

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

5 NOV 21 AM 10:40

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 380

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS
AND SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
TO CONDUCT AND INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED
VIOLENT INCIDENTS DURING A DEMONSTRATION BY MEMBERS OF
GREENPEACE AT THE MASINLOC COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT IN
ZAMBALES

WHEREAS, according to a news report in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, published on 11 November 2005, a German volunteer for Greenpeace was badly beaten by armed guards during a demonstration against global warming at the Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales province; German Jens Loewe, 36, was beaten and hit with a crowbar in the face and head;

WHEREAS, Masinloc is one of the major power plants in the Luzon grid that supplies power to Metro Manila and to the entire island of Luzon; as a base-load power plant, it runs continuously from morning to night, seven days a week, and serves as one of the grid's backbones for power generation;

WHEREAS, the protest at the state-run Masinloc coal plant turned violent when a group of 16 Greenpeace activists entered the compound at about 8 a.m. to display a banner reading "Stop climate change";

WHEREAS, according to Greenpeace, one foreigner and two Filipinos were also injured when they were hit by stones hurled by the guards;

WHEREAS, in a press statement, National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR) denied that some of the activists were manhandled by its guards, however, an Agence France-Presse photographer at the scene said Loewe was repeatedly hit with a crowbar and was later carried away on a stretcher and taken to a hospital in Masinloc town;

WHEREAS, NAPOCOR which operates the 600-megawatt coal plant, said it had always been willing to sit down and dialogue with the activists who chose instead "to resort to cheap theatrics to have its message delivered";

WHEREAS, NAPOCOR said a police report indicated that about 20 activists in orange coveralls and helmets on board motorized bancas and rubber boats arrived at the plant at different points along the perimeter fence and the small craft jetty area and tried to forcibly enter using ladders and rubber floor mats; some of the activists were able to enter a highly restricted area and climbed the coal silos;

WHEREAS, NAPOCOR further said that plant personnel and security guards were able to persuade the activists to come down from the silos after nearly two hours of negotiations; when the activists still refused to leave the premises, a heated argument ensued between the illegal entrants and the plant guards which led to a scuffle;

WHEREAS; some of the protesters were turned over to the Masinloc police station; identification revealed that the illegal entrants were composed of Filipino and foreign nationals who were members of Greenpeace;

WHEREAS, Zambales Police Director Senior Superintendent Edgardo Ladao said charges of trespassing would be filed against the Greenpeace activists;

WHEREAS, Greenpeace energy campaigner Red Constantino said the violent response was disproportionate to the peaceful nature of the activity; authorities should have observed maximum tolerance because the plant, which was built by the government in 1996 amid protests, was a state facility;

WHEREAS, according to Constantino, gunshots were fired from rifles and one of the activists was repeatedly hit in the face and beaten with a steel bar while he was immobile on the ground;

WHEREAS, NAPOCOR claims that the protesters, who were members of Greenpeace, had placed the operations of the power plant at risk;

WHEREAS, according to NAPOCOR, the power plant is a high security risk area and its operations should be protected; not only did Greenpeace expose plant operations to risk, but more importantly, it placed its own people's security and safety at risk, as well as those of our plant personnel;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights and the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, the reported violent incidents during a demonstration by members of Greenpeace at the Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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