

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 157, August 21, 2006]

CREATING AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO ADDRESS MEDIA AND ACTIVIST KILLINGS

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a bastion of human rights;

WHEREAS, the Arroyo Administration stopped judicial executions with the abolition of death penalty;

WHEREAS, the Arroyo Administration condemns political killings in the harshest possible terms;

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice and the Philippine National Police have been given a 10-week deadline to jail suspects in at least 10 media or leftists killings.

WHEREAS, the investigations shall not spare any sector;

WHEREAS, this task requires the cooperation not only on the part of law enforcement authorities and the military, but also among the families of the victims and other sectors concerned;

WHEREAS, witnesses are urged to come forward;

NOW, THEREFORE I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Creation and Mandate – There is hereby Created An Independent Commission to Address Media and Activist Killings

SEC. 2. Composition - The Commission shall be composed of the following:

- a) Retired Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo as chairman;
- b) The Director of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);
- c) The Chief State Prosecutor;
- d) University of the Philippines Regent Nelia Gonzalez; and
- e) One representative from civil society to be appointed by the President;
- f) Atty. Rogelio Vinluan as General Counsel.

SEC. 3. Duties and Functions – The Commission shall have, among others, the following duties and functions:

- i. Prioritize and focus investigation of media and activist killings;
- ii. Be the Government's sole voice on the issue of media and activist killings;