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SENATE

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P. S. Res. No. 233

Introduced by **Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO**

RESOLUTION

**COMMENDING THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
AND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE FOR THE HEROIC
PERFORMANCE OF THEIR SWORN CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY
AS PROTECTORS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE STATE, AND AS
SENTINELS OF PEACE AND ORDER IN THE ZAMBOANGA
CRISIS**

WHEREAS, "the Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory."¹

WHEREAS, the Philippine National Police is responsible for maintaining peace and order, and taking all necessary steps to ensure public safety.²

WHEREAS, on 09 September 2013, a crisis erupted in Zamboanga City where a faction of the Moro National Liberation Front, reportedly led by Nur Misuari, attempted to raise the flag of the self-proclaimed Bangsamoro Republic at the Zamboanga City Hall, which on 12 August 2013 had declared its independence in Talipao, Sulu.³

WHEREAS, this apparent armed incursion resulted into a crisis⁴ prompting the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to face it squarely with the primary objective of freeing the hostages⁵ and expelling the MNLF from Zamboanga City.

WHEREAS, sensing that the standoff had degenerated into an urban warfare, placing the entire Zamboanga City into a standstill for days, the AFP and the PNP, especially those military and police personnel deployed in the

¹Section 3, Article II, Constitution.

²Republic Act No. 6975, as amended.

³*Zamboanga City Crisis*, Wikipedia, citing authorities.

⁴Caused, among others, the displacement of 100,000 residents, more or less, the occupation of several barangays by the MNLF, the deaths of civilians, the closure of the Zamboanga International Airport and the cessation, if not slow down, of economic activity in Zamboanga City (news reports).

⁵Over 200 hostages were reportedly held captive by the MNLF (*Over 200 Zambo Folk Held Hostage by MNLF*. Inquirer.net, 09 September 2013, Frances Mangosing)

forefronts, battled the MNLF with bravery and gallantry without any reservations despite the imminent loss of life and limb,⁶ leading to the freeing of 194 hostages, the death and capture of at least 100 and 223 MNLF fighters, respectively, and the surrender of 52 MNLF combatants.⁷

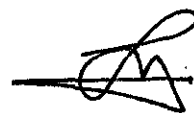
WHEREAS, on 28 September 2013, the Philippine government declared the end of military operations in Zamboanga City albeit the AFP and the PNP still continue with their designated tour of duty to run after the remaining combatants of the MNLF faction and to maintain the gains of peace and order that they have accomplished.

WHEREAS, such display of dedication and commitment to subdue the enemies of the State and to restore peace and order shown by the AFP and the PNP cannot be overstated; it is an accomplishment characterized by the performance of a sworn duty not by its mere utterance or through press statement but by standing by it in an actual battle for country and people; verily, these elements of the AFP and the PNP, the soldiers and the policemen in the Zamboanga crisis, deserve the Senate's commendation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, To *COMMEND* the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police for the heroic performance of their sworn constitutional duty as *protectors* of the people and the State and as *sentinels* of peace and order in the Zamboanga crisis.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution be given to the concerned officers and men of the AFP and the PNP, and to the bereaved families of those who fought and died in resolving the Zamboanga crisis.

Adopted,



⁶ 18 soldiers and 5 policemen died while 167 soldiers and 14 policemen injured (*It's Over*. InterAksyon.com, 28 September 2013, Jaime Sinapit).

⁷*It's Over*. InterAksyon.com, 28 September 2013, Jaime Sinapit.