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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1657

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 86 LUMAD FAMILIES HAVE FLED THEIR HOMES IN
AGUSAN DELSUR AMID ATTACKS FROM COMMUNIST REBELS

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

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

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

7 WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin* on 20 October 2015 reported that 86 Lumad families
8 from La Paz town, Agusan del Sur have fled their homes for fear of being attacked again by
9 suspected members of New People's Army (NPA);

10 WHEREAS, the news quoted the military that the Lumad exodus started on October 3,
11 when some 200 suspected NPA rebels attacked their village and killed Rene Bucalas or Datu
12 Manhadukan Sandigan, a Talaandig elder, for refusing to support the NPA recruitment;

13 WHEREAS, this is not the first time that violence by armed groups—either the military
14 or rebels—has been reported among Lumad communities;

15 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
16 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that 86
17 Lumad families have fled their homes in Agusan del Sur amid attacks from communist rebels.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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