

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)**



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

PS Res. No. 236

RECEIVED

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Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

**RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF THE ONGOING PEACE PROCESS BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES (GRP) AND
THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES-
NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY-NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE
PHILIPPINES (CPP-NPA-NDFP)**

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution provides, "[T]he Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy, adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land and adheres to the policy of peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation, and amity with all nations";

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution provides, "[T]he maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";

WHEREAS, a just and lasting peace and sustainable development are significantly interrelated and reinforce each other;

WHEREAS, peace is anchored on the recognition and reduction - or, if possible, elimination - of threats that fuel conflict, such as poverty, social exclusion, and political marginalization;

WHEREAS, for the past five decades, internal armed conflicts between GRP and CPP-NPA-NDFP have posed an obstacle to the full and meaningful implementation of the above aspirations of our people and policies of our State;

WHEREAS, from 1986 to 2004, around 3,552 combatants have been injured or killed because of these conflicts and from 1986 to 1992, 1,272,100 individuals or 238,880 families have been displaced because of them;

WHEREAS, from 1986 to 2004, an estimated PhP2 billion or around US\$40.3 million have been lost by the State because of them;

WHEREAS each side has reported human rights abuses - including torture, forced disappearances, and summary executions - committed by the other during the long course of the conflict;

WHEREAS, for the past thirty (30) years, GRP and CPP-NPA-NDFP have been engaged in peace negotiations;

WHEREAS, since 1986, the parties have conducted over forty (40) rounds of talks which were disrupted over fifteen (15) times because of disagreements over issues such as sovereignty, terrorism watch lists, and release of prisoners;

WHEREAS, through the years, GRP has released over 1,300 alleged political prisoners as goodwill and confidence-building measures, while CPP-NPA-NDFP seeks the release of some more political prisoners who they'd like to participate in current peace talks as NDFP consultants or other persons protected by the *Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantee* of February 24, 1995 (JASIG);

WHEREAS the parties have signed over twenty (20) agreements, most of which are joint statements and communiqués, yet a final peace settlement has been elusive;

WHEREAS, eighteen (18) years ago, the parties signed the *Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL)*, which is one of four substantive agreements comprising the peace settlement;

WHEREAS, the full implementation of the *CARHRIHL* is dependent on further agreements such as on political and constitutional reforms, and the end of hostilities and disposition of forces, that have yet to be negotiated;

WHEREAS, the parties issued a *Joint Statement on the Resumption of the Formal Talks in the Peace Negotiations Between the GRP and NDFP* last 26 August 2016 in Oslo, Norway, thereby ending almost five years of impasse in the formal talks;

WHEREAS, in the above *Joint Statement* of 26 August 2016, the parties reaffirmed their previous agreements, starting with *The Hague Joint Declaration* of September 1, 1992; JASIG; the *Joint Agreement on the Formation, Sequence, and Operationalization of the Reciprocal Working Committees (RWC) of the GRP and NDFP Negotiating Panels* of June 26, 1995; and the *CARHRIHL*;

WHEREAS, in the above *Joint Statement* of 26 August 2016, the parties agreed to accelerate the peace process and set the timeline for the completion of the remaining substantive agenda for the talks: socio-economic

reforms; political and constitutional reforms; and end of hostilities and disposition of forces;

WHEREAS, our people have expressed a desire for change, which includes enhancing human security, promoting sustainable development, and achieving a just and lasting peace in our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate adopt this resolution expressing its support for the ongoing peace process and its hope that GRP and CPP-NPA-NDFP would be able to complete the remaining substantive agenda for the talks in order to secure a just and lasting peace for our country.

Adopted,



SONNY M. ANGARA