

Resolution No. 2016-25

Sponsored by: National Affairs Committee

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**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF THE OPEN LETTER ON THE
RECENT U.S. EMBASSY INCIDENT**

A resolution calling for the release of the open letter on the U.S. Embassy incident that occurred last October 19, 2016.

Whereas, the Legislative Assembly is the highest policy-making body of the University Student Government (University Student Government Constitution, Article XIV, Section 1);

Whereas, the USG shall have the power of which emanates from the student body. It shall be the sole, unified, autonomous and democratic representative body of the students (University Student Government Constitution, Article III, Section 1);

Whereas, the National Affairs Committee shall discuss national and sectoral issues and present recommendations on such to the Legislative Assembly.
(University Student Government Constitution, Article V, Section 11);

Whereas, last October 19, 2016, activists from Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and several indigenous groups protested outside the U.S. Embassy (ABS-CBN News);

Whereas, last September 10, 2016, President Rodrigo Duterte made a pronouncement on pursuing an independent foreign policy (GMA News Online);

Whereas, no torture, force, violence, threat, intimidation, or any other means which vitiate the free will shall be used against him. Secret detention places,

solitary, incommunicado, or other similar forms of detention are prohibited.
(The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines - Article III,
Section 12.2)

Whereas, there have been pieces of documentation (See Appendix B) which confirms
the incident;

Whereas, this open letter has been thoroughly examined by the Office of Student
Life department of De La Salle University;

Wherefore, be it resolved that this open letter (See Appendix A) be the official stand of
the students of De La Salle University on the said incident;

Wherefore, be it further resolved that this open letter be presented, and approved by the
Legislative Assembly;

Wherefore, be it finally resolved that this open letter be approved and be publicized
through official USG social media accounts.

Adopted, November 11, 2016

Appendix A

OPEN LETTER ON THE U.S. EMBASSY INCIDENT

Last October 19, 2016, a violent incident occurred outside the U.S. Embassy, Manila, as several protesters were gathered demanding the end of U.S. military presence in the Philippines. The rally was conducted to support the pronouncement for an independent foreign policy by President Rodrigo Duterte. The police officers have intervened and used force to disperse the protesters for the main reason that they have no legitimate permit to conduct a rally and they were causing turmoil outside the U.S. Embassy.

Some protesters were seen using sticks and were throwing rocks against the police officers. The protesters threw balls of red paint and managed to vandalize the seal of the Embassy. On the other hand, several police officers retaliated by beating some of the protesters. A police van was also used to run over the protesters. Consequently, the police van repeatedly plowed through the crowd, which in turn resulted to an uproar from the protesters. At least 12 protesters were rushed to the hospital due to injuries from the incident, including three students.

Every human being is entitled to their own human rights, and such rights must be protected and observed. Sadly, some of these rights are being violated in different situations every day. As Filipinos and as citizens of the world, it is our obligation to continuously uphold and protect the rights of every human being.

With this, we, the students of De La Salle University - Manila, believe that any acts of violence cannot be used as means in resolving social issues and problems. These acts of violence only fuel emotions that would lead people into unreasonable anger. We would like to remind the police force to continue upholding their promise, which is "to serve and protect" their countrymen. Maximum tolerance must always be enforced whenever such events arise; hence, differences in views on issues and other forms of disagreement must be resolved through dialogue, peaceful means, and non-violent actions because violence is never the solution.

Appendix B





Sources:

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