

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Senate

Manila City

Sixteenth Congress

Second Regular Session



RESOLUTION No. 52

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND HONORING THE
FILIPINO UN PEACEKEEPERS IN GOLAN
HEIGHTS FOR DEMONSTRATING EXEMPLARY
COURAGE AND RESOLVE IN THE RECENT
STANDOFF AGAINST SYRIAN REBELS,
SUCCESSFULLY CARRYING OUT THEIR
PEACEKEEPING MISSION, AND REFLECTING THE
PROFESSIONALISM AND COMPETENCE OF THE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, 75 peacekeepers from the Philippines form an integral part of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) Mission, composed also of soldiers from Fiji, India, Ireland, Nepal and the Netherlands, that has been monitoring and supervising the Agreement on Disengagement between Syria and Israel that established a ceasefire to end their war in 1973;

WHEREAS, on 28 August 2014, more than one hundred Syrian rebels entered the UN-patrolled buffer zone between Syria and Israel, capturing 44 Fijian peacekeepers and demanding the surrender of Filipino peacekeepers occupying two UN encampments in the Golan Heights;

WHEREAS, the first group of 35 Filipino peacekeepers stationed at the UN encampment in Breiqa (Position 69) were rescued by Irish and Filipino forces on 30 August 2014, while the second group of 40 Filipino peacekeepers remained in the second UN encampment in Rwhana (Position 68) where they fought back against the Syrian rebels;

WHEREAS, despite being surrounded and outnumbered by the Syrian rebels, the Filipino peacekeepers refused to surrender their arms and continued to defend their position, leading to a four-day standoff;

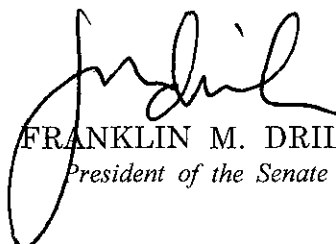
WHEREAS, after withstanding seven hours under heavy fire, the Filipino peacekeepers, low on ammunition, successfully planned and implemented what the Armed Forces of the Philippines dubbed the "greatest escape" on the night of 30 August 2014, under cover of darkness and cold weather, with guidance and support from Philippine military and defense leaders, the UN Force Headquarters, and from Syrian, Israeli, US and Qatar governments;

WHEREAS, the Filipino peacekeepers from Position 68 and 69 have now been repositioned to Camp Ziwoani behind UN lines and that, according to Philippine officials, they would remain in Golan until their mission ends in October 2014, despite the escalating violence, in fulfillment of the Philippine's commitment to international security and to the community of nations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, as it is hereby resolved, That the Senate of the Philippines commend and honor the Filipino UN peacekeepers stationed in Golan Heights for demonstrating exemplary courage and resolve in the recent standoff against Syrian rebels, successfully carrying out their peacekeeping mission,


and reflecting the professionalism and competence of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Adopted,



FRANKLIN M. DRILON
President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on September 8, 2014.



OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate

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