RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN GAZA AND JERUSALEM, AND THE INHUMANE AND HOSTILE AGGRESSIONS OF ISRAELI FORCES AGAINST PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS

WHEREAS, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights sets out in Article 3: “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person,” and in Article 18: “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance”;

WHEREAS, on the first day of Ramadan, the four minarets that make the daily call to prayer at the Al Aqsa Mosque were gravely vandalized by Israeli security forces, violating the existing arrangements that respect Jerusalem’s holy sites, which have been in place since 1852, and venerated by all powers since;

WHEREAS, the confrontations have escalated into rocket-firing, air strikes and deaths, especially when the Supreme Court of Israel planned to evict several Palestinian families from the east of Jerusalem;

WHEREAS, on May 17, the Palestinian Health Ministry recorded a total of 212 deaths, including 61 children, 35 women and 16 elderly people, while the Israel Defense Forces maintained that 130 of the Palestinians killed so far have been combatants;

WHEREAS, from the varying numbers emerges the horrifying reality that innocent lives are being impacted, violating the thrust of International Humanitarian Law of limiting the effects of armed conflict, specifically in relation to the protection of civilians and their rights;

WHEREAS, countries and the international community have so far reacted to the events. Turkey, Iran, Egypt, and the Middle East Quartet, namely the US, Russia, the European Union and the UN – on Saturday expressed “deep concern” over violence in Jerusalem. Pope Francis on Sunday also called for an end to the violence, saying he was “following with particular concern the events that are happening in Jerusalem”. Germany, United Kingdom, France, Indonesia;
WHEREAS, the Philippines is one with the international peace-loving community in denouncing, in the strongest terms possible, the Israeli forces’ violent aggressions against Palestinian civilians and its disrespect to the Islam faith and to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as a place of worship;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT SOLVED by the House of Representatives to CONDEMN THE ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN GAZA AND JERUSALEM, AND THE INHUMANE AND HOSTILE AGGRESSIONS OF ISRAELI FORCES AGAINST PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS.

Adopted,

HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN
Deputy Speaker
Representative, Lone District of Basilan

HON. AMIHILDA J. SANGCOPAN
AMIN Party-List

HON. DATU ROONIE Q. SINSUAT, SR.
Maguindanao, 1st District

HON. MUNIR M. ARBISON
Sulu, 2nd District

HON. ANSARUDDIN ABDUL MALIK A. ADIONG
Lanao del Sur, 1st District

HON. YASSER ALONTO BALINDONG
Lanao del Sur, 2nd District

HON. ESMAEL G. MANGUDADATU
Maguindanao, 2nd District