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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 300

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO INVESTIGATE, INQUIRE AND LOOK INTO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE TRUE CAUSE OF THE ATTACK IN ZAMBOANGA CITY BY THE MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (MNLF) WHICH TRIGGERED A CRISIS RESULTING TO THE LOSS OF HUNDREDS OF LIVES AND THE DESTRUCTION OF, AND/OR DAMAGE TO, HOMES, ESTABLISHMENTS AND PROPERTIES AND THE DISPLACEMENT OF MORE THAN A HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND (120,000) PEOPLE WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE

WHEREAS, on 09-September-2013, around one hundred (100) to two hundred (200) armed followers of former Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) chairman Nur Misuari infiltrated and attacked Zamboanga City and took at least Two hundred (200) people as hostages;

WHEREAS, Task Force Zamboanga chief Col. Andreilino Colina and state-run Philippine Information Agency (PIA) reported that the MNLF group forced their way into the city, with the apparent intent to take over the City Hall. The MNLF group allegedly demanded to be allowed to march down Zamboanga City Hall so they can display and raise their flag and declare independence;

WHEREAS, the MNLF on the other hand claims that the disagreement with the government forced them to return to their former aspiration of independence. The MNLF also added that several provisions of the 1996 have yet to be implemented by the government which forced them to resort to arms;

WHEREAS, the incursion made by the MNLF group forced the government to respond immediately to the incident in order to save the hostages and neutralize the rebels. The daily clashes and firefights between the government military and police forces and the MNLF group has compelled the local government of Zamboanga City to order the evacuation of more than one hundred twenty thousand (120,000) residents in the affected areas. The evacuees were housed in around 35 evacuation centers, with many still unable to go home even up to this time due to the burning and/or destruction of their homes. The local government also likewise suspended classes in Zamboanga City and ordered business establishments to close down due to intense fighting in the affected areas;

WHEREAS, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) suspended all flights to and from Zamboanga City in the wake of the deadly clashes between government troops and MNLF members. Airline companies likewise cancelled their flights to ensure the safety of their passengers. Also, boat trips from Zamboanga City to Basilan and Jolo and other destinations were suspended;

WHEREAS, the fighting reportedly costed the city over Three hundred million pesos (P300,000,000.00) per day or some six (6) billion pesos in total. Economic activities were in standstill because most commercial establishments remain closed and transportation by land, sea and air are limited. There is no account yet on total damage to property. The fighting damaged and destroyed thousands of homes, stores, commercial and industrial establishments;

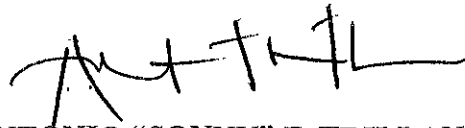
WHEREAS, the conflict in Zamboanga City was finally declared over by the government after twenty (20) days. Figures from the National Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) showed that the siege left one hundred forty (140) dead and two hundred sixty eight (268) wounded, and affected one hundred twenty thousand (120,000) residents in fourteen (14) barangays in Zamboanga City and one (1) barangay in Zamboanga Sibugay. As of Sept. 30, a total of one hundred eighty four (184) hostages have been released. The siege also claimed eighteen (18) military personnel and six (6) policemen while one hundred sixty seven (167) military and fourteen (14) police personnel were wounded;

WHEREAS, according to the Zamboanga City local government, the rehabilitation process in wake of the siege in the city would take around six (6) months to one (1) year;

WHEREAS, there is an imperative necessity to investigate and look into the true cause of the attack in Zamboanga City by the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in order to aid in crafting remedial legislation to prevent the possible recurrence thereof;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved, for the Philippine Senate to direct the Committee on National Defense and Security to investigate, inquire, and look into, in aid of legislation, the true cause of the attack in Zamboanga City by the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) which triggered a crisis resulting to the loss of hundreds of lives and the destruction of, and/or damage to, thousand of homes, stores, commercial and industrial establishments and the displacement of more than a hundred twenty thousand (120,000) people with the end in view of enacting remedial legislation to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents in the future.

Adopted,



ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV

Senator