



SENATE  
P.S. Res. No. 559

20 OCT 28 A10:35

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Introduced by SENATOR PANFILO M. LACSON

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY, PEACE, UNIFICATION AND RECONCILIATION TO EXERCISE ITS OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY OVER THE DEFENSE SECTOR ON THE ISSUE OF RED-TAGGING/RED-BAITING OF CERTAIN CELEBRITIES, PERSONALITIES, INSTITUTIONS, AND ORGANIZATIONS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CRAFTING PROPER GUIDELINES THAT WILL PREVENT MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND THE MILITARY AND ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE, THEREBY STRENGTHENING THE CONFIDENCE AND TRUST OF OUR PEOPLE ON THE PROFESSIONALISM OF OUR MILITARY IN CONSONANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL EDICT THAT THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) IS THE PROTECTOR OF THE PEOPLE AND THE STATE AND THAT CIVILIAN AUTHORITY IS AT ALL TIMES SUPREME OVER THE MILITARY**

**WHEREAS**, Article II Section 3 of the 1987 Constitution states that “civilian authority is at all times supreme over the military. 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.”;

**WHEREAS**, due to the many atrocities committed by the National People's Army (NPA), the armed component of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), which resulted in the countless number of deaths, both civilian and military, and damage to property amounting to millions of pesos, on December 5, 2017, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Proclamation No. 374 declaring the CPP-NPA as a designated terrorist organization under Republic Act No. 10168, otherwise known as the Terrorist Financing Prevention and Suppression Act of 2012;

**WHEREAS**, in addition to this, in a recent report, the Philippines ranks ninth (9th) in the *Global Terrorist Index of 2019* with its terrorist activities dominated by the

communist New People's Army. It was reported to be responsible for over 36% of deaths and 39% of terror-related incidents, at 107 and 179, respectively. It was further reported that the NPA has engaged in an insurgency against the government for five decades and has been known as the Philippines' deadliest terror group which has killed 2,387 individuals since 1970;

**WHEREAS**, in response thereto, Congress passed and the President signed Republic Act No. 11479, otherwise known as The Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020, which defines and criminalizes the crime of terrorism including that of recruitment and membership in a terrorist organization duly declared, i.e. proscribed, as such by the Court of Appeals;

**WHEREAS**, on October 13, 2020, actress Liza Soberano participated in an online activity of the group Gabriela Youth, entitled "*Mga Tinig ni Nene: Reclaiming Our Voices on the International Day of the Girl Child Live*", wherein she talked about being threatened online with rape;

**WHEREAS**, on October 21, 2020, Lieutenant General Antonio Parlade Jr., posted the following message on the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict Facebook Page, "*Let us not red-tag Liza Soberano. It's not fair to her. She is merely supporting advocacy for women's rights. She has to be protected in the exercise of her rights. Is she an NPA? No, of course not. Not yet. So let's help educate her and the other celebrity targets of Malayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan (MAKIBAKA), the Underground Mass Organization hiding under Gabriela Women's Party. So, Rep. Arlene Brosas and Gabriela, shame on you if you haven't informed your recruits about your hidden violent agenda. Liza Soberano, there's still a chance to abdicate that [Gabriela Youth] group. If you don't, you will suffer the same fate as Josephine Anne Lapira, former Deputy Secretary General of Gabriela Youth of UP, Manila and defender of women's rights, even against sexual predators amongst her comrades in the NPA unit she joined which is clearly stated in her handwritten letter addressed to a certain @EMIL. It's a pity she learned about nonsense things like nabbing a firearm, exploitation while already inside the underground. It was too late, she is [sic] dead. The choice is yours Liza. And so with you Catriona. Don't follow the path Ka Ella Colmenares (Locsin) took in the underground and NPA Quezon. I am sure Angel Locsin and Neri Colmenares will not tell you this.*";

**WHEREAS**, this controversial message resulted in a public outcry over Lt. Gen. Parlade's seeming "red-tagging" of the celebrity and of other public figures such as fellow actress Angel Locsin and beauty queen Catriona Gray who are also vocal about airing their advocacies and supporting several human rights groups;

**WHEREAS**, Supreme Court Associate Justice Marvic Leonen, in his dissenting opinion in the case of Zarate vs. Aquino III, cited a 2011 journal that defined red-tagging/red-baiting as "*the act of labelling, branding, naming and accusing individuals and/or organizations of being left-leaning, subversives,*

*communists or terrorists (used as) a strategy... by State agents, particularly law enforcement agencies and the military, against those perceived to be 'threats' or 'enemies of the state'.* He further said that for decades, red-tagging — labelling individuals and groups as communists or terrorists — has been a persistent and powerful threat to civil society and freedom of expression;

**WHEREAS**, two months ago, General Gilbert Gapay was also embroiled in a controversy when he suggested that the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 should regulate social media resulting in an admonition from Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who according to reports, told Gen. Gapay the oft-repeated statement, *"Less talk, less mistake"*;

**WHEREAS**, Lt. Gen. Parlade is recognized as an outstanding officer of the Philippine Army who for decades fought against insurgents, secessionists, and terrorists in defense of our people and country, and has accordingly received various recognitions to this end. Be that as it may, it cannot be further emphasized that Lt. Gen. Parlade, and all our men and women in uniform, should exercise prudence and self-discipline in making public pronouncements that may be misconstrued as the policy of the State;

**WHEREAS**, with the passage of The Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020, our military and police personnel are equipped with the necessary and proper tools to prevent and combat terrorism but are likewise mandated to protect the public from any abuse that may be done in relation to the implementation of the law;


**WHEREAS**, according to Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, "the President has spoken through Secretary Lorenzana when he warned both police and military authorities to be very careful in red-tagging," and that the Defense Chief even suggested not to publicize the names of suspected communists;

**WHEREAS**, State agents, particularly, law enforcement agents and the military, should be mindful and conscious in making public statements which directly or indirectly imply membership to insurgents or armed terrorist groups prior to a declaration, i.e., proscription of such group/s, by the Court of Appeals after due process has been accorded to all parties involved with sufficient proof presented to establish membership therein, lest they be accused of violating the constitutional rights of the person involved;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to direct the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation to exercise its oversight authority over the defense sector on the issue of red-tagging/red-baiting of certain celebrities, personalities, institutions, and

organizations, with the end in view of crafting proper guidelines that will prevent misunderstanding between the public and the military and ensuring the protection of the constitutional rights of the people, thereby strengthening the confidence and trust of our people on the professionalism of our military in consonance with the constitutional edict that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is the protector of the people and the state and that civilian authority is at all times supreme over the military.

***Adopted,***

  
**PANFILO M. LACSON**  
**Senator**