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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 948

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED RISE IN THE NUMBER OF
CHILDREN WORKING IN THE SEX TOURISM TRADE ACROSS ASIA

WHEREAS, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child states that “The child shall be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation. He shall not be the subject of traffic, in any form”;

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article II, Section 11 states that “The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights”;

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article II, Section 12 also states that “The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs”;

WHEREAS, various news organizations on 20 March 2009 reported that the Southeast Asia Conference on Child Sex Tourism stated that around 70,000 children across Asia are being used by sex tourists, mainly in Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines and that the number of children working in the sex tourism trade is on the rise;

WHEREAS, experts from the conference reported stated that victims and their parents were generally reluctant to report abuse due to shame and embarrassment, or were paid to stay quiet;

WHEREAS, they also said that the situation is especially bad in Asia because some Asian men believe that having sex with children increases longevity;

WHEREAS, experts also said that children were “groomed” for prostitution with financial incentives such as payment of school fees;

WHEREAS, they also allegedly said that children in areas prone to natural disasters like earthquakes, floods and cyclones were particularly at risk, especially orphans or those who had lost a parent because they are very vulnerable to this form of grooming due to the promise of monetary compensation;

WHEREAS, the concerned national government agencies such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Justice, and even the Department of Tourism should take into consideration this alarming development in the condition of our nation’s youth, and formulate measures to protect the Filipino children from sex tourism;

WHEREAS, the national government, especially Congress, should formulate measures to encourage the reporting of incidents of child sex tourism and prostitution and the crackdown on the possible criminal syndicates involved in the perpetuation of this heinous culture and trade;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved in the Philippine Senate, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported rise in the number of children working in the sex tourism trade across Asia.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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