

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS)
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
THIRD REGULAR SESSION)

6 AUG 14 2007

SENATE

P. S. Resolution No. 541

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO REPORTS THAT THE PEASANT LEADERS AND ADVOCATES COLLECTIVELY KNOWN AS THE 'TAGAYTAY 5' WERE ILLEGALLY ARRESTED AND PROSECUTED BY REASON OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN THE SENATE INVESTIGATION OF THE ARROYO GOVERNMENT'S FERTILIZER FUND SCAM

WHEREAS, Messrs. Aristides Sarmiento, Axel Alejandro Pinpin, Riel Custodio, Enrico Ybanez and Michael Masayes are peasant leaders and advocates connected with the peasant group *Katipunan ng mga Magsasaka sa Kabite (Kamagsasaka Ka)* as well as the *Cavite Farmers Consultative Council*;

WHEREAS, the aforesaid individuals had actively participated in undertaking research and gathering evidence in support of the investigation previously conducted by the Committee on Agriculture and Food into the infamous fertilizer fund scam orchestrated by the Arroyo government through former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante, particularly by soliciting the signing and execution of affidavits and other pertinent documents to prove that farmers in Cavite province had not received a single centavo from the fertilizer funds allegedly released to them by the government;

WHEREAS, the same peasant leaders were forcibly, illegally and mercilessly abducted in Tagaytay City, at around sundown of 28 April 2006, by no less than thirty (30) to forty (40) heavily armed personnel of the Philippine National Police (PNP), and thereafter tortured and subjected to investigation and criminal prosecution in flagrant and indiscriminate violation of their fundamental constitutional rights;

WHEREAS, the peasant leaders, also collectively known as the "Tagaytay 5," have been held in detention, albeit under illegal and inhumane conditions, at the Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba, Laguna for more than 100 days already;

WHEREAS, there is an imperative and compelling need for the Committee on Agriculture and Food to look into the aforesaid reports with the end in view of ascertaining the perceived connection between the Tagaytay 5's active role in the fertilizer fund scam investigation and their subsequent illegal arrest and prosecution at the hands of government authorities;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Committee on Agriculture and Food and the Committee on Justice and Human Rights to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into reports that the peasant leaders and advocates collectively known as the "Tagaytay 5" were illegally arrested and prosecuted by reason of their involvement and participation in the Senate investigation of the Arroyo Government's fertilizer fund scam.

Adopted,


M.A. MADRIGAL