

**[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 01, October 11,
2016]**

**CREATING THE PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON VIOLATIONS OF
THE RIGHT TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF THE MEMBERS
OF THE MEDIA**

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution declares that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights;

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law;

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures of whatever nature and for any purpose shall be inviolable;

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 14 (1) of the 1987 Constitution provides that no person shall be held to answer for a criminal offense without due process of law;

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 18 (1) of the 1987 Constitution provides that no person shall be detained solely by reason of his political beliefs and aspirations;

WHEREAS, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) noted that the safety of journalists and the prosecution and punishment of those who kill members of the media are essential to preserve the fundamental right to freedom of expression, guaranteed by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a Party to various treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which recognize every person's inherent right to life: that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of life, that no one shall be subjected to torture, or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and that everyone shall have the right to freedoms of opinion and expression;

WHEREAS, in May 2015, the UNESCO revealed that on average, one journalist is killed every week around the world, and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reported that the Philippines ranks third in the world in terms of journalists killed in the line of duty;

WHEREAS, according to the Human Rights Watch 2014 World Report, the Philippines remains to be one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a journalist, and

that killings and enforced disappearances remain a serious problem in the Philippines and rarely result in a successful prosecution and punishment of the perpetrator;

WHEREAS, the continuing attack on media workers is not only erosive of press freedom and free expression but also impedes the flow of information in a community;

WHEREAS, a free press and media perform the necessary function of providing accurate, fair and relevant information which is vital for a free citizenry to perform its duty of monitoring government actions and communicating its views to the government;

WHEREAS, the murders and violent incidents against journalists create an impression of a culture of impunity, wherein security establishments of the State and non-State forces have been accused of silencing, through violence and intimidation, legitimate dissent and opposition raised by members of the press along with those who belong to cause-oriented groups, political movements, people's and non-government organizations, and by ordinary citizens;

WHEREAS, most of these violations remain uninvestigated and unsolved, with the perpetrators unidentified or unprosecuted, giving rise to graver impressions of impunity and the commission of more violent crimes;

WHEREAS, it is highly exigent that these unsolved cases of grave violations of the right to life, liberty, and security of persons are revisited, investigated and prosecuted until final judicial determination and penal conclusion;

WHEREAS, the present Administration declares as a matter of policy that all of these forms of political violence and abuses of power, whether by agents or elements of the State or of non-State forces against the members of the so-called Fourth Estate, must stop, and towards this end, commits to establish a government-wide program of action where the whole system of the bureaucracy is involved in the efficient, coherent, and comprehensive resolution of unsolved cases of violence in the form of killings, enforced disappearances, torture, and other grave violations of the right to life, liberty, and security of persons against the members of the press;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Definitions. For purposes of this Administrative Order, the following terms are hereby defined:

- a) "Media Workers" shall refer to those who are engaged, whether as a principal occupation or not, in media practice, including print, internet, radio broadcast or commentaries, and television; and
- b) "Violence against Media Workers" shall refer to the attempted, frustrated or consummated killings, enforced disappearances, torture and other grave violations of the right to life, liberty and security of Media Workers who were targeted by reason of the media work of such persons.

SECTION 2. Creation of a Presidential Task Force. There is hereby created a Presidential Task Force on Violence against Media Workers, which shall have the mandate of ensuring a safe environment for Media Workers. It shall be composed of the following:

Chairperson: Secretary, Department of Justice (DOJ)
Co-Chairperson: Secretary, Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO)
Members: Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
Secretary, Department of National Defense (DND);
Solicitor General;
Executive Director, Presidential Human Rights Committee (PHRC);
Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP);
Director General, Philippine National Police (PNP);
and
Director, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

The Presidential Task Force shall invite the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the Ombudsman as observers and resource persons.

The Presidential Task Force shall likewise invite the following as observers and resource persons:

President, National Press Club (NPC);
President, National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP);
President, *Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas* (KBP);
President, Publishers Association of the Philippines, Inc. (PAPI); and
Chairperson-President, Philippine Press Institute (PPI)

The government officials mentioned above may designate their permanent representatives to the Presidential Task Force, who shall hold a rank not lower than Assistant Secretary, or General and Chief Superintendent in the case of the AFP and the PNP, respectively.

SECTION 3. Secretariat. The Presidential Task Force shall organize a Secretariat, composed of personnel coming from the offices of the various members, and shall be headed by the Executive Director who shall be appointed under the conditions stated in Section 6. The Secretariat shall be attached to the Office of the President and shall provide administrative and technical support to the Presidential Task Force, subject to government rules and regulations.

SECTION 4. Functions. The Presidential Task Force shall undertake the following:

a) Inventory of Cases. For the first thirty (30) days, the Presidential Task Force shall conduct an inventory of all cases of violence against Media Workers perpetrated by State and non-State forces alike, from