

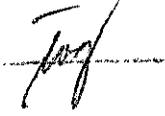
THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

7 2007

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 608

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Introduced by Senator Franklin M. Drilon

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONDEMNING
IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE BRAZEN AND VIOLENT ASSAULT BY
THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ON THE ILOILO PROVINCIAL
CAPITOL, UPON ORDERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT, TO FORCIBLY REMOVE ILOILO PROVINCIAL
GOVERNOR NIEL D. TUPAS, SR.**

WHEREAS, the Office of the Ombudsman found Iloilo Governor Niel D. Tupas guilty of two counts of grave misconduct and ordered his dismissal from service;

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government was directed by the Office of the Ombudsman to implement its decision;

WHEREAS, the DILG ordered the dismissal of Gov. Tupas and declared the position of governor vacant and swore into office Iloilo Vice Governor Roberto Armada;

WHEREAS, Iloilo residents peacefully converged on the capitol grounds in Iloilo City to protect the duly-elected governor of Iloilo and formed a human barricade to prevent a forcible take-over by the DILG-installed governor;

WHEREAS, on 17 January 2007 at 4:30 pm, the Court of Appeals issued a 60-day temporary restraining order on the enforcement order against Iloilo Gov. Tupas barring the Office of the Ombudsman, the DILG and other government agencies from removing Gov. Tupas from office during the period;

WHEREAS, on the same afternoon minutes before the issuance of the TRO, policemen in anti-riot gear and armed with M-16 Armalite rifles dispersed the *Iloilo residents gathered at the provincial capitol entrance*;

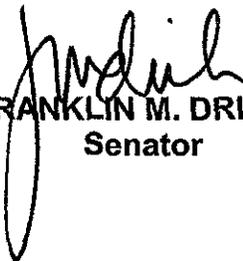
WHEREAS, hundreds of police stormed the capitol smashing and destroying furniture, windows and padlocked doors and assaulting and pointing armalite rifles at provincial government officials and employees to physically remove Gov. Tupas;

WHEREAS, such excessive use of force by the DILG and the Philippine National Police in effecting the dismissal order and physically removing Gov. Tupas from the provincial capitol is condemnable and characteristic of a barbaric and utter disregard for the rule of law;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Human Rights has in fact assailed the assault as an "overkill" and has ordered an independent investigation of the incident : Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, to express, as it hereby expresses, the sense of the Senate condemning in the strongest terms the brazen and violent assault by the Philippine National Police on the Iloilo Provincial Capitol, upon orders of the Department of Interior and Local Government, to forcibly remove Iloilo Provincial Governor Niel D. Tupas, Sr.

Adopted,


FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Senator