

SENATE

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P. S. Res. No. **1008**

Introduced by **Senator Biazon**

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE ACTIONS THAT MAY BE TAKEN BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF REPEATED CAPTIVITY OF FILIPINO SEAMEN IN THE SOMALI COAST

*Whereas*, the Philippines is considered as one of the world's leading supplier of merchant mariners with 266,553 seafarers in 2007 manning oil tankers, luxury liners and passenger vessels worldwide with a daily deployment average of 730, according to the Philippines Overseas Employment Agency (POEA);

*Whereas*, among the many routes that ships manned by Filipino shipfarers ply, is the Somali coast where incidents of piracy and armed robbery have increased in 2008;

*Whereas*, since November of last year various ships with Filipino crew have been held captive by pirates such as the MT Stolt Strength hijacked on 11 November 2008 with 23 Filipinos, MV Saldanha hijacked on 22 February 2009 with 19 Filipinos, MV Titan hijacked on 19 March 2009 with 17 Filipinos, Napayia hijacked on 25 March 2009 with 18 Filipinos, WinFar 161 hijacked on 6 April 2009 with 17 Filipinos, Malaspina Castle hijacked last 6 April 2009 with 4 Filipinos, and the very recent hijacking of MV Irene last 14 April 2009 with 22 Filipinos;

*Whereas*, the Department of Foreign Affairs has reported a total of eight vessels with 120 Filipino seafarers to be presently in the hands of Somali pirates;

*Whereas*, this situation has not only affected the safety of the seafarers which we deploy annually, but also their remittances and has caused them and their families, emotional as well as physical distress;

*Whereas*, the UN Security Council in its Resolution No. 1851 (2008), invites States, regional and international organizations to take active part against piracy and armed robbery at sea and have increased cooperation in terms of information and coordination of naval and military operations, among others;

*Whereas*, considering the said UN Security Council Resolution, the Philippines having a stake in this endeavor, should consider measures on how it can assist or abate piracy and criminal activities at sea especially in the Somali Coast. *Now Therefore Be It Resolved, As It Is Hereby Resolved,*

*By The Senate*, To Direct The Senate Committees On Foreign Relations, Labor, Employment And Human Resources Development And Other Appropriate Senate Committees To Conduct An Inquiry, In Aid Of Legislation, To Identify Appropriate Actions That May Be Taken By The Philippine Government To Address The Problem Of Repeated Captivity Of Filipino Seamen In The Somali Coast.

Adopted,

  
**RODOLFO G. BIAZON**  
Senator