

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF) IS SELLING FIREARMS TAKEN FROM SLAIN SPECIAL ACTION FORCE (SAF) POLICEMEN FOR ₱1.5 MILLION

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 Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro, signed by the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), states: "Both parties commit to work in partnership for the reduction and control of firearms in the area and the disbandment of private armies and other armed groups";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star* on 5 February 2015 reported that the MILF has been accused of trying to sell weapons its fighters took from 44 members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Special Action Force (SAF) who died during a firefight in Mamasapano, Maguindanao January 25;

WHEREAS, the news quoted acting Police Chief Leonardo Espina as saying that he has been informed that the MILF was selling high-powered firearms for ₱1.5 million;

WHEREAS, Espina claimed that the weapons have been taken from bodies of the policemen, along with other personal belongings;


WHEREAS, firearms assigned to the 55th Special Action Company of the PNP are government property and should be returned to the PNP or the Armed Forces;

WHEREAS, the MILF should show utmost good faith in the peace process by facilitating the return of the weapons, in accordance with the framework agreement it has signed with the government;

WHEREAS, the government should ensure that the MILF, which has reiterated that despite it remains a revolutionary force despite the peace process, has limited access to firearms, especially those issued to the police or the armed forces;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, to direct the proper Senate committee, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the report that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is selling firearms taken from slain Special Action Force (SAF) policemen for P1.5 million.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
jr