

SENATE  
P. S. Res. No. 679

RECEIVED BY: 

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*Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal*

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RESOLUTION

ENJOINING PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO TO RESCIND EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 739 OSTENSIBLY REORGANIZING THE PEACE AND ORDER COUNCIL AND DUPLICATING THE FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, THEREBY RESULTING TO FURTHER HINDRANCES TO THE STALLED PEACE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES (GRP) AND THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES (NDFP), WITH THE END IN VIEW OF REMOVING OBSTACLES TO THE RESUMPTION OF THE GRP-NDFP PEACE TALKS

WHEREAS the Communist Party of the Philippines-New Peoples Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) has been engaged in armed conflict with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) for nearly forty years now, citing the "acute exploitation of the workers and peasants, general state of backwardness in society and the corruption and brutality of the state" as a major basis of its struggle;

WHEREAS successive governments have conducted peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines since 1987, only interrupted a number of times by suspensions, breaks and impasses;

WHEREAS history has proven that a purely military approach (reinforced by executive policy ignorant of the root causes of rebellion) has not succeeded in providing a long term solution to one of the world's longest-running insurgencies;

WHEREAS Executive Order No. 739 "Reorganizing the Peace and Order Council," signed on 19 August 2008 by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, which brands the revolutionary movement as a "criminal group espousing ideological nonsense," can only aggravate the armed conflict and worsen relations between the GRP and the NDFP thereby hindering the resumption of the peace talks;

WHEREAS Executive Order 739 confers sweeping powers on the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government in enforcing national security measures over the national, regional, provincial and municipal levels that merely duplicate the existing organization, composition and functions of the National Security Council, in another terrible waste of taxpayers' money;

WHEREAS the provisions enforcing "sanctions against local chief executives who are giving material and political support to the Communist rebels" and the creation of the Internal Security Converge Office in each region have elicited controversy that the real purpose of this executive order is to effectively neutralize all opposition to the current government, including political opposition in view of the coming 2010 presidential elections;

WHEREAS in view of repeated claims by military and government officials that the communist rebellion has been contained and is now limited to certain areas, it does not stand to reason why a superbody in the form of the National Peace and Order Council should at all be created to combat a threat that they claim has been contained;

WHEREAS while it is <sup>in my</sup>undebatable that the armed conflict has taken a huge toll on the country as a whole, it is misleading and erroneous for EO 739 to blame the communist insurgency as the "primary stumbling block to progress" when in fact it is the culture of corruption, poverty and repression under the aegis of the current administration that have hindered meaningful social and economic reforms;

WHEREAS it is ironic that Executive Order 739 takes form as the country marks once again the imposition of martial law on 21 September 1972, when the dictator Ferdinand Marcos used the communist bogey to justify his objective of perpetuating himself in power;

WHEREAS the peace process is still the best option for resolving the armed conflict and in order to attain a just and lasting peace, it is essential that there be mutual trust between the GRP and NDFP;

WHEREAS Executive Order 739 will in the long run create more problems and distrust between the GRP and NDFP thereby creating more hindrances to the peace process;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to enjoin President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to rescind Executive Order No. 739 ostensibly reorganizing the Peace and Order Council and duplicating the functions of the National Security Council, thereby resulting to further hindrances to the stalled peace negotiations between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), with the end in view of removing obstacles to the resumption of the GRP-NDFP peace talks.

Adopted,

  
M. A. MADRIGAL