

SENATE
P.S. Res. 204

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Introduced by Senator Villar

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, WELFARE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED INCREASING NUMBER OF TRAFFICKING OF YOUNG FILIPINO WOMEN IN SINGAPORE, AND THEIR BEING FORCED TO ACCEPT SEXUAL SERVITUDE WORK OR "HOSTESSING" JOB IN THE CITY-STATE WITH THE END-IN-VIEW OF CHARTING REMEDIAL POLICIES TO HALT THE VICTIMIZATION OF FILIPINAS AND THEIR PROTECTION AGAINST ABUSE AND DISCRIMINATION

Whereas, very recently, it was reported that an increasing number of young Filipinas are being trafficked to Singapore for sexual exploitation, drawn in by the promise of a good life and possibility of greener pasture;

Whereas, the following narrative depicting the unfortunate journey of two young Filipinas in sexual servitude trade in Singapore have been published¹:

1. *Lalaine, 19, was a saleslady for a popular department store when she was lured by a "friend of a friend" to work "for better pay" as a waitress in Singapore only to find out that her workplace was a nightclub where she was forced to do a strip-tease and encouraged to have customers fondled her;*
2. *Kristine, a recent widow at 23 with 2 children (her husband died December 2006) was also told of the tremendous opportunities ("malaki raw ang kita") in Singapore by an acquaintance --- a neighbour who was also their barangay (village) chairman. She agreed to a "hostessing" job there, but ended up being a call girl, having sex with different men in different hotels, as arranged by her employer.*

Whereas, the 2007 Human Trafficking Report of the United States Department of States yielded the information that there is a huge increase of Asian women being coerced in flesh trade in Singapore (the list includes women

¹ "A Tale of 2 Filipinas in Singapore" written by Veronica Uy, www.inquirer.net, November 6, 2007

from the Peoples' Republic of China, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam);

Whereas, per the information of the Philippine Embassy in Singapore, the trafficking syndicates are working in cahoots with some travel agencies in using dummy round-trip plane tickets and offer them as "free" to lure young Filipinas they deploy for sex jobs in the city-state;


Whereas, Ambassador Belen Fule-Anota, in the Embassy of the Philippines in Singapore, mentioned that twelve (12) Filipinos who have been engaged in human trafficking have already been arrested and sentenced to serve jail terms ranging from three (3) to ten (10) months;

Whereas, the harsh economic reality in the country, the absence of opportunities and the lack of livelihood, among others, may be advanced as reasons for young Filipinas to go overseas and embark difficult lives;

Whereas, the government must formulate a comprehensive social justice program that would truly implement meaningful initiatives to protect our young women: Now therefore be it

Resolved, by the Senate of the Philippines, To urge the Senate Committees on Youth, Women, and Family Relations and Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported increasing number of trafficking of young Filipino women in Singapore, and their being forced to accept sexual servitude work or "hostessing" job in the city-state with the end-in-view of charting remedial policies to halt the victimization of Filipinas and their protection against abuse and discrimination.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR