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SENATE
P.S. Res **772**

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Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VARIOUS FORMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING BEING CARRIED OUT IN THE PHILIPPINES OR OVERSEAS BUT VICTIMIZES FILIPINOS TO ENHANCE EXISTING LAWS AND POLICY MEASURES FOR THE DETECTION, INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WHEREAS, the “maintenance of peace and order” and the “protection of life” are paramount duties of the State;¹

WHEREAS, the State is likewise tasked and should be at the forefront in valuing “the dignity of every human person” and in guaranteeing the “full respect of human rights;”²

WHEREAS, human trafficking is an illicit trade in humans for purposes of sexual slavery, forced labor, commercial sexual exploitation, extraction of organs or tissues, providing spouses in forced marriages, among others.³ Human trafficking does not always mean movement of a person from one place to another;⁴

WHEREAS, human trafficking involving Filipinos had recently been the subjects of news reports and articles stating that: (a) Filipinos recruited for work who end up being sex workers or slave laborers in Asia, the Middle East, and in urban centers and tourist destinations in the Philippines;⁵ (b) Philippine law enforcers’ complicity, and the

¹ 1987 Constitution of the Philippines, Article II, Section 5.

² 1987 Constitution of the Philippines, Article II, Section 11.

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_trafficking

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ “Human trafficking haven” retrieved from

<http://www.philstar.com/opinion/2014/06/23/1337899/editorial-human-trafficking-haven>.

widespread corruption at all levels of government, undermine efforts to fight human trafficking;⁶ (c) prostitution is on the rise in the areas devastated by Super Typhoon Yolanda and other disasters in the Visayas and Mindanao;⁷ and (d) there were cases of children forced to perform sex acts for global Internet audiences,⁸ among others;

WHEREAS, in United States' State Department "2014 Trafficking in Persons Report," the Philippines maintained its Tier 2 ranking – this means the Philippines is one of the countries which do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act ("TVPA") but which are exerting efforts to do so.⁹ The Philippines is regarded as a "source country" – that a significant number of Filipinos are illegally trafficked to other countries and are exploited in activities such as sex trafficking, forced labor and menial service work;¹⁰

WHEREAS, clearly, the problem on human trafficking is brutally knocking at the doors of the authorities and the Philippine government and it should be addressed and resolved immediately. The existence of human trafficking in the country and the victimization of Filipinos need to be ended, or minimized at the very least;

WHEREAS, the Philippine government must reconsider its efforts in curbing, if not eradicating, the problem on human trafficking in the country so as to ensure the safety and protection of our countrymen in and out of the Philippines from said heinous crime, and to show to the world that we are not a country that breeds impunity;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to urge the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the various forms of human trafficking being carried out in the country or overseas but victimizes Filipinos to enhance existing measures for the detection, investigation and prosecution of elements involved in human trafficking.

Adopted,


GRACE POE

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ "Gov't pledges more action to stop human trafficking" from the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

⁹ U.S. State Department (2014). "Tier Placements" (June 20). Retrieved from <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2014/226649.htm>

¹⁰ *Ibid*