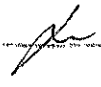


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
 REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

7 AUG 29 95 10

SENATE
 P.S. RES. NO. 108

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PEACE, UNIFICATION AND RECONCILIATION TO STUDY THE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS OF THE ARREST OF FILIPINO POLITICAL EXILE JOSE MARIA SISON, THE SIMULTANEOUS POLICE SEARCHES ON THE NDF OFFICE AND HOMES OF HIS CO-FILIPINO WORKERS LAST AUGUST 28, 2007 IN THE NETHERLANDS, AND THE CONTEXT, TIMING AND MANNER IN WHICH THESE INCIDENTS WERE CONDUCTED, ON THE PEACE PROCESS WITH THE CPP-NPA-NDF AND TO MAKE THE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO AVERT A TOTAL COLLAPSE OF THE PEACE PROCESS WITH ONE OF THE WORLD'S LONGEST-RUNNING INSURGENCIES

WHEREAS on the morning of August 28, 2007, the Dutch police arrested Filipino political exile Prof. Jose Maria Sison in Utrecht where he has sought refuge for the last 20 years and conducted simultaneous searches on his home and several other residences of Filipinos working with him, including the International Information Office of the National Democratic Front (NDF) based in Utrecht;

WHEREAS, according to a statement from the Public Prosecutor's Office in The Hague, the alleged Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chairman was arrested by the International Crime Investigation Team of the Dutch National Criminal Investigation Department on suspicion of giving orders from the Netherlands to murder his former political associates, Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara, in 2003 and 2006 respectively;

WHEREAS, Prof. Sison is one of the most famous and vocal critics of the Arroyo regime. He has long claimed he no longer commands the Communist Party and its military arm, the New People's Army, and has been active in the peace process since 1992 as the chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front (NDF);

WHEREAS, while the Philippines respects the domestic laws of The Netherlands, the manner, timing and entire context of Prof. Sison's arrest and the searches on the domicile of persons identified with him seem contradictory to the historical tradition of that country as a safe haven for refugees, bastion of political and religious tolerance and international seat for the defense of human rights and justice;

WHEREAS, the reported “sneaky” circumstances of Sison’s arrest and the simultaneous searches and seizures appear more characteristic of the current Philippine administration which has earned international condemnation for its notorious human rights record than the respected site of the world’s many courts of justice;

WHEREAS, the International Committee Defend reports that Sison was arrested “when he reported to the Utrecht police after he got an invitation from them supposedly about new information on the complaint he filed in 2001 relating to his political cases. According to Sison’s lawyer who accompanied him to the police station, Sison was asked to go to a room supposedly to be asked questions. And after he was alone in the room he was whisked away without the knowledge of his lawyer, to the National Penitentiary in Scheveningen in The Hague where he is now under detention”;

WHEREAS, equally disturbing is the report that the police raiding teams in some cases, did not show any search warrant and forced their entry into the houses by breaking the doors even if people were inside. In some of the houses that were raided, only minors were present. The police teams carted away computers, laptops, papers, diskettes, CD Roms and DVDs;

WHEREAS, Sison’s arrest notably comes after the annulment by the European Court of the First Instance in Luxemburg last July 11, 2007 of his inclusion in the European Council’s “terrorist” listing and the restoration of his welfare benefits because the Council of the European Union failed to give a valid reason for his inclusion;

WHEREAS, Sison’s arrest also comes in the wake of the Philippine Supreme Court ruling dismissing the rebellion case filed against him and other known leftist activists, including Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, and the High Court’s landmark national summit on extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances;

WHEREAS, Sison’s arrest also comes one month after the CPP rejected an offer of a three-year ceasefire to pave the way for the resumption of peace talks stalled since August 2004, which has led militant organizations to relate his arrest to the use of criminal proceedings to put political pressure on the NDF “to surrender to the Manila government”;

WHEREAS, these organizations in fact claim the whole operation against Sison and the political exiles in Holland is clearly “politically-motivated” in view of the continued stance of some Dutch and European Union officials as well as the Philippine government that the terrorist tag on the CPP, NPA and Prof. Sison would be dropped only if they capitulate;

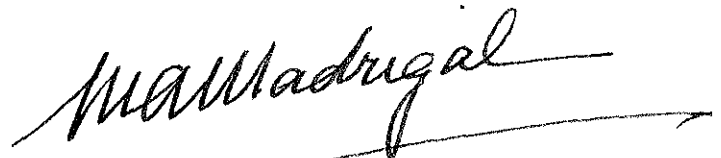
WHEREAS, the statement of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo that Sison’s arrest is “a giant step toward peace, a victory for justice and the rule of law” directly reveals her real stance on the peace process with the NDF bloc, as her administration has long sought the incarceration of Sison;

WHEREAS, the aforesaid incidents in The Netherlands raise the bar not only on issues of civil liberties, political refugees protection and the rule of law but serious questions as well about political connivance and accommodation in waging political persecution to the detriment of the greater objective of finding long-term peaceful solutions to the socio-political conflict in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the Philippines as an independent nation desirous of peace, justice and progress must hitherto assert its sovereign right to forge its own path and agenda of peace to resolve one of the world's longest-running insurgencies;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Committee on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation to study the serious implications of the arrest of Filipino political exile Jose Maria Sison, the simultaneous police searches on the NDF office and homes of his co-Filipino workers last August 28, 2007 in The Netherlands, and the context, timing and manner in which these incidents were conducted, on the peace process with the CPP-NPA-NDF and to make the appropriate recommendations to avert a total collapse of the peace process with one of the world's longest-running insurgencies.

Adopted,


M. A. MADRIGAL