



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'19 SEP 10 P 3:23

RECEIVED BY _____

SENATE
P. S. RES. No. 130

Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO COORDINATE WITH THE IRANIAN AUTHORITIES TO INQUIRE ON THE CONDITION OF THE TWELVE (12) FILIPINO SEAMEN ARRESTED BY THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN IN THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ AND TO SECURE THEIR RELEASE

WHEREAS, Section 3, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution states that the State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas;

WHEREAS, the Philippines and Iran have an established bilateral diplomatic relationship with the presence of embassies in each other's capitals;

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2016, the Philippines and the Islamic Republic of Iran successfully concluded the Sixth Joint Consular Consultation Meeting (6th PH-Iran JCCM) in Tehran, Iran which covered the issue of exchange/swapping of prisoners, among others;

WHEREAS, both the Philippines and Iran are parties to the Maritime Labour Convention which entered into force last August 20, 2013 which provides that State members shall ensure the protection and promotion of seafarers' employment rights;

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2019, the Department of Foreign Affairs has confirmed reports that a tugboat, carrying 283,900 liters of petrol worth 22.2 Million Dollars, operated by Filipino crew has been seized in the Persian Gulf¹;

WHEREAS, the arrest of the tugboat with twelve (12) Filipino crew members was due to the alleged involvement of the vessel in oil smuggling²;

WHEREAS, this is the second time that Filipino seafarers onboard an oil carrier were apprehended in the Persian Gulf;

WHEREAS, on July 19, 2019, UK oil tanker MT Stena Impero, which had a Filipino seafarer onboard, was seized by Iranian authorities for breaking international maritime rules³;

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure the safety of Filipino seafarers as they are key contributors to our economy, the Filipino community and their respective families;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Department of Foreign Affairs should coordinate with the Iranian Authorities to inquire on the condition of the twelve (12) Filipino Seamen arrested by Iran in the Strait of Hormuz and to secure their release.

Adopted,



FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

Senator

1 CNN Philippines: Tugboat operated by Filipino crew seized in Iran for alleged oil smuggling, September 8, 2019. <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2019/9/8/Filipino-crew-tugboat-iran-seized.html>

2 Id.

3 ABSCBN: 12 Filipino crew held, as Iran seizes ship for alleged fuel smuggling, September 7, 2019. <https://news.abs-cbn.com/overseas/09/07/19/iran-seizes-ship-for-alleged-fuel-smuggling-in-gulf-holds-12-filipino-crew>