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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1276

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO CONDEMN THE IMPOSITION
BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA OF ANOTHER SENTENCE ON AUNG SAN
SUU KYI, AND TO VEHEMENTLY JOIN WORLDWIDE CALLS FOR HER
IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM HOUSE ARREST

WHEREAS, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Article 9, provides: "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile";

WHEREAS, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Article 9, Section 1, states: "Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law";

WHEREAS, the Philippines, as a member of the United Nations (UN) and signatory to the UDHR and ICCPR, upholds fundamental human rights, the dignity and worth of the human person, and the equal rights of women and men;

WHEREAS, all members states of the UN have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the UN Charter, and as elaborated in the UDHR, the ICCPR, and other applicable human rights instruments;

WHEREAS, international and local media reported that last 11 August 2009, a court in Burma found democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi guilty of violating her house arrest by allowing an uninvited American national to stay at her home; she was ordered to serve another 18-month sentence under house arrest;

WHEREAS, Suu Kyi has already been in detention for 14 of the last 20 years, mostly under house arrest; the extension of her detention will effectively remove her from the political scene while Burma holds elections next year; British Prime Minister Gordon Brown called the verdict a "purely political sentence" aimed at keeping Suu Kyi out of the 2010 elections;

WHEREAS, the sentence drew outrage and harsh criticisms from foreign governments, international organizations, and human rights groups around the world;

WHEREAS, in a statement, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo called Suu Kyi's conviction "incomprehensible and deplorable"; he said, "The Philippines echoes the statements made by United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon that there can be no way forward in Myanmar's quest for political, economic and social progress without respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms";

WHEREAS, the European Union vowed to hit the military junta in Burma with more economic sanctions; Britain demanded an arms embargo; Australia also called for tougher sanctions against Burma, and urged the junta to release Suu Kyi in the interests of national reconciliation;

WHEREAS, Aung San Suu Kyi's new sentence and continued detention is in violation of the UDHR, the ICCPR, and Burma's own "Roadmap for Democracy," its avowed program of releasing political detainees;

WHEREFORE, let it be expressed as the sense of the Senate to condemn the imposition by the government of Burma of another sentence on Aung San Suu Kyi, and to vehemently join worldwide calls for her immediate release from house arrest.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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