

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

5 MAR -4 P2:36

SENATE
P. S. Resolution NO. 202

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by
SENATORS EDGARDO J. ANGARA AND RODOLFO G. BIAZON

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PEACE, UNIFICATION AND RECONCILIATION AND COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT A JOINT INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GRP-MNLF PEACE ACCORD OF 1996 DUE TO THE RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES IN MINDANAO INVOLVING THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND SUPPORTERS OF MNLF CHAIR NUR MISUARI, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ADOPTING IMMEDIATE AND EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT THE ALARMING ESCALATION OF THE ARMED CONFLICT TOWARDS THE ATTAINMENT OF A JUST, COMPREHENSIVE , AND LASTING PEACE IN MINDANAO.

WHEREAS, When the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), under the auspices of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), finally forged a Peace Accord, known as the GRP-MNLF Peace Agreement, on 2 September 1996, this event brought forth renewed hope among Filipinos in the process of finding a just and peaceful negotiated settlement of the centuries-old Bangsamoro problem in Mindanao.

WHEREAS, After various attempts of peace negotiations that had claimed more than 120,000 lives from both camps in the Southern Philippines, this Peace Accord was seen as a historic breakthrough.

WHEREAS, Nearly nine (9) years thereafter, the bloodshed, human suffering and destruction caused by the rebellion in Mindanao has not ended. Sulu continues to be a battlezone.

WHEREAS, While officials on both sides still argue over the implementation and non-implementation of the Peace Accord, a spreading and intensifying armed conflict is taking place.

WHEREAS, According to Dr. Abdulrakman Amin, MNLF liaison to the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), at about 6 a.m. February 1, the 53rd Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army reportedly massacred the Padiwan family in Sition Banauice, Maimbung, Sulu.

Killed were Tal Padiwan, a village councilor; his wife Sidang, their relative Salip Faisal Salim, and their son Aldasir, 13. Their other son, Almujoyal, 7, survived but was wounded in the right thumb.

WHEREAS, Military spokespersons gave two (2) accounts of the incident. First, that the Padiwans were caught in a crossfire between the 53rd IB and the bandit Abu Sayyaf group (ASG). Second, that the 53rd IB soldiers had stopped by the Padiwans' hut to ask for drinking water, to which Sidang responded by drawing a gun, thereby provoking an exchange of fire.

WHEREAS, On 7 February 2005, the MNLF group of Ustadz Habier Malik, allegedly in retaliation, attacked government troops in Panamao, Sulu.

WHEREAS, The key to a viable peace in Mindanao is economic development as there remains the persistent problem of poverty in Mindanao, particularly in the southern Muslim areas where the fighting is now taking place.


WHEREAS, As per National Statistics Office (NSO), Sulu is the poorest province in the country, with the lowest education levels, the lowest human development ranking, the lowest infant mortality rate, the lowest incomes and the lowest functional literacy rate in the Philippines.

WHEREAS, The alarming number of evacuees, the increasing death toll brought by the pernicious cycle of action-retaliation between the military and the rebels, the negative impact on tourism in the country, the arrival of deportees from Malaysia, the probability that the war will escalate in mainland Mindanao and the bitter truth that the war cannot stifle the present dissent are enough backdrop for the imperative review of the provisions of the GRP-MNLF Peace Agreement and their implementation, or lack thereof as a necessary step towards a principled peace process, to serve the paramount ends of national unity and progress for all Filipinos, Muslims and Christians alike.

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, To direct the Senate Committee on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation and Committee on National Defense and Security to conduct a joint inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the implementation of the provisions of the 1996 Peace Accord, with the end in view of proposing positive measures to prevent the alarming escalation of the armed conflict, re-visiting /re-assessing the provisions of the agreement and the government's approach to peace by addressing the social, economic, political, and other substantive issues underlying the Mindanao armed conflict and exhausting all avenues to peace under the realm of Philippine sovereignty, territorial integrity, the Constitution and democratic processes for the attainment of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in Mindanao.

Adopted,


RODOLFO G. BIAZON
Senator


EDGARDO J. ANGARA
Senator