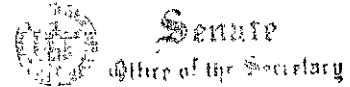



FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



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S E N A T E

RECEIVED BY. 

P. S. Res. No. 604

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEES ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCREASING INCIDENTS OF OFW MURDERS AND THOSE KILLED WITH IGNOMINY WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING POLICIES TO PROTECT OFW'S AS WELL AS FORMULATING BETTER REPATRIATION PROCEDURE AND A RELEVANT SYSTEM OF GIVING ASSISTANCE TO THEM

Whereas, Section 18 Article II of the 1987 Constitution states that, "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare.";

Whereas, the first paragraph of Section 3 of Article XIII of the fundamental law proclaims that, "The State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all.";

Whereas, last September 8, 2010, Romilyn Elroy-Ibanez, a 22-year old OFW, was found dead on the kitchen floor, drenched in her own blood and with a bottle of sulfuric acid beside her, in her employer's house in Alkhubar, Saudi Arabia;

Whereas, based on medical records, she died due to acid ingestion and multiple stab wounds;

Whereas, the Philippine embassy in Saudi Arabia received commitment from Prince Mohammad bin Fahad bin Abdulaziz al Saud, emir of the Eastern province, that the case will be closely investigated and justice will be served¹;

Whereas, in February 2011, the Philippine embassy received copies of the investigation and forensic reports from the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the contents of which were not disclosed;

Whereas, it took a year for the Philippine Embassy in Saudi Arabia to work for the repatriation of Romilyn's remains;

Whereas, last September 2011, Ms. Ibanez's remains were finally repatriated a year after her death but were missing a tongue and an eye;

¹ "Phi embassy in Saudi sends Pinay's body home sans eye, tongue," by Mayen Jaymalin, Philippine Star, September 14, 2011

Whereas, her grieving family, as well as the whole Filipino nation, deserve to know the truth and for justice to be served to prevent any similar incidents from happening;

Whereas, this situation is not a first time occurrence and the State, consistent with its mandate to protect its people and uphold respect for human life, should intervene in order to stop this disturbing trend of OFW deaths and murders;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Committees on Foreign Relations, Justice and Human Rights, and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the increasing incidents of OFW murders and those killed with ignominy, with the end in view of formulating policies to protect OFW's as well as formulating better repatriation procedure and a relevant system of giving assistance to them.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator