

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

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SENATE 512
P.S. Resolution No. _____

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator **JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS, ABDUCTIONS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CENTRAL LUZON AND THE ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY IN THESE INCIDENTS

WHEREAS, Article II Section 3 of the Constitution provides that, "The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State";

WHEREAS, Article II Section 11 of the Constitution further provides that, "The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights";

WHEREAS, significant provisions the Constitution, various issuances, orders and laws, and international instruments ensure the respect for and protection of the rights of the people, including those of the suspected, investigated and accused;

WHEREAS, reports on extrajudicial killings, abductions and other human rights violations in various parts of the country has become very alarming in the previous months ;

WHEREAS, based on the records of Karapatan Gitnang Luzon, a non-governmental organization promoting human rights in Central Luzon, there were forty nine (49) people summarily executed and seven (7) abducted in the said region in 2005;

WHEREAS, in a span of five (5) months from January to May 2006, there were twenty-nine (29) civilians killed and thirty-two (32) abducted apart from the victims of frustrated murders, illegal searches, warrantless arrests, illegal detentions, tortures, threats and harassments;

WHEREAS, most of the alleged acts of violence and atrocities happened in areas where military detachments and special operation teams are present and operating; hence, some human rights groups have attributed these incidents to the military and police;

WHEREAS, due to the reported absence of trust and confidence of the local people in the military and its leadership in Central Luzon which is headed by Major General Jovito Palparan, Jr. of the Philippine Army's 7th Infantry Division, who reports directly to the Commanding General of the Philippine Army, Lieutenant General Hermogenes C. Esperon, Jr., there are persistent calls to demilitarize the region to promote a just and peaceful community;

WHEREAS, the government should take immediate and appropriate measures to address this problem and to determine the alleged involvement of the military, particularly the Philippine Army under Generals Hermogenes Esperon and Jovito Palparan;

Now therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Committee on National Defense and Security to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the reported extrajudicial killings, abductions and other human rights violations in Central Luzon and the alleged involvement of the Philippine Army in these incidents.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator