

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES

First Regular Session



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SENATE
P.S. Res 654

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION
URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW IN
AID OF LEGISLATION THE PROLIFERATION OF CYBER
EXTORTION OR BLACKMAILING IN THE INTERNET WITH THE
INTENTION OF STRENGTHENING AND TIGHTENING EXISTING
RELEVANT LAWS AND PROTECTING WOMEN, CHILDREN AND
INNOCENT VICTIMS

WHEREAS, it is a declared policy that, “the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights.”¹

WHEREAS, early this month, the Philippine police, with the cooperation from the Interpol, “have arrested dozens of suspected members of an online extortion syndicate who duped hundreds of victims into exposing themselves in from of webcams, including a Scottish teenager who killed himself after being blackmailed.”²

WHEREAS, this type of “sextortion” blackmailing scheme operates by the creation of “fake Facebook accounts of fictitious young women” and luring victims “with pornographic materials after striking up online chats with them.”³

WHEREAS, the victim is then engaged with cybersex or exposure of their bodies with lewd chatting, however, unknown to the victim, he or she is already being recorded by the other.

WHEREAS, the victim is then blackmailed and extorted with money ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 in exchange for deleting the recorded video or preventing the same from going public, especially to family and friends.⁴

WHEREAS, this “sextortion” blackmailing scheme is prevalent, not only in the Philippines, but also worldwide. It is alarming for the medium used to commit

¹ Article II, Section 11 of 1987 Philippine Constitution.

² Philippine police arrest webcam extortion suspects, 02 May 2014. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/02/philippines-cybercrime-suspects-sextortion-swoop> Last accessed 16 May 2014.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

extortion and blackmailing is readily available and knows no borders. In addition, the syndicate involved operates in the Philippines.

WHEREAS, there is a need to strengthen and tighten relevant penal and information technology laws on the matter.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the appropriate Senate committee is urged to review, in aid of legislation, the proliferation of cyber extortion or blackmailing in the internet with the intention of strengthening and tightening existing relevant laws and protecting women, children and innocent victims.

Adopted,


GRACE POE