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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES	THE REPUBLIC)		5	AUG 15	P3:52
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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE EXISTENCE OF CHILD TRAFFICKING IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ERADICATE IT

WHEREAS, Republic Act 9208, otherwise known as the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, section 4 (A), states that: "It shall be unlawful for any person, natural or judicial, to recruit, transport, transfer, harbor, provide, or receive a person by any means, including those done under the pretext of domestic or overseas employment or training or apprenticeship, for the purpose of prostitution, pornography, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery, involuntary servitude or debt bondage,"

WHEREAS, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 35, provides that: "States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral, and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form;"

WHEREAS, according to a news report in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* published last 16 May 2005, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has expressed alarm over the seemingly unchecked problem of child trafficking in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the UNICEF claimed that child trafficking in the Philippines is as bad as in Thailand and Cambodia; children are being trafficked from provinces to cities, from cities to overseas;

WHEREAS, child trafficking, which is committed mostly by transnational organized crime groups, is promoted by syndicates with the aim of amassing profit through illegal means, it does not only reduce persons into mere commodities, but also breeds other crimes such as those involving drugs, firearms, smuggling, illegal recruitment, and corruption of public officials;

WHEREAS, according to a factsheet on child trafficking provided by the UNICEF, children who have minimal education, lack vocational skills, or have few prospects for job opportunities are most at risk of being trafficked,

WHEREAS, Filipino children are especially vulnerable to recruitment strategies because of poverty, dysfunctional family relations, materialism, adventurism, peer pressure, cultural factors, gender issues, and lack of information;

WHEREAS, these factors, when compounded by gender, racial, or ethnic discrimination, or insecurity caused by armed conflict and civil strife, create the ideal environment for trafficking networks to thrive,

WHEREAS, the known purposes of child trafficking are exploitation through work and child labor, sexual exploitation (including prostitution and pornography), and exploitation through illegal activities such as begging and drug trade, illegal adoption, organ trading, and the abuse of children by forcing them to become brides and soldiers;

WHEREAS, the government should take immediate action through the arrest and prosecution of traffickers and the government officials coddling them, the aggressive implementation of the law, and the rescue and rehabilitation of victims of child trafficking;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations and the Senate Committee on Labor and Employment to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the existence of child trafficking in the Philippines and the appropriate measures to eradicate it.

nam Definin Santiago MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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