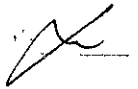


SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 629

11 OCT 24 P 3:41



Introduced by: Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY, AND PEACE, UNIFICATION AND RECONCILIATION, TO INQUIRE AND INVESTIGATE IN AID OF LEGISLATION THE ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT FORCES AND THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF) LAST 18 OCTOBER 2011 AND SUBSEQUENT DATES WHICH RESULTED TO THE DEATH OF AT LEAST THIRTY-FOUR (34) PEOPLE WITH THE END VIEW OF DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS ACCOUNTABILITY AND CULPABILITY ON THE PART OF THE MILF LEADERSHIP AS WELL AS TO DETERMINE IF THERE WERE OPERATIONAL AND TACTICAL LAPSES ON THE PART OF THE ARMED FORCES OF PHILIPPINES (AFP), AND IN ORDER TO PUT INTO PLACE THE PROPER MECHANISMS AND POLICIES RELATING TO THE ONGOING PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MILF WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PREVENTING SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE

WHEREAS, last 18 October 2011, troops from the Army's 13th and 19th Special Forces Company were sent to Sitio Bakisong, Cambug village, Al-Barka town to verify reports that armed men, including Dan Laksaw Asnawi, were holding kidnap victims. Asnawi was among those involved in the beheading of 14 Marines also in Basilan in 2007 and is reportedly a Commander of the MILF's 114th Base Command;

WHEREAS, in the morning of the subject date, a gun battle ensued between the military forces and the MILF that lasted for nine (9) hours and claimed the life of nineteen (19) soldiers and wounding eleven (11) others;

WHEREAS, many of the soldiers involved were allegedly undergoing scuba diving training for the Special Forces when they were hastily ordered to pursue – on behalf of the police – MILF Commander Dan Laksaw Asnawi;

WHEREAS, the bloodbath transpired amidst ongoing peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the separatist MILF;

WHEREAS, the MILF claims that government troops provoked the fighting by attacking the MILF in their Al-Barka stronghold in violation of the existing ceasefire;

WHEREAS, the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) head Lieutenant General Raymundo Ferrer asserted that the military troops did not intrude on the MILF stronghold or

“area of temporary stay” (ATS) because the incident took place four (4) kilometres away from the MILF’s ATS;

WHEREAS, under ceasefire rules, government troops should first notify and coordinate with the MILF when they are going to operate in the latter’s strongholds in search of criminals to prevent accidental clashes;

WHEREAS, the over-all commander of the AFP in Basilan, Special Operations Task Force Commander Col. Alexander Macario, claims that the Army’s operation in Basilan was not properly coordinated and/or cleared with his Office;

WHEREAS, MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal claims that the MILF has received an A-1 intelligence report from their spy in the military of the planned attack against their forces;

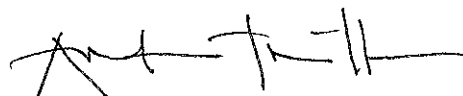
WHEREAS, on the other hand, MILF spokesperson Von al Haq reportedly admitted that said operation, including three separate attacks which subsequently took place in Zamboanga Sibugay and which resulted in the deaths of seven (7) more soldiers and policemen, were not coordinated with their central command;

WHEREAS, other clashes have been reported over the weekend, with 150 suspected MILF rebels reportedly occupying two (2) schools in Talusan village in Olutangga, Zamboanga Sibugay last Saturday, 22 October 2011, and two (2) more soldiers being killed and five (5) others being wounded by suspected MILF rebels in an ambush in Sultan Naga Dimaporo in Lanao Del Norte on Sunday (23 October 2011) as well as five (5) rubber plantation workers and one (1) CAFGU member being killed and eight (8) people being hurt in the latest eruption of violence in the island of Basilan also on Sunday, 23 October 2011;

WHEREAS, in the light of all of the foregoing, there is an urgent and imperative need for the Senate, as part of the policy-making branch of the Government, to inquire into and investigate the foregoing incidents in order to determine whether or not there is accountability and culpability on the part of the MILF leadership as well as whether or not there are operational and/or tactical lapses on the part of the AFP, and in order to put into place the appropriate mechanisms and policies relating to the ongoing peace negotiations with the MILF with the end in view of preventing similar incidents in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committees on National Defense and Security, and Peace, Unification and Reconciliation to inquire and investigate in aid of legislation the violent encounters between the government forces and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) last 18 October 2011 and subsequent dates which resulted to the deaths of at least thirty-four (34) people, including at least twenty-nine (29) government troops, with the end view of determining whether or not there was accountability and culpability on the part of the MILF leadership as well as if there were operational and tactical lapses on the part of the AFP, and in order to put into place the appropriate mechanisms and policies relating to the ongoing peace negotiations with the MILF with the end in view of preventing similar incidents in the future.

ADOPTED,



ANTONIO “SONNY” F. TRILLANES IV
Senator