



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

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SENATE  
P. S. Res No. 1673

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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE REPORTED ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE IN ILOILO IN LIGHT OF THE ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN BY ARMED MEN OF AKSYON RADYO STATION IN ILOILO CITY**

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State to safeguard the integrity of its territory and the well-being of its citizenry particularly the youth, from the harmful effects of dangerous drugs on their physical and mental well-being, and to defend the same against acts or omissions detrimental to their development and preservation<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA)-Western Visayas regional director, Paul Ledesma (Ledesma), has identified the Odicta and the Prewendido groups as the two major and organized illegal drug groups operating in the province of Iloilo<sup>2</sup>;

WHEREAS, according to news reports, on November 19, 2015 at 12:50 in the morning, a group of around 20 armed men attempted to break into the Aksyon Radyo station in Iloilo City. The incident was recorded on closed circuit television (CCTV)<sup>3</sup>;

WHEREAS, PDEA Regional Director Ledesma identified Melvin "Boyet" Odicta, alleged leader of the Odicta drug group, as one of the armed men in the CCTV footage who attempted to break into the Aksyon Radyo station<sup>4</sup>;

WHEREAS, Iloilo City Councilor Plaridel Nava and PDEA Regional Director Ledesma also identified Jesus "Jingjing" Espinosa, a councilor of Barangay Monica, City Proper, as one of the group<sup>5</sup>;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Aksyon Radyo station manager John Paul Tia said that the men might have been affected by the station's commentaries. Before the incident, broadcaster

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<sup>1</sup> Section 1, Republic Act No. 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

<sup>2</sup> Sunstar, PDEA names 2 drug groups operating in Iloilo, November 23, 2015, <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/iloilo/local-news/2015/11/23/pdea-names-2-drug-groups-operating-iloilo-443125>.

<sup>3</sup> The Daily Guardian, PDEA: 'Drug suspects' part of Aksyon Radyo invaders', November 25, 2015, <http://www.thedailyguardian.net/index.php/local-news/58541-pdea-drug-suspects-part-of-aksyon-radyo-invaders>; Center for Media Freedom & Responsibility, Men in break-in try identified, November 24, 2015, <http://www.cmfr-phil.org/2015/11/24/men-in-break-in-try-identified/>.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

Jun Capulot has discussed the illegal drug trade in Iloilo on his late night program "Aksyon Night Patrol"<sup>6</sup>;

WHEREAS, according to Panay News, Melvin" Boyet" Odicta, had been sentenced to life imprisonment for violation of the Dangerous Drugs Act (Republic Act 6425) but had mysteriously gone scot-free. It remains unclear how he was released from prison despite his life sentence<sup>7</sup>;

WHEREAS, in 2014, PDEA arrested 190 government officials and employees involved in illegal drug trade. Of the 190 arrested, 85 or 45% were government employees, 56 or 29% were elected officials and 49 or 26% were law enforcers. The number of arrested public officials in 2014 exceeded the record in 2013 and is the highest since 2011<sup>8</sup>;

WHEREAS, according to news reports, barangay officials in the province of Iloilo are involved in illegal drug trade. In 2013 and 2014, several barangay captains in the province have been arrested in joint Philippine National Police-PDEA buy-bust operations<sup>9</sup>;

WHEREAS, according to the Department of the Interior and Local Government-Western Visayas, out of 1,721 barangays in the Province of Iloilo, 375 have been identified by the PNP as drug-affected<sup>10</sup>;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Senate by policy or by law to address the proliferation of illegal drug trade in the country and to enhance further the efficacy of the law against dangerous drugs;

**BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** to direct the proper Senate committees to investigate, in aid of legislation, the reported illegal drug trade in Iloilo in light of the attempted break-in by armed men of Aksyon Radyo station in Iloilo City.

Adopted,



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

<sup>6</sup> Center for Media Freedom & Responsibility, Men in break-in try identified, November 24, 2015, <http://www.cmfr-phil.org/2015/11/24/men-in-break-in-try-identified/>.

<sup>7</sup> Panay New, Aksyon Radyo 'Raider' Life-term Convict, November 23, 2015, <http://panaynewsphilippines.com/2015/11/23/aksyon-radyo-raider-life-term-convict/>.

<sup>8</sup> Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, 2014 Annual Report, retrieved from [http://pdea.gov.ph/images/AnnualReport/2014AR/PDEA\\_AR\\_2014\\_FINAL.pdf](http://pdea.gov.ph/images/AnnualReport/2014AR/PDEA_AR_2014_FINAL.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Panay News, Another Brgy. Chief Falls in Drug Bust, May 3, 2014, <http://panaynewsphilippines.com/2014/05/03/another-brgy-chief-falls-in-drug-bust/>.

<sup>10</sup> DILG-Western Visayas, IPPO Partners with DILG Iloilo to Clear Barangays of Drugs, <http://www.region6.dilg.gov.ph/index.php/Igus/68-news-and-updates/310-ippo-partners-with-dilg-iloilo-to-clear-barangays-of-drugs>.