

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**37**

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

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Introduced by

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

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**A RESOLUTION  
CALLING FOR THE ABROGATION OF THE ENHANCED DEFENSE  
COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES (US-PH EDCA) AS THIS VIOLATES  
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, IMPERILS THE GEO-POLITICAL  
SITUATION IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, AND ENDANGERS THE  
LIVELIHOOD OF FARMERS, FISHERFOLK AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES'  
COMMUNITIES**

**WHEREAS**, the United States of America – Philippines Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (US-PH EDCA) was signed by former President Benigno Simeon Aquino III and US President Barack Obama, during the latter's state visit in the country on April 28, 2014;

**WHEREAS**, prior to the signing, the details of the agreement were not made public; the preparatory meetings conducted by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of National Defense and Office of the President regarding the drafting of the Framework Agreement for the Increased Rotational Presence which started way back in 2011 were kept secret;

**WHEREAS**, prior to its signing multi-sectoral groups and people's organization such as Bagong Alyasang Makabayan (BAYAN) and Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) protested against EDCA as it was viewed as a way to expand the holding of Balikatan Military Exercises in the countryside which have affected the livelihood and communities of farmers, fisherfolk and indigenous peoples who were banned from working on their farms and fishing areas during the said exercises;

**WHEREAS**, Balikatan Military Exercises through the years have affected the communities of farmers and Aeta indigenous people around Camp O' Donnell and Crow Valley mountain range in Capas, Tarlac, around Clark Air Base in Pampanga, Fort Magsaysay Military Reservation, fisherfolk communities in Subic and San Antonio, Zambales, around Sangley Point in Cavite, Mactan Airbase in Cebu, San Jose, Antique, Puerto Princesa City and Oyster Bay in Palawan and other military bases and reservations in the country;

**WHEREAS**, with the signing of EDCA, the country was transformed into a virtual US military base in the Asia-Pacific region, where US armed forces units have practically been given free rein in conducting operations of whatever nature in strategic points inside Philippine territory such as the Antonio Bautista Air Base in Palawan, Basa Air Base in Pampanga, Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, Lumbia Air Base in Cagayan de Oro, and Mactan-Benito Ebuen Air Base in Cebu;

**WHEREAS**, moreover, EDCA has facilitated the entry to the Philippine territory of US military vessels that can carry weapons of mass destruction such as submarines USS Ohio, a nuclear-powered submarine of US Navy, USS Tucson, USS Frank Cable, nuclear-powered aircraft carriers USS John C. Stennis and USS Ronald Reagan, F/A-18 fighter planes, and other weapons, that violated the constitutional ban on nuclear power;

**WHEREAS**, growing US military presence in the Philippines has negatively affected the country's international relations with other countries such as China; analysts have assessed that as the US continues to strengthen its position in the country, Chinese aggression in the region correspondingly heightens as already shown in the latter's incursive moves in the West Philippine Sea, its banning of Filipino fisherfolk in the Panatag Shoal, and its construction of man-made airstrips in the Fiery Cross Reef, Spratly islands;

**WHEREAS**, continued US military presence in the country through EDCA complicates and even jeopardizes Philippine efforts in pursuing an arbitration case against China as regards our claim to the West Philippine Sea at the Permanent Court of Arbitration of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas at The Hague, Netherlands; any peaceful tract in resolving the country's maritime dispute is effectively compromised as US military presence in Philippine territory represents a looming threat of war;

**WHEREAS**, Section 25, Article XVIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that "after the expiration in 1991 of the Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America concerning military bases, foreign military bases, troops, or facilities shall not be allowed in the Philippines except under a treaty duly concurred in by the Senate and, when the Congress so requires, ratified by a majority of the votes cast by the people in a national referendum held for that purpose, and recognized as a treaty by the other contracting State";

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives, as an independent branch of the government, should call for the abrogation of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement between the United States and the Philippines, to protect the welfare of the people, assert national sovereignty and contribute to the geo-political stability in the region.



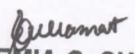
Adopted,



ARLENE D. BROSAS  
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