

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No. 181, July 03, 2007]

**DIRECTING THE COOPERATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN
THE NATIONAL PROSECUTION SERVICE AND OTHER CONCERNED
AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE SUCCESSFUL
INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF POLITICAL AND MEDIA
KILLINGS**

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

WHEREAS, the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan recognizes that peace and order and respect for human rights are essential ingredients to maintaining economic development, social order and political stability;

WHEREAS, the effective prosecution of human rights violators is vital to the protection of human rights;

WHEREAS, killings of political activists and members of media are human rights violations, and finding a definitive solution to these killings is of the utmost priority for this Administration;

WHEREAS, to ensure that these killings are effectively investigated and successfully prosecuted, there is a need for the law enforcement and prosecution arms of the government to cooperate and coordinate during all phases of the criminal proceedings;

WHEREAS, responding to the request of the Melo Commission and the Executive Department, the Supreme Court has promptly created special courts to hear and try cases involving the killings of political activists and members of the media;

WHEREAS, a common working definition of political and media killings among Executive and Judiciary Departments would greatly contribute to the successful investigation, prosecution and pursuit of justice regarding these human rights and criminal violations;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court in its Administrative Order 25 - 2007 has specified that "In determining whether the crime is a 'political killing' the following factors, among others, shall be considered: (1) political affiliation of the victim; (2) method of attack; and (3) reports that state agents are involved in the commission of the crime or have acquiesced in them."

WHEREAS, the Philippine National Police has defined 'media killings'. For the purposes of investigation in particular by Task Force Usig, as killings of present members of broadcast and print media/newsmen which were perpetrated by reason