

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

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 531

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS
DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
LEGALITY OF THE GUN BAN IMPOSED BY WESTERN VISAYAS POLICE
DIRECTOR, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT CIPRIANO QUEROL JR. IN EIGHT
ILOILO TOWNS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 3, Section 1 states: "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, in its 10 July 2011 article reported that Western Visayas Police Director Cipriano Querol Jr., issued an order suspending the permit to carry firearms outside of residences in the towns on Ajuy, Sara, Estancia, Balasan, Carles, Concepcion, Batad, and San Dionisio, which are all located in the fifth congressional district of Iloilo;

WHEREAS, allegedly, Western Visayas Police Director Querol did not conduct any investigation, public consultation, or inquiry prior to recommending the gun ban to see if the ban was necessary, reasonable, or sound;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the gun ban was approved by Philippine National Police Chief Raul Balcazo to allegedly curb loose firearms and the rise of criminality in the area;

WHEREAS, Iloilo Governor Arthur Defensor reportedly opposed the gun ban for being baseless since there is no state of lawlessness or rampant criminality in the areas covered by the gun ban;

WHEREAS, statistics from the Iloilo Provincial Police Office showed that the crime rate in the district from April to June this year has gone down by 40 percent compared to the same period last year, while some towns covered by the gun ban have lower crime rates than those areas which were excluded;

WHEREAS, the governor also noted that there were no reported instances of violence on those areas covered by the gun ban; he also claimed that the gun ban may have been imposed because of political reasons since the district was among the most contested areas in the previous elections;

WHEREAS, the gun ban violates the equal protection of the laws; the motive for imposing the gun ban is highly suspicious since it is not backed by any factual basis, not even statistics or media reports;

WHEREAS, the gun ban is unfair to those who need protection outside their homes, including officials with death threats, and businessmen who are possible targets of robbery and kidnapping;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the legality of the gun ban imposed by Western Visayas police director, Chief Superintendent Cipriano Querol Jr. in eight Iloilo towns.

Adopted,

miriam defensor santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
ms.

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