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SENATE

P.S. RES. NO. 185

Introduced by Sen. M. A. Madrigal

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PEACE, UNIFICATION AND RECONCILIATION AND COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE HEIGHTENED MILITARIZATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAGGAAO AND CONTIGUOUS MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN

Whereas since the middle of 2006, the municipality of Baggao and contiguous areas in the province of Cagayan have been subjected to heightened militarization, according to Karapatan, an alliance of human rights advocates;

Whereas the military operations have been reported to be primarily directed at members of Kaguimungan or the Alyansa Dagiti Mannalon Ti Cagayan, also known as the Alliance of Farmers in Cagayan, a legal organization working for the interests of local farmers whom the military accuses to be members of the New People's Army;

Whereas the consequent cases of human rights violations being attributed to military forces in the area include harassment, coercion, unlawful arrest and detention, abduction, torture, forced surrender, hamletting, enforced disappearance and even murder;

Whereas residents of the said municipalities are reportedly being "invited" to appear at the military camps and forced to admit that they are members of the NPA when, in fact, they are not and to sign documents that in effect waive their civil rights and liberties;

Whereas in some cases, military men have reportedly illegally entered private homes in the municipality of Baggao and neighboring towns against the will of the affected residents;

Whereas human rights advocates believe that the rising cases of human rights violations are politically motivated and part of a deliberate plan to suppress peasant organizations which the military accuses of giving aid to NPA rebels;

Whereas these cases of human rights violations subvert the bedrock of the Constitution which rests on upholding the basic rights of every person to life, liberty and dignity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Committee on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation and the Committee on Justice and Human Rights to investigate, in aid of legislation, the heightened militarization and human rights violations in the municipality of Baggao and contiguous municipalities in the province of Cagayan.

Adopted,


M. A. MADRIGAL