

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 769



Introduced by Representative Hon. Elpidio F. Barzaga, Jr.

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES
TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION
INTO THE V- MALL HOSTAGE INCIDENT ON 02 MARCH 2020
IN ORDER TO ADOPT THE NECESSARY REFORMS IN EXISTING LAWS AND
ENACT RELEVANT NEW LAWS TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHT TO LIFE

WHEREAS, on 02 March 2020, according to a CNN news report, Archie Paray, a former security guard shot one person and took thirty hostages on a day long siege at V-Mall, Greenhills, San Juan before releasing them after an apology from his bosses.

WHEREAS, in a Rappler news report, Paray walked with a gun, a grenade, his phone and star apples when he started taking hostages and demanded that he speak with his fellow guards, to have his bosses fired and to speak with the media. He was offered P1 million but refused and insisted that he be heard. He showed authorities that he had multiple grenades with him but it was only one grenade that he showed four times within view of his phone camera. He also fooled his hostages by pointing to three star apples bulging in his bag and pretended that they were explosives.

WHEREAS, in the same Rappler news report, it was stated therein that he was able to take control of the negotiations and all his demands were granted, to wit: "He once issued an angry reminder to Zamora after the mayor reminded him that authorities had complied with his orders and that it was time for him to surrender. Paray said it was he who was making the demands, not the mayor."

WHEREAS, in a news conference, San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora said that Paray urged his fellow guards to join him in his protest against security management and also asked his fellow guards to stand outside V-Mall to watch and listen as he demanded that their bosses resign. Paray walked out of the mall with the hostages, faced reporters, was given a microphone by cops and told his story working as a mall guard. Paray alleged that he had been strictly enforcing the mall's "no ID, no entry" policy for tenants when one tenant was riled up and threatened him when he was refused entry. He was then reassigned and pushed him to quit work. He said, "Yung corruption dito sa Greenhills matindi. Lahat dito tumatanggap", that elicited applause from people who were able to slip past security lines

and watch from a few meters. Seconds later, cops tackled him to the ground, then took him under their custody where a gun was found tucked in his waist. He is set to face complaints of illegal possession of explosives, illegal possession of firearms, frustrated murder, grave coercion and grave threat.

WHEREAS, another Rappler news report listed at least fourteen hostage-taking incidents in the past 31 years. In 07 February 2019, a Benji dela Rosa held his own cousin hostage in Cebu City with no apparent reason. De la Rosa was then shot dead in an exchange with police. In 17 December 2018, a Dominador Abrinno held hostage a 5-year old child by using a gun that he took from a security guard in Sta. Mesa outside the PUP campus in Manila. He allegedly fired and injured several people. After two hours of negotiations, Abrinno surrendered and released the child. In 09 October 2016, a man burdened with domestic troubles took hostage at least 12 people in SM City Dasmarinas, Cavite. Lacdao stabbed several victims leaving one dead. He was eventually killed by police 3 hours into the incident. In 09 October 2015, a man took over a bus along Taft Avenue in Manila, taking his fellow passengers. Police tried to negotiate with him for an hour but eventually fired at the suspect after seeing him pressing a "pointed object" on one victim. He was declared dead on arrival at the hospital. In 23 August 2010, Rolando Mendoza, a dismissed policeman took over a tour bus in Manila, taking hostage 23 tourists and demanded reinstatement after he was dismissed due to alleged extortion. He killed at least 8 of his hostages and strained the relations between the Philippines and Hong Kong. In 28 March 2007, a Jun Ducat and another man held hostage 32 children and at least 3 teachers inside a bus parked in front of the Manila City Hall. According to a Reuters report, he was armed with a submachine gun, revolver and grenades. Using a loudspeaker, he aired his grievances against government corruption and the dire situation of poor families in the Philippines. After a negotiation of 10 hours, he eventually released his hostages.

WHEREAS, in July 2018, in a span of eight days, at least 5 local officials were gunned down. In a Rappler new report published in 12 July 2018, PNP chief Director General Oscar Albayalde said that PNP estimates that there are around one million loose firearms in the country, and a number of them, he said, may be in the hands of people with "criminal minds."

WHEREAS, in a Rappler report dated 10 January 2013, it was alleged that requirements to purchase a gun such as drug test, neuro-psychiatric clearance, mayor's clearance and a gun club certificate are even dispensed with, to wit:

"Also listed as requirements were a drug test, neuro-psychiatric clearance, mayor's clearance and a gun club certificate. But none of them had checks next to them.

'How about these? Do I need to obtain these?' I asked.

'No, we'll take care of it. Just pay us a license fee of 5,500 pesos and we'll take care of all that,' he said.

I paused to clarify. '

You will take care of my drug test? My neuro-psychiatric exam? Meaning you will clear me with the PNP?'

'Yes,' he said. 'We will even take care of the safety seminar. Kami na rin po bahala,' he assured me."

WHEREAS, due to these alarming events, there is a need to review existing laws as well as the possible enactment of laws that regulates firearms, its users and its use in order to create a safe environment and safeguard our most fundamental human right, the right to life.

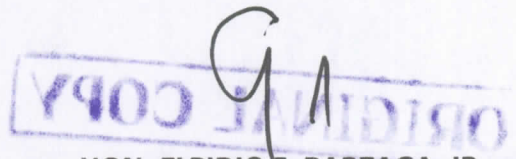
WHEREAS, there is equally a need to review the recruitment, enlistment, training, re-training, as well as develop the skill to assess and identify risky individuals by members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, security guard agencies and people who carry or have access to firearms.

WHEREAS, owners and responsible officers of private security agencies should be held accountable of their company actions and practices, its employees and make sure that they are undergoing the same regulations, criteria and processes in acquiring, storing and using firearms as civilians considering that they are tasked with safeguarding persons and property.

WHEREAS, weapons for military use and of military capacity have absolutely no place in the hands of civilians and there is a need to investigate how hostage takers had access to grenades and submachine gun and how to make sure that this does not happen again.

WHEREAS, there is also a need to investigate and ensure that government authorities, security agencies and other stake holders shall know and take the appropriate response in a hostage taking situation in order to prevent injuries as well as loss of life and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the House of Representatives directing the appropriate committee to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the V- Mall hostage incident on 02 March 2020 in order to adopt the necessary reforms in existing laws and enact relevant new laws to safeguard the right to life.



HON. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA, JR.

Representative

Lone District of the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite