

SENATE  
P. S. Res. No 1521

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Introduced by Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE**  
**AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF**  
**LEGISLATION, ON THE ISSUE OF PRIVATE ARMIES**

*Whereas*, acting Secretary of National Defense Norberto Gonzales has publicly stated that there are around one million loose firearms and 132 private armies all over the country;

*Whereas*, even security agencies have publicly stated that those responsible for the Maguindanao massacre belong to the private army of the Ampatuans;

*Whereas*, this private army of the Ampatuans is now the subject of a disarmament campaign by the government;

*Whereas*, it is public knowledge that private armies exist in other parts of the country;

*Whereas*, Executive Order No. 546 series of 2006 provides for the deputation of barangay tanods as force multipliers, now commonly called as civilian volunteer organizations (CVOs), in the implementation of the peace and order plan in the area;

*Whereas*, while it is the national government that recruits and arms CVOs, their pay come from the local government units;

*Whereas*, this has created a situation wherein they are controlled by the local chief executives thereby hastening their transformation into private armies;

*Whereas*, it is a known fact that the military had used CVOs and special Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Units (CAFGUs) in its counter insurgency campaign and counter-terrorism operations;

*Whereas*, while we recognize the importance of CAFGUs and CVOs in the government's efforts to neutralize lawless elements and maintain peace and order in the country, it cannot also be denied that some of them have been transformed into private armies of local politicians and warlords;

*Whereas*, Article XVIII, Section 24 of the Constitution provides:


*"Private armies and other armed groups not recognized by duly constituted authority shall be dismantled. All paramilitary forces including Civilian Home Defense Forces not consistent with the citizen armed force established in this Constitution, shall be dissolved or, where appropriate, converted into the regular force."*

*Whereas*, due to the foregoing, there is therefore a need to establish the parameters in the use of CAFGUs and CVOs especially with regard to their activation and demobilization;

*Whereas*, there is also a need to provide through legislation, the justification, organization and control in the development and use of CVOs in order that their transformation into private armies will be prevented; *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 Issue Of Private Armies.*

Adopted,

  
**RODOLFO G. BIAZON**  
Senator