FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )

OF THE PHILIPPINES

Third Regular Session

OFFICE AND ADDRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )

OF THE PHILIPPINES

S E N A T E P. S. Res. No 1511 HEGENTO BY

## Introduced by Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon

## RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID LEGISLATION, ON THE WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION DISCOVERED IN. OR RESIDENCES NEAR THE  $\mathbf{OF}$ AMPATUANS, OR IN **PROPERTIES** OWNED  $\mathbf{BY}$ THEM **MAGUINDANAO** 

Whereas, several days after the massacre of 57 individuals in Maguindanao, a considerable number of weapons of various calibers and hundreds of rounds of ammunition were discovered in, or near the residences of the Ampatuans, or in properties owned by them;

Whereas, according to reports, searches conducted by the military and the police in, or near the residences of the Ampatuans, or in properties owned by them, have so far yielded weapons of various calibers and thousands of rounds of ammunition enough to equip a brigade;

Whereas, some of these weapons and ammunition had military and police markings which points to the fact these were procured using taxes paid by the people;

Whereas, these weapons and ammunition that had military and police markings should only be in the possession and for the sole use of the military and the police and their discovery in the hands of civilians is a serious breach of national security;

Whereas, statements made earlier alleging the treasonous and illegal sale of weapons and ammunition badly needed by the military and the police to effectively neutralize lawless elements and maintain peace and order in the

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country seem now to be supported by this discovery of weapons and ammunition;

Whereas, soldiers at one time or another, especially during the recent operations against the Abu Sayyaf and other lawless elements in Jolo and Basilan, complained of the shortage of weapons and ammunition which affected their morale;

Whereas, this discovery of weapons and ammunition in, or near the residences of the Ampatuans, or in properties owned by them, will further cause demoralization in the ranks of the military and the police;

Whereas, there is a need to determine the highest levels of authorities that were responsible for the procurement, storage and illegal disbursement or transfer of these weapons and ammunition;

Whereas, There is also a need to examine existing laws in order to determine adjustments that need to be made to prevent the illegal and scandalous sale, disbursement or transfer of weapons and ammunition solely intended for the use of the military and the police; Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, As It Is Hereby Resolved,

By The Senate, To Direct The Senate Committee On National Defense And Security To Conduct An Inquiry, In Aid Of Legislation, On The Weapons And Ammunition Discovered In, Or Near The Residences Of The Ampatuans, Or In Properties Owned By Them In Maguindanao.

Adopted,

RODOLFO C. BIAZON

Senator