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ENATE

13th Congress of the Republic of the Philippines 3rd Regular Session

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P.S. RES. NO. 512

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Introduced by Senator Aquilino O. Pimentel Jr.		1.

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE IN SUPPORT OF THE STAND OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI ANNAN THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE BETWEEN THE HEZBOLLAH AND THE ISRAELI FORCES NOW LOCKED IN COMBAT IN LEBANON

WHEREAS, two Israeli soldiers were captured some three (3) weeks ago by the Hezbollah, an armed group that has a representation in the Lebanese parliament;

WHEREAS, the Israeli government unleashed on July 12 its military might to recover the two soldiers;

WHEREAS, the Hezbollah has fired Katusha rockets into Northern Israel causing loss of lives – 37 dead, 17 of whom were civilians - and destruction of properties as of July 24;

WHEREAS, in retaliation, the Israeli government has bombed targets within Lebanon including Beirut killing - as of July 24 - 363 dead, 320 of whom were civilians (women and children, too) and effectively destroying basic infrastructure of the country;

WHEREAS, in the last few days, the Israeli army began its invasion of Lebanon in search of the Hezbollah;

WHEREAS, the continuing carnage of innocent lives on both sides of the border between Israel and Lebanon demands an outcry from the civilized world to stop the wanton killings and the on-going devastation of the places in the areas of conflict;

WHEREAS, thousands of non-combatant Lebanese residents – foreign and local – have been uprooted from their residences as a result of the conflict;

WHEREAS, unless stopped, the war in Lebanon will adversely affect, as it has already done – the overseas Filipino workers not only in Lebanon and Israel but in their adjoining countries as well; and has the potential of escalating beyond the borders of these two countries and sucking into the area of turmoil the territories of Syria, Iran, and other middle eastern countries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate express its sense that an immediate ceasefire be effected through the initiative of the United Nations to lay the basis for the recovery of the two Israeli soldiers who had been captured by the Hezbollah; for the installation of a just and lasting peace between Israel and the Hezbollah and Lebanon; and for the stabilization of the Region.

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AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.