

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



'13 NOV -7 P4 :16

SENATE
P.S.R. No. **346**

RECEIVED BY *je*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON REPORTS THAT WEBCAM CHILD SEX TOURISM HAS VICTIMIZED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND THE MEASURES NEEDED TO COMBAT THIS NEW FORM OF CHILD EXPLOITATION

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 13 provides: "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 civil affairs";

WHEREAS, in an article entitled "Computer-generated '10-year-old Filipina' helps identify 1,000 online pedophiles," posted on www.interaksyon.com on 5 November 2013, Terre des Hommes Netherlands, a Dutch rights group, said they had identified over 1,000 pedophiles around the world by offering online sex with a computer-generated 10-year-old Filipina girl called Sweetie;

WHEREAS, Sweetie was reportedly created by Terre des Hommes and deployed in Internet chat rooms from a remote building in Amsterdam; within a 10-week period, over 20,000 predators from 71 countries approached Sweetie, asking for webcam sex performances;

WHEREAS, according to a news article posted on www.nydailynews.com, on 4 November 2013, entitled "Dutch activists track alleged child abusers with Sweetie — a digital 'girl'", the largest contingents of named suspects reportedly came from the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia, Germany, Turkey, Italy, and the Netherlands; in all, Terre des Hommes identified suspects in 71 countries;

WHEREAS, according to the rights group, they did not approach anyone on the Internet but instead waited for people to approach Sweetie and ask for sex acts; they reportedly stopped the conversation as soon as someone offered Sweetie money for sex acts; in one exchange, a man named "Older4young," identified as a 35-year-old father of two from Atlanta in the United States, allegedly asked Sweetie to undress for \$10;

WHEREAS, while the researchers were chatting with Sweetie, they gathered information about her customers through social media; using the information, the researchers reportedly identified the abusers and passed the information on to police;

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, there are over 750,000 child predators online at any given moment;

WHEREAS, according to Terre des Hommes, the biggest problem is that the police do not take action until child victims file reports, but children almost never report these crimes; they have started an online petition to pressure governments to adopt proactive investigation policies; for instance, they want police around the world to have a mandate to actively patrol chat rooms where the abuse is taking place;

WHEREAS, while the Philippines has enacted laws protecting children against abuse and exploitation, such as the Republic Act No. 9775 or the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009, we must evaluate our laws to determine whether they adequately punish this largely unknown but quickly spreading new form of child exploitation known as webcam child sex tourism, which has victimized reportedly tens of thousands of children in the Philippines alone;

WHEREAS, there is a need to assess our law enforcement measures and investigation policies to combat webcam child sex tourism, and identify, prosecute, and punish the abusers and exploiters of children;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on reports that webcam child sex tourism has victimized tens of thousands of children in the Philippines, and the measures needed to combat this new form of child exploitation.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
ms

/jab