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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1391

RECEIVED BY: J.

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
ON THE REPORT THAT THE ARREST OF A TAIWANESE FISHING VESSEL IN  
BATANES LED TO A STANDOFF BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD AND  
THE TAIWANESE COAST GUARD

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 provides: "The maintenance of peace  
2 and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are  
3 essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";

4 WHEREAS, the Constitution further provides, in Article 2, Section 7: "The State shall  
5 pursue an independent foreign policy. In its relations with other states, the paramount  
6 consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and the right to  
7 self-determination";

8 WHEREAS, various media sources in June reported that a standoff recently broke  
9 between operatives of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the Taiwanese Coast Guard near  
10 Batanes;

11 WHEREAS, the news quoted PCG spokesman Commander Armand Balilo, who said that  
12 the standoff started after PCG personnel apprehended Taiwanese fishing boat Min Jiang Tsai 6,  
13 at around 6:25 p.m. on May 25;

14 WHEREAS, the PCG was allegedly towing the fishing boat when Taiwan Coast Guard  
15 Cutter 118 appeared and blocked the vessel of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
16 and asked for the release of the fishing boat;

17 WHEREAS, according to the PCG, the fishing boat was released after four hours of  
18 negotiation, and under the instruction of BFAR officers in the operation;

19 WHEREAS, the incident was not the first in May, with earlier reports saying that the  
20 PCG apprehended Taiwanese fishing boat Sheng Feng near Yami Island in Batanes on May 7;

21 WHEREAS, the standoff also brings to mind the May 2013 shooting incident in  
22 Balintang Channel in Batanes, which involved the PCG and left a Taiwanese fisherman dead;

1           WHEREAS, the Philippines and Taiwan are reportedly set to discuss a fisheries  
2 agreement, which will include so-called cooperative law enforcement;


3           WHEREAS, the government must ensure that maritime law enforcers are fully equipped  
4 to guard the coastlines against vessels involved in illegal activity;

5           WHEREAS, at the same time, it is incumbent upon the government to guarantee that  
6 such law enforcers follow law and procedures;

7           WHEREAS, the Congress must intensify existing laws and, in consultation with the  
8 Department of Foreign Affairs, consider crafting mechanisms with neighboring countries to  
9 facilitate the resolution of disputes;

10          WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct  
11 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that the  
12 arrest of a Taiwanese fishing vessel in Batanes led to a standoff between the Philippine Coast  
13 Guard and the Taiwanese Coast Guard.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
RP

/kmp