

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;<sup>1</sup>

**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;<sup>2</sup>

**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;<sup>3</sup>

**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;<sup>4</sup>

**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;

<sup>1</sup> <https://globalnation.inquirer.net/187078/wescom-says-chinese-warship-readied-guns-vs-ph-navy-ship-in-ph-territory>

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*

<sup>3</sup> <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/04/23/defense-chief-wants-navys-detailed-report-on-chinese-ships-harrassment-in-wps/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1266235/zarate-tells-lorenzana-whether-it-was-a-test-gun-pointing-shows-china-is-a-bully>

1  
2 **WHEREAS**, Defense Secretary Lorenzana ordered the Philippine Navy to submit a  
3 comprehensive report on the reported harassment by the Chinese warship upon the BRP Conrado  
4 Yap and its crew;

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, there have been numerous incidents of Chinese aggression and harassment of  
7 Filipinos in the West Philippine Sea, such as the harassment of Filipino fisherfolk as reported by  
8 the Philippine Coast Guard on September 27, 2016,<sup>5</sup> the taking by the Chinese Coast Guard of  
9 the fish catch of Filipino fisherfolk as documented on May 20, 2018,<sup>6</sup> and the boat-ramming  
10 incident on June 9, 2019;<sup>7</sup>

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, Section 4, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that, “the prime duty  
13 of the Government is to serve and protect the people. The Government may call upon the people  
14 to defend the State and, in the fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions  
15 provided by law, to render personal military or civil service;”

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, under Section 7, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, “the State shall  
18 pursue an independent foreign policy. In its relations with other states the paramount  
19 consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and the right to  
20 self-determination;”

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, furthermore, Section 2, Article XII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that  
23 “the State shall protect the nation’s marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and  
24 exclusive economic zone, and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino citizens;”

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, in the face of the shameless bullying by the Chinese, the passive stance of the  
27 Philippine government, especially the President as the Commander-in-Chief, and the Defense  
28 Department, is truly unacceptable. Such spineless action only emboldens China to level up its  
29 bellicosity not only against the Philippines but also against the international community as it totally  
30 disregards generally accepted principles of international laws and conventions. It has been long-  
31 resolved by the arbitral tribunal under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea that  
32 China’s nine-dash line claim is baseless and invalid and that China has been violating the  
33 Philippines’ sovereign rights over its Exclusive Economic Zone.<sup>8</sup>

34  
35 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives, through its  
36 Committee on National Defense, investigate, in aid of legislation, the gun-pointing incident made  
37 by the Chinese warship towards the BRP Conrado Yap.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/nation/147474-scarborough-harassment-filipino-fishermen>

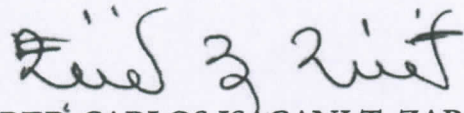
<sup>6</sup> <https://globalnation.inquirer.net/167606/caught-on-video-china-coast-guard-taking-ph-fishermens-catch-in-scarborough>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/iq/233394-timeline-chinese-sinking-filipino-boat-gem-ver-west-philippine-sea>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.lawfareblog.com/tribunal-issues-landmark-ruling-south-china-sea-arbitration>



Adopted,




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