

Whereas, the following cases presented by the Center for Migrant Advocacy are examples of cases of distressed OFWs denied care and protection by the DFA personnel:

- OFW Teresita Santos was gang raped in August 2005. The 5 perpetrators were found guilty in the court of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and were sentenced to a four (4) year imprisonment and 500 lashes each. The said OFW however accused our consulate personnel in Jeddah of negligence, incompetence and simply bad attitude towards migrants in distress such as herself.
- OFW Esnaira Angin, a Muslim woman from Maguindanao, was one of the 4 OFWs in Dubai whose house was broken into by 3 Emirati and 1 Omani national. She was stabbed on her chest and back while trying to resist their attackers. Accordingly, she was denied assistance by the POLO (labor attaché office) in Dubai.
- A DFA staff of the Philippine permanent mission in Geneva was found guilty by the Geneva Labor court for non-payment of wages to her Filipino domestic worker.


Whereas, the seeming insensitiveness and indifference of a number of our diplomatic and consular officials and personnel have been reported and they are destroying the image and dignity of a larger more committed, devoted and excellent public servants in foreign service;

Whereas, the mindset and thinking of our corps of foreign service must be changed, that their existence in countries in which they are detailed and stationed, is a gift to our citizens, particularly the OFWs and that they must show compassionate justice that they richly deserve;

Whereas, the relevant assessment of existing duties, scope of protection and assistance program vis-à-vis distressed OFWs must be made: Now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To urge the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the allegations of bad attitude, negligence and incompetence of some Philippine embassy and consular personnel stationed in various countries in handling cases of distressed overseas Filipino workers, for the purpose of assessing and reviewing existing policies and recommend remedial measures.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR