



Republika ng Pilipinas

Komisyon ng Karapatang Pantao

(Commission on Human Rights)

RESOLUTION

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RECEIVED
DATE 8/29/97 TIME _____
BY *[Signature]* REC. No. _____

**PROPOSING THE SENATE RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL II
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS**

WHEREAS, the death sentence of LEO P. ECHEGARAY and several others have been affirmed by the Supreme Court;

WHEREAS, under the Death Penalty Law (R.A. 7659), the execution of their death sentences will be carried out not later than one year after the judgment has become final (Art. 81);

WHEREAS, Mrs. Silvestra Pilo-Echegaray, mother of Leo P. Echegaray, addressed a letter to this Commission as well as Senator Raul Roco, then Chairman of the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights, appealing to the authorities that the death sentence of her son be commuted to life imprisonment.

WHEREAS, in the reply to Mrs. Echegaray and Senator Raul Roco, the Commission on Human Rights sent them copies of the Resolution of the Commission on Human Rights and a Qualified Concurring Separate Opinion urging the Re-Examination of Death Penalty Law (R.A. 7659) dated March 6, 1997, stating the reasons for said re-examination;

WHEREAS, the said Resolution and Separate Opinion were also sent to His Excellency President Fidel V. Ramos appealing to him to exercise his executive power to at least commute the sentence to life imprisonment of Leo P. Echegaray and other several accused whose death sentence have been affirmed by the Supreme Court, in the meantime a re-examination and review of the Death Penalty Law is being considered;

WHEREAS, the aforesaid Resolution also appealed to the Philippine Senate to ratify Protocol II of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Said Protocol which took effect in July 1991 appeals to all states to abolish death penalty in their respective statutes. More than half of the U.N. Member States have already abolished death penalty in their respective jurisdictions;

Tungkulin ng Komisyon ng Karapatang Pantao na tulungan ang lahat ng pinagkaitan ng katarungan.

Integrated Bar of the Philippines Building, Julia Vargas Avenue, Pasig City, Tel. No. 631-16-95 to 98 (Connecting All Departments)

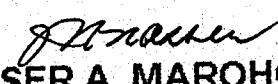
WHEREAS, the Commission on Human Rights received letters from several human rights organizations and recently from the *Organization Mondiale Contra La Torture* (World Organization Against Torture) which was coursed through the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva reminding that the Philippines is a State Party to the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatments or Punishments and the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which prohibit the infliction of any kind of physical or mental pains as a form of punishment. A copy of said Protocol is hereto attached.

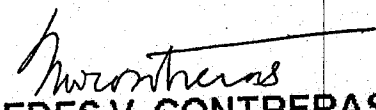
WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Philippine Senate immediately ratify Protocol II of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Let copies of the Resolution be submitted immediately to the President of the Philippine Senate and the Chairpersons of the Senate Committees on Justice and Human Rights and the Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws for their immediate consideration.

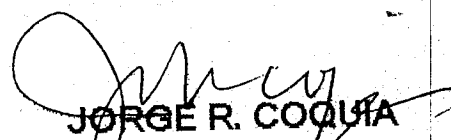
Done on this 8th day of August 1997 in the City of Pasig.


AURORA P. NAVARRETE-RECINA
Chairperson


NASSER A. MAROHOMSALIC
Commissioner


MERCEDES V. CONTRERAS
Commissioner


VICENTE P. SIBULO
Commissioner


JORGE R. COQUIA
Commissioner