

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1961



Introduced by Honorable Representatives
ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women's Party);
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, FERDINAND R. GAITE, EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT (Bayan Muna);
FRANCE L. CASTRO (ACT Teachers Partylist);
and **SARAH JANE I. ELAGO (Kabataan Partylist)**

RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES AND HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DUMPING OF HUMAN WASTES AND SEWAGE OF CHINESE VESSELS ON SEVERAL PARTS OF WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

WHEREAS, the international tribunal ruling in 2016 has favored the Philippines in a maritime dispute on the West Philippine Sea. The Permanent Court of Arbitration has determined "as between the Philippines and China, there was no legal basis for China to claim historic rights to resources, in excess of the rights provided for by the Convention, within the sea areas falling within the '9-dash line.'";

WHEREAS, China rebuffed the Hague Ruling over the dispute on the West Philippine Sea. Hence, Chinese fishing vessels continue to operate on the West Philippine Sea. Based on the analysis of Similarity, a US-based geospatial imagery firm, from mid-May to June 17, a total of 238 Chinese ships were seen on the Philippine exclusive economic zone, an increase of 109 ships;

WHEREAS, on the fifth anniversary of the international tribunal ruling on West Philippine Sea, a report released by Similarity revealed that swarms of Chinese ships have been dumping human waste and sewage on West Philippine Sea for several years now;

WHEREAS, the feces and sewage discharge has caused chlorophyll A to increase. It resulted in too much phytoplankton that cannot be consumed by reef inhabitants. Therefore, it caused massive destruction to the marine resources;

WHEREAS, there are vessels situated in Union Banks or the Pagkakaisa Banks and Reefs, a large atoll located in Spratly Island, which produce chlorophyll A blooms;

WHEREAS, based on the satellite images accumulated by Similarity, in just five years, the marine resources have been severely damaged and have become visible from space;

WHEREAS, Liza Derr, founder and CEO of Similarity, admitted that the effects of human wastes and sewage to the marine life will “take decades to recover even with active mitigation”;

WHEREAS, the constant dumping of human waste and sewage of vessels seriously destroys the reefs and marine life in the West Philippine Sea. This could lead to a decrease of food supply and could eventually result in a hunger crisis for the entire world since the West Philippine Sea became the source of food for migratory fish. Moreover, the source of income of people around the coastal area will also be affected;

WHEREAS, this brazen act of Chinese vessels is a brazen manifestation of China's utter disrespect to the sovereignty and landmark victory of the Philippines on the West Philippine Sea dispute;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House Committee on Aquaculture and House Committee on Foreign Affairs immediately conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the dumping of human wastes and sewage of Chinese vessels on several parts of West Philippine Sea.

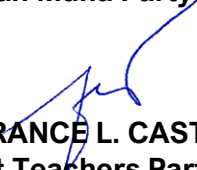
Adopted,


ARLENE D. BROSAS
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