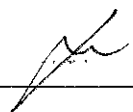


SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1152 # RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED TO PROTECT FILIPINO
CHILDREN FROM SELLING THEIR OWN KIDNEYS
TO MAKE ENDS MEET

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 11 provides: “The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights”;

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 13 of the same provides: “The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs”;

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 15 of the same provides: “The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them”;

WHEREAS, the *The Philippine Star* in its article entitled “Pinoy Children Sell Own Kidneys To Make Ends Meet” dated 22 June 2009 reported that according to a study conducted by the End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking (ECPAT) in Metro Manila and the Quezon Province, 250 people were identified to have sold their kidneys and of that number, two were below eighteen years old;

WHEREAS, Amihan Abueva of ECPAT reportedly said that the two children told them that they were recruited by someone and were paid P112,000.00 each for their kidneys;

WHEREAS, in the same article, Abueva claimed that selling kidneys is the newest form of child exploitation in the country;

WHEREAS, government medical experts have also claimed that syndicates are now using online marketing and to offer organs to prospective foreign and local buyers;

WHEREAS, in the same article, Dr. Benita Padilla of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute said online organ selling has become rampant in the country despite the ban on organ trafficking;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that the worldwide shortage of available organs for transplantation has encouraged commercial trafficking in human organs, particularly among living unrelated donors;

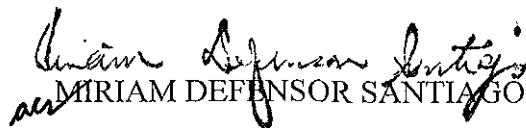
WHEREAS, young Filipino children, consumed by poverty and their desire to survive, have succumbed to the deplorable practice of the commercialization of organs;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Republic Act 9208 also known as the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, the selling or exporting human organs is punishable by a jail term of at least 20 years plus stiff fines, but few traffickers have been prosecuted;

WHEREAS, all avenues, particularly the black market for organ trafficking and marketing and online programs on the internet for the sale of organs, must be effectively blocked by the State and the perpetrators prosecuted and punished in order to protect vulnerable sectors of our society who sell their organs out of dire financial need to the detriment of their health and future;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported incidence of Filipino children who are selling their own kidneys in order to make ends meet.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/ctr