

PRIVILEGE SPEECH

15th City Council
Sangguniang Panlungsod
March 10, 2009
Davao City

“A DEED MOST FOUL”

By Councilor Pilar C. Braga, PhD

Last Sunday, March 8, 2009 was International Women’s Day.

Last March 4, Wednesday, the 10th Women Summit was attended by almost a thousand women from all over Davao City.

Last march 6, Friday, more than two thousand (2,000) women and men walked and gathered at Rizal park for the solidarity gathering affirming women’s rights and equality and emancipation from poverty, oppression and violence.

But even before we, women could cry STOP... stop to all forms of violence against women and children, a very sad news hugged the local papers, television and media.

I am referring to the brutal and senseless death of a very young woman named Rebelyn Pitao, the 20-year old daughter of ranking NPA Commander Leoncio Pitao, a.k.a. Commander Parago, Rebelyn was a teacher.

So what if Rebelyn is the daughter of an NPA Commander? Why kill her? Why rape her? What crime has she down? Is being the daughter of Commander Parago a crime? Is killing Rebelyn an easy way of getting at Commander Parago? Who are the monster and the cowards who took the life of an innocent woman simply because they couldn’t catch her father?

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said it well when he said that it was a “deed most foul,” and I am glad that Mayor is on top of the situation in investigating this heinous crime.

We condole with the family of Rebelyn. It is hard enough to lose a husband, but harder still to lose a beloved daughter.

Madam President, allow me to pass a resolution expressing our condolences to the Pitao family.

PILAR C. BRAGA, PhD
City Councilor