

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

14 SEP 24 P3:12

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 935

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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### RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT AL-QAEDA-LINKED TERRORIST GROUP ABU SAYYAF HAVE BEEN TARGETING GOVERNMENT WORKERS IN SULU FOR THEIR KIDNAP-FOR-RANSOM ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 states: "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";

WHEREAS, Inquirer.net posted a news article on 30 August 2014 reporting that members terrorist group Abu Sayyaf, said to be linked to al-Qaeda, seized a government worker shortly after releasing another in two cases that, authorities said, were a sign that the group is now indiscriminate in its targets;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the latest victim of kidnapping is a midwife at a district hospital in Luuk town, Sulu province; she was reportedly seized by members of the Abu Sayyaf in Barangay Libug Kabaw, Panglima Estino town;

WHEREAS, Chief Inspector Arthur Valdez of the Anti-Kidnapping Group (AKG), reportedly said that Bernabe was believed to have been taken to Barangay Bagsak in Talipao town;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the AKG is an anti-kidnapping task force of the Philippine National Police covering Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi provinces, and Zamboanga City, where kidnappings are frequent;

WHEREAS, the previous kidnapping victim was reportedly held for 12 days and the Abu Sayyaf had demanded a ₱15-million ransom for his release, and was one of over a dozen regular or contractual employees of the provincial government that have been taken captive since 2013;

WHEREAS, according to Valdez, the kidnapping of ordinary employees established a pattern showing that the Abu Sayyaf is now targeting victims based on their vulnerability and regardless of their socioeconomic status, unlike in the past when the terrorist group allegedly chose its victims according to their capacity to pay ransom;

WHEREAS, Valdez claims that the Abu Sayyaf could also be trying to embarrass the provincial government by "sending a message" to the Sulu government that they can create

trouble, particularly to Sulu Vice Gov. Abdusakur Tan who is being credited by reports for the relentless campaign against terror groups in the province;

WHEREAS, although it was reportedly uncertain if ransom was paid for the release of the most recent kidnapping victim by the Abu Sayyaf, Congress should come up with legislation to protect government employees in high risk and conflict areas in order to maintain vital government functions despite challenging situations;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED IN THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that al-Qaeda-linked terrorist group Abu Sayyaf have been targeting government workers in Sulu for their kidnap-for-ransom activities.

Adopted,

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
ass.

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