. This prompted public outrage on social media directed against the identified suspects;

WHEREAS, the Philippine National Police (PNP) declared in their official Facebook page and in their media statements that the case has been solved after three of the 11 suspects were arrested;

WHEREAS, in a statement, PNP Police Chief General Debold Sinas threatened the suspects to surrender within 72 hours or face manhunt 'using force if necessary' even though no warrants of arrest were issued;

WHEREAS, the result of autopsy report indicated that Christine Dacera's cause of death is ruptured aortic aneurysm. This is contradictory to what the PNP claimed to be a rape-slay case;

WHEREAS, forensic pathologist Dr. Raquel Fortun said the police autopsy was "inconclusive" and that no evidence would prove that there was sexual assault based on the autopsy report.

WHEREAS, the unverified and inaccurate information and the premature conclusions of the PNP over Dacera's death do not help in resolving the case. Rather, it resulted to trial by publicity, confusion most especially among Dacera's family and friends, and undue stress and anxiety to various parties dragged into the case;

WHEREAS, PNP's bypassing of established protocols and legal requirements in handling Dacera's case resembles its sloppy work regarding the filing trumped up charges and planting of evidence against activists and targets for the bloody Oplan Tokhang;

WHEREAS, the PNP seems to be in apparent rush to close the case and trumpet it as a New Year accomplishment, in a bid to save the institution's tarnished and decaying image amid series of police brutality cases;

WHEREAS, the Makati City Prosecutors Office issued a resolution on January 6, 2020 saying no evidence was presented to prove that the Dacera's death was by reason of the alleged rape and homicide, tossing back the case to the PNP and ordering the release of the three suspects;

WHEREAS, the PNP's mishandling of Dacera's case pose the biggest stumbling block to the quest for truth and justice over Dacera's death; it should stop using the case to rehabilitate its image if justice must be really served;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved, that the House Committee on Public Order and Safety conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the Philippine National Police's mishandling of Christine Angelica Dacera's case, and recommend measures for the concerned agencies to conduct a thorough investigation to ensure the fair and competent resolution of the case.

Adopted,


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