

'13 NOV 27 AIO :13

SENATE

Philippine Senate Resolution No. 393

RECEIVED BY: ja

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE(S),
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
MOTIVE(S) BEHIND THE ZAMBOANGA CITY SIEGE IN
SEPTEMBER 2013 WHICH RESULTED IN A HUMANITARIAN
CRISIS IN THE SAID CITY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF
ENACTING MEASURES TO PREVENT THE RECCURRENCE OF
A SIMILAR INCIDENT IN THE FUTURE**

WHEREAS, at dawn of September 9, 2013, some coastal communities of Zamboanga City were invaded by around two hundred (200) armed men led by a certain Uztadz Khabir (Haber) Malik, known to be the "right hand man" of former Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) Chairman, Nur Misuari;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the Malik-led armed men forced their way into the city proper by engaging government forces in a firefight and using at least two hundred (200) civilian hostages as human shields, for the purpose of declaring independence and hoisting their group's flag at the City Hall;

WHEREAS, the MNLF Misuari faction reportedly felt sidetracked by the ongoing peace negotiations between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and this prompted their leadership to declare independence;

WHEREAS, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) had been criticized for its failure to reach out to the MNLF Misuari faction to assure them that the implementation of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the MNLF will not be jeopardized by the ongoing peace talks with the MILF;

WHEREAS, this is not the first time that the MNLF Misuari faction had sown fear and terror in Zamboanga City, as the same faction in 2001, after Misuari lost his bid for another term as governor of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), held over a hundred hostages and used them as human shields in what is known as the "Cabatangan Siege";

WHEREAS, the September 9, 2013 Zamboanga City Siege dragged on for twenty one (21) days causing needless loss of lives, the displacement of over a hundred thousand victims who were mostly forced to live in evacuation centers, the colossal destruction of and damage to properties, and the serious economic damage to Zamboanga's vibrant economy, such that the United Nations had declared the situation in Zamboanga as a "humanitarian crisis";

WHEREAS, police investigation shows that the MNLF Misuari faction had been surreptitiously transporting and storing firearms into the City as early as January of this year, notwithstanding the Commission on Elections (Comelec) gun ban from January 13 to June 12, 2013;

WHEREAS, it is perplexing how the movement of the MNLF Misuari faction, including the surreptitious transporting and storing of firearms into the City at a time when a nationwide gun ban was in force, went undetected considering the presence of law enforcement agencies, such as the Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom), Naval Forces Western Mindanao, and the Police Regional Office 9, in the City;

WHEREAS, the September 9, 2013 Zamboanga City Siege appeared to be well-funded and meticulously planned as the armed invaders were able to sustain a three-week firefight with the government troops;

WHEREAS, there are several facets of the September 9, 2013 Zamboanga City Siege that need to be investigated and the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Zamboanga had called on the Senate, through **Resolution No. 830**, to lead the inquiry into these matters;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of Congress to conduct an in-depth inquiry into the September 9, 2013 Zamboanga City Siege, with the end in view of enacting measures to prevent the recurrence of a similar incident in the future, as ongoing efforts to rebuild the City will be for naught unless the important questions are answered, the root causes are addressed, and the gaps in the laws that allowed these violent incidents to happen are reviewed, identified, and plugged;

WHEREAS, foremost of all these, the people of Zamboanga City and its surrounding areas deserve to know the truth behind the September 9, 2013 Zamboanga City Siege;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, TO DIRECT THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE(S), TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MOTIVE(S) BEHIND THE SIEGE OF ZAMBOANGA CITY BY THE MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (MNLF) MISUARI FACTION, WHICH BEGAN ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2013 AND WHICH RESULTED IN A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE SAID CITY ON ACCOUNT OF THE DISPLACEMENT OF OVER A HUNDRED THOUSAND VICTIMS AND THE MASSIVE DESTRUCTION OF OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTIES, AS WELL AS THE NEEDLESS LOSS OF HUNDREDS OF FILIPINO LIVES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING MEASURES TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF A SIMILAR INCIDENT IN THE FUTURE.

Adopted,


SEN. AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III