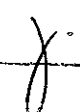


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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1588

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE REPORT THAT 800 LUMAD SCHOOLCHILDREN ARE AMONG EVACUEES IN
SURIGAO DEL SUR DUE TO THE OPERATION OF PARAMILITARY GROUPS

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution provides in Article 14, Sections 1 and 17:

2 Section 1. The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to
3 quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such
4 education accessible to all;

5 Section 2. The State shall recognize, respect, and protect the rights of
6 indigenous cultural communities to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions,
7 and institutions. It shall consider these rights in the formulation of national plans
8 and policies.

9 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported on 10 September 2015 that more than
10 800 children are among the 2,000 Manobo residents who fled their homes in Diatagon village in
11 Lianga town, Surigao del Sur;

12 WHEREAS, the indigenous peoples have allegedly sought refuge in evacuation centers
13 following the killing of Emerito Samarea, executive director of the Alternative Learning Center
14 for Agricultural and Livelihood Development (Alcadev), and two others;

15 WHEREAS, according to human rights groups, the refugees in Tandag City now number
16 2,786, including at least 700 students of the Tribal Filipino Program of Surigao del Sur, who fled
17 from Lianga and San Miguel towns;


18 WHEREAS, Lumad leaders are reportedly worried that the attacks on Alcadev, a
19 privately operated but government-regulated learning institution, and other schools, will deprive
20 indigenous communities of literacy and education, among other rights;

21 WHEREAS, Save Our Schools Network alleged that the attacks in Surigao del Sur,
22 believed to be perpetuated by the paramilitary group Mahat-Bagani, infringe on self-determined
23 development asserted by indigenous communities;

1 WHEREAS, the government is duty-bound to protect the right to education of citizens,
2 including indigenous peoples;

3 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
4 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that on the
5 report that 800 Lumad schoolchildren are among evacuees in Surigao del Sur due to the
6 operation of paramilitary groups.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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/rjd