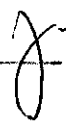


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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1522

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
ON THE UNITED NATIONS REPORT THAT MILITARIZATION  
CONTINUES TO DISPLACE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN MINDANAO

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution provides, in Article 2, Sections 3, 5, 11, and 22:

2 Section 3. Civilian authority is, at all times, supreme over the military. The  
3 Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State. Its  
4 goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national  
5 territory.

6 Section 5. The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life,  
7 liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for  
8 the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy.

9 Section 11. The State values the dignity of every human person and  
10 guarantees full respect for human rights.

11 Section 22. The State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous  
12 cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development.

13 WHEREAS, the United Nations (UN) special rapporteur on the human rights of  
14 internally displaced persons, Dr. Chaloka Beyani, on 13 August 2015 reiterated his call for the  
15 government to immediately address the situation of indigenous peoples (IPs) displaced by  
16 military and paramilitary activity in Mindanao;

17 WHEREAS, Beyani claimed that some 700 IPs have evacuated to the United Church of  
18 Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) compound in Haran, Davao City, in response to the  
19 militarization of their lands and territories;

20 WHEREAS, Lumad groups also allegedly complained about forced recruitment into  
21 paramilitary groups, particularly Alamara, an anti-communist group founded in 2002 and which  
22 is now believed to operating under the auspices of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP);

23 WHEREAS, the AFP remains in conflict with the New People's Army (NPA) in the area,  
24 and has reportedly accused several Lumad datus of collaborating with rebels;

1           WHEREAS, however, quoting the displaced IPs he has interviewed during his visit to the  
2 Philippines from July 21 to 31, Beyani claimed that the AFP and paramilitary groups are the  
3 ones that continue to create anxiety among the IPs;

4           WHEREAS, the UN official said the IPs at UCCP Haran wish to return to their lands but  
5 feel unsafe to do so until the long-term militarization of their region comes to an end and they  
6 can return with guarantees of safety, dignity and protection;

7           WHEREAS, Beyani added that the current situation of the IP evacuees, whose lives and  
8 cultures are intimately entwined with their ancestral lands and environments, is neither  
9 acceptable nor sustainable;

10          WHEREAS, the UN official released his August 13 statement in response to reports that  
11 the AFP is quoting him as having concluded that the IPs at the UCCP Haran compound have  
12 been displaced by human trafficking and not by militarization;

13          WHEREAS, the government, in consultation with local officials and leaders of Lumad  
14 groups and other IP communities, must immediately address the situation of the evacuees now at  
15 UCCP Haran, with the goal of the displaced IPs' voluntary and safe return to their homes;


16          WHEREAS, Congress must strengthen existing legislation prohibiting activities of  
17 paramilitary groups, especially in ancestral domains;

18          WHEREAS, it is also incumbent upon Congress to investigate allegations that the AFP  
19 contributes to the perpetuation of paramilitary groups, whose activities displace and destroy  
20 communities in Mindanao and other parts of the country;

21          WHEREAS, the Senate must consider the recommendation of the UN special rapporteur  
22 that specific provisions on the rights of IPs be included in Senate Bill No. 2785, also known as  
23 the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons Act;

24          WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct  
25 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the United Nations  
26 report that militarization continues to displace indigenous peoples in Mindanao.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
RP

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