

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

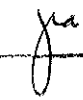


Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

P. S. Resolution No. 230

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **SENATOR CYNTHIA VILLAR**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS AND THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT A JOINT INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF AN IMPENDING US-LED MILITARY STRIKE AGAINST SYRIA ON THE PLIGHT OF FILIPINO WORKERS IN SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS ON PHILIPPINE FOREIGN POLICY AND THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

WHEREAS, United States President Barrack Obama has recently declared his intention to carry out short-term limited military air strikes against Syria and to seek congressional approval to do so as America's principled stand against the use of chemical weapons;

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs, there are an estimated 3,000 Filipino workers, mostly women domestic workers, in Syria;

WHEREAS, some of these women OFWs in Syria are trapped in conflict zones while others choose to stay on despite the escalation of hostilities due to dim job prospects here in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, included among Filipinos in Syria are around twenty (20) embassy personnel that must valiantly stay on despite the war to look after the safety and welfare of OFWs despite threats to their own personal safety;

WHEREAS, the Philippine government needs to prepare contingency plans not only for our overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and embassy personnel in Syria, but also for thousands of OFWs in Israel, Lebanon, and Turkey, given the high probability of these workers being adversely affected in case war spreads beyond Syria's borders;

WHEREAS, a Senate inquiry can also look into the implications of such military action in Syria on the Philippine economy that rely heavily on oil and workers' remittances from the Middle East;

WHEREAS, the same inquiry can help sharpen Philippine foreign policy taking into consideration the national interest, as well as global concerns regarding the use of chemical weapons against innocent civilians;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development to hold a joint inquiry, in aid of legislation, to look into the implications of an impending US-led military strike against Syria on the plight of Filipino overseas workers in Syria and its neighboring countries, as well as on Philippine foreign policy and the national economy.

Adopted,


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR