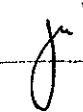


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'14 SEP 24 P3:15

SENATE
P.S. R. No. 939

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT SOME 200 MUSLIM MILITANTS FROM MINDANAO JOINING ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND SYRIA (ISIS)

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 provides: The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy;

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin*, in its 9 July 2014 issue reported that authorities are looking into reports that 200 Muslim militants have slipped out of Mindanao to join the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) fighting in Syria and Iraq;

WHEREAS, an expert on terrorism in Mindanao who spoke on condition of anonymity reportedly said that he had learned of the "raw" reports which are still subject to validation by military and police intelligence units that the militants left Mindanao for Somalia to join others at a staging point for groups seeking to join ISIS forces in the Middle East;

WHEREAS, ISIS, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL), is reportedly headed by its self-proclaimed leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who holds a PhD in Islamic studies;

WHEREAS, the extremist group now reportedly controls a large area on the borders of Iraq and Syria which it declared as a Muslim Caliphate;

WHEREAS, through a video, the ISIS leader called on all Muslims around the world to join his group and obey him as the leader;

WHEREAS, according to reports, the 200 Muslim militants who allegedly slipped out from Mindanao may be members of the Khalifa Islamiyah Mindanao (KIM), a terrorist group that uses a black flag similar to the ISIS emblem;

WHEREAS, KIM members are reportedly young idealistic Moro fighters who were hosted by the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), the group that broke away from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF);

WHEREAS, however, it was reported that a security official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, dismissed the reports of Muslims from Mindanao joining the ISIS;

WHEREAS, the security official claimed that there are 200 Australian Muslims who are fighting side by side with ISIS, meaning that there are no Filipino but only Australian Muslims;

WHEREAS, the security official reportedly said that there are many Filipinos in both Syria and Iraq but they are overseas Filipino workers employed in government facilities, and that these Filipinos are not fighting with the rebels;

WHEREAS, the reports about the militants travelling to the Middle East came days after a Malaysian newspaper reported about the existence of four new terrorist organizations aiming to establish an Islamic Caliphate in Southeast Asia that would include Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, southern Thailand and southern Philippines;

WHEREAS, Malaysia's *New Straits Times* claimed that the new groups, which mutated from terror cells such as the Jemaah Islamiyah and the Kumpulan Mujahidin Malaysia, have embarked on aggressive recruitment drive for members;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for government to safeguard the peace and order of the nation by preventing its citizens from joining extremist groups that intend to harm the national security of our country;

WHEREAS, Congress should curtail such threats and actively campaign against joining such extremist groups;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED to direct the proper committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that about 200 Muslim militants from Mindanao joining Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

Adopted,

cc. Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/rjd