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SENATE  
P.S. Res. No. 416

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Introduced By Senator Loren Legarda

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**RESOLUTION**

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, AND THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION TO LOOK INTO THE SITUATION OF FILIPINOS IN IRAQ TOWARD AFFORDING THEM PROTECTION WITHIN THE PARAMETERS PROVIDED UNDER THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995, AS AMENDED**

*WHEREAS*, the Philippines banned its citizens from working in Iraq in July 2004 after insurgents abducted and threatened to behead Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz;

*WHEREAS*, in August 2010, the United States directed its contractors to effect the repatriation of third country nationals under their employ whose countries are imposing a ban on travel or deployment of workers to Iraq;

*WHEREAS*, notwithstanding such ban on travel and deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq, it is estimated that 8,000 Filipinos continue to work in Iraq, who, by virtue of the absence of legal documentation covering their employment and stay in Iraq, are in effect more vulnerable to risks;

*WHEREAS*, Filipinos in Iraq have called on the Philippine government to lift the travel and deployment ban to Iraq to enable them to regularize their stay and employment in Iraq as they will be afforded proper legal documentation and protection under Philippine laws and the laws of Iraq;

*WHEREAS*, the Iraqi government has called on the Philippines to lift its travel and deployment ban to Iraq in the light of vast opportunities for Filipino workers to participate and contribute in the reconstruction efforts of Iraq under an improved security situation;

*WHEREAS*, these opportunities are driven by reconstruction efforts involving more than 3 million houses, thousands of schools and more than 100 hospitals, and which opportunities may entice Filipinos who may travel and work in Iraq even with the current travel and deployment ban imposed by the Philippine government;

*WHEREAS*, the recent political unrest in many countries require a more pro-active approach that will enable the government to document the identity, and monitor the status and location of its nationals overseas;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to request the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Labor and Employment, and the

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to look into the situation of Filipinos in Iraq and the prevailing conditions therein toward affording Filipinos thereat protection within the parameters provided under the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, as amended, and to determine if the guarantees set forth in the said law are present to merit a consideration of the calls to lift the ban of travel and deployment of workers to Iraq.

Approved,



**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator