Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. ___835____

Introduced by
BAYAN MUNA Representatives CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,
FERDINAND R. GAITE and EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT

RESOLUTION
URGING THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE
TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
THE GUN-POINTING INCIDENT MADE BY THE CHINESE WARSHIP
TOWARDS THE BRP CONRADO YAP

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2020, Vice Admiral Rene Medina, Chief of the Western Mindanao
Command, confirmed that on February 17, 2020, a warship of the Chinese People’s Liberation
Army readied its guns for firing at a Philippine Navy ship near the Philippine-occupied Rizal
(Comodore) Reef in the West Philippine Sea;¹

WHEREAS, the Philippine Navy ship, BRP Conrado Yap (PS-39), was on a sovereignty patrol
mission when it encountered the Chinese corvette, with bow No. 514, according to Vice Admiral
Medina;²

WHEREAS, as a standard protocol during naval confrontation, a crew of the BRP Conrado Yap
issued a radio challenge to the Chinese vessel. According to Medina, the crew of the Chinese vessel
responded: “The Chinese government has imputable sovereignty over the South China Sea,
its lands and its adjacent waters,” and maintained its course and speed despite the instructions
from the Philippine Navy;³

WHEREAS, as of April 22, 2020, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said the DFA had
already filed two (2) diplomatic protests against Chinese activities – the PLA Navy gun-pointing
incident and the naming of two (2) islands inside the Philippine territory as part of China’s
administrative districts;⁴

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2020, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana defended the act of gun-
pointing at the BRP Conrado Yap by the Chinese warship, saying that while the act is just a bit
offensive, he alleged that the Chinese warship had no intention of hurting the Filipinos. He added
that it was merely a test of our reaction;

² ibid
⁴ https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1266235/zarate-tells-lorenzana-whether-it-was-a-test-gun-pointing-shows-china-is-a-bully
WHEREAS, Defense Secretary Lorenzana ordered the Philippine Navy to submit a comprehensive report on the reported harassment by the Chinese warship upon the BRP Conrado Yap and its crew;

WHEREAS, there have been numerous incidents of Chinese aggression and harassment of Filipinos in the West Philippine Sea, such as the harassment of Filipino fisherfolk as reported by the Philippine Coast Guard on September 27, 2016, the taking by the Chinese Coast Guard of the fish catch of Filipino fisherfolk as documented on May 20, 2018, and the boat-ramming incident on June 9, 2019;

WHEREAS, Section 4, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that, “the prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people. The Government may call upon the people to defend the State and, in the fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal military or civil service;”

WHEREAS, under Section 7, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, “the State shall pursue an independent foreign policy. In its relations with other states the paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and the right to self-determination;”

WHEREAS, furthermore, Section 2, Article XII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that “the State shall protect the nation’s marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone, and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino citizens;”

WHEREAS, in the face of the shameless bullying by the Chinese, the passive stance of the Philippine government, especially the President as the Commander-in-Chief, and the Defense Department, is truly unacceptable. Such spineless action only emboldens China to level up its bellicosity not only against the Philippines but also against the international community as it totally disregards generally accepted principles of international laws and conventions. It has been long-resolved by the arbitral tribunal under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea that China’s nine-dash line claim is baseless and invalid and that China has been violating the Philippines’ sovereign rights over its Exclusive Economic Zone.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives, through its Committee on National Defense, investigate, in aid of legislation, the gun-pointing incident made by the Chinese warship towards the BRP Conrado Yap.

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5 https://www.rappler.com/nation/147474-scarborough-harassment-filipino-fishermen
6 https://globalnation.inquirer.net/167606/caught-on-video-china-coast-guard-taking-ph-fishermens-catch-in-scarborough
Adopted,

REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
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REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
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