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SENATE
P.S. RES. No. 222

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS AND THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED ENLISTMENT AND TRAINING OF YOUNG PEOPLE AS CHILD-WARRIORS, WITH THE END VIEW OF INSTITUTING REMEDIAL MEASURES TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE RIGHTS AND INTEREST OF THE YOUTH OF OUR COUNTRY

1 WHEREAS, on 31 October 2019, simultaneous raids were conducted by the
2 Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Western Visayas, Philippine Army and
3 Bacolod City Police Office, implementing the search warrants issued by the Executive
4 Judge of Regional Trial Court of Quezon City, Hon. Cecilyn Burgos-Villavert, in the
5 offices of Kilusang Mayo Uno, Gabriela and Anak Pawis in Barangay Bata, and the
6 National Federation of Sugar Workers in Barangay 33¹, for alleged violation of *Republic*
7 *Act No. 10591* otherwise known as the "*Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition*
8 *Regulation Law*";

9 WHEREAS, during the raid, police and military operatives seized firearms,
10 ammunitions and explosives, and arrested forty (40) persons with alleged links to
11 Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA)² and fourteen (14)
12 minors, age 12 to 17, who were allegedly being trained to be "rebel-warriors"³;

¹ <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1830390>

² <https://news.mb.com.ph/2019/11/04/mom-decries-npa-recruitment-of-12-year-old-daughter/>

³ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1184834/57-activists-arrested-in-negros>

1 WHEREAS, the said raided offices were considered as "training centers" of
2 newly-recruit young individuals trained by the NPA to become "child warriors" who will
3 then join the rebel's liquidation team that targets the government⁴;

4 WHEREAS, the raids have led to the recovery of thirty-two (32) assorted
5 firearms, three (3) fragmentation grenades, two (2) grenade launchers and assorted
6 ammunition⁵;

7 WHEREAS on 02 November 2019, Nilda Villamonte, a laundry woman from La
8 Carlota City, Negros Occidental, found herself at the Bacolod Police Station where her
9 12-year old daughter was being held, together with fourteen (14) minors⁶;

10 WHEREAS, these minors were thought to be just attending a dance practice for
11 a cultural show after not being home for some time, but who were actually undergoing
12 combat-related training and indoctrination;

13 WHEREAS, *Section 22(b), Article X of Republic Act No. 7610* otherwise known
14 as the "*Special Protection for Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination*
15 *Act*" states that "Children shall not be recruited to become members of the Armed
16 Forces of the Philippines of its civilian units or other armed groups, nor be allowed to
17 take part in fighting, or use as guides, couriers, or spies";

18 WHEREAS, in order to maintain peace and order, protect the people against
19 violence and ensure the welfare of the youth, as mandated no less than the
20 Constitution and our existing laws and jurisprudence, there is an urgent need to
21 investigate the alleged recruitment of minors as "child-warriors" of the CPP-NPA;

22 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate
23 Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs and the Committee on Youth, to
24 conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged enlistment and training of
25 young people as child-warriors, with the end view of instituting remedial measures to
26 protect and promote the rights and interest of the youth of our country.

Adopted,


RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

⁴<https://www.rappler.com/nation/243909-authorities-arrest-militants-bacolod-crackdown-october-31-2019>

⁵ <https://www.panaynews.net/full-blown-crack-down-55-activists-arrested-in-bacolod-raids/>

⁶ <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1084876>