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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 1285

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Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

**RESOLUTION
COMMENDING THE VALIANT SERVICE OF
MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS,
THE PHILIPPINE ARMY AND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND
CONDEMNING THE ACTS OF IGNOMINY COMMITTED BY THE ABU SAYYAF GROUP**

WHEREAS, a skirmish between the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Abu Sayyaf Group occurred in the morning of 13 August 2009 when over 400 members of the Philippine Marine Corps, Army and Police raided the hilltop camps in the town of Unkaya Pukan in Basilan City, which was identified as an important base of operations for the Abu Sayyaf Group;

WHEREAS, the fighting lasted for several hours and resulted in the death of 23 government troops and injuries to at least 21, while 31 of the militants perished;

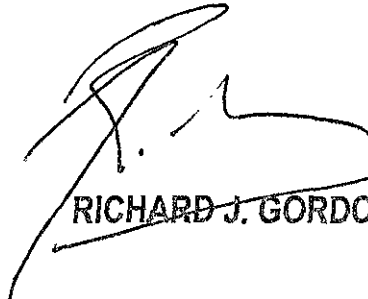
WHEREAS, according to media reports, apart from suffering from gunshot wounds, most of the slain soldiers likewise sustained hack wounds from the hands of their adversaries and one soldier was described as "almost beheaded;"

WHEREAS, notwithstanding hostilities and differences in ideology, customs and beliefs, we remain to be Filipinos and members of the Family of Humanity, and these egregious acts of cruelty and inhumanity committed by the Abu Sayyaf constitute outrages upon the personal dignity of our troops and must be prevented and condemned;

WHEREAS, despite the savagery faced by our troops, they fought with bravery and honor and remained faithful to their sworn duty to uphold the rule of law, and show respect for human rights and human dignity. *Now, therefore, be it*

Resolved by the Senate, as it is hereby resolved, To commend the members of the Philippine Marine Corps, Army and National Police who valiantly fought the Abu Sayyaf Group and to condemn the acts of ignominy committed by the latter.

Adopted,


RICHARD J. GORDON