

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS)
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: G

Resolution No. 72

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

MDA

RESOLUTION STRONGLY

**STORNGLY CONDEMNING THE HOSTAGE CRISIS IN BESLAM, RUSSIA AS AN ACT OF
TERRORISM, AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHIES FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE CRISIS
AND THEIR FAMILIES**

WHEREAS, a group of heavily armed persons seized on September 1, 2004 a school building in Beslam, Russia and held an undetermined number of hostages, which some estimates have placed as high as 1,500 persons;

WHEREAS, among the hostages were helpless schoolchildren and their teachers, made to strip naked and suffer tremendous humiliation and psychological trauma under the constant fear of injury and death, demonstrating beyond doubt the blatant disregard by the hostage-takers of the rule of law, much less of basic civility and human decency;

WHEREAS, the hostage-takers demanded the withdrawal of Russian forces from Chechnya, and threatened to kill the hostages, in fact killing several, with Russia's failure to do so;

WHEREAS, the use of such inhumane acts to threaten a government and their people to advance a political agenda is an intolerable act of terrorism condemned under international law, and the hostage-takers are terrorists that must be brought to justice;

WHEREAS, with the turn of events on September 3, 2001, numerous hostages died or were injured, with current death tolls exceeding 300, while many terrorists managed to escape;

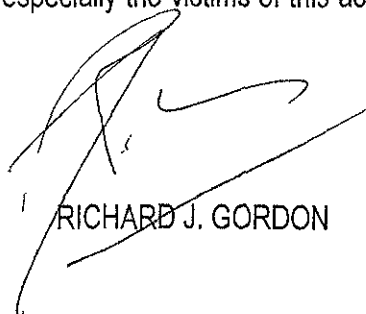
WHEREAS, the Republic of the Philippines and her people have been threatened and victimized by, and suffered through, numerous similar acts of terrorism;

WHEREAS, the Republic of the Philippines understands fully the suffering of the Russian people, their grief at the loss of their loved ones, and their fear and insecurity in the aftermath of such a barefaced disregard of all notions of civilization;

WHEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Philippine Senate condemn, as it hereby condemns, the actions of the hostage-takers at Beslam, Russia, on September 1 to 3, 2004 as an act of terrorism, and calls upon the international community to do likewise and exercise all efforts to bring the terrorists to justice;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Philippine Senate express, as it hereby expresses, its deepest sympathies for the Russian people, especially the victims of this act of terrorism, and their families.

Approved,


RICHARD J. GORDON