

P.D. 1110-A: Mandatory Death for a Mere Attempt

Jose Enrique J. Yulo

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SUBJECT(S): PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1110-A, REVISED PENAL CODE

KEYWORD(S): DEATH PENALTY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

By virtue of his legislative powers granted by the circumstances, President Ferdinand Marcos signed into law Presidential Decree No. 1110-A, which penalizes with death any attempt on the life of the Chief Executive. Although it may be argued that such is the result of the reasonable level of fear under specific situations, its severity as a punishment cannot be denied.

In this Article, the Author examines such a presidential decree, focusing primarily on issues regarding the law's tendency to classify based on invalid grounds. In the end, he posits that because only courts can declare a law as unconstitutional, it is still imperative for the people to be aware of the repercussions of such, especially because it is a contradiction to the avowed purpose of a government official being primarily a representative of the people.