

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 8468



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bill of Rights, Article III of the 1987 Constitution provides that:

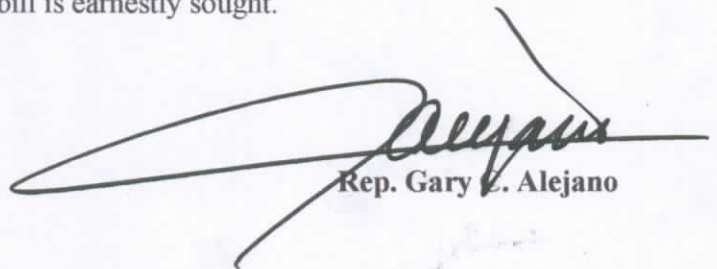
"Section 4. No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances."

While the aforestated indicates that the government ensures the protection of the right to free speech, expression, and of the press, members of broadcast and print media still suffer from continued harassment, threats, and even death from influential political families, mega corporations, and the National Government itself for speaking truth to power over the abuses and corruption of these entities.

The press plays a vital role as the mouthpiece of those who have been silenced, oppressed, or beaten to submission. They speak of the evils that nobody seems to notice or even care for and this places them on the sights of degenerate men who would prefer that they keep their silence as they continue to do their usual dirty business. Knowing this and acknowledging that a free press is critical in maintaining a strong and vibrant democracy, it must therefore be the Government's imperative to protect the right of the press to shine light on the undiscovered truths of the country.

Under this proposed measure, the Revised Penal Code shall be amended to include the killing of the broadcast and print media members as murder punishable under Article 248 of the same Code.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


Rep. Gary C. Alejano

1 **7. WHEN THE PERSON KILLED IS A MEMBER OF THE**
2 **BROADCAST AND PRINT MEDIA, ON OCCASION OF THE**
3 **LAWFUL EXERCISE OF HIS DUTIES OR FUNCTIONS AS SUCH**
4 **MEMBER.**

5
6 **SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.***—All laws, executive orders, executive issuances, or letters of
7 instructions, or any part thereof, inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act, are
8 hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.
9

10 **SEC. 3. *Effectivity.***—This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at
11 least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,