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Office of the Secretary

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*First Regular Session*

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SENATE  
P.S. Res 465

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Introduced by Senator Poe

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### RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ENTRY OF SINALOA CARTEL, AN ORGANIZED MEXICAN DRUG SYNDICATE, IN THE PHILIPPINES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PARTICULARLY PROTECTING THE FILIPINO YOUTH, REVIEWING EXISTING STATE POLICIES AND STRENGTHENING ANTI-DRUG AGENCIES TO COMBAT ILLEGAL DRUGS

Whereas, the Sinaloa cartel is a drug-trafficking, money laundering and organized crime syndicate based in the city of Culiacán in the Mexican Pacific coast state of Sinaloa, with operations in the Mexican states of Baja California, Durango, Sonora and Chihuahua, among others<sup>1</sup>;

Whereas, the Mexican Sinaloa drug cartel is considered as one of the most powerful and biggest drug syndicates in the world, and is reputedly the largest source of illegal drugs to the United States;

Whereas, the Sinaloa cartel is reportedly operating in 17 Mexico states, Latin American countries like Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Nicaragua, Colombia, Chile, Brazil and Argentina, the United States, Australia, West Africa and recently, the Philippines;

Whereas, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), the lead anti-illegal drugs law implementing agency, said late last year that the Sinaloa drug syndicate has entered and in fact "penetrated" the Philippines, with 84 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride—locally known as shabu—worth P420 million seized at LPL ranch in Lipa City, Batangas on Christmas Day being traced to the notorious international drug syndicate;

Whereas, authorities have launched a crackdown against a Filipino-American conduit of the Mexican drug cartel and sought the assistance of the United States Drug Enforcement Agency to locate a certain Jorge Gomez Torres, who reportedly leased the Batangas property that was turned into an illegal-drug storage facility;

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<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinaloa\\_Cartel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinaloa_Cartel)

Whereas, just this month, authorities conducted simultaneous drug raids in Makati and Taguig, and arrested James Claytom Riach, Ali Memar Mortavazi Shirazi, Barry Espadilla and Tristan Olazo—all Canadians—and suspected to have links with the Sinaloa syndicate;

Whereas, Riach and Espadilla were said to be members of the Independent Soldiers gang in Vancouver, Canada and had criminal records. Riach was convicted of weapons possession charges and Espadilla of heroin and cocaine possession after their arrest in 2008<sup>2</sup>;

Whereas, the police drug bust yielded P100 million worth of illegal drugs such as cocaine, shabu and ecstasy, a party drug;

Whereas, lawmakers expressed alarm over the entry of the Mexican Sinaloa drug syndicate in the country, which may affect the Filipino youth and increase the number of Filipinos being drug dependents;

Whereas, in both the Philippines and Mexico, the increase in drug addiction rate is mainly because of poverty and lack of opportunities in the youth sector;

Whereas, PDEA said Mexico was the latest foreign country to have illegal drug operations in the Philippines, in addition to China and West African nations;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, that the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs and appropriate Senate committees to investigate, in aid of legislation, the entry of Mexican Sinaloa drug syndicate in the Philippines, with the end in view of reviewing existing state policies and strengthening anti-drug agencies to combat illegal drugs.

Adopted,

  
GRACE POE

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/four-canadians-with-alleged-links-to-mexican-cartel-arrested-in-philippines/article16362318/>