

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P.S. Res. No. 1047

INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE BENIGNO S. AQUINO III

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ARREST MADE BY OFFICERS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-ORGANIZED CRIME COMMISSION ON FORMER MAGDALO SOLDIERS FOR ALLEGEDLY PLOTTING A RESCUE ATTEMPT OF DETAINED MAGDALO SOLDIERS.

WHEREAS, on 28 April 2009 it was reported in the Philippine Daily Inquirer that the agents of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC) arrested on 24 April 2009 12 former "Magdalo" soldiers while training inside Eagle Firing Range at Clark Field, Pampanga allegedly in preparation for carrying out a plot to rescue other detained rebel soldiers including, Senator Antonio Trillanes IV and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim;¹

WHEREAS, among those taken into custody was **Anthony Newman**, a New Zealander purportedly contracted to train the rebel soldiers in special operations;²

WHEREAS, in the same news article **Mariano "Bong" Villafuerte**, director of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission, disclosed that an Australian, described as a former commando and identified as **Steven Curtis Rossiter**, met him to say "he was deceived and beguiled" by Newman into assisting in the training. Villafuerte claimed that Rossiter volunteered information supporting suspicions that the Clark training was not really for VIP security;³

¹ <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/inquirerheadlines/nation/view/20090428-201843/Plot-to-rescue-rebel-officers-foiledPalace>

² *ibid*

³ *ibid*

WHEREAS, Villafuerte also claimed that a “known crony” of former President Joseph Estrada, Jose Luis “Cel” Yulo, funded the alleged rescue mission.⁴

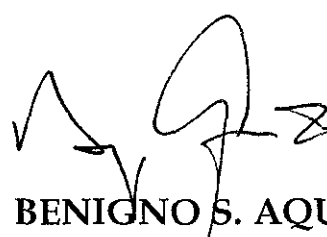
WHEREAS, a follow-up report came out on 29 April 2009 quoting PAOCC Commissioner Grepor “Butch” Belgica, claiming that the ultimate goal of the rebel soldiers arrested April 24 at a Clark Field firing range in Pampanga province was to assassinate PGMA;⁵

WHEREAS, E.O. No. 295 included among the crimes to which the PAOCC task force shall have cognizance of those committed by the members of the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the members of the task force who conducted the raid reportedly did not have a search or arrest warrant at the time of arrest;⁶

WHEREAS, considering the seriousness of the allegations involving as it does an accusation that a group to which a Senator of the Republic is connected is allegedly deeply involved and the allegations that the raiders at the time of arrest were not armed with sufficient legal writs to justify the arrest, behooves this body to inquire into the same in aid of legislation and to review the pertinent laws and jurisprudence on warrantless arrest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to investigate in aid of legislation the arrest made by PAOCC task force on several soldiers for allegedly plotting to rescue detained Magdalo soldiers, including Sen. Trillanes, and to review the pertinent laws and jurisprudence on warrantless arrest ”.

Adopted,



BENIGNO S. AQUINO III
Senator

⁴ Ibid

⁵ http://services.inquirer.net/print/print.php?article_id=20090429-202038

⁶ Ibid