

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



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SENATE  
P. S. Res. No. 672

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF PREGNANT WOMEN IN PHILIPPINE JAILS IN LIGHT OF THE REPORTED DEATH OF A DETAINEE'S NEWBORN CHILD ALLEGEDLY DUE TO LACK OF IMMEDIATE AND ADEQUATE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES**

**WHEREAS**, Section 11, Article 2 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights;

**WHEREAS**, under Section 12, Article 2 of the 1987 Philippines Constitution, the State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception;

**WHEREAS**, according to reports, the newborn child of Andrea Rosal, a political detainee, was born premature and died due to pulmonary hypertension<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, Andrea Rosal was seven (7) months pregnant when she was arrested and detained in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City. She gave birth on May 17, 2014<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, Karapatan, a human rights organization, is of the view that there was a blatant disregard of Andrea's rights including her right to receive immediate medical care and be in an environment conducive for conceiving and delivering a healthy child<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, according to Karapatan, Andrea Rosal went through uterine contractions during detention and was brought back and forth from Camp Bagong Diwa and the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) because the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology authorities said there were no available rooms for her<sup>4</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup>Rappler News Website, Gov't blamed for death of detained mother's baby, <http://www.rappler.com/nation/58338-granddaughter-roger-rosal-dies>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>ABS-CBN News Website, Andrea Rosal's newborn dies, <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/metro-manila/05/18/14/andrea-rosals-newborn-baby-dies>

**WHEREAS**, according to Dr. Beng Reyes, secretary general of Health Alliance for Democracy, Andrea Rosal was not able to undergo pre-natal check-up and was not in good condition while in prison. She is detained in a 10x5-meter cell with 30 other inmates and she sleeps on the floor<sup>5</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Beng Reyes also stated that Andrea Rosal was not able to undergo the required laboratory and usual examinations for pregnant women due to the slow process of requesting for court orders<sup>6</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, according to AFP spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Ramon Zagala, the government has extended help to both the mother and the child through hospital arrest in PGH and provided them the best hospital care available<sup>7</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to inquire on the health care needs of pregnant inmates and review existing standards for pregnancy-related health care in order to meet the special needs of pregnant women in Philippine jails;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE**, as it is hereby resolved to direct the proper Senate Committees to investigate, in aid of legislation, the health care needs of pregnant women in Philippine jails in light of the reported death of a detainee's newborn child allegedly due to lack of immediate and adequate medical assistance by government authorities

  
**MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**  
Senator

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Supra [Reference 1]