

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
*Second Regular Session*



23 JUN 19 A9:59

**SENATE**

**P.S.R. No. 659**

RECEIVED BY:

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**INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS**

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO SPONSOR A RESOLUTION BEFORE THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALLING ON CHINA TO STOP ITS HARASSMENT OF PHILIPPINE VESSELS WITHIN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA**

**WHEREAS**, on July 12, 2016, in a landmark ruling in Permanent Court of Arbitration ("PCA") Case No. 2013-19, otherwise known as *Republic of the Philippines vs. People's Republic of China*, the PCA held that the Chinese government's claims to historic rights, or other sovereign rights or jurisdiction, with respect to maritime areas in the West Philippine Sea ("WPS") encompassed by the so-called "nine-dash line," were contrary to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("UNCLOS"), stating that "there was no legal basis for China to claim historic rights to resources within the sea areas falling within the 'nine-dash line'."

**WHEREAS**, the PCA also ruled that the Chinese government had breached its obligations under international law, having violated the Philippines' sovereign rights over its continental shelf and exclusive economic zone ("EEZ");

**WHEREAS**, the government of the People's Republic of China has continuously refused to accept the ruling of the PCA against the validity of its "9-dash line" claim over the WPS and, on July 13, 2022, the 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Philippine victory in the Hague, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said "China neither accepts nor recognizes it and will never accept any claim or action based on the award";

**WHEREAS**, rather than comply with the decision, the Chinese government has instead chosen to ramp up its harassment of Philippine vessels, including those of the country's fisherfolk, armed forces, and coast guard, thus undermining the peace and stability in the region;

**WHEREAS**, earlier this year, Department of Foreign Affairs ("DFA") spokesperson Ma. Teresita Daza urged the Chinese government to stop harassing the Philippine Coast Guard ("PCG"), after the Chinese Coast Guard ("CCG") aimed a military-grade laser at a Philippine vessel - temporarily blinding PCG personnel;

**WHEREAS**, as stated by Brig. Gen. Charlton Sean Gaerlan, deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines ("AFP"), the CCG has also continuously harassed Filipino military personnel resupplying their outposts on the Kalayaan Island Group ("KIG") and Ayungin shoal, "There's always continuous harassment of our troops at Kalayaan Island Group and sometimes the provisions of our troops there are always delayed";

**WHEREAS**, in interviews with the media, Filipino fisher-folk on Pag-asa island said that they had been instructed by the Navy to avoid areas with Chinese vessels to avoid harassment, leading to smaller fisheries harvests and less income;

**WHEREAS**, this was confirmed by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources ("BFAR") spokesperson Naz Briguera who stated that Filipino fisher-folk could have caught more fish in the WPS without Chinese harassment, "Posible ba na tumaas ang production ng kung wala ang mga isyung ito na nangyayari doon? I would say 'yes', kung ano man iyong mga hindering factors na nangyayari ngayon at kapag nawala ito ay mangangahulugan ito na mas malilinang natin ang yaman ng West Philippine Sea";

**WHEREAS**, in response to Chinese harassment of Philippine vessels in the WPS, retired Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio has suggested that the Philippine government, through the DFA, bring the issue before the United Nations ("UN") General Assembly by sponsoring a resolution calling on China to respect the PCA's ruling in favor of the Philippines, "[w]e must sponsor a resolution, submit it to the

General Assembly that China must comply with the arbitral award of July 12, 2016. That will be put to a vote. I think we will win there," he said;

**WHEREAS**, although not legally binding, UN General Assembly resolutions carry significant political weight and serve as expressions of the will and consensus of the international community, with the potential to shape international norms, influence national policies, and provide guidance for the work of other UN organs, specialized agencies, and regional organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, the passage of such a resolution before the UN General Assembly would also honor the legacy of the late Senator Rodolfo Biazon, a staunch advocate of the country's interests in the WPS who, in 2021, criticized the government's confused stand on the disputed territory, and called on the National Security Council to map out a clear, consistent, and united national position on the issue.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO URGE THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO SPONSOR A RESOLUTION BEFORE THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALLING ON CHINA TO STOP ITS HARASSMENT OF PHILIPPINE VESSELS WITHIN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA.**

Adopted.

  
**RISA HONTIVEROS**  
*Senator*