

The Noli-Fili Law

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6 ATENEO L.J. 269 (1957)

KEYWORD(S): *REBELLION*

SUBJECT(S): *CRIMINAL LAW*

The Article provides a discussion on the law which made mandatory the reading of the works of Dr. Jose Rizal, *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo* in public and private schools, colleges and universities in the Philippines. In particular, the Author looks into the details behind Senate Bill No. 438, introduced by the Committee on Education, also known as the *Rizal Bill*. As a result of this, Catholic Organizations opposed the bill stating that it indirectly presented an attack on the Church. From this, the Author discusses the issued behind the arguments of both parties – the State and the Church. The Article provides for the different figures that stood to oppose or encourage the passing of the bill, each presenting its own reason behind such. The Author includes parts of the Bill and provides points to consider regarding such, namely the threat to national unity, the unjust positions rendered on both sides, the and the violation of the Bill of Rights, particularly due process, equal protection and religious freedom.