

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



'18 MAY -8 P 4 :25

**SENATE**  
**P. S. RES No. 725**

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Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE RULES AND CONDITIONS FOR THE ADMISSION AND DEPORTATION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS TO ENSURE THAT THESE DO NOT UNJUSTLY CURTAIL THEIR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING FREEDOM OF SPEECH, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, AND THE RIGHT TO PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY**

1       **WHEREAS,** on April 25, 2018, it was reported that the Bureau of  
2 Immigration ordered the forfeiture of the missionary visa of Sister Patricia Fox, the  
3 Superior of the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion in the Philippines. According to the  
4 Bureau of Immigration, the visa of Sister Fox was forfeited due to her involvement in  
5 partisan political activities. Commissioner Morente said that Sister Fox "was found to  
6 have engaged in activities that are not allowed under the terms and conditions of  
7 her visa;"

8       **WHEREAS,** with the said visa forfeiture, Sister Fox was ordered to leave the  
9 Philippines within 30 days from receipt of the order. A deportation case against her  
10 is still pending before the Bureau of Immigration's special prosecutor while awaiting  
11 Sister Fox's submission of a counter-affidavit. Sister Fox was earlier arrested and  
12 then released for further investigation by the Bureau due to reports that she violated  
13 the conditions of her stay in the country by engaging in political activities and anti-  
14 government demonstrations;

15       **WHEREAS,** Sister Fox, a 71-year old Australian nun, had dedicated her life  
16 to missionary work in the Philippines for the past 27 years, living among and  
17 advocating for the rights of indigenous peoples, farmers, urban poor, and rural

1 workers in the country. Rejecting the accusation that she engaged in partisan  
2 political activities, she said in a statement that she hoped to be given a chance to  
3 explain how she sees her mission as a religious sister;

4 **WHEREAS,** Sister Fox explained in her statement that, "As a Christian,  
5 believing that our mission is to bring God's Kingdom to the here and now, I couldn't  
6 help but to get involved both with projects, such as training in organic farming, to  
7 uplift the livelihood of the farmers, but also to advocate with them for their rights to  
8 land, livelihood, peace, justice, and security – all universal human rights which the  
9 church sees as integral to her mission;"

10 **WHEREAS,** the rule-making authority given to the Commissioner of  
11 Immigration under Section 3 of Commonwealth Act No. 613, otherwise known as the  
12 Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, allows the Bureau of Immigration to set  
13 limitations and conditions for the admission of foreign nationals into the country as  
14 non-immigrants, the violation of which can serve as grounds for their deportation  
15 under the same law;

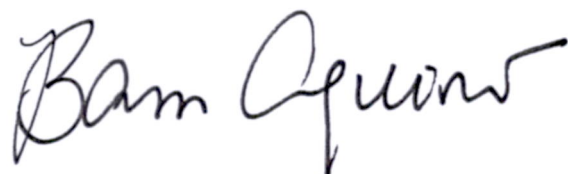
16 **WHEREAS,** the Bureau of Immigration's use of such power and discretion to  
17 create rules and conditions for admitting or deporting foreign nationals must be used  
18 responsibly, prudently and sensibly, balancing the State's responsibility to protect  
19 the basic rights and universal freedoms granted to all individuals with the right of  
20 the State to uphold the country's sovereignty;

21 **WHEREAS,** the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940 does not prohibit  
22 foreigners from participating in political activities while they are in the country. Any  
23 power and discretion of the Bureau of Immigration to impose rules must be  
24 consistent with the law and must not be misused to silence and sow fear upon those  
25 wish to show solidarity with the poor and to speak the truth against social injustices;

26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** as it is hereby resolved to direct  
27 the appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into  
28 the rules and conditions for the admission and deportation of foreign nationals to

- 1 ensure that these do not unjustly curtail their basic human rights, including freedom
- 2 of speech, freedom of expression, and the right to peaceful assembly.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bam Aquino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.