
Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE SWIFT ACTION TO SAVE AN OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKER NOW IN DANGER IN THE HANDS OF HER EMPLOYER IN SAUDI ARABIA AND TO EXHAUST ALL LEGAL MEANS TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR THE MURDER OF FATIMA SAGADAN MAULANA, AND URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, A FULL PROBE OF THESE TWO RECENT CASES OF ABUSES AGAINST OFWS TO ADDRESS THE ORDEAL OF THESE WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE

WHEREAS, as of April to September 200, more than 1.75 million Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) scattered worldwide has remitted 110 billion pesos into the country;

WHEREAS, the remittances of OFWs represent a significant contribution in proping up the Philippines economy and, for this reason, OFWs have been hailed as the country's new heroes;

WHEREAS, despite being unsung heroes, our OFWs have, ironically, not received the due protection they need from the government to secure their safety and welfare in countries where they work;

WHEREAS, despite the hapless plight of our OFWs exemplified by the exploitation and abuses inflicted to Flor Contemplacion and Sarah Balabagan, many of our OFWs continue to suffer in inhumane, abusive and exploitative working conditions;

WHEREAS, the lack of effective government intervention has been manifested in recent cases involving two domestic helpers in the Middle East;

WHEREAS, Ambassador to Kuwait Ricardo M. Endaya reported that Fatima Sagadan Maulana, a 42-year old Filipina domestic helper in Kuwait was found dead in Kabd Desert on May 16;

WHEREAS, Migrante International claims that Maulana, a native of Carmen, Cotabato City was probably murdered on May 9 after, allegedly, being raped;

WHEREAS, Migrante International also reports that another Filipina domestic helper continue to suffer in the hands of his employer in the City of Qatif in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province;

WHEREAS, the domestic helper, whose name was withheld, has managed to call her husband, who lives in Quirino province, to say that she, who had been a virtual prisoner in the house, had been raped by her employer and four of his friends who even videotaped the incident;

WHEREAS, a letter has been sent by Migrante to the Philippine Embassy, headed by Ambassador Antonio Villamor, for help on May 21 but up to now no reply has been received;

WHEREAS, the woman, a native of Ifugao, who left for Saudi Arabia remains in danger to this day;

WHEREAS, our OFWs should not be made to suffer again from the ineptitude of our government - first from its failure to provide sufficient employment opportunities in the country forcing them to seek greener pastures abroad and second, from its failure to provide adequate protection to them when their personal safety is compromised;

WHEREAS, it is high time that our government devote the much needed attention to our modern heroes;

Now be it resolved as it is hereby resolved, to call on the President to take a swift action to save an OFW now in danger in the hands of her employer in Saudi Arabia and to exhaust all legal means to secure justice for the murder of Fatima Sagadan Maulana;

Resolve further, to urge the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resource Development, to conduct, in aid of legislation, a full probe of these two recent cases of abuses against OFWs to address the ordeal of these workers and their families, and to make sure that there is no miscarriage of justice.


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator