

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



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 522

RECEIVED BY: *ju*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROLIFERATION OF CYBERSEX DENS POSING AS SCHOOLS, CALL CENTER AGENCIES, AND THE LIKE, IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 13, 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, the same, Article 2, Section 7, states: "The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights";

WHEREAS, abs-cbnnews.com, in its 18 February 2014 issue, reported that a private school in Alabang, Muntinlupa was being used as a cybersex den by a syndicate;

WHEREAS, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) reportedly raided the Mountaintop Christian Academy where authorities confiscated 50 computer units and external drives containing adult and child pornographic materials, which were being uploaded online by the suspects;

WHEREAS, based on an initial investigation, the owner and principal of the Mountaintop Christian Academy, Atty. Purisima Martinez, reportedly said that the suspects have been renting two rooms of the school for about eight months, but she claimed that she did not know that they were involved in cybersex operations;

WHEREAS, in an interview by GMA News, Atty. Martinez claimed that she rented the room out to the syndicate because the tuition she charges students was not enough to cover her costs, including the scholarships that she gives to some of her wards;

WHEREAS, GMA News, in a separate report, also claimed that the cyber porn room appeared like a normal school computer lab with work stations;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the suspects rented the room for P20,000 a month for "chatting" from 8 p.m. until the following morning;

WHEREAS, the suspects claimed that they pretended to be women and that due to the difficulty of life, they did it for money;

WHEREAS, the owner reportedly denied that the school's students were used as models;

WHEREAS, the NBI claimed that the suspects, including Martinez, will be charged for violation of Republic Act No. 9775 or the law against child pornography and is also looking into filing a case for violation of the Expanded Anti-human Trafficking Law against the suspects;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the school-based operation was one of at least three cybersex dens that were raided by agents of the NBI; the two others were in Quezon City—one posed as a call center agency while the other was located in an apartment along Quirino Highway;

WHEREAS, according to the report, Virtual Global Task Force, a group of international agencies combating child porn, included the Philippines on its list of top 10 countries with rampant cyber pornographic activities;

WHEREAS, earlier this month, the Philippine National Police said it was keeping watch over 31 provinces considered as cybercrime "hotspots" for harboring cybersex and cyberporn hubs;

WHEREAS, of these, 18 provinces were reported to be in Luzon, six in Visayas, and seven in Mindanao;

WHEREAS, it is alarming that cybersex dens in the Philippines continue to proliferate despite earnest efforts by the NBI and the police to close down these dens;

WHEREAS, it is thus imperative for the State to intensify its crackdown on cybersex dens, which undermine society's respect for women and children;

WHEREAS, the legislature should therefore re-evaluate the laws on child pornography and human trafficking and create harsher penalties for those who violate the law;

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 proliferation of cybersex dens posing as schools, call center agencies, and the like, in the Philippines.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
PP

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