

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session  
**678**  
**HOUSE RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**



Introduced by  
**BAYAN MUNA Representatives CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,**  
**FERDINAND R. GAITE and EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,**  
**ACT TEACHERS Party-List Representative FRANCE L. CASTRO,**  
**GABRIELA Women's Party Representative ARLENE D. BROSAS**  
**and KABATAAN Party-List Representative SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**

**RESOLUTION**  
**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO**  
**TERMINATE THE RP-US VISITING FORCES AGREEMENT, ENHANCED**  
**DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT, MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY AND**  
**OTHER SIMILAR AGREEMENTS AND TO BAR ANY FUTURE PLANS GIVING**  
**ACCESS OF PHILIPPINE MILITARY BASES TO AMERICAN AND OTHER**  
**FOREIGN FORCES**

**WHEREAS**, during his State of the Nation Address held July 23, 2018, President Rodrigo Duterte said that the Philippines, under his watch, will pursue and assert an independent foreign policy;

**WHEREAS**, on January 23, 2020, President Duterte threatened the termination of the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States following the cancellation of Senator Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa's US visa;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, activists, progressive groups and organizations have long demanded the cancellation or abrogation of the VFA, along with Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) and the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT). In fact, one of the mobilizations to call US troops out of the Philippines was held last October 4, 2016 wherein people urged President Duterte to terminate these onerous agreements with the US after his criticisms to the US government at that time;<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, in the House of Representatives, the Makabayan Bloc consistently filed house resolutions calling for the scrapping of the VFA and EDCA to assert Philippine sovereignty and protection of the Filipino people. Numerous cases of human rights violations perpetrated by the US troops, as well as the US advancement of its political and economic interest masked behind VFA and other defense agreements, were highlighted as some of the justifiable and legitimate reasons to terminate such onerous, one-sided agreements;

<sup>1</sup> <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/24/20/galit-si-presidente-vfa-can-be-scrapped-without-senate-approval-says-panelo>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bulatlat.com/2016/10/05/end-vfa-edca-progressives-urge-duterte-act-anti-us-imperialism-tirades/>

1  
2 **WHEREAS**, allowing US forces and their allies to establish de facto bases in the Philippines,  
3 not only betrays the people's 1991 verdict of terminating the onerous RP-US Military Bases  
4 Agreement but also creates serious implications to the country and the region's pursuit of  
5 peaceful settlement of territorial disputes;  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the US is only interested in advancing its own political and economic interests and  
8 is using the 20-year old bilateral Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) to take advantage of the  
9 country's strategic geographic location, forces and facilities in its bid to counter China;  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, the Philippine government should not let other nations dictate how we should act  
12 and deal with other countries, especially pertaining to territorial disputes;  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, US presence and intervention, using the VFA as an excuse, have long been  
15 undermining attempts for peaceful resolution of disputes between the Philippines and other  
16 countries. It has also violated Philippine laws as reports show de facto basing and US troops'  
17 direct involvement in combat operations of the Philippine military;  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, during the heated tension between the US and Iran, which resulted from the US  
20 assassination of Iranian Major General Qassem Soleimani and worsening US aggression in the  
21 Middle East, the MDT posed a possibility that the Philippines will send troops and aid the US in  
22 case the tension escalated into war, which endangered the lives of Filipino people, especially the  
23 overseas workers;<sup>3</sup>  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the Filipino people should be spared from being embroiled in US aggression  
26 against other countries;  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, justice should also be served for the past and continuing transgressions of the US  
29 forces against citizens and Philippine sovereignty, such as the citing VFA provisions to protect  
30 US troops from being investigated and prosecuted for criminal acts against Filipinos and to  
31 escape accountability for damages as in the case of the Tubbataha Reef grounding;  
32

33 **WHEREAS**, Congress should call for the termination or abrogation of the VFA, EDCA, MDT  
34 and other similar onerous defense agreements because it is gravely disadvantageous to the  
35 country and our people. More importantly, abrogating these unfavorable agreements is to assert  
36 Philippine sovereignty and protect the Filipinos and oppose US attempts to use the Philippines  
37 for its political and economic interests in Asia;  
38

39 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives expresses its  
40 support to terminate and abrogate the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement, Enhanced Defense  
41 Cooperation Agreement, Mutual Defense Treaty and other similar onerous agreements and to  
42 bar any future plans giving access of Philippine military bases to American and other foreign  
43 forces.

---

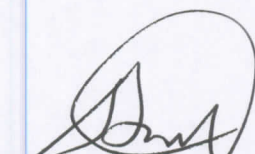
<sup>3</sup> <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1209898/breaking-duterte-to-side-with-us-if-filipinos-are-harmed-in-middle-east-ruckus>




1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30


*Adopted,*

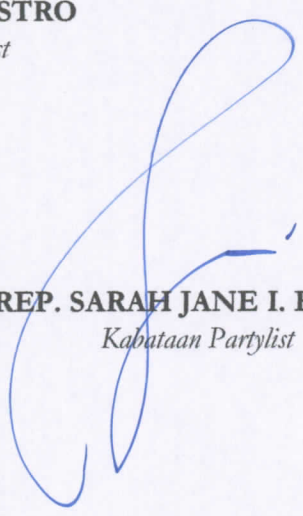
  
**REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**  
*Bayan Muna Partylist*

  
**REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE**  
*Bayan Muna Partylist*

**REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**  
*Bayan Muna Partylist*

  
**REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO**  
*ACT Teachers Partylist*

  
**REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS**  
*GABRIELA Women's*

  
**REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**  
*Kabataan Partylist*