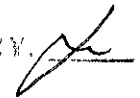


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

Senate
Office of the Secretary
12 FEB -2 1933

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 696

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 CURB THE RISE OF KIDNAPPING
INCIDENCES IN THE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY IN MINDANAO

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 mandates, "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";

WHEREAS, several media outfits have reported that two European tourists on a birdwatching expedition were kidnapped together with their Filipino guide by five gunmen in Tawi-Tawi;

WHEREAS, according to reports, the victims were in a motorized banca when they were intercepted by the five armed men in the waters off Sition Luuk-Luuk, Barangay Pang'n, Panglima Sugala town;

WHEREAS, although the victims were escorted by a village councilman and a local policeman in taking pictures of rare birds, the escorts were left behind by the kidnapers who fled towards Panglima Sugala after taking the victims in custody;

WHEREAS, it is public knowledge that every year, people are kidnapped in the Mindanao area for ransom, whether these be Filipinos or tourists;

WHEREAS, kidnapping for ransom has become a regular business for many armed groups in the area, and has decreased tourism in the country;

WHEREAS, given the circumstances, it is incumbent upon the legislature to craft measures that will curb the incidence of kidnapping in the country, particularly in the South, where it is rampant and thriving as a business;

WHEREAS, locals in the South should be made aware of the benefits of tourism and encourage the establishment of small businesses in the area by educating them on such and providing them with loans to start small enterprises;

WHEREAS, local government units should also double their efforts in ascertaining the safety of tourists in their jurisdictions; they must create safe "tourism spots" where the security of tourists could be ensured;

WHEREAS, the Philippine National Police and military should also exert more efforts in going after these kidnapping groups; they should ascertain if locals, officials, or even members of their ranks are involved in such crimes;

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 need to curb the rise of kidnapping incidences in the country, particularly in Mindanao.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/mant