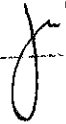


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

Senate
Office of the Secretary

14 NOV 24 P2:36

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1023

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT VIDEO CLIP RELEASED BY THE ABU SAYYAF
SHOWING WHAT THE BANDITS CLAIM TO BE THE P250-MILLION RANSOM PAID IN
EXCHANGE FOR THE FREEDOM OF TWO GERMAN CAPTIVES

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, in April 2014, the Al Qaeda-linked Islamist militant group Abu Sayyaf abducted the German couple Stefan Viktor Okonek and Henrike Dielen from a yacht on the high seas between Palawan and Malaysia, brought them to Sulu, and later threatened to behead them unless ransom is paid;

WHEREAS, on 17 October 2014, the Abu Sayyaf released the couple, with the group's spokesperson Muamar Askali, alias Abu Rami, claiming a ransom of P250 million was paid;

WHEREAS, philstar.com, in an article posted on 5 November 2014, reported that the Abu Sayyaf posted on Facebook a video clip showing stacks of cash to dispute claims that no ransom was paid when they freed Okonek and Dielen;

WHEREAS, the video reportedly showed the Abu Sayyaf piling bundles of P1,000 bills in five stacks, neatly wrapped in transparent plastic, with each stack estimated to be P1 million;

WHEREAS, Askali also allegedly showed a picture of one of the blue traveling bags used in concealing the ransom money;

WHEREAS, the government claims troops continue its relentless pursuit against Abu Sayyaf groups in Basilan and Sulu;

WHEREAS, Congress should investigate adherence to the no-ransom policy, which is important in curbing kidnapping activities;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the recent video clip released by the Abu Sayyaf showing what the bandits claim to be the P250-million ransom paid in exchange for the freedom of two German captives.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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