NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES	
Third Regular Session)

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24 AUG 19 P6:22

S E N A T E

P.S. RES. No. <u>1162</u>



Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED CASES OF RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT WITHIN THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES-NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY (CPP-NPA) WITH THE END VIEW OF AMENDING THE REVISED PENAL CODE AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8353, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-RAPE LAW OF 1997

- Whereas, Section 24, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that it is a State policy to recognize the vital role of communication and information in nationbuilding;
- Whereas, fostering an informed citizenry also contributes to the protection of human rights and social justice;
 - Whereas, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CCP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA) were founded by Jose Maria Sison in the late 1960s with the goal of overthrowing the Philippine government and thereafter establishing a communist state;
- Whereas, since its establishment, the attacks perpetrated by the CPP-NPA against the government resulted in the death of around 40,000 civilians, government forces, and rebels;
- Whereas, in a public hearing conducted by the Senate Committee on National Defense, Peace, Unification, and Reconciliation in 2020 on the issue of red-

- tagging/red-baiting of certain celebrities, personalities, institutions, and organizations,
- 2 former female communist rebels testified on the rampant abuses that transpire within
- 3 the communist organization;

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- Whereas, one of such was Lady Desiree Miranda, who introduced herself as former chairperson of Anakbayan Central Luzon, disclosed that she was allegedly raped by her commander some time in 2016, molested by her squad leader in 2017, and sexually assaulted by another comrade in 2018;
- Whereas, Miranda testified and alleged that "other female NPA fighters also experienced similar abuses within the NPA";
 - Whereas, after surrendering to the Philippine Army in 2020, another former rebel, known as "Ka Shane", a resident of Hilongos, Leyte, accused Paterno Opo, her former NPA commander and platoon leader, of raping her when she was 15 years old during her active days as a combatant;
 - Whereas, *Ka Shane*, also filed a case against her former squad leader and the platoon vice commander named Rey Dela Peña, whom she claimed had abused her in 2016 when she was assigned at the Caraballo Guerilla Front in Nueva Ecija;
 - Whereas, in a briefing conducted by the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) in March 2022, former cadre named Arian Jane Ramos alias *Ka Marikit* narrated that she personally met with some women who became victims of sexual abuse by their male comrades and commanders;
 - Whereas, the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs chaired by Senator Ronald dela Rosa has been relentless in conducting investigations on the recruitment of students and youth into the communist armed movement especially inside our educational institutions;
- Whereas, public information aids people in making healthier and more enhanced decisions;
- Whereas, conducting an information campaign about the realities inside organizations like the CPP-NPA can play an important role in discouraging students

- 1 and the youth in joining rebel groups: Now, therefore, be it
- 2 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate
- 3 Committee on Public Information and Mass Media to conduct an inquiry, in aid of
- 4 legislation, on the reported cases of rape and sexual assault within the CPP-NPA with
- 5 the end view of amending the Revised Penal Code and RA 8353, otherwise known as

6 the Anti-Rape Law of 1997.

Approved,

ROBINHOOD C. PADILLA

Senator