

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 226

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED ARBITRARY DETENTION OF ALIEN DEPORTEES AT THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION DEPORTATION CENTER

WHEREAS, *The Manila Bulletin* reported in its 12 July 2013 issue that Commissioner Ricardo David, Jr. of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) has been ordered by Malacañang to explain why he should not be charged administratively for the alleged "arbitrary and continuous detention" of an American national arrested three years ago for overstaying.

WHEREAS, according to the report, Walter Francis Groves, an American national has been arbitrarily and continuously detained without lawful cause and that there has been an unreasonable delay in the resolution of the deportation proceeding against complainant;

WHEREAS, the report referred to the complaint made by aliens detained at the Bicutan detention facilities of the Bureau of Immigration, a few months ago regarding human rights violations committed in said facility;

WHEREAS, a prior article published in *The Manila Bulletin* on 1 April 2013 featured said American detainee, Walter Groves, and in which article said detainee narrated the alleged neglect of the Bureau of Immigration in maintaining healthy living conditions within the facility;

WHEREAS, in the same April 2013 article, Groves and other foreign detainees reported the alleged extortion and corruption in the detention center;

WHEREAS, according to the same article, the foreign detainees are in protest against the jail-like conditions at the detention center where they claimed lack of adequate food, communication equipment, and sanitary facilities for both medical and recreational purposes;

WHEREAS, according to the foreign detainees, the series of arrests made by Bureau of Immigration was based on undated mission orders and warrants;

WHEREAS, the foreign detainees allege that once an undated mission order and warrants of arrest is issued, such becomes a weapon for BI to use it to extort money or circumvent the time enforcement restrictions;

WHEREAS, Congress should investigate the mentioned allegations since the Philippines, as a country that adopts generally-accepted principles of international law as part of the law of

the land is mandated by its organic law to uphold human rights. Further, such alleged corrupt acts undermine the integrity of the Philippine government before the international community.

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate committee, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported arbitrary detention of alien deportees at the bureau of immigration deportation.

Adopted,

miriam defensor santia
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
ass.