



Republic of the Philippines

Senate

Office of Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV



Statement on the status of death penalty bill in the Philippine Senate:

Due to several Philippine senators' vocal opposition to and the public outcry against the reinstatement of death penalty in the country, the Chairman of the Philippine Senate's Justice and Human Rights Committee has decided to defer the deliberation of the bill on the matter, pending the resolution of issues surrounding it. Foremost of these issues is the bill's conflict with the Philippines' commitment under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the country acceded to and which is now part of the law of the land. Passing it would be a violation of this treaty. Suffice it to say that, for now, the death penalty bill in the Senate is dead.

Nevertheless, I and a number of other senators in the Philippines will remain vigilant and will continue to block the passage of the death penalty bill should the current administration put pressure on the Senate and urge its passing.