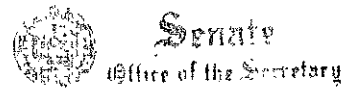
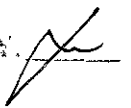


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



11 SEP -6 P2 :40

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 589

RECEIVED BY. 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL REFORMS AND THE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A JOINT INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE ALLEGED CRIME OF FIDEL RAMOS IN ACCEPTING THE SUM OF ₱ 5 MILLION AS AN ILLEGAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION FROM MOAMMAR KADHAFI FOR THE 1992 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, on 2 September 2011, the whistleblower group WikiLeaks released a cable on the internet stating that Moammar Kadhafi of Libya contributed ₱ 5 million to the presidential campaign of former president Fidel Ramos in 1992;

WHEREAS, the cable sent in 1994 by then US State Department Deputy Chief of Mission Raymund Burghardt quoted former De la Salle Prof. Joel de los Santos, an Islamic affairs expert, as telling a US embassy political affairs officer that Ramos received the amount from unnamed Libyans;

WHEREAS, the cable quoted: "It was a well-kept secret, according to De los Santos, that Ramos had received five million pesos (about US\$200,000) from the Libyans to finance his presidential campaign in 1992";

WHEREAS, journalist Glenda Gloria wrote in *Newsbreak* earlier this year: "Cynics doubted if peace was the only motivation for that trip. Even political allies of Ramos at that time quietly believed that the two went there to solicit campaign funds from Moammar Kadhafi, something staunchly denied by Ramos and de Venecia";

WHEREAS, under the Election Code, Section 96, it is a crime for any candidate to solicit or receive any contribution from foreign sources;

WHEREAS, since Ramos has already finished his six-year term as president, he can no longer be penalized with disqualification or removal from office, but he can be held criminally liable for other election offenses and offenses under the Penal Code;

WHEREAS, now Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago led in the first five days of the national canvassing, and then a mysterious power blackout hit the entire country, after which Ramos emerged with a very thin margin over her;

WHEREAS, because of blatant election fraud, Santiago refused to concede the election, and went on a hunger fast, which she cut short on the instruction of Cardinal Sin;

WHEREAS, Santiago filed an election protest with the Supreme Court as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, and the revision process showed that many ballot boxes contained the same handwriting, or had been filled with water, or were otherwise tampered with;

WHEREAS, while the revision was ongoing, Santiago ran and won as senator, after which the Supreme Court dismissed her presidential protest, over her objection, on the technical ground that her victory as senator was tantamount to abandoning the protest;

WHEREAS, after allegedly winning the elections, Ramos appointed Conrado M. Vasquez as Ombudsman, and although the Constitution provides that the Ombudsman should be independent, Ramos appointed his daughter Lenny Vasquez de Jesus as head of the presidential management staff;

WHEREAS, Ramos won with the lowest plurality in Philippine presidential election history with just 23.58% of the vote over now Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, who reportedly got 19.72% of the total votes;

WHEREAS, while Santiago was recovering from surgery following a suspicious near-fatal car crash, the Ombudsman callously filed a criminal graft case with the Sandiganbayan against her, which was clearly a punishment imposed by Ramos to punish her for refusing to concede;

WHEREAS, after the criminal case was filed, Santiago was banned from leaving the country, forcing her to forfeit an Edward Mason fellowship at the Kennedy School of Government in Harvard University;

WHEREAS, to allow Ramos to go unpunished for his crime is tantamount to reinforcing the culture of impunity which has been denounced by the Senate when it concurred with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

WHEREAS, best efforts should be exerted by the two Senate committees to encourage whistleblowers to come out and testify about the massive electoral fraud during the 1992 presidential election;

WHEREAS, the two Senate committees could avail of other sources of evidence, principally the Comelec with its official documents, such as the official statement of campaign expenses for 1992 and other documents filed by Ramos, to prove falsification of public documents;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, to direct the Committee on Electoral Reforms and the Blue Ribbon Committee to conduct a joint inquiry in aid of legislation into the alleged crime of Fidel Ramos in accepting the sum of ₱ 5 million as an illegal campaign contribution from Moammar Kadhafi for the 1992 presidential campaign;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee on Electoral Reforms, jointly with the Blue Ribbon Committee, should conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the alleged crime by Fidel Ramos of accepting ₱ 5 million in unlawful and illegal campaign contributions from a foreign head of state, for the purpose of crafting legislation that will prevent any presidential candidate from ever stealing the election from the real winner voted by the Filipino people, and from enjoying impunity for his unconscionable crime.

Adopted,

our

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO