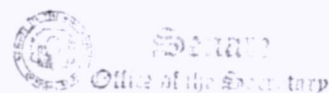


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE]
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES]
Third Regular Session]



'19 JAN 31 P 4:48

RECEIVED

Handwritten signature/initials

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 1010

Introduced by SENATOR SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED PROLIFERATION OF LOOSE AND UNLICENSED FIREARMS, IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT 10591 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "COMPREHENSIVE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION REGULATION ACT", THE EXISTENCE OF PRIVATE ARMIES UTILIZING THESE UNLICENSED FIREARMS INIMICAL TO THE COUNTRY'S PEACE AND ORDER, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ADOPTING POLICIES TO AMEND EXISTING LAWS OR STRENGTHENING THEIR ENFORCEMENT AND IMPLEMENTING EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS CONSISTENT WITH CONSTITUTIONAL PRECEPTS AND NATIONAL POLICIES TO PREVENT THIS THREAT TO PEACE AND ORDER FROM ESCALATING.

WHEREAS, Republic Act 10591 was primarily enacted to maintain peace and order and protect the people against violence, by providing for a comprehensive law to regulate ownership, possession, carrying, manufacture, dealing in and importation of firearm, ammunition, or parts thereof, in order to provide the legal support in the campaign against crime and stop the proliferation of illegal firearms or weapons;¹

WHEREAS, during the New Year revelry last year, a girl and a boy, both aged 10, were hit by stray bullets that came from a gun duel between two men in Maypajo, Caloocan. The two children recovered from their wounds. A year before that, 15-year-old Emilyn Villanueva died when a stray bullet hit her in the head while she was watching the fireworks display

¹ Sec. 2, R.A. 10591, AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE LAW ON FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

in Malabon.² Another incident involved a 13-year old boy who fatally shot his 16-year old alleged lover and himself inside a mall. A philandering husband was likewise shot dead by his battered wife – both guns used in the shooting were not licensed according to the PNP Civil Security Group;³

WHEREAS, the Firearms and Explosive Office of the Philippine National Police accounts that the total number of registered firearms in the Philippines as of December 31, 2018 is 1,7744,357, the number of expired licenses on the other hand total 1,042,778. A group called the GUNPOLICY.ORG estimates that the total number of guns (both licit and illicit) held by civilians in the Philippines in 2017 is 3,776,000, of which number 1,739,000 are registered, and, although the number of illicit firearms/unlawfully held guns cannot be counted, there are estimated to be 2,037,000 in 2017;

WHEREAS, while access to firearms on levels of violence is difficult to demonstrate, effective implementation of arms control initiatives/programs that are rigorous on acquisition and possession can curb the proliferation and illicit trade in firearms. The regulation of guns in the Philippines is categorized as restrictive, attempting to reduce firearms violence by substantially reducing the number of firearms in circulation. These regulatory set-ups (national laws, regulations and administrative procedures) for the acquisition and possession of firearms should not be abused by criminal groups or terrorists⁴;

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Directorate for Investigation and Detection Management (DIDM) of the PNP has recorded 15,739 index crimes involving crimes against persons for the period January-May 2018.⁵ With the advent of the 2019 midterm election, crimes which are politically motivated have started to occur, where in most cases, unlicensed firearms are utilized to avoid detection and capture of gunmen. Local government officials have likewise been emboldened to organize private armies utilizing loose unlicensed firearm to harass voters;

WHEREAS, the proliferation of illegal guns have in the larger sense brought to fore the Philippines' problem with Islamist insurgents in its wage of war against the government in the southern Philippines. Citing statistics it gathered, *Alert Philippines* said, that from 2011 to the first half of 2016, there were 5,413 incidents involving the use of guns in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and the Davao Regions, which resulted

² www.philstar.com/nation/2018/12/16/1877307/npd-seizes-133-loose-firearms#cXGF8Tg1G45ZXUwq.99

³ <https://www.pressreader.com/philippines/manila-times/20110923/282471410594551>

⁴ <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/U-Reports/SAS-Report-GVD2017.pdf>

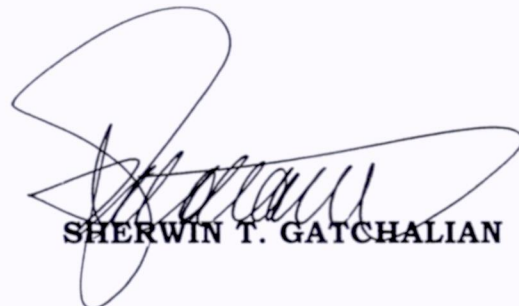
⁵ http://www.pnp.gov.ph/images/transparency_seal/2018/crimestats/Crime-Stat-Jan-May-2018.pdf

in 4,167 deaths and 3,736 injuries. It said that in contrast, the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have less than a million guns in their arsenal;⁶

WHEREAS, *Alert Philippines* further said that, there were four main sources of illegal guns in the country: *technical smuggling, domestic production, guns recycled from a battlefield, and expired and non-renewed gun licenses*. The sheer number of illicit weapons pose a serious challenge to the government's monopoly of the use of force to protect its citizens. This is a problem that can no longer be ignored;⁷ Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, into the alleged proliferation of loose and unlicensed firearms, in contravention of the provisions of Republic Act 10591, otherwise known as the "Comprehensive Firearms And Ammunition Regulation Act", the existence of private armies utilizing these unlicensed firearms inimical to the country's peace and order, with the end in view of adopting policies to amend existing laws or strengthening their enforcement and implementing early intervention programs consistent with constitutional precepts and national policies to prevent this threat to peace and order from escalating.

Adopted,



SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN

⁶ <https://www.manilatimes.net/duterte-urged-strengthen-gun-control-stop-terrorism/343373/>

⁷ *ibid*