

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE

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P. S. Res. No. 715

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE 1,004 HIGH-POWERED FIREARMS THAT REPORTEDLY ENDED UP IN THE HANDS OF INSURGENT FORCES, WITH THE INTENT OF STRENGTHENING THE MANDATES OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND DETERMINING THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO LOOSE FIREARMS

WHEREAS, the Constitution provides that the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy;

WHEREAS, President Benigno Simeon Aquino III reportedly disclosed in December 2013 that a cache of high-powered firearms was released to police auxiliaries and private security companies by a unit of the Philippine National Police after their papers were processedⁱ;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the investigation prompted by the president's exposé revealed that a certain Mr. Isidro Lozada purchased 1,004 high-powered firearms through Twin Pines Incorporated and licensed them using the name of other juridical entities and under the pretense of manning mining firms in Mindanaoⁱⁱ;

WHEREAS, the firearms were allegedly sold in twenty-three (23) separate transactionsⁱⁱⁱ and delivered to Butuan City where they would be picked up by communist rebels in batches of 20 to 30 firearms over a period spanning 2011 to early 2013^{iv};

WHEREAS, Mr. Lozada reportedly admitted that he facilitated the registration and delivery of rifles after being threatened by the elements of the New People's Army (NPA)^v;

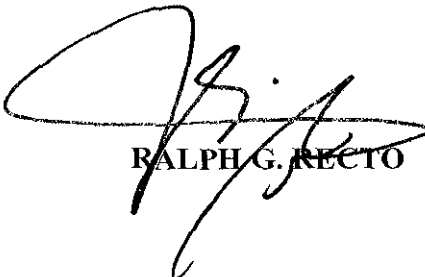
WHEREAS, reports indicate that five (5) of the forty-four (44) AK-47 rifles recovered by military forces after several encounters with the communist rebels were already confirmed to be part of the contentious rifles cache^{vi};

WHEREAS, the influx of loose firearms in the hands of insurgent forces undermines the security efforts of the government and compromises peace and safety in the country;

WHEREAS, there is a pressing need to identify the gaps in the implementation of firearm regulations in the country and to determine the appropriate measures to strengthen the Philippine Government's response to loose firearms;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the 1,004 assault rifles that reportedly ended up in the hands of insurgent forces, with the intent of strengthening the mandates of government agencies and determining the appropriate government response to loose firearms.

Adopted,



RALPH G. RECTO

/mdg

ⁱ Carvajal, Nancy C. *Aquino orders probe of arms transfer*. January 26, 2014.

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/569489/aquino-orders-probe-of-arms-transfer> (accessed June 11, 2014).

ⁱⁱ GMA News Online. *Missing AK-47s ended up in NPA hands, says PNP; police officials to be charged*. June 5, 2014. www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/364324/news/nation/missing-ak-47s-ended-up-in-npa-hands-says-PNP-police-officials-to-be-charged (accessed June 11, 2014).

ⁱⁱⁱ Dalangin-Fernandez, Lira. *House probe set over 1000 missing guns that 'ended up with NPA'*. June 06, 2014. www.interaksyon.com/article/88520/house-probe-set-over-1000-missing-guns-that-ended-up-with-npa (accessed June 11, 2014).

^{iv} Recuenco, Aaron B. *1000 AK-47 rifles lost to NPAs; 19 police officers in hot water*. June 6, 2014. www.mb.com.ph/1000-ak-47-rifles-lost-to-npas-19-police-officers-in-hot-water (accessed June 11, 2014).

^v Tempo: News in a Flash. *Missing AK-47s end up in NPA's hands*. June 06, 2014. <http://www.tempo.com.ph/2014/06/missing-ak-47s-end-up-in-npas-hands/#.U5e23PmSx64> (accessed June 11, 2014).

^{vi} Regalado, Edith. *45 AK-47 rifles recovered from NPA rebels*. June 11, 2014. www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/regions/06/10/14/45-ak-47-rifles-recovered-from-npa-rebels (accessed June 11, 2014).