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SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

SENATE

P.S.R. No. 881

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Introduced by Senator Teofisto "TG" Guingona III

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**RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE FILIPINO PEACEKEEPERS IN GOLAN HEIGHTS FOR EXHIBITING COURAGE AND BRAVERY AMIDST GRAVE DANGER AND CONFLICT, SHOWCASING THE FILIPINO SPIRIT OF VALOR AND EXCELLENCE**

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations peacekeeping force has been stationed in Golan Heights since 1974 to monitor a ceasefire between Israel in Syria;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, there is a 331-strong Filipino contingent serving as part of the United Nations Disengagement Force in the Golan Heights;<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, 75 Filipino troops were encamped at Position 68 and 69 in Golan Heights;<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, in August 28, 2014, Syrian rebels surrounded the two encampments of Filipino peacekeepers;<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the Syrian rebels demanded that the Filipino peacekeepers surrender their firearms, but the Filipino peacekeepers refused, resulting in a standoff;<sup>5</sup>

**WHEREAS**, in August 30, 2014, at around 6 a.m. Syrian time, around 100 rebels attacked Position 68, where the 40 Filipino soldiers valiantly held their ground, leading to a seven-hour firefight;<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Mynardo Macaraig, *Philippine UN peacekeepers safe after 'greatest escape,'* YAHOO NEWS, August 31, 2014, available at <http://news.yahoo.com/fate-un-peacekeepers-syrian-golan-unclear-172840001.html> (last accessed September 1, 2014).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Julie M. Aurelio, *All 75 Filipino peacekeepers in Golan Heights now safe – AFP*, PHIL. DAILY INQ., August 31, 2014, available at <http://globalnation.inquirer.net/110329/all-75-filipino-peacekeepers-in-golan-heights-now-safe-afp> (last accessed September 1, 2014).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

**WHEREAS**, later on Saturday afternoon, the first group of 35 Filipino peacekeepers from Position 69 managed to leave their encampment with Irish peacekeepers securing their escape route;<sup>7</sup>


**WHEREAS**, at around midnight, 40 Filipino peacekeepers from Position 68 fled on foot, walking 2.3 kilometers to safety, as the rebels slept;<sup>8</sup>

**WHEREAS**, these Filipino peacekeepers exhibited extraordinary valor above and beyond their call of duty, demonstrating once again that Filipinos are among the bravest peacekeepers in the world;

**WHEREAS**, a commendation is in order for the Filipino peacekeepers, who showed their courage and bravery amidst grave danger and conflict;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to commend the Filipino peacekeepers in Golan Heights for showing courage and bravery amidst grave danger and conflict, showcasing the Filipino spirit of valor and excellence.

Adopted,

  
TEOFISTO "TG" GUINGONA III

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<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*