




SENATE  
P. S. Res No. 388

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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RECEIVED BY: 

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN  
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS  
DISORDER AMONG MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH  
THE INTENTION OF BETTER UNDERSTANDING THE MENTAL HEALTH  
RISKS FACING FILIPINO SOLDIERS IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR  
DUTIES**

1           **WHEREAS**, in the line of duty, the country's armed forces are exposed to  
2 the ravages of war and war-zone trauma, which make them vulnerable to Post-  
3 Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD);

4           **WHEREAS**, according to the American Psychological Association, PTSD is an  
5 anxiety problem that develops in some people after extremely traumatic events,  
6 such as combat, crime, an accident or natural disaster<sup>1</sup>;

7           **WHEREAS**, in addition to problems directly attributable to PTSD symptoms  
8 per se, individuals with this disorder frequently suffer from other comorbid  
9 psychiatric disorders, such as depression, other anxiety disorders, and alcohol or  
10 substance abuse/dependence. The resulting constellation of psychiatric symptoms  
11 frequently impairs marital, vocational, and social function<sup>2</sup>;

<sup>1</sup> American Psychological Association Website, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, <https://www.apa.org/topics/ptsd/>

<sup>2</sup> National Center for Biotechnology Information Website, Post-traumatic stress disorder in the military veteran, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7937358>

12           **WHEREAS**, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) acknowledges PTSD  
13 among soldiers, especially those who have survived brutal encounters with groups  
14 like the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao<sup>3</sup>;

15           **WHEREAS**, on April 21,2020, retired Army Corporal Winston Ragos died after  
16 he was shot twice by Police Master Sergeant Daniel Florendo Jr., near a quarantine  
17 checkpoint in Barangay Pasong Putik in Quezon City<sup>4</sup>;

18           **WHEREAS**, according to AFP Spokesperson, Lt. Col. Ramon P. Zagala, battle-  
19 scarred Cpl. Winston Ragos suffered from PTSD<sup>5</sup>;

20           **WHEREAS**, Lt. Col. Zagala added that Cpl. Winston Ragos was first  
21 diagnosed with PTSD in 2010, after he had been confined at the V. Luna Hospital in  
22 Quezon City after an armed engagement with the New People’s Army<sup>6</sup>;

23           **WHEREAS**, Cpl. Winston Ragos was given a Certificate of Disability  
24 Discharge in December 2016. It took effect on January 16, 2017<sup>7</sup>;

25           **WHEREAS**, for years now, the military has held stress debriefing programs  
26 for soldiers in an effort to reduce the risk of PTSD. The condition, while avoidable if  
27 detected early, can occur as long as soldiers are sent to combat zones<sup>8</sup>;

28           **WHEREAS**, The AFP Medical Center, more commonly known as the V. Luna  
29 General Hospital in Quezon City, handles the more serious cases of PTSD<sup>9</sup>;

30           **WHEREAS**, according to the AFP, the wounds of war are not just physical  
31 but also mental and their scars are not always seen<sup>10</sup>;

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<sup>3</sup> Inquirer News Website, Hidden War Wounds: PTSD in PH Military, <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1161867/hidden-war-wounds-ptsd-in-ph-military>.

<sup>4</sup> ABS-CBN News Website, Police should be trained to understand PTSD: psychologist, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/life/04/24/20/police-should-be-trained-to-understand-ptsd-psychologist>.

<sup>5</sup> Inquirer News Website, Ex-soldier’s slay gives glimpse of PTSD in PH military, <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1263893/ex-soldiers-slay-gives-glimpse-of-ptsd-in-ph-military>.

<sup>6</sup> Manila Bulletin News Website, AFP Chief calls for calm after death of ex-soldier at policeman’s hands, <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/04/24/afp-chief-calls-for-calm-after-death-of-ex-soldier-at-policemans-hands/>.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Inquirer News Website, Hidden War Wounds: PTSD in PH Military, <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1161867/hidden-war-wounds-ptsd-in-ph-military>.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid.

<sup>10</sup>ABS-CBN News Website, The wounds of war: Philippine Army seeks probe into killing of ex-soldier in QC, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/23/20/the-wounds-of-war-philippine-army-seeks-probe-into-killing-of-ex-soldier-in-qc>.

32           **WHEREAS**, Senate, in consultation with the Department of Health and other  
33 concerned agencies, should look into existing legislation providing support  
34 mechanism for armed personnel diagnosed with PTSD;

35           **WHEREAS**, members of the AFP are no ordinary public servants. While not  
36 belittling the efforts of our corps of civilian public servants, the dedication of our  
37 armed forces is unique, in the sense that, they are always ready to sacrifice their  
38 lives in defense of the nation. Such unique dedication or commitment to serve at the  
39 cost of one's life must also be rewarded by providing support and better  
40 understanding the effects of deployment in their mental health;

41           **BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the proper Senate  
42 Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid legislation, on the Post-Traumatic Stress  
43 Disorder among military personnel in the Philippines, with the intention of better  
44 understanding the mental health risks facing Filipino soldiers in the performance of  
45 their duties.

Adopted,

  
**MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**  
Senator