

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 16

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
<b>RECEIVED</b>
DATE: <u>30 JUN 2016</u>
TIME: <u>2:05 PM</u>
BY: <u>[Signature]</u>
REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

---

Introduced by Representatives CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, EMMI A. DE JESUS,  
ANTONIO L. TINIO, ARLENE D. BROSAS, FRANCE L. CASTRO,  
ARIEL B. CASILAO and SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

---

**RESOLUTION**

**URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO R. DUTERTE TO VIGOROUSLY PURSUE  
THE ALREADY JUMPSTARTED PEACE NEGOTIATIONS  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES (GPH) AND THE  
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES (NDFP) AND  
CAUSE THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF DETAINED  
NDFP PEACE TALKS CONSULTANTS IN COMPLIANCE WITH  
THE JOINT AGREEMENT ON SAFETY AND IMMUNITY GUARANTEES  
PREVIOUSLY SIGNED BY THE GPH AND THE NDFP**

**WHEREAS**, President Rodrigo R. Duterte has consistently expressed his desire for a negotiated political settlement with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) during his electoral campaign and even after he was proclaimed elected president after the May 9, 2016 elections. In fact, one of his first positive acts on this desire was to personally talk via Skype with National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) Chief Political Consultant Prof. Jose Maria Sison and, consequently, the formation of a peace panel led by Peace Adviser Secretary Jesus Dureza and Peace Panel Chair Silvestre Bello III;

**WHEREAS**, during the Aquino Administration, the preliminary talks between the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the NDFP consisted of pursuing a "regular track" which should tackle the sequential substantive agenda stipulated in the 1992 Hague Joint Declaration (HJD), namely, the respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, the fundamental socio-economic and political reforms, and the end of hostilities and a "special track" proposed by NDFP consisting of a 10-point concise agreement to fast track the peace process;

**WHEREAS**, the peace talks during the Aquino administration hit an impasse and has led to arrests of several NDFP consultants with the OPAPP and GPH panel calling the previously agreed Hague Joint Declaration as a "document of perpetual division";

**WHEREAS**, on April 2013, the former Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) Secretary Teresita Deles unilaterally announced the collapse of the GPH-NDFP peace negotiations, ordered the disbandment of the government peace panel and then

proposed a “New Approach” that sought to instead localize peace talks and to establish so-called peace zones, among others;

**WHEREAS**, one of the unresolved issues in the negotiations of the previous administration has been the release of at least 21 detained NDFP consultants and other JASIG-protected persons, as stipulated in the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantee (JASIG);

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of JASIG, signed on February 24, 1995 by the GPH and the NDFP, is to “adopt safety and immunity of those who facilitate peace negotiations, to create favorable atmosphere conducive to free discussions and free movement during negotiations, and avert any incident that may jeopardize the negotiations;”

**WHEREAS**, the JASIG covers those who participate in the peace negotiations including negotiators, consultants, staff, security and other personnel;

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Communiqué signed by the negotiating panels of both parties on January 18, 2011 explicitly called for both panels to “work for the expeditious release of detained NDFP consultants and other JASIG-protected persons;”

**WHEREAS**, as the peace talks under the Aquino administration stalled, calls mounted for the immediate resumption of the peace negotiations between GPH and NDFP from various peace advocacy groups and international peace networks, collectively called the Citizens’ Alliance for Just Peace, namely: Waging Peace Philippines, Pilgrims for Peace Philippines, Sulong CARHRIHL, Philippine Ecumenical Peace Platform (PEPP), Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID), Philippine Peace Center, Women Engaged in Action 1325 and Generation Peace Youth Network and other civil society and people’s organizations;

**WHEREAS**, calls were also made for the full implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) and the reactivation of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC), which will “help mitigate the impact of the armed conflict, deter human rights violations, provide redress to the victims and end the climate of impunity.”

**WHEREAS**, during the exploratory talks between the incoming GPH peace panel formed by Pres. Duterte and the NDFP negotiating panel last June 14-15 2016 in Oslo, Norway both parties issued a Joint Statement dated June 16 2016 agreeing on the following: resumption of the formal peace talks in the third week of July 2016 in Oslo, Norway to be conducted in accordance with the previously signed agreements by the parties and to discuss the following agenda

- a.) affirmation of previously signed agreements
- b.) accelerated process for negotiations, including the timeline for the completion of the remaining substantive agenda for the talks: socio-economic reforms, political and constitutional reforms, and end of hostilities and disposition of forces
- c.) reconstitution of the JASIG list
- d.) amnesty proclamation for the release of all detained political prisoners, subject to the concurrence of Congress
- e.) mode of interim ceasefire;

**WHEREAS**, in the same Joint Statement, the GPH Panel commits to recommend (1) the immediate release of NDFP consultants and other JASIG protected persons to enable them to participate in the peace negotiations and (2) the immediate release of prisoners/detainees based on humanitarian grounds;

WHEREAS, the peace negotiations between the GPH and the NDFP is now on its crucial stage as it is slated to discuss and an craft agreement on the socio-economic reforms, as agreed in the sequential agenda set in the 1992 Hague Joint Declaration. The success of the current stage of the negotiations, will ultimately redound to the benefit of the Filipino people and the quest for a just and lasting peace in the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ADOPT THIS RESOLUTION, URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO R. DUTERTE TO VIGOROUSLY PURSUE THE ALREADY JUMPSTARTED PEACE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES AND CAUSE THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF THE THIRTEEN DETAINED NDFP PEACE TALKS CONSULTANTS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE JOINT AGREEMENT ON SAFETY AND IMMUNITY GUARANTEES SIGNED BY THE GPH AND THE NDFP

*Adopted,*

  
Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE  
*Bayan Muna Partylist*

  
Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO  
*ACT Teachers Partylist*

  
Rep. EMMI DE JESUS  
*Gabriela Women's Party*

  
Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO  
*ACT Teachers Partylist*

  
Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS  
*Gabriela Women's Party*

Rep. ARIEL B. CASILAO  
*Anakpawis Partylist*

  
Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO  
*Kabataan Partylist*