

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 41

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT INQUIRY
IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ALLEGED CONTINUOUS ACQUISITION BY
THE MILF OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION

WHEREAS, there are undergoing peace talks between the Philippine government and the MILF to end the decades-old conflict in the south;

WHEREAS, in an article of the Philippine Star dated 3 August 2004, it was alleged that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the country's largest Muslim rebel group, received a large shipment of automatic rifles and ammunition;

WHEREAS, the shipment containing 1,190 rifles, and hundred of thousands of ammunition rounds, aside from machine guns, and mortars allegedly arrived 2 weeks ago in the two coastal towns of Sultan Kudarat and Lanao del Sur;

WHEREAS, MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu denied they received any such ammunition and weapons;

WHEREAS, Benjie Midtimbang, head of the MILF's ceasefire panel denied any knowledge of the arms shipment;

WHEREAS, if proven true, this continuous acquisition of the MILF of weapons and ammunition will be detrimental to the success of the present peace talks;

WHEREAS, it is the concern of the State to make sure the ceasefire agreement between the government and the MILF is enforced; and to ensure that peace and order in the said region is maintained;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate, to direct and inquiry in aid of legislation into the alleged continuous importation and acquisition of the MILF of ammunition and weapons into the country.

Approved,

[Signature]
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO