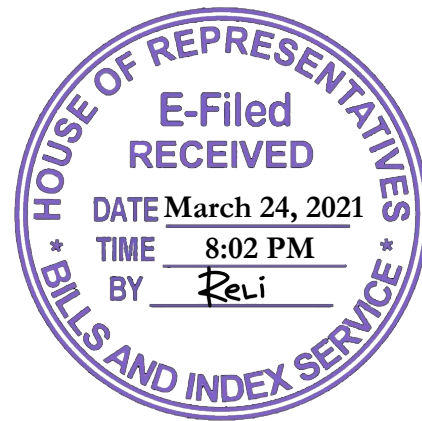


1 Republic of the Philippines
2 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3 Batasan Hills, Quezon City

4
5 EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
6 Second Regular Session

7
8 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1675
9



10 Introduced by BAYAN MUNA Reps. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,
11 FERDINAND R. GAITE and EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
12 ACT TEACHERS Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
13 GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
14 and KABATAAN Party-List Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

15
16
17 **RESOLUTION**

18 **URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE**
19 **ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDEMN AND CONDUCT AN**
20 **INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE PRESENCE OF MORE THAN**
21 **200 CHINESE VESSELS IN JULIAN FELIPE REEF**
22
23

24 **WHEREAS**, on March 7, 2021 around 220 Chinese vessels in line formation were spotted at the
25 Julian Felipe (Whitsun) Reef in the West Philippine Sea (WPS);

26
27 **WHEREAS**, the Philippine government has expressed concern on the matter as stated by the
28 National Task Force - West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) due to the possible overfishing and
29 destruction of the marine environment, as well as risks to safety of navigation;

30
31 **WHEREAS**, on March 22, 2021, the Chinese Embassy released a statement claiming the Chinese
32 fishing vessels took shelter near the Julian Felipe Reef due to rough sea conditions. It also denied the
33 involvement of Chinese Maritime Militias. Moreover, it added that any speculation only causes
34 unnecessary irritation¹;

35
36 **WHEREAS**, to date the Chinese government already established seven (7) military bases on the reefs
37 of the Philippines: in Mischief Reef, Johnson South, Cuarteron, Fiery Cross, Subi Reef, McKennan
38 Reef, and Gaven Reef. The Julian Felipe Reef may not be far from being the next;

39
40 **WHEREAS**, Julian Felipe Reef is a large boomerang – shaped shallow coral reef northeast of
41 Pagkakaisa Banks and Reefs, located at approximately 175 nautical miles west of Bataraza, Palawan;

42
43 **WHEREAS**, the reef is within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, over
44 which the Philippines have "exclusive right to use resources, including fish, oil and natural gas,"
45 according to the NTF-WPS;

¹ <http://ph.china-embassy.org/eng/sgdt/t1863034.htm>

1
2 **WHEREAS**, even though the Philippines adheres to the policy of amity with all nations, as enshrined
3 in the 1987 Constitution, the Philippine Government has a prime duty to serve and protect the people.
4 Moreover, the State puts paramount consideration to national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national
5 interest, and the right to self-determination when establishing relationships with other countries;
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Section 2, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution mandates that “the State shall protect
8 the nation’s marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone, and
9 reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino citizens;”
10

11 **WHEREAS**, despite the historical victory of the Philippines over its claims in the South China Sea
12 following the ruling of the UN’s International Tribunal on the Laws of the Sea dated July 12, 2016,
13 the Duterte administration took a passive stance over the matter unlike other countries with claims in
14 the South China Sea. To date, the Philippine government, especially the Armed Forces of the
15 Philippines, has yet to effectively enforce the arbitration award and protect the country’s national
16 patrimony and territorial integrity against China’s encroachment in the West Philippine Sea;
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the failure of the Duterte administration to protect the country’s territorial integrity
19 resulted to the loss of livelihood of many Filipino fisherfolk. With the continuing harassment by the
20 China Coast Guard and the Chinese deployment of maritime militias, Filipinos were deprived of the
21 natural resources in its own territory;
22

23 **WHEREAS**, considering the current situation where China is claiming virtually the whole South
24 China Sea, the position and deployment of the Chinese vessels may lead to another level of disrespect
25 to Philippine sovereignty over the West Philippine Sea, as well as heightened Chinese aggression. It is
26 feared that China will intensify the harassment and human rights violations against the Filipino people
27 and further deprive them of their rights over the natural resources in the Philippine territory;
28

29 **WHEREAS**, part of the duty of Congress is to ensure that our territorial integrity is intact, local and
30 international laws be honored and recognized, and more importantly, the safety and economic rights
31 of the people are protected and upheld. But Congress is also joined by all patriotic Filipinos in the
32 duty to defend our territories from foreign dominance and intrusion.
33

34 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of Representatives, through the
35 Committee on National Defense and Security, to condemn and conduct an investigation, in aid of
36 legislation, the presence of more than 200 Chinese vessels in the vicinity of the Julian Felipe Reef.
37
38

1 Adopted,
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6 **REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**
7 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

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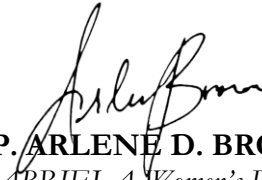
11
12 **REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE**
13 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

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16 **REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**
17 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

18 

19 **REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO**
20 *ACT Teachers Partylist*

21 

22 **REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS**
23 *GABRIELA Women's Party*

24 

25 **REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**
26 *Kabataan Partylist*
27