

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 742

Introduced by
ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,
and **KABATAAN Party-List Rep. RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL**

RESOLUTION
URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO ISSUE AN APOLOGY FOR THE ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY ITS
MILITARY FORCES AGAINST THE FILIPINO PEOPLE DURING THE
PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR AND THE IMPOSITION OF U.S.
COLONIAL RULE

WHEREAS, February 4, 2023 marks the 124th anniversary of the outbreak of the Philippine-American War;

WHEREAS, on February 4, 1899, despite strong domestic opposition to US colonial expansion and retention of the Philippines, US troops initiated the Philippine-American War with the shooting of Corporal Anastacio Felix of the 4th Company, Morong Battalion, and two other Filipino sentries at an outpost in Sociego corner Silencio Streets, Sta. Mesa, Manila;

WHEREAS, the shots signaled not only the opening of hostilities against the armed forces of the First Republic of the Philippines but also the launching of a war of aggression against seven million Filipinos, who had just newly won their liberty from the colonial rule of Spain;

WHEREAS, the Filipinos faced overwhelming odds in defending against an occupying force that was vastly superior economically and militarily, resulting in crushing defeats with lopsided casualties on the Filipino side during the opening phase of the war;

WHEREAS, when Filipino forces, enjoying the near-universal support of the populace, turned to guerrilla warfare to mitigate the advantages of the invading forces, the latter turned their aggression on the general population, with devastating consequences;

WHEREAS, in order to incapacitate the guerrilla forces and as a form of retaliatory slaughter for successful guerrilla operations, the American military targeted whole populations throughout the archipelago, displacing whole communities and interning them in concentration camps; employing scorched earth tactics that destroyed homes, crops, food stores, livestock, and water supplies; establishing “dead zones,” “cordon tactics,” and instigating “depopulation campaigns in which civilians were killed indiscriminately;

WHEREAS, such atrocities were committed by US forces in their conquest of Panay, Marinduque, Samar (turned into a “howling wilderness” upon the orders of General Jake Smith), Batangas (where Maj. Gen. J. Franklin Bell’s use of concentration camps led to the outbreak of cholera and other diseases that killed over 100,000 people), and other provinces;

WHEREAS, American soldiers gained notoriety for using water-boarding (the so-called “water cure”) and other forms of torture as means to elicit information from guerrillas and civilians alike;

WHEREAS, the Filipino people matched American brutality with nationwide resistance to the imposition of U.S. colonial rule, persisting well beyond the fall of the First Republic and the official declaration of the end of the war in July 1901, carried forward by freedom fighters labeled as bandits by the colonizers, including Faustino Guillermo and his new *Katipunan*, Simeon Ola and the guerillas of Bicol, Papa Faustino and the *Pulajanes* of Leyte, Papa Isyo of Negros, Apo Ipe of Bulacan, and Macario Sakay, who declared a *Republika ng Katagalugan* in 1902, and the Moro people’s resistance to the U.S. occupation, marked by the massacres of Bud Dajo in 1906 and Bud Bagsak in 1913, went unabated until 1916;

WHEREAS, the Philippine-American War stands as one of the bloodiest chapters in our nation's history, with conservative estimates placing the number of Filipino soldiers killed at 34,000 together with at least 200,000 civilian deaths, while others have claimed, based on population figures before and after the war, that over one million Filipinos lost their lives as a result of the conflict;

WHEREAS, the abovementioned conduct of US forces during the Philippine-American War constitute war crimes that violate fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, such as the distinction between combatants and non-combatants and the concepts of military necessity and proportionality;

WHEREAS, both international humanitarian law and international human rights law recognize the right of victims to reparation, which covers apology—including

acknowledgment of the facts and acceptance of responsibility—for state-sponsored war crimes;

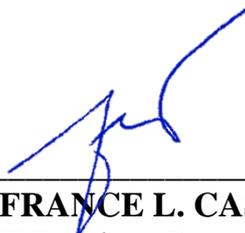
WHEREAS, relations between the Philippines and the United States, to be truly based on equality and mutual respect, must be grounded on the truthful acknowledgment of a shared history;

WHEREAS, the foregoing requires that the United States government acknowledge and take responsibility for the atrocities committed by its armed forces against the Filipino people during the Philippine-American War;

WHEREAS, such acknowledgment has become urgent and necessary in the light of the Marcos administration's initiatives to expand the presence of US military forces and facilities on Philippine soil, the latest efforts being the expansion of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement with four new so-called Agreed Locations on top of the five existing ones. This EDCA and its companion agreements, including the Visiting Forces Agreement, are tools with which the US uses the Philippines as a staging ground for its military and economic aspirations in the Asia Pacific region, and thereby acts as a modern colonizer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives urge the government of the United States of America to issue an apology for the atrocities committed by its military forces against the Filipino people during the Philippine-American War and the imposition of U.S. colonial rule.

Adopted,



Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-List



Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women's Party



Rep. RAOUL DANNIELA A. MANUEL
KABATAAN Party-List