


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
 OF THE PHILIPPINES)
 First Regular Session)

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: P. S. R. No. 185

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
 EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE 14 FEBRUARY 2005
 BOMBINGS IN MAKATI, DAVAO, AND GENERAL SANTOS SHOULD BE STRONGLY
 CONDEMNED

WHEREAS, the latest reports state that at least 12 people were killed and 136 were wounded yesterday, 14 February 2005, in a series of Valentine's Day bombings by suspected Al-Qaeda-linked Muslim militants that hit Makati, Davao City, and General Santos City;

WHEREAS, three people were killed on the spot, three people died later at the hospital, and 94 were injured when a powerful bomb ripped through a RRCG bus in the Makati financial district of Manila at around 8:00 p.m.; the blast damaged at least four other buses;

WHEREAS, one person was killed and nine others were wounded when a blast hit the Ecoland Terminal in Brgy. Matina in the southern city of Davao;

WHEREAS, three persons were killed and 33 were wounded when a bomb exploded in front of the Gaisano Mall in General Santos City at about 6:45 p.m., and Major General Raul Relano of the Army's 6th Infantry Division said the toll from the blast at the Gaisano shopping mall had risen to five;

WHEREAS, the three bombings, which appeared to have been coordinated, were reportedly claimed by the Abu Sayyaf, a militant Muslim group operating in the southern Philippines that is listed by the US State Department as a "foreign terrorist organization";

WHEREAS, Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Solaiman said that the bombings were made as vindication for the "harassment and injustices committed against Muslims in Manila and neighboring areas," and that they were Abu Sayyaf's Valentine's Day gift to President Arroyo;

WHEREAS, Abu Solaiman further called their offensive a retribution for the deaths of their Muslim brothers in Mindanao because of the continuous armed battle engaged in by the government against Muslim rebels; and Abu Solaiman warned every Filipino and foreigner alike that "we will not stop until we get justice for the countless Muslim lives and properties that you people have destroyed";

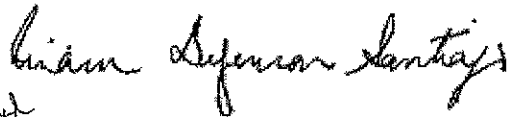
WHEREAS, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu described the latest bombings as a "cowardly act" aimed at "intimidating innocent people";

WHEREAS, Presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye described the bombings as "despicable acts" and warned the nation to "brace itself against these attacks on our freedom and security";

WHEREAS, Philippine National Police Chief Director Edgardo Aglipay ordered 114,000 members of the police force to tighten security in vital installations and commercial establishments throughout the country, and has announced a P500,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for the bombings.

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to express the sense of the Senate that the February 2005 bombings in Makati, Davao, and General Santos City should be strongly condemned, and to express the sense of the Senate that the perpetrators of the said terrorist attacks should be immediately apprehended and punished.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO