

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



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 987

TO PRESBY: *JS*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT MORE THAN 800 FILIPINOS
ARE FACING DRUG-RELATED CHARGES ABROAD

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 provides: "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, Republic Act No. 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 provides: "... the government shall pursue an intensive and unrelenting campaign against the trafficking and use of dangerous drugs and other similar substances through an integrated system of planning, implementation and enforcement of anti-drug abuse policies, programs, and projects";

WHEREAS, the Inquirer.net on 1 September 2014 that as many as 805 Filipinos are in prison globally for drug-related cases, increasing from 696 in August 2013;

WHEREAS, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Charles Jose reportedly said that 341 of these cases are in Asia and the Pacific, 244 in the Middle East and Africa, 116 in the United States and Americas, and 104 in Europe;

WHEREAS, at least 45 of the Filipinos in drug-related cases abroad are reportedly already in death row;

WHEREAS, data from the Commission on Overseas Filipinos show that as of December 2012, a total of 10,489,628 Filipinos were abroad as permanent, temporary or irregular residents;

WHEREAS, Filipinos traveling abroad are vulnerable to recruitment by drug syndicates as couriers and are therefore being implicated in drug-related cases;

WHEREAS, Congress, in coordination with concerned government agencies should address this issue by intensifying existing legislation on illegal drugs and improving safeguards for Filipinos traveling abroad;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that more than 800 Filipinos are facing drug-related charges abroad.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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