

'22 JUL 12 P 6:38

SENATE
S.B. No. 452

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ROBINHOOD PADILLA

AN ACT
DECLARING SEPTEMBER 21 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-
WORKING HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS "UNsung HEROES DAY"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Over the last hundred years, communism has become one of the most absorbing ideologies that has brought consequential events across the world.

Among the most widely known political bloodshed anchored on this philosophy transpired in October 1917¹, when the Bolsheviks, a Marxist-Lenist organization that sought to establish the dictatorship of the proletariat, successfully seized power from the Russian Romanov monarchy. Since then, the communist ideology spread from one country to another in Europe, which culminated the ideological divide of the Iron Curtain in the continent between the liberal democracy of the West and Communist Bloc of Eastern Europe.

The diffusion of the ideology did not stop there. It spread simultaneously in Latin America and Asia where a number of revolutionary groups increased rapidly. They organized and armed themselves to overthrow their respective governments in the name of the communist ideology.

After the Soviet Expansion in Europe, North Korean invasion of South Korea in 1950² and the emergence of the Chinese Communist Party, it was perceived that the

¹ History. (2020). *Russian Revolution*. Accessed on 04 July 2022 from <https://www.history.com/topics/russia/ussian-revolution>

² History. (2009). *Korean War*. Accessed on 01 July 2022 from <https://www.history.com/topics/korea/korean-war>

next battlefield between the non-communist and communist forces would be in Southeast Asia.

Such prevision first came to life in Thailand when small groups of Pathet Lao insurgents infiltrated the northern part of the country in 1961. Records show that, since then until 1965, trained and indoctrinated guerillas were able to carry out 17 political assassinations. In 1972, the Thai government implemented a six-week operation against the revolutionary group wherein 30 soldiers were killed, while 100 were wounded.³

In Malaysia, the Malayan Communist Party (MCP) led an unsuccessful insurrection against the Federation of Malaya. The Malayan National Liberation Army (MNLA) established a series of bases along the Malaysian-Southern Thailand border. On June 17, 1968, the MCP launched an ambush against security forces in the area of Kroh-Betong in the northern part of Peninsular Malaysia resulting in the death of 17 members of the security forces.⁴

In Indonesia, the Thirtieth of September Movement (G30S) assassinated six (6) Indonesian Army generals. The general and the bodies of their dead colleagues were taken to a place known as Lubang Buaya where those still alive were shot.⁵

The increasingly progressive momentum of communism and its violent transgressions against states had come closely relatable to our changing socio-political landscape at that time.

In the Philippines, the Marxist-Leninist-Maoist Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) was founded in 1968 to overthrow the government and to establish a new democratic state.⁶ A year later, its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), was established. Together, they were referred to as the CPP-NPA founded by one Jose Maria Sison who led a Maoist-oriented youth faction within Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas (PKP), which was originally established in 1930. The PKP was found to be participating in electoral boycotts and employing a guerilla army to fight Japanese colonialism, United States colonialism, and Filipino elites.⁷

³ CIA. (1991). Communist Insurgency in Thailand. Accessed on 28 June 2022 through https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/DOC_0000012498.pdf

⁴ A. Navaratnam, *The Spear and the Kerambit*, p.8

⁵ Sekretariat Negara Republik Indonesia (1994) p. 103

⁶ Center for International Security and Cooperation. "Mapping Militants Profile: Communist Party of the Philippines – New People's Army". *cisac.fsi.stanford.edu*. Stanford University, Stanford, California: Stanford University Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies – Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC). Retrieved 11 January 2020, from <https://web.archive.org/web/20120306041535/http://philippinesfreepress.wordpress.com/2006/08/20/benigno-s-aquino-jr-man-of-the-year-1971/>

⁷ *Ibid.*

A commission created by the CPP-NPA founded the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDF or NDFP) in 1973 which served as the political wing of the organization for the CPP-NPA and other mass revolutionary organizations. The government has used the name "CPP-NPA-NDF" or "CNN" to refer to the larger entity formed through the cooperation of the CPP-NPA and the NDF.⁸

Between January and March of 1970, the CPP-NPA increased membership from the leftist wave of student demonstrations, rallies, and marches later known as the First Quarter Storm. These protests were waged against then-President Ferdinand E. Marcos by student leaders who demanded constitutional change.

A sustained political unrest interrupted the political, social, and economic affairs of the State. The bombing of Plaza Miranda on August 21, 1971 claimed the lives of innocent people: 9 deaths and 95 wounded.⁹ Series of Manila bombings during the period of March 15 to September 11, 1972¹⁰ which led to one death and 40 wounded also punctuated the political turmoil in the country. Former President Marcos attributed these to the communist insurgency threat posed by the CPP-NPA.

These events served as a prelude to the declaration of martial law on September 21, 1972.

The CPP-NPA continued to intensify its offensive against the State, moving from small guerilla units to military battalions in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. According to the Armed Forces of the Philippines, about 7,077 soldiers were killed by the NPA and the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front from 1975 to 1985.¹¹

In 1985, CPP-NPA-related violence reached its height with 1,282 military and police deaths, 1,362 civilian deaths, and 2,134 CPP-NPA deaths.¹²

⁸ Santos, Jr., Soliman M., and Paz Verdades M. Santos. *Primed and Purposeful: Armed Groups and Human Security Efforts in the Philippines*. Geneva: Small Arms Survey, April 2010. Print.

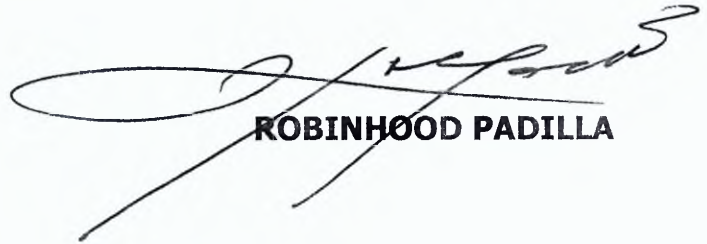
⁹ Center for International Security and Cooperation

¹⁰ Pedroso, K., Generalao, M. (2016) "*September 1972: Recalling the last days and hours of democracy*". Philippine Daily Inquirer.

¹¹ Tiglao, R. (18 March 2022). "Most alleged 'human rights victims killed' were NPA and MNLF/MILF guerrillas." The Manila Times. Retrieved in 06 July 2022 from <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/03/18/opinion/columns/most-alleged-human-rights-victims-killed-were-npa-and-mnlfmilf-guerrillas/1836703>

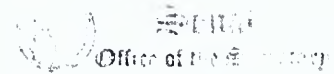
¹² Center for International Security and Cooperation

In the long course of communist insurgency waged by the CPP-NPA-NDF, it cannot be denied that patriotic soldiers, officers, government officials, and civilians demonstrated courage, bravery, and passion. To date, many of them are nameless, and their contributions remain unacknowledged. As a tribute to these unsung heroes, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ROBINHOOD PADILLA

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



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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ROBINHOOD PADILLA

AN ACT
DECLARING SEPTEMBER 21 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-
WORKING HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS "UN Sung HEROES DAY"

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "Unsung Heroes
2 Day".
3

4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby the declared policy of the State
5 to recognize the patriotism of our fallen soldiers, officers, officials, and citizens who
6 have fought against the threat of communist insurgency led by the Communist Party
7 of the Philippines - New People's Army (CPP-NPA).
8

9 **SEC. 3. *Special Non-Working Holiday.*** – To recognize the invaluable
10 sacrifice of our fallen soldiers, officers, officials, and citizens, the State shall promote
11 the observance of September 21 of every year as "Unsung Heroes Day" and proclaim
12 the same as a special non-working holiday.
13

14 **SEC. 4. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
15 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
16

17 *Approved,*
18