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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 195

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Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RESOLUTION
URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED RISING ABDUCTION CASES IN METRO MANILA AND LUZON

1 WHEREAS, another kidnapping wave is creating a state of fear, anxiety and
2 vulnerability among Filipinos;

3 WHEREAS, according to news reports, the perpetrators are driving around in a
4 white van and victims are reportedly grabbed in the streets and dragged into the
5 vehicle. Unlike earlier kidnapping cases motivated by ransom, organ harvesting is
6 alleged to be the intention of these recent abductions¹;

7 WHEREAS, despite claiming that the crime situation is manageable, on 22
8 August 2022, the Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Rodolfo Azurin, Jr. has
9 already ordered a probe on the spate of abduction cases in the country. He said all
10 concerned units of the PNP have already been mobilized for any relevant information
11 on said cases²;

12 WHEREAS, aside from media reports, the number of abduction cases still
13 cannot be ascertained as there are cases unreported to the proper authorities. The
14 differences among abduction figures presented to the public causes undue and
15 unnecessary anxiety and fear to our countrymen;

¹ Philippine Star. (28 August 2022). *EDITORIAL - Another kidnapping wave*.
<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2022/08/28/2205603/editorial-another-kidnapping-wave>

² Caliwan, C. (22 August 2022). *PNP chief orders probe on rise in abduction cases*.
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1181860>

1 WHEREAS, for instance, on 6 September 2022, the Philippine Chinese Chamber
2 of Commerce and Industry Inc. (PCCCII) President Lugene Ang reported that in the
3 last ten (10) days, there has been 56 kidnapping incidents in the country which
4 included both Filipino and Chinese nationals, and children as well. This figure excludes
5 the unreported cases³;

6 WHEREAS, PCCCII also detailed that “these kidnapers are worse than animals.
7 They use torture and intimidation, rape women and send the videos to the victim’s
8 relatives demanding huge sums of money. In some cases, victims were even sold to
9 other kidnapping groups. These are unprecedented and beyond human
10 comprehension”;⁴

11 WHEREAS, one of these cases is the kidnap-slay of pharmaceutical executive
12 Eduardo Tolosa Jr. CEO of Iraseth Pharma Inc., who was reportedly burnt for three
13 days by his abductors after he was last seen alive in a Toyota Land Cruiser when he
14 picked up P5.7 million in cash and two expensive watches in Bonifacio Global City
15 Taguig;⁵

16 WHEREAS, another unresolved case is the recently circulating traffic video titled
17 “kidnapping sa Skyway galing airport” where three unidentified vehicles are seen
18 surrounding a white vehicle in an elevated highway and men are seen trying to open
19 the cornered white vehicle;

20 WHEREAS, PCCCII made a call to both Congress and PNP to “take a more active
21 role and act swiftly to suppress these criminals and eradicate these kidnapping
22 syndicates.”⁶

23 WHEREAS, however, PNP Deputy Chief for Administration Jose Chiquito Malayo
24 disputed the figures by citing only four (4) recorded abduction incidents this year of
25 which one (1) is related to Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGO). He noted
26 that these cases are happening mostly in Pasay, Parañaque, and Makati. He also
27 alleged that the kidnapers were foreign nationals⁷;

³ Cruz, R. (06 September 2022). *PCCI claims 56 kidnapping cases happened in last 10 days.*

⁴ Panti, L. (07 September 2022). *Group claims receiving reports of 56 kidnappings in 10 days; PNP says only 4 this year.* <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/844096/fil-chinese-group-urges-swift-action-on-spate-of-kidnappings/story/>

⁵ <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2022/09/07/2207871/pharma-ceo-kidnap-slay-suspects-burned-victims-body-three-days>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/09/06/22/pcci-56-kidnapping-cases-in-last-10-days>

1 WHEREAS, the low figure cited by PNP's Malayo was belied just a few days later
2 when a PNP Anti-Kidnapping Group (PNP-AKG) report said that cases of kidnapping
3 targeting workers of POGO firms have increased by twenty-five percent (25%);⁸

4 WHEREAS, the report from AKG showed that there were 27 kidnapping cases
5 from January to September, with 15 POGO-related, 11 kidnapping for ransom, and
6 one casino-related;⁹

7 WHEREAS, PNP spokespersons Col. Jean Fajardo said that they are not
8 discounting the possibility that some cases of kidnapping of POGO workers are not
9 being reported to authorities;¹⁰

10 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to determine the status of these cases,
11 possible motives, agency efforts to identify the perpetrators, and the measures
12 instituted by relevant authorities to prevent the continuous rise of abduction in the
13 country;

14 WHEREAS, there is also a need to ascertain the claims that foreign nationals
15 are conducting these criminal activities;

16 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of
17 the Philippines, to urge the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs
18 and other appropriate committee/s to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the
19 alleged rising abduction cases in Metro Manila and Luzon.

Adopted,



GRACE POE

⁸ <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2022/09/09/2208369/pogo-related-kidnap-cases-25>

⁹ Id.

¹⁰ Id.