

Resolution No. 2016 – 33

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**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF THE OPEN LETTER ON THE 31st
ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDSA PEOPLE POWER REVOLUTION**

*A resolution calling for the approval and release of the open letter on the 31st
anniversary of the EDSA People Power Revolution.*

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, the EDSA People Power Revolution is a “significant event that has been engraved in the hearts and minds of every Filipino” (Philippine History, 2016);

Whereas, on February 22-25, 1986, over “two million people gathered at EDSA to support against the regime of then President Ferdinand Marcos” (The Manila Times, 2017);

Whereas, the EDSA People Power made news headlines as the “revolution that surprised the world” because no blood was shed during the event (Calica, 2016);

Whereas, February 25, 2017 marks the 31st anniversary of the EDSA People Power;

Wherefore, be it resolved that this open letter (see Appendix A) be presented and approved by the Legislative Assembly;

Wherefore, be it further resolved that this open letter be translated to Filipino by Ang Pahayagang Plaridel;

Wherefore, be it finally resolved that the English and Filipino versions of this open letter be approved and posted on the LA-PIO and the University Student Government’s social media accounts as the University Student Government’s sentiments in commemoration of the 31st anniversary of the EDSA People Power Revolution.

Adopted, February 24, 2017

Appendix A

OPEN LETTER ON THE 31st ANNIVERSARY OF EDSA PEOPLE POWER REVOLUTION

The 25th of February, 1986 marked the end of a 21-year dictatorship that gravely violated numerous human rights. On February 22, 1986, the EDSA People Power Revolution started, where about two million people of diverse backgrounds came together to rally along the Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (EDSA) as a movement of civil resistance against regime violence and electoral fraud. The world has come to know this revolution as one of the most peaceful uprisings that have ever occurred -- even if there was no blood shed during the protest, the democracy was still evidently powerful as it ended the reign of a dictator and his repressive laws. This civil unity was able to restore the freedom that we Filipinos righteously deserve.

We still actively partake in commemorating EDSA People Power Revolution on its 31st anniversary. We do not simply move on from this significant event that has become a defining moment in Philippine history. If not for our fellow Filipinos' endeavors and sacrifices, we would fear every waking moment. We would fear roaming the streets, working, speaking, and even breathing. Living itself would be a disastrous string of events that would eventually throw us behind bars. But most of all, were it not for the sacrifices of those who came before us, the Filipino would no longer be able to clearly define himself and make his mark in the world.

The 1986 EDSA People Power Revolution reminds us that we are undivided as Filipinos. The power of being united as a single nation despite the face of adversity has paved the way for unleashing the truth and gaining the freedom we deserve, without the need to become violent. The revolution proved that violence is not the only means of having our voices heard, but rather coming as one enables us to become an instrument on constructive and beneficial change. But beyond this change, we are obligated to defend the rights of those who cannot speak for themselves. At this crucial junction, we are called now more than ever to safeguard and advance the rights of those who are disenfranchised. By empowering them through education, healthcare, and opportunities, they can become greater Filipinos.

This inclination towards freedom is something highly characteristic of each and every Filipino. This is evident in our unitary struggle against the colonizers of the past. We are a people that should be revered for its strength and resilience in the face of adversity, challenges, and difficulties. The EDSA Revolution is not just one for show—instead, it

speaks volumes about the nature of the Filipino. We are not Filipinos for ourselves but rather, Filipinos for others.

Appendix B

SOURCES

Calica, A. (February 25, 2016). 1986 people power: Philippines's gift to the world. *The Philippine Star*. Retrieved from <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/02/25/1556601/1986-people-power-philippines-gift-world>

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