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**SENATE**

P. S. RES. NO. 512

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Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT**  
**AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ONGOING**  
**HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN MARAWI CITY**

*WHEREAS*, Article VII, Section 18 of the Constitution, in its fourth paragraph, declares, in part, that “[a] state of martial law does not suspend the operation of the Constitution...”;

*WHEREAS*, Article II of the Constitution states, as basic Principles, that “[t]he prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people...”<sup>1</sup>, and that “[t]he Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State...”<sup>2</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, Article II further provides that “[t]he maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy,”<sup>3</sup> and that the State “[v]alues the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights”<sup>4</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, the same Article further states, in part, that it “recognizes the role of women in nation-building,”<sup>5</sup> and “[t]he sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution”<sup>6</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, Section 13 of the same Article further states that “[t]he State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being”;

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<sup>1</sup> Section 4.

<sup>2</sup> Section 3.

<sup>3</sup> Section 5.

<sup>4</sup> Section 11.

<sup>5</sup> Section 14.

<sup>6</sup> Section 12.

*WHEREAS*, Section 15 of the same provides that “[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them”;

*WHEREAS*, Article XIII, Section 11 states, in part, that “[t]he State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people” and that “[t]here shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children”;

*WHEREAS*, President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao last May 23, after a clash erupted between government and members of Maute terror group in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur<sup>7</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, on 25 August 2017, the Philippine Daily Inquirer reported that several international humanitarian groups pointed out that the fighting in Mindanao has combined with extreme weather events to create a “humanitarian catastrophe”<sup>8</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, in the same report, Thibault Henry of *Acted* said that “basic needs are not covered”, while Javad Amoozegar of *Action Contre la Faim* said that humanitarian aid to the Philippines was falling far short of actual needs;

*WHEREAS*, on 4 August 2017, Rappler reported about an internally displaced person, Ramona Lingas, who asked for doctors, medicines, and drinking water for the evacuees and said that many in Marawi City are getting sick because the water is not potable<sup>9</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, in the same news article, local officials in Marawi were reported to have said that two (2) kids have already died in the evacuation center due to diarrhea, while another person died from asthma, and that they feared that the humanitarian crisis would escalate as the calamity funds run dry<sup>10</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, on 8 August 2017, ABS-CBN News reported that, according to the Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO), at least 30,732 evacuees have manifested

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<sup>7</sup> *Sunstar*. (23 May 2017). “Duterte declares martial law in Mindanao”. Retrieved from <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/manila/local-news/2017/05/24/duterte-declares-martial-law-mindanao-543524>. Accessed on 11 September 2017.

<sup>8</sup> *Inquirer.net*. (25 August 2017) “Aid groups see ‘humanitarian crisis’ in PH.” Retrieved from: <http://globalnation.inquirer.net/160014/aid-groups-see-humanitarian-crisis-ph> Accessed on 13 September 2017

<sup>9</sup> *Rappler* (4 August 2017). “Marawi humanitarian crisis grows even as battleground narrows.” Retrieved from: <https://www.rappler.com/move-ph/177686-marawi-humanitarian-crisis-grows-battleground-narrows> Accessed on 13 September 2017.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*.



mental disorders due to the prolonged war, and the difficulties in the living conditions in the evacuation centers, among others<sup>11</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, on 11 August 2017, Sunstar reported that, despite aid from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), much more is required to meet the needs of the displaced families in Marawi City with hardly any income and with resources running low<sup>12</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, on 26 August 2017, the Philippine Daily Inquirer reported that Kristoffer Purisima of Task Force Bangon Marawi admitted that they were aware that the situation was “delicate” and that it was expected that the displaced residents would have a lot of needs that have to be fulfilled<sup>13</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, on 22 August 2017, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) released an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Assessment Report on the Armed Confrontations and Displacement in Marawi<sup>14</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, in the said report, the UNHCR found that since the turnover of the humanitarian response oversight functions from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to Task Force Bangon Marawi, basic humanitarian assistance received by both home-based and evacuation center-based IDPs in Baloi and Saguiaran has reportedly reduced in frequency<sup>15</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, UNHCR further found that the increasing number of host families of IDPs are asking for humanitarian support due to the depletion of resources and to the impact of protracted armed confrontation in Marawi City, and that the armed confrontation in Marawi City has caused severe food shortage and constriction of economic activity, even in nearby municipalities causing residents therein to be displaced and relocated<sup>16</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, UNCHR also found that Persons with Specific Needs (PWSN), such as pregnant and lactating mothers, elderly persons, children with special needs, persons with disabilities and the sick, are not being accorded the priority necessitated

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<sup>11</sup> *ABS-CBN News* (08 August 2017). “‘Mental health crisis’ among Marawi evacuees alarms officials. Retrieved from <http://news.abs-cbn.com/focus/08/08/17/mental-health-crisis-among-marawi-evacuees-alarms-officials>. Accessed on 11 September 2017.

<sup>12</sup> *Sunstar* (11 August 2017). “Red Cross gives aid to 7,000 home-based Marawi evacuees”. Retrieved from <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/zamboanga/local-news/2017/08/11/red-cross-gives-aid-7000-home-based-marawi-evacuees-557991>. Accessed on 11 September 2017.

<sup>13</sup> *Inquirer.net* (26 August 2017). “Task force: No humanitarian crisis in Marawi City.” Retrieved from: <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/925689/marawi-city-maute-group-islamic-state-terrorism-task-force-bangon-marawi-kristoffer-purisima> Accessed on 13 September 2017.

<sup>14</sup> *UNHCR*. “IDP Protection Assessment Report,” Issue No. 4, dated 22 August 2017. Retrieved from: [http://www.protectionclusterphilippines.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/IDPPAR-Marawi-Displacement\\_Issue-04.pdf](http://www.protectionclusterphilippines.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/IDPPAR-Marawi-Displacement_Issue-04.pdf). Accessed on 13 September 2017.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

by their conditions, and that they, instead, end up sleeping on cartons, plastic sheets and other light materials<sup>17</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, UNHCR likewise found that there are emerging and worsening issues of waste management, such as lack of latrines, and poor hygiene that render children vulnerable to health risks<sup>18</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, based on data from the UNHCR, there are 359,680 IDPs or 78,466 families housed in the evacuation centers in 16 municipalities across Lanao Del Norte and Lanao Del Sur<sup>19</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, the Director of International Law and Policy of the ICRC, in a Statement specifically addressing “[p]rotection challenges and needs faced by women and girls in armed conflict and post-conflict settings”, said that the “[s]trengthening and building institutional capacities... should be a priority”<sup>20</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, in the same Statement, it further emphasized that “[i]t is equally important to bolster the ability of victims to heal and rebuild their lives” and that, towards this end, “[v]ictims should have access to economic support as well as to administrative and other legal remedies”, for such “are extremely important: they enable victims to survive and rebuild their lives”<sup>21</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, Amnesty International, in its 2016/2017 Report on Sri Lanka, observed that “[v]ictims of violations during the armed conflict faced challenges in rebuilding lives and livelihoods as coherent relief and reparation plans had yet to be implemented”<sup>22</sup>;

*WHEREAS*, while the continued pursuit of military action is important in order to neutralize the terrorists in Marawi City and, ultimately, to restore peace and order to the locality, the government must not lose sight of its duty to address the plight of the civilians adversely affected by the military operations;

*WHEREAS*, there is need to investigate the actual living conditions of the IDPs, whether home-based or evacuation center-based, and to make sure that they are not being neglected, in spite of any political developments in our country;

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<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> *Rappler* (01 September 2017). “Marawi evacuees pine for home as they observe Eid'l Adha”. Retrieved from <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2017/09/04/1735663/marawi-crisis-stalemate>. Accessed 11 September 2017.

<sup>20</sup> Statement dated 30 January 2015. Retrieved from <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/protection-challenges-and-needs-faced-women-and-girls-armed-conflict-and-post-conflict>. Accessed 20 September 2017.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> Retrieved from <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/asia-and-the-pacific/sri-lanka/>. Accessed 20 September 2017.



*WHEREAS*, there is a need to ensure that the respective and collective efforts of various government agencies – including, but not limited to, the AFP, DSWD, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Task Force Bangon Marawi, and so forth – as well as the assistance being extended by the private sector, non-governmental organizations and even foreign donors, are all being timely, strategically, efficiently and effectively applied towards a comprehensive and holistic approach to rehabilitating and rebuilding the lives and property that have been damaged or destroyed;

*WHEREAS*, such comprehensive and holistic approach to rehabilitation should take into consideration the need to address the short-, medium- and long-term physical, psychological, spiritual and even cultural needs of those who have been traumatized by the violence and sufferings wrought by the armed conflict, towards the end of ensuring that they will be fully and successfully reintegrated into society, as citizens who are capable of making positive contributions towards nation-building and the establishment of lasting peace;

*WHEREAS*, it is in how we treat our fellow Filipinos who cannot help or protect themselves can we prove our patriotism and establish the true path to lasting peace;

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED***, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Marawi City.

*Adopted,*

  
LILIA M. DE LIMA