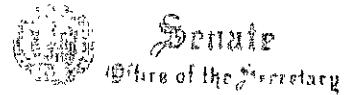



FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'11 JAN 24 P 4:10

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 342

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ON THE REPORTED INCIDENTS OF DEATH AND HARASSMENT AGAINST GOVERNMENT ANTI-ILLEGAL LOGGING AGENTS COMMITTED BY ARMED MEN ALLEGEDLY LINKED TO ILLEGAL LOGGING OPERATORS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 provides: "The 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, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, various government agencies are currently monitoring and apprehending illegal logging activities in different parts of the country;

WHEREAS, GMA News reported last 15 January 2011 that unidentified armed men shot dead a member of the government's anti-illegal logging task force in Surigao del Sur while he was guarding confiscated timber;

WHEREAS, according to the report, Maj. Gen. Renator Miranda, commander of Task Force (TF) Pagbabago, identified the victim as Jacinto Branas, a 56-year-old forester from Bislig City;

WHEREAS, the government task force has reportedly seized a total P60 million worth of illegally cut logs in the Caraga Region to date;

WHEREAS, Miranda suspected the armed men were the owners of the confiscated logs and were trying to get back at authorities;

WHEREAS, there was reportedly another incident of unidentified snipers firing warning shots against TF Pagbabago in an attempt to intimidate the anti-illegal logging forces of the government, and another one where armed men fired at a tugboat ferrying confiscated logs;

WHEREAS, it is unforgivable for criminal elements to eliminate public servants to forward their illegal activities and undermine the government's efforts to preserve our natural resources;

WHEREAS, the government would need to beef up its efforts in stamping out the illegal logging operations especially in Surigao del Sur, and at the same time prevent more blood from being shed in the process;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported incidents of death and harassment against government anti-illegal logging agents committed by armed men allegedly linked to illegal logging operators.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/pmt